



February 2018

Dear Prospective Family,

I want to personally thank you for your interest in the Merton Community School District and welcome the opportunity to discuss the great things we do for kids every day. You selected Merton as a possible choice for your child's school next year. We are excited about the opportunity to showcase our district and the mission of academic excellence, inspiring curiosity, and promoting personal growth.. I want to highlight some characteristics of our schools that you may or may not be familiar with.

- Recognized as one of the highest achieving school districts in the state according to our State Report Card and Forward Exam (state assessment) test scores.
- Continued support of our one to one (1:1) initiative to have **every** student 3rd-8th grade with a personal technology device, and two to one (2:1) for all classrooms 4K-2nd. (Chromebooks)
- Focus on the Core Subject areas while infusing 21<sup>st</sup> 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 using Google Apps. Our teaching staff is Level 1 Google Certified.
- Strong commitment to Response to Intervention (RtI). Every grade level (4K-6) 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.
- Required STEM coursework for all students 5K-8th grade with a heavy focus on Project Lead the Way programming.
- Focus on individualized programming and growth. Our district uses Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments to showcase your child's growth in math and reading. The district also uses a common reading benchmark (Fountas and Pinnell) to see progress on the College and Career spectrum. Our literacy and mathematics curriculums are personalized to meet kids where they are at. Our district uses Everyday Mathematics in conjunction with the personalized learning of TenMarks and Dreambox to ensure students access concepts they are ready for beyond our rigorous curriculum. Our literacy program is built around Columbia University's and Lucy Calkin's Units of Study. These programs and results are used to give us details of what your child is doing well, and areas of growth. We use these results to differentiate instruction as part of our RtI commitment.
- Communication across all stakeholders
  - Weekly Electronic Communication from the Building Principals
  - Monthly Updates from the Superintendent including:
    - Board of Education meeting agendas and summaries
    - District updates and reminders

**Merton District Offices**

N68 W28460 Sussex Road  
P.O. Box 15  
Merton, WI 53056-0015  
262-538-2227 Fax 262-538-3937

**Merton Primary School**

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**Merton Intermediate School**

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P.O. Box 15  
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[www.merton.k12.wi.us](http://www.merton.k12.wi.us)



- o Teachers report grades, homework, and messages using Skyward
- o Continued remodeling and creation of student engaging learning environments
- Our district has common behavior expectations across all grades 4K-8 (Positive Behavior Intervention Support, PBIS) - “The Merton Way”
- Strong community partnerships with the District’s Parent Teacher Organization

These are just a few highlights about the Merton Community School District. More information can be found on our website at [www.merton.k12.wi.us](http://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 greater 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.

If you have any questions regarding the open enrollment process, please contact Barb Emmerich at (262) 538-1130, or [emmerichb@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:emmerichb@merton.k12.wi.us). A link to the DPI’s Open Enrollment page is below.

#### [DPI Open Enrollment Information](#)

To learn more about our district, feel free to contact:

Mr. Mike Budisch - Primary School Principal: 4K-4th ([budischm@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:budischm@merton.k12.wi.us))

Mr. Jay Posick - Intermediate School Principal: 5th-8th ([posickj@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:posickj@merton.k12.wi.us))

Mrs. Lori Larsen - Director of Special Education/School Psychologist ([viola-larseni@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:viola-larseni@merton.k12.wi.us))

Mr. Jim Binney - District Technology Coordinator ([binneyj@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:binneyj@merton.k12.wi.us))

Dr. Ron Russ - Superintendent (Curriculum Director) ([russr@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:russr@merton.k12.wi.us))

As deadlines approach for Wisconsin’s Open Enrollment process, every parent’s decision about where their child should go to school is on his/her mind. 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 as a possible choice. If you have any questions or would just like a chance to sit down and talk with me, please let me know and I will certainly be more than willing to discuss the great things we continue to do for our students. I can be reached at (262) 538-2227, or via email at [russr@merton.k12.wi.us](mailto:russr@merton.k12.wi.us). I wish you and your family a great rest of the school year.

Sincerely,

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