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MINNESOTA'S K-12 EDUCATION CONNECTION

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS

Champlin Park High School and its 'Leo Club' Earn National Recognition

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Champlin Park High School (CPHS) students really know how to give back to the community. Last year, the 240 student-members of the Leo Club, the school's student service organization, logged more than 13,000 service hours and helped approximately 8,400 people by way of the projects the club participated in. Over the summer, four students who are members of the Leo Club went to Washington, D.C., to accept recognition from the Jefferson Awards Foundation on behalf of CPHS and the club

Back to School, Front Page



Enter the "Imaginarium"

Delano Public Schools

With its blue walls and large windows, the dedicated art room and "makerspace" on the second floor at Delano Elementary School does have something of a fish-bowl feel. And there are plenty of ideas floating around the Imaginarium these days, as students and teachers explore the unique new setting. "It's about having kids try new things, construct things, finding out what fails and going through the whole design process. They can ask questions and imagine what's going to happen, then try it out. If it doesn't work they can go back and try to find out why."

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CATE Can't Wait at Albany Area Schools

Albany Area School District

In the spring of 2014, the Albany Area School District held a "listening lunch" and invited all interested school district businesses to share with school officials their hopes and dreams for the education of Albany Area Schools children. New school superintendent Greg Johnson listened carefully, took notes, then organized a referendum campaign that summer that included plans for a dramatic expansion of the district's Career, Agriculture, and Technical Education (CATE) facilities and a head turning bolstering of its curriculum. The result? A doubling in size of its wood shop and metals shop. A large, new automotive bay with a state of the art paint booth. And soon a NASA inspired windowless greenhouse, using LED technology to grow plants year-round, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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Robotics Team Creates Wheelchair for Local Child

Farmington Area Public Schools

When looking into resources for their son, Cillian's parents learned of a program called Go Baby Go that provides modified ride-on cars to children with limited mobility. Unfortunately, the program didn't have a hub in Minnesota. But then Tyler learned that high school robotics teams had helped with past Go Baby Go projects and decided to reach out to the Farmington team. About three weeks later, before the high school's winter break, the team presented the Jacksons with a sweet new ride: a modified Power Wheels car, adjusted to fit Cillian and complete with a personalized license plate.

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Aiding Others Through Habitat



Delano Public Schools

Sometimes the most meaningful learning experiences come outside the classroom, a truth that a number of DHS Spanish students recently experienced when they spent a day volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. “It was very fun. I would definitely like to do it again,” said senior Camden Tschudi, who spent his day installing laminate flooring in a basement under the direction of two Habitat supervisors, who also oversaw the installation of tile upstairs and painting and restoration of a

deck. At the house site Tschudi said the group of students made good progress, finishing the upstairs floor tile and deck work, and nearly completing the basement flooring. He said the students who participated didn’t hesitate when Fitzer asked if they would be interested in the service learning day.

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White Bear Lake Area Schools Embraces Construction Careers Pathways for Middle and Senior High Students

White Bear Lake Area Schools

For many high school students, college seems like the only option after graduation. But for those hoping to work with their hands and go straight into the workforce, and earn while they learn, a career in the construction industry may be the perfect fit. With the Construction Career Pathway program, students earn high school credits toward graduation while gaining real-life knowledge about the construction industry. Students can sign up for relevant classes specifically designed for those planning to go into construction or a related field after graduating. As Career Pathway participants, students have additional opportunities outside of their classes to learn more about the construction skilled trades. “What I hope the young people in our school district see is that there may be a career for them, such as in the construction industry



that appeals to their interests. When we do that, we’re on our way to helping people find careers that they actually enjoy.” The parents of the ALC construction students are thankful that their students have found a meaningful career pathway. Some of them are in the trades themselves. Those parents tend to see the Construction Career Pathway Program as a lifeline for their teenagers’ futures.

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New Construction Course at Eagan High School Gives Students the Tools of the Trades

Schools District 196

Underneath the frame of a tiny house, Eagan High School teacher Ryan Hauenstein teaches one his students the proper way to install pipes for a plumbing unit. He then supervises as another student carefully slices a wooden ceiling plank, installing it moments later. It is this hands-on learning technique in Hauenstein’s Construction and Building Trades course that is molding the next generation of tradespeople. Last October, students took on their first project — a tool shed, which for the novice builders admittedly was a challenge. Everything from the design to framing, siding, painting and installing rafters were tasks the students learned how to complete. “It was more like a test project for us,” said senior Romeo Owen. “There were a few of us that had some experience, but the rest of us were still trying to learn basic terminology.” When Hauenstein went looking for a



second project, he was offered an opportunity to construct a tiny house. “I think part of it was the increased responsibility and pressure of getting this right, because this was someone’s home,” said senior Jake Koenen. “We all went in more careful knowing that someone was going to live in this. This class really showed me that I could have a viable future in construction,” Koenen said. “And the more I dig deeper, the more I like this as an option for me.”

