



Outstanding Middle/ Secondary Ag. Ed. Program

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Martin County West

“We believe that a complete agriculture program offers learning to students that can be rigorous, relevant, and full of relationships to agriculture. With these critical components implemented, the result is an engaged learner both in the classroom and beyond.”

Overview

- Martin County West consists of students from Sherburn, Welcome, Trimont, and Dunnell, MN. The district is very rural and agriculture drives the economy.
- The program sees every student in the district during their time at MCW. They offer a wide range of classes and offer two College in the Schools courses through the University of Minnesota and has several articulated agreements with local community and technical colleges.
- Subjects taught include ag business, plant science, animal science, intro to ag, natural science, food science, careers, computer applications, and ag mechanics.

Experiential Learning

- Offer an Ag Occupations Course where students can work an agriculture related job one or two periods per day.
- All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students have an SAE covering the different categories. All other agriculture classes are required to have an SAE. Because of this, they have seen an increase in the use of AET leading to more state degree and proficiency award applications.
- Provide service learning opportunities including the Community in Action class, MCW Gives Back, Backpack program, and their Maverick Christmas. These programs offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities and chances to provide support to local and far reaching communities.

Professional Growth

- Participate in all MAAE conferences and take leadership roles in MAAE.
- MARL participant, National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy, and local leadership positions.

FFA Highlights

- MCW has 136 FFA members and 5 active Alumni members.
- In the past three years, MCW has had 27 State Degree applications, 79 Region Proficiency Award applications with 69 advancing to the state level with two winning at the state level.
- Numerous region officers and high placing Career and Leadership Development Event individuals and teams.

Partnerships

- Develop relationships with student's families so they are all invested in the educational process.
- Team up with the Fox Lake Conservation League to create a one acre native prairie parcel of land. Students assist with picking plants, planting, and constructing duck houses for the parcel and other wildlife areas.
- Manages a one acre Community Supported Agriculture Garden/Kids Gardening Program. The students are in charge of managing the garden and partner with the local food shelf and 20 shareholders for the bounty. They also run a 10 week program for kids in grades 2-5 grow a garden in a raised bed.

“When I talk to graduates of the program, they tell me about being well prepared for their lives and careers after high school. The classes provided me the foundations necessary for me to work in a career and a job that is highly rewarding for me.”

– Bob Roesler, Retired Ag/FBM Instructor

2017 MAAE Award Winner

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