

Family Fun Fair

Mount Pleasant Community
School District

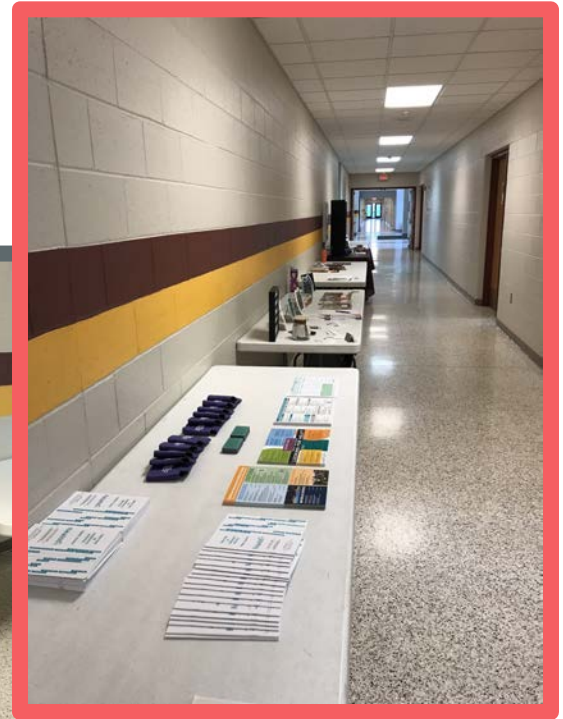
Martha Peterson-Student & Family Advocate

- Started at MPCSD in August, 2021 after 13 years with the Iowa City Community School District
- Wear many hats...504 Coordinator, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison, primary Attendance Guru
- Heart of my work is through collaboration with our district staff, mental health/social emotional learning, and connecting with families!



How Our Event Came to Be...

- 2021-22 Focus on strengthening our crisis protocols and implementing a suicide prevention program, Sources of Strength through Mindwise Innovations
- SOS has a tiered rollout: Staff → Parents → Students
- Scrambled to find best way to get this information to our parents... “May it Be Healthy” was born
- Format:
 - Two 20 minutes presentations, one on SOS Suicide Prevention and one on social media/internet safety
 - Community resources available
 - Community Panel (Four Oaks, pediatrician, AEA social worker/SEBH consultant)
 - Several “It would be great if we could...” ideas



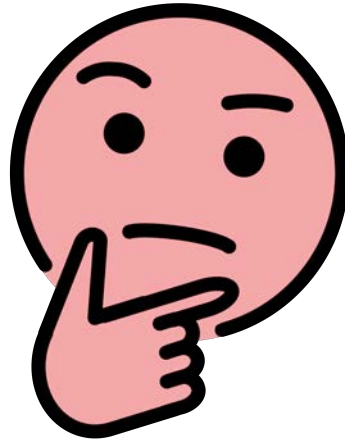
May It Be Healthy Event May 2022

Expectations Vs. Reality



Time to Start Over

- Fall of 2022 we started to think about how to make a family event TRULY work
- With more time we could act on some of our original ideas
- What BARRIERS could we remove and what INCENTIVES could we add?
 - Time of year?
 - Format?
 - Family Friendly?
 - Funding?
 - New Name?



New Year–New Event **FAMILY FUN FAIR!!**

February vs. May

Parent Teacher Conference Evening

Open House Format

Location,
location, location!

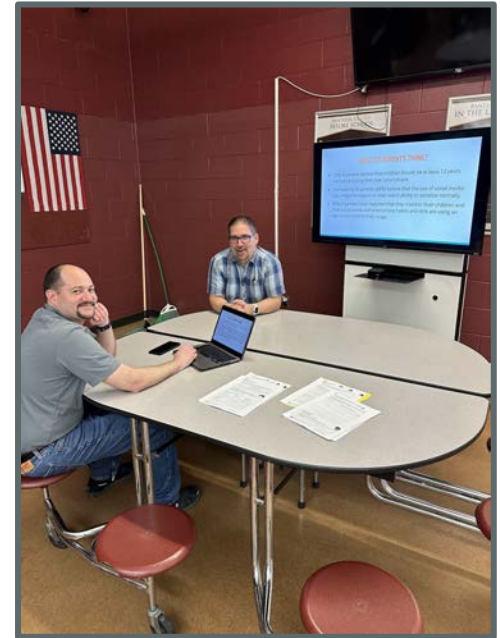
**FREE
FOOD!!!**

Family Friendly Activities

Let's Try That Again!

