



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

MEDARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Chris Gruenhagen, Principal

718 5th Street South • Brookings, SD 57006 • Phone 605-696-4300 • Fax 605-696-4362

April 2025 School Board Report

A Great Place to Learn

Although Read Across America Week was celebrated in March, the excitement for reading has continued well into April. Our 1st grade classrooms have extended the momentum by creating a "March Madness"-style book bracket, where students voted on their favorite read-alouds. We're now down to the final rounds, and anticipation is high as we wait to see which book will take the championship spot!



A Great Place to Collaborate

Over the past two weeks, representatives from our building, along with staff from across the district, participated in the PREPaRE training facilitated by the University of South Dakota. This comprehensive three-day training enhances the safety measures already in place and helps us broaden our scope by developing additional emergency response and support plans. We are grateful for the district's ongoing commitment to safety and for the opportunity to strengthen our preparedness through this valuable training



Throughout the month of April, our 1st through 3rd grade classrooms are concluding their work with our Junior Achievement representatives. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Junior Achievement and sincerely appreciate the knowledge, experiences, and real-world connections their representatives have shared with our staff and students at Medary.

On behalf of the JA State Board and the JA Staff, thank you for your support of Junior Achievement. Together, we are helping South Dakota students connect what they are learning in school to life after graduation. In fact, 89% of our Alumni say that JA played a key role in shaping their belief that they can achieve their goals!

-Kayla Eitreim

President & CEO of JA South Dakota

A Great Place to Work

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the SASD Leadership Academy, where I learned alongside fellow administrators from across the state. Sessions led by current and former South Dakota principals, superintendents, and secretaries of education focused on balancing the demands of leadership while supporting students, families, and staff. I appreciated the leadership of this event and the insights shared by Rick Melmer and Tom Oster, whose experience and perspective were invaluable.

I recently completed the AIM Pathways to Literacy Leadership Training. This program is designed to support instructional leaders in developing a deep understanding of the science of reading and how it translates into effective classroom practice. Over the course of 30 hours of online modules, small group virtual meetings, and discussions with fellow district administrators, I gained valuable insight into the foundational components of literacy instruction. This training has strengthened my ability to support teachers and enhance reading outcomes for our students.