



Rainbow Review

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From the Principal:

Dear Parents:

We are sending this special Rainbow Review to update parents on the budget cuts for MMSD and how they will affect ORE. As you know, the state legislature has not addressed school finance in this session. Until they do, all school districts across the state will experience financial difficulties, especially those districts with declining enrollment.

This year the budget shortfall in MMSD is \$9.9 million. Next year, without any change in school finance, we will again undergo cuts. The cuts affect every child in MMSD.

The positive point is that our class sizes at K - 1 will remain close to 15. Grades two and three will also have class sizes around 15 for literacy and math blocks. It is great to note both the administrations and Board of Education's commitment to keep the cuts as far away from the elementary classroom as possible.

Here is my view of how the proposed cuts will affect the children of ORE:

We will lose special education teacher and assistance time. This is due to fewer children in special education and each teacher's caseload will increase by one student to 10.5 (average).

We will lose allocation in phy ed, music and art. Our children will still receive the same number of minutes of each of these classes. How this would work has not been worked out.

MMSD will have two fewer teachers to work with staff members on challenging gifted and talented (TAG) students.

Our complex will lose a custodian one half time at our building. Certain classroom areas will be cleaned every other day.

Please remember these cuts are currently part of the recommendations presented to the Board of Education. The Board can either accept these cuts or make other cuts. The final decision is made in June when the budget is set.

Please feel free to contact me should you have additional questions.

Mike Hertting, Principal

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CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE
orchardridgemadison.com\ORE.htm

Here are some additional questions you may have:

Where can I find the complete list of cuts: The best place is on the district's web site: www.madison.k12.wi.us Or you can stop at the school office.

How can I tell the Board of Education my opinion? The board welcomes your opinions. You can write the Board from a link on their website or attend a public hearing.

The public hearings are:

- **TODAY** Thursday, March 18, Lincoln School, 5:30 pm
- Thursday, March 25, Warner Park Community Center, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 31, Doyle Building, 6:30 pm

When will we receive information on classes at ORE? We receive our allocations on March 24th. Sometime in the next week we will work on configuring our building classes, based on this allocation. Parent input will be requested near Spring Break.

What is our enrollment projection? Our enrollment project is 293. Our third Friday enrollment in September was 288. It is expected we will receive the same number of sections, although the number of classes at each grade could change.

Reminder: We have early dismissal 11:30 on Tuesday, March 30th for end of quarter marking periods.

Final Thought: There is no question that these are difficult times for school districts. We are relieved at the commitment to maintain small class sizes at the elementary. This is not true across the state or nation!



