



Dear Prospective Families,

I want to personally thank you for your interest in the Merton Community School District! Having lived in the community for over 12 years, having three children in our school district, I can assure you that we are a school district filled with great opportunities for kids as well as a very caring and knowledgeable staff. We are excited about the opportunity to showcase our district. I want to highlight some characteristics of our schools that you may or may not be familiar with.

- Communication across all stakeholders
 - Weekly Electronic Communication from the Building Principals and Teachers
 - Bi-Weekly Updates from the Superintendent including:
 - Upcoming Board of Education Agendas
 - Summary of Board of Education meetings
 - District updates and reminders
- Teachers report grades, homework, and messages using Skyward
- Board of Education meetings are viewable online.
- Our district has common behavior expectations across all grades 4K-8 (Positive Behavior Intervention Support, PBIS) - “The Merton Way”
- Continued support of our one to one (1:1) initiative to have **every** student 3rd-8th grade with a personal technology device (Chromebook or Netbook)
- A 2:1 ratio of student to technology device (Netbooks, I-Pads, I-Pods, Google Nexus Tablets, Desktop Computers) in the Primary School (4K-2)
- Focus on the core subject areas while infusing 21st Century teaching and learning strategies.
- Utilization of Google Applications (Apps) by our students and staff. By using Google Apps, we continue to allow our students ways to collaborate and create together. As our staff capacity and learning grows, so will our students’ knowledge of Google Apps. This past year we asked our teaching staff to become Google Certified Educators.
- Strong commitment to Response to Intervention (RtI). Every grade level (4K-8) has time devoted to meeting the individual needs of our diverse learners. This gives grade levels and resource teachers opportunities to remediate and extend our students in the areas of math and literacy.
- A new District Science Adoption which features required STEM coursework for all students 5K-8th grade with a heavy focus on Project Lead the Way programming (Gateway and Launch).

- Personalized mathematics and literacy approaches which supplement our core curriculum (Everyday Math and Columbia University’s Reading/Writing Units of Study) with individualized curriculum using online platforms focusing on individualized



programming and growth. Our district uses the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to showcase student growth in math and reading. The district also uses a common reading benchmark to see progress on the College and Career spectrum. These results are used to give us details about what your child is doing well, and areas of growth. We also use these results to differentiate instruction as part of our RtI commitment.

These are just a few highlights about the Merton Community School District. More information can be found on our web site at www.merton.k12.wi.us. With a focus on student achievement, our Board of Education is committed to keeping our class sizes low as a benchmark to ensure great student engagement, teacher relationships, and continued social, emotional, and academic growth. My commitment of strong communication to our families and community will continue as we need to make sure our parents understand what is happening in all phases of our district.

Every parent has the choice to make any school district their district of choice. As you think about what next year might bring for your child, please keep the Merton Community School District in mind. If you have any questions or would just like a chance to sit down and talk with me or tour our schools, please let me know and I will certainly be more than willing to discuss the great things we continue to do for our students at a time that works best for you and your family. I can be reached at (262) 538-2227, or via email at russr@merton.k12.wi.us. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Russ, Ph.D
Superintendent
Merton Community School District

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