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Construction Management AT MSU MOORHEAD

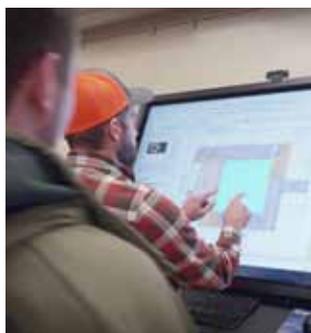
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New Construction Trades Program Creates Opportunity for Eagan High School Students to Build Skills and Learn About Careers in Construction

Schools District 196

The class, which was launched in the first semester of the 2018–2019 school year, is geared towards juniors and seniors who have an interest in pursuing a career in construction. “It’s a relatively new class, but already we’re off to a really good start,” Krantz says. “Last year, we had a dozen students enroll in the course. This year, we have eight students working on the tiny house, which is an ideal size given the small space we are building in.” With a deadline of completing the tiny house by May 31st, the Construction Trades course offers students a completely different experience to that of a regular classroom. For students who often wonder how their studies will be applicable to their lives, this is the perfect class. “As our



students build the house, they quickly realize how critical the skills of technical reading, writing and communication are. There isn’t a day that passes without our kids actively putting to action math and science concepts,” Hauenstein says.”

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Home Building Class that Opens Door to Construction Education and Careers Moving to STEP



Anoka-Hennepin Schools

Each year for nearly 25 years, Blaine High School (BHS) students have built an entire house, from the ground up. And each year those homes have gone to auction when complete, and can be found all over the state, from cozy sanctuaries in cabin country near Ely to single-family homes right here in Anoka County — all built by BHS students. The current house is the 24th house BHS students have built; each project beginning as the school year opens and each project ready for market by the time the school year ends. “It’s so awesome,” said Tim Nestrud, the BHS technical education instructor who teaches the carpentry classes that builds the house. “It’s fun, I enjoy teaching this — but it’s also a great experience for the students.” By moving the class and project to STEP, all district students interested in construction and carpentry will have access to the class, not just BHS students.

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In Building Solar-Powered Ice Fishing Houses, Mounds View District High School Students Gain Real-Life Construction Experience

Mounds View Public Schools

Often overlooked are students who intend to take a different path with their lives following high school. Students who dream of working with both their minds — and their hands — in construction-related careers such as plumbing, pipefitting, welding or ironworking. Fortunately, that gap in educational opportunities for some high school students is changing. And a good example of this is the Construction and Solar Energy pathways program offered through Mounds View Public Schools (District 621). The program is available to both students of Irondale High School and Mounds View High School, the two



public high schools within the 621 District. “Several years ago, we realized we needed to offer opportunities for our students to learn more about high-demand, high-wage jobs in the construction-related trades,” says Michael Werner, Mounds View School District’s Coordinator of Post-Secondary Planning. One such opportunity being offered to students attending the district is the Construction and Solar Energy course. The two-hour, one semester course (September through January) taught by instructor Mark Ahlers, allows students to learn and work together to build a solar-powered ice fishing house that meets real-life building codes. “Any student in grades 10 through 12 can take the course and learn skills such as basic plumbing, how to produce technical drawings, read building plans, build models/ prototypes, and develop safe working practices,” says Werner. “While at the same time, earning credit that can be applied at a college.”

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New Construction Class at Minneapolis Roosevelt High School Shows Students an Alternative to College



Minneapolis Roosevelt High School

As the only high school in the Minneapolis school district to offer classes in construction, Roosevelt gives its students the opportunity to learn real-world skills, which can give them a leg up in pursuing a career in the construction trades.

At the end of the day, teacher Catherine Ludowese sees the construction trades courses at Roosevelt as an opportunity to prepare her students to approach life head-on. While Ludowese's class teaches skills that are applicable to a work environment, it also teaches skills that are applicable to student lives, and gets them excited about building and creating. "Whether a student pursues a career in construction or not, they're gaining valuable experience,"

Ludowese adds. "For example, some of our students may never have lifted a hammer before. We show them how to do it right. And that's a skill they can use the rest of their lives." Through her class, she wants her students to "use their hands,

enjoy their learning, feel safe, feel that they belong, and most importantly, feel that they are a better person through their effort and valuable contributions to their developing work."