Kept **THREE** components from May it Be Healthy

- Community Resources
- Sources of Strength information for parents
- Information on social media/internet safety







← Optimaae

Young House
Family Services →



Four
Oaks



Community
Partnership
for Protecting
Children



ADDS



Iowa St.
Extension
Tobacco
Prevention



DVIP



Food
Freedom

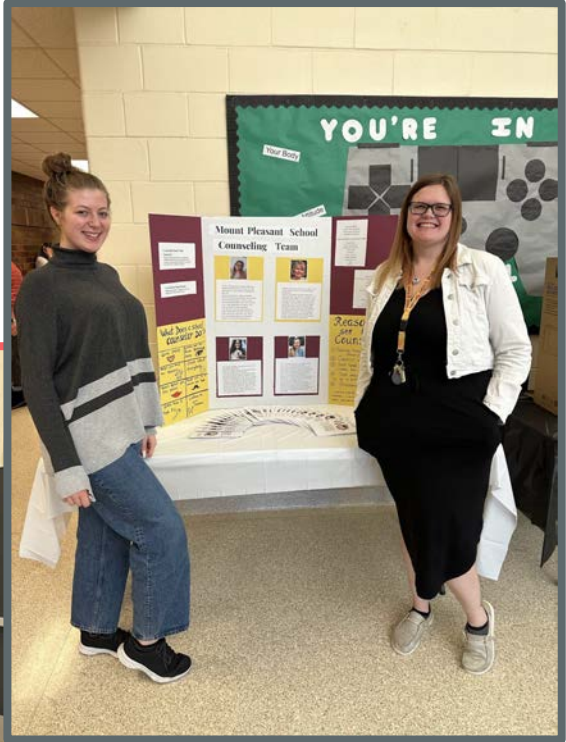


Public and MPCSD Libraries

Highlighting District Resources



Student & Family Advocate



School Counselors



Our Amazing School Nurses

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



FREE FOOD!!





Generous
Donations
from HyVee
and our
district PTO

We served
over 20
pizzas and
over 120
hot dogs!!



Bags and Kindness Cards



Iowa Wesleyan Introduction to Counseling Class provided 25 volunteers to this event!!

Stress Balls and Face Painting



Giant Jenga and Minute to Win It Games





MASCOT FUN!!



HERKY!!







FREE RAFFLE JUST FOR COMING!

- 3 month family membership REC Center
- Chamber Bucks
- Restaurant gift cards
- Bowling passes
- Panther blanket and athletic pass
- 10 punch pool pass
- Old Threshers Haunted House passes
- Family Game Night Bundles (Walmart)



Parent Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Students At: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harlan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salem | <input type="checkbox"/> Van Allen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MS | <input type="checkbox"/> HS/Wisdom Quest |

How did you hear about this event? (check all that apply)

- School/class newsletter
- Local Paper
- Community Flyer/Signage
- Radio
- Facebook
- Tonight at conferences

Favorite part of this event was: _____

Generous Community Support and Donations!

Methodist
Church donated
\$500!

HyVee donated
hotdogs, buns, chips
and condiments!

WalMart donated \$100

All raffle prizes were
donated by local businesses!

Healthy Henry County Communities
received an Iowa Rural Health
Association grant and earmarked
\$500 toward our event to help with
advertising (paper and radio ads)!

Incredible Volunteer Support!!



IOWA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

1842





**Brad Gillis-School
Resource Officer**



**Student group
raising money for
animal shelter**

**Silver Cord
volunteers**

Year One to Year Two...

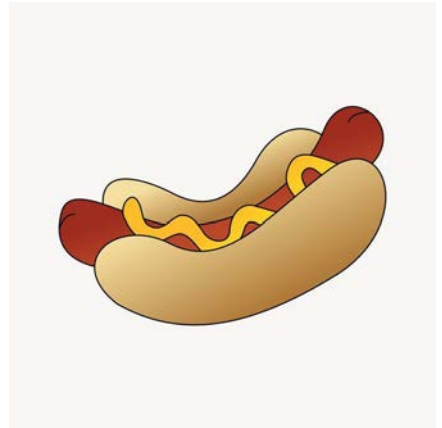
We went from ONE attendee to over 50 families and a rough estimate of 150-200 individuals!!!

Community partners were thrilled with how many people stopped by their tables!

Everyone was having a great time!!

Keys to Success!

- Overwhelming community support through donations and volunteers
- Well advertised
- District support
- Great incentives...FREE food, fun for families, giveaways and HERKY!
- Changes in date and venue



Where Do We Go From Here?

Opportunities to enhance and grow through increased funding (fingers crossed)

- Bounce House
- Healthier food options
- Silent Dance Party
- T-Shirts for volunteers
- Reusable signage
- Giveaways
- “I’m Glad You Stayed Project”



Objective and End Goals

- One primary objective is to expose our families to the many resources available in our community AND within our very own district!
- Our students are stronger when our families are stronger. This event hopes to promote strong families in many ways:
 - Fun activities designed to bring families together
 - Raffle prizes with a family focus, encouraging time spent together
 - Modeling coping skills that can be used by students AND parents alike through fun and games
 - Sprinkling in "parenting tips" by way of signs and handouts
- Strengthening our community by providing a fun night to be surrounded by district families from all schools and age groups
- Encouraging our high school community to attend and be active volunteers

A Mental Health Focus without Focusing on Mental Health

Strong Families Lead to Strong, Resilient Students

Thank you! Feel free to contact me with any questions:

Martha Peterson

martha.peterson@mtpcsd.org

319-385-7814

