



Hello Merton Voters! My name is Justen Kent and I have been a Merton resident for nearly 6 years. I am a proud father of 4 wonderful children, Ciana (7th grade), Hudson (4th grade), Avonlea (2nd grade) and Finnley (5K) and husband to my amazing wife Lindsay. We love this community and feel very fortunate to be able to raise our kids here. The residents of Merton have invested heavily in our school district over the years and I am thankful for those long time residents that have laid the foundation so that current residents with children in the schools can benefit from a great education. That is my reason why I am running for school board. I want to continue to build on the great investment our community has made in public education and enhance it for the future by helping Merton Community School District become the best example of K-8 public education in Wisconsin. Please visit my Facebook page to learn more about me and what I believe is important for our schools- [Justen Kent for Merton School Board](#).

The main goal for all schools is to grow students academically and prepare them to be able to think independently and grow academically. We have high achieving students based on state exams and we need to find ways to not only ensure all students are proficient in the basics of reading, writing and math but that we are challenging our students and maximizing each child's potential. That to me is our biggest challenge and we can improve that in these ways.

- 1) Improving teacher and staff retention and a place that teachers want to be because they know they will have great students to teach
- 2) Renewing the focus on "The Merton Way" and creating a great environment for learning where students are meeting the behavioral expectations of our school
- 3) Inspiring a belief that all students can be grade level proficient and putting the necessary resources behind classroom instruction so this can be achieved
- 4) Offer before and after school enrichment opportunities for students and families to grow academically and socially

I have had many personal and professional experiences that will make me an asset to the school. Professionally, I have many years of management and leadership experience in both large and small organizations as well as many years of being self employed. Both environments have given me the opportunity to see many sides of business as well as opportunities to hire, train and develop employees and seeing the importance of a great work culture. Personally, I have a Masters in Business Administration, devote much of my free time volunteering as a youth sports coach (through MAA, AMSAC & several other local organizations) and volunteer and support




our school through the PTO. My wife and I also started **Lead With Me** back in 2019 which is an after school program for 2nd & 3rd grade Merton & North Lake students to give them an early start in developing leadership skills. I strongly believe in offering opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom and will make it a priority that our district encourage and solicit the many experts in our community to become involved with our students. All these experiences have given me the necessary perspective to be able to make decisions that are in the best interest of the district.

The debate over school funding won't be decided here in Merton. Merton Community School District has successfully operated as one of the lowest per pupil funded schools in the state for many years and I have no doubt we will be able to continue this success in the future. MCSD received a \$1,000 per pupil increase in last years State budget and increased our budget by nearly \$1MM year over year. The 2 biggest concerns I have is 1) that as our community grows in property value and larger burden shifts to the local taxpayer as we all saw in our property taxes this past year and 2) that our district is still forecasting a deficit even with this large increase in funding. My main focus will be to ensure that classroom instruction spending is prioritized and that we are providing all the necessary resources for our students and teachers including our special education department. I will not support any discretionary spending on projects unless all classroom instruction needs are fully met including proper staffing levels to meet all students needs.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about my priorities for the Merton Community School District. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and don't forget to Vote Kent on April 2nd!

**Facebook: [Justen Kent for Merton School Board](#) Email: Kent4Merton@gmail.com
Text or Call: 262.727.4627**



-  **INFORMED FAMILIES**
-  **SUPPORTED TEACHERS**
-  **EXCELLENT OUTCOMES**