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A Legacy for Leech Lake

St. Cloud Area School District 742

What do you do with left-over construction materials? Build dog houses, of course! "I try to incorporate some type of service learning with the year-long class," says teacher Sara Laudenbach. With piles and piles of half-cut wood, the students worked hard to ensure wood styles matched. They believed the houses needed to be high-quality because special dogs would be living in the houses.



Leech Lake Legacy, a dog rescue organization was thrilled to accept dog houses made by students as a donation. Tri-County Humane Society will deliver the dog houses to Leech Lake Legacy on behalf of North Junior High with the hope that these students are leaving a legacy for future dog house occupants and their caregivers."

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South Washington County Schools Projects Complete

South Washington County Schools

New Oltman Middle School Opens for the Start of the 2018-19 School Year

The building was designed to enhance the learning experience for each student by sectioning the school's teaching space into pods. In each pod, classrooms have a moveable wall that opens to a collaborative learning space with tables and comfortable seating arrangements.

"Students learn in a variety of different ways. By giving students and teachers more flexibility and options, we are allowing them



to find the way that works best for them to learn," said Oltman Middle School Principal Joni Hagebock. "We believe the one doing the talking is doing the learning. This design allows for more of our students to do the talking."

Improvements complete at Cottage Grove, Lake and Woodbury middle schools

Students began the 2018-19 school year with new learning spaces at Cottage Grove, Lake and Woodbury middle schools. Thanks to funding approved by the community as a part of the 2015 Bond Referendum, improvements were made at all three schools to accommodate capacity needs and equity issues.

The largest project, a 12-classroom addition at Woodbury Middle School, was completed over the summer. Improvements at the school were designed to accommodate an increase in student capacity from 1,080 to 1,300. In addition



to adding 12 classrooms, the two-story expansion added bathrooms and collaborative learning spaces. A new kitchen was also added to the school to increase capacity and functionality. Renovations were also made to group learning spaces, media center and the orchestra space. New technology and furniture will be used in the renovated and added spaces at the school.

On Tuesday, September 4 students were welcomed to the new Oltman Middle School

for their first day of classes. More than 900 students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will learn in the new school. Students also began the 2018-19 school year with new learning spaces at Cottage Grove, Lake and Woodbury middle schools. Thanks to funding approved by the community as a part of the 2015 Bond Referendum, improvements were made at all three schools to accommodate capacity needs and equity issues.

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Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools in Progress

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) has much to be thankful for with new construction that is in full force throughout the district, adding much needed learning spaces for students of all ages. This is of course thanks to voter approval of PLSAS' two school funding requests in 2017. Here is a sampling of what has been accomplished, along with projects underway:

- Glendale Elementary received additional space for Special Education classrooms.
- Five Hawks Elementary kindergarten and Special Education spaces were renovated.
- WestWood Elementary and Edgewood School remodeling is underway with the highlight being a new kitchen and cafeteria/commons area that will connect the two schools to serve students in both buildings.
- Redtail Ridge and Jeffers Pond Elementary will each receive two additional kindergarten classrooms.
- At Prior Lake High School, two, three-story classroom additions are being constructed. In addition, we are constructing a new space for Industrial Technology classes.
- PLHS will continue construction with additional classrooms, a new north



entrance, kitchen and cafeteria expansion, a four-court activity center and increased parking.

- The new Bridges Area Learning Center will open on the Twin Oaks Middle School site in the fall of 2019. This building will be able to serve approximately 135 students and will feature classrooms and flexible learning spaces along with a kitchen and cafeteria.
- The new elementary school will open in the fall of 2020 in the Big Sky Estates development in Savage.

