



# Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

## MICKELSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Todd Foster, Principal • Matt Christie, Assistant Principal

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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Todd C. Foster, Mickelson Middle School Principal  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: October 8, 2024

### Great Place to Learn

#### Natural High:

Natural High is up and running with 26 students! The Natural High group is planning on singing the National Anthem at the Sioux Falls Stampede hockey game on October 27<sup>th</sup>—after a quick stop for lunch they will head to the game to warm-up, sing, and enjoy some Stampede hockey.

Jr Honors Choir auditions are just about completed with 21 students auditioning this year!

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science—McCrary Gardens



The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade teams took a field trip to McCrary Gardens on last week over past week. Students were able to tour the beautiful gardens and the arboretum while identifying different trees which aligns with the science curriculum.

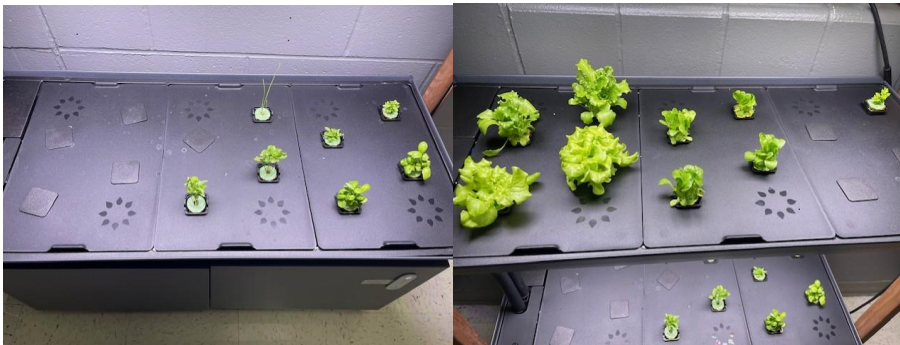


## MMS FACS--Hydroponics

We are excited to report that we have successfully implemented a hydroponic garden in the Family and Consumer Science classroom at MMS, made possible through the Perkins grant we received this year. This innovative addition has provided our students with hands-on learning opportunities in sustainable agriculture and nutrition. Students are actively engaged in growing various herbs and vegetables, allowing them to explore the science behind hydroponics while developing valuable skills in food preparation and sustainability.

The ability for students to cook what they grow in the hydroponic garden enriches their learning experience in several ways. First, it reinforces the connection between agriculture and nutrition, helping students understand where their food comes from and the importance of fresh ingredients. This hands-on approach encourages them to appreciate the flavors and benefits of eating healthy. Additionally, cooking with their own produce fosters creativity and experimentation in the kitchen, as students learn to prepare various dishes. It also promotes teamwork and collaboration, as they share responsibilities in both the garden and the kitchen. Overall, this experience not only enhances their culinary skills but also instills a sense of pride and accomplishment in cultivating and enjoying their own food.

The garden has not only enriched our curriculum but has also fostered teamwork and responsibility among students as they care for the plants and track their growth.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Soil Erosion

Mickelson Middle School 6th grade science classes had a wonderful learning experience provided by some of our local conservationists! The Natural Resources Conservation Service visited our school and presented the Rainwater Erosion Simulator to the students. The simulator demonstrated the effects of rainwater on the erosion of different soil types and vegetation. Additionally, the students viewed the "Soil Your Undies" experiment the NCRS did, which compared the biological health of soil on pairs of cotton underwear. We really enjoyed these hands-on learning opportunities in which our students were able to participate.

Rainwater Erosion Simulator



Rainwater Erosion Simulator



"Soil Your Undies" Experiment



*Great Place to Work*

**Bobcat Homecoming**

This year's Homecoming festivities were a hit with dress up days and high school students came down to welcome us to school on Friday along with Bobby the Bobcat. What a fabulous way to start our morning and the parade was fantastic!



## *Great Place to Collaborate*

### **SDSU to teach Methods Class at MMS**

Administration at Mickelson Middle School met with Dr. Anne Karabon, Dr. Allison Esparza, and Dr. Patrick Hales from the SDSU Education Department to look at utilizing Mickelson as an opportunity to teach a middle level Science methods class during the spring semester. The goal is to get future teachers being able to take a class in a middle school science classroom to give them an opportunity to see how a middle school is set-up and run from a practical standpoint. We are excited to work with the faculty at SDSU to showcase MMS and to be able to further collaborate with them on other opportunities in the future.