

# MEF Grant: School Nurse Nutrition Initiative

The MPSD Nurses received this MEF Grant for 2012-2013

The **“School Nurse Nutrition Initiative”** Grant was awarded by the Marshfield Education Foundation for 2012-2013 school year. We are excited to have their support and for the opportunity to offer this to the students of Marshfield Public Schools. Below is an excerpt from our accepted grant proposal:

All of the MPSD school nurses have a strong interest in health promotion and education. We feel that optimal levels of student health are needed to allow the students to maximize their ability to access the MPSD curriculum. We hope to be able to use our specialized skills to offer the MPSD community with an innovative school nurse nutrition program that will promote optimal nutrition. We believe this **“School Nurse Nutrition Initiative”** is needed and we are excited to be provided with the opportunity to address the nutritional needs of our school community.



As school nurses we have a unique role in each school because not only do all the students have access to us but we have the opportunity to directly interact with the same students and families over many years. As identified by the National Association of School Nurses the registered professional school nurse serves a role to provide expertise and oversight for the provision of school health services and promotion of health education. The school community tends to identify us as caring and trusted individuals who can offer guidance and health care that promotes optimal level of student wellness so that the student will be able to access the MPSD educational curriculum.

We have many years of experience using our clinical knowledge and judgment when we provide health care to the school population. We have also had experience of how inadequate nutrition impacts overall quality of life and we understand that primary prevention is vital so that one may not develop poor nutritional habits that become difficult to change.

We also serve as a liaison between the school, family and healthcare providers to advocate for optimal health of the student. This places us in a very good position to collaborate with the community in order to be successful in promoting optimal nutritional health practices.

School nurses tend to feel that it is exciting to have a positive influence on the health practices of students and we believe that optimal levels of health are directly related to student learning.