For more information on our additional construction projects and timelines you can view a comprehensive schedule at www.prior-lake-savage.k12.mn.us/construction or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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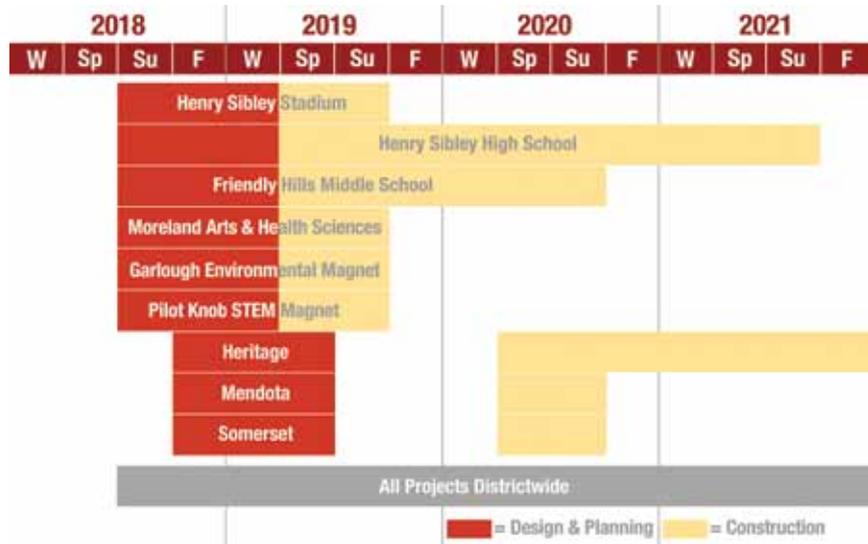
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West St. Paul–Mendota Heights–Eagan Area Schools



District 197

On May 8, residents voted to allow West St Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools (District 197) to issue building bonds for additions, renovations and repairs at all elementary and middle schools and the high school. The bond proceeds will be used to:

- Conduct building and mechanical maintenance

- Modernize outdated classrooms and educational spaces
- Improve fine arts and athletics spaces
- Address handicapped accessibility & parking lot safety

Like most construction projects of this size, the District is planning a multi-year, phased approach for all improvements and repairs.

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Richfield Public Schools Construction Update: Building a Better Tomorrow



Richfield Public Schools ISD #280

Last year the Richfield community supported the students, staff, and families of Richfield Public Schools through an overwhelmingly successful referendum for our district. Most of the buildings in the district were built an average of 50 years ago with the last major renovation happening in the mid-1990s. The approved referendum will bring replacement of aged infrastructure and physical building components to all facilities in our district. Many mechanical, electrical, exterior wall and roof systems are well beyond their intended lifespan and will be replaced.

Replacement systems will not only protect our buildings from deteriorating any further, but they will also provide more energy efficiency, operating efficiency and better student learning environments. The entire construction and improvements program for all of our buildings will take four years to complete. Construction work will begin this spring at our high school, and at two elementary schools, Richfield Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Elementary (RSTEM) and Richfield Dual Language Elementary School (RDLS).

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Future Facility Project at Lanesboro



Lanesboro Public Schools

Working with the architects, the original project scope was mapped and concept designs were developed. The three primary areas targeted in the planning were:

1) Safety and Security

The inclusion of a new primary entrance that would funnel traffic into the main office during the school day was a key component

of the team's dedication to school safety. Keeping with the theme of exterior entrances, the scope of the project includes replacing exterior doors throughout the building and adding an electronic locking system to control access 24 hours a day. The third layer of security that research shows may be the most important is changing our classroom door locksets to allow for doors to be locked from inside the classroom. Other modifications would improve accessibility for our community that may have physical impairments and would improve fire safety.

2) 21st Century Learning Environment

The Lanesboro community invested in a well-built facility in 1959 that is now our High

School/Middle School wing. This facility has been maintained well over the years which will allow us to reinvest in the space to develop a learning environment that can prepare our students for the future. Remodeling and refinishing classrooms with modern furniture, energy efficient lighting, and mechanical improvements is one solid way for the district to meet its mission. Along with the standard remodeling, changes in other areas of the building will allow us to build a new Physics/Chemistry Lab that will greatly enhance delivery of our science curriculum.

3) The Arts, Physical Activity, and Athletics

Over the past thirty years, Lanesboro Schools has made smart investments in the

future of our school. Key components of those investments have been in spaces that can be used for multiple purposes, such as the Elementary Media Center. In keeping with that theme, three areas have been identified that can improve not only our academic options during the day, but allow us to remain competitive outside of the school day as well. The Learning Commons would seat 250 and have the option to move a stage in the space for concerts, plays, and musicals. An additional gymnasium would allow us more access during the day for physical education, formal play, and other activities that need a larger space.

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Reshaping Opportunities for Success 2015–2020

Forest Lake Area Schools

On Nov. 3, 2015, the voters of Forest Lake Area Schools approved a bond referendum that will make repairs and upgrades to all of the district's buildings. This project has been named the *Reshaping Opportunities for Success (2015–2020) project*.

Scope of Project

- Safety and Security
- Upgrades in energy efficiency
- Repairs or replacement of roofs
- Repairs or replacements of boilers
- Repairs or replacements of HVAC
- Upgrades of outdated classrooms
- Other repairs, replacements and upgrades



rently known as Century Junior High School. This move will serve several purposes.

First, it will give the district the ability to locate all of its secondary students in one area of the city — on one large campus. Having all grade 7–12 programs in one location will allow for better use of staff and building resources, and it will eliminate unnecessary redundancies in service. More importantly, it will mean that secondary teachers are better able to collaborate and share information and new ideas. It will also streamline the process for students to meet the grade 9–12 graduation requirements set forth by the state.

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Creating a Comprehensive 7–12 Campus

While no new buildings will be constructed in this project, the project allows all students in grades 7–12 to attend the district's most modern secondary schools — Forest Lake Area High School and the building cur-

Fit For the Future — Anoka-Hennepin School District

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Residents of the Anoka-Hennepin School District approved two referendum questions on the ballot Nov. 7, 2017. The first question asked for an increase to general education revenue by \$226.20 per pupil annually for 10 years, approximately \$9.5 million in 2018, with authorization to increase annually by the rate of inflation. A total of 16,681 voted in favor of the operating levy. The second question, a big ask at \$249 million, was contingent on the first question passing. It, too, received support from residents with votes in favor outweighing votes in opposition by a similar margin: 65.65 percent to 34.35 percent. Bond dollars will go to build two new elementary schools in Blaine and Ramsey and renovate most other district schools to improve safety, add space and address maintenance needs. Additions are planned for all five traditional high schools in the district.

Take a look at the work being done:

- At Andover, the majority of the work has moved indoors as a classroom addition is being added, as well as a major renovation to the school's auditorium.
- At Anoka, construction of the front entrance has progressed to the point where students, staff and visitors are now walking through the new main entry. In addition, the new classroom space is progressing. Both projects are on pace to be wrapped up in time for the next school year.



- At Blaine, the cafeteria expansion and classroom addition are now enclosed and work is being done inside the interior. Once temperatures rise in the spring, work will resume on the exterior of the additions. Both projects are on pace to be wrapped up in time for the next school year.
- At Champlin Park, work is well underway for the addition of new classrooms and the removal of portable classrooms.
- At Coon Rapids, steel has arrived and has been erected as construction continues on the new main entrance, which will make the building more secure and more welcoming to visitors.
- The new Brookside Elementary School in Ramsey and Sunrise Elementary School in Blaine are both progressing and most exterior walls are erected. Much of the schools are closed off to the elements to allow for interior work during the winter. Both are on schedule to be open for the 2019-20 school year.

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At Nitro X Camp, Students Build Cars and Interest in Auto Careers

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Summer camp just took a real-world, high-tech turn when Nitro X rolled into town. A group of Anoka-Hennepin middle school students learned the steps to build their own remote control car while getting an up-close view of auto technicians in action through tours of local auto dealerships to accompany their classroom experience. “This can be a rewarding career option,” commented Joe Peterson, the service manager at one of the businesses partners supporting the camp. He explained that an \$80,000 salary for quality technicians is within reach and the search is on for top talent, “This career is only getting more technical. We need people who work with computer systems and use data to solve problems for customers,” he told the students during their tour of the 100-year old Anoka institution.

Students in Anoka-Hennepin high schools have access to auto mechanics programming at Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Champlin Park



and Coon Rapids High Schools along with the STEP facilities co-located on the campus of the technical college. “Our program is growing and the seats are filling up,” commented Theron Busse, the automotive teacher at STEP. “Industry needs these jobs filled with quality technicians and we are doing our best to meet the need.” he added.

Nitro X introduced motivated students to explore education programming and career options in transportation-related industries. Nitro X camp culminated with an exciting race day, where campers put their cars to the test.

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Saint Paul Automotive Programs Leads to High Wage, High Demand Jobs

Saint Paul Public Schools

Saint Paul Public Schools Career and Technical Education programs have the tagline “We fill the skills gap.” This is where the automotive program comes into play for these high wage, high demand, non-outsourcable jobs. By having a full-fledged automotive center, an auto garage and several courses in other schools, students are being exposed to and trained for the Industry.

The flagship program takes place at the Saint Paul High School Automotive Center, located at the Linwood-Monroe school, where over 50 students attend one of two, three-hour classes. This 12 bay facility boasts the same high-tech tools and equipment that are currently found in industry, making this a real-world learning environment. For many of the students this is their first exposure to working with tools and on vehicles. “What really sets our program apart is the ASE student certification,” said instructor Henry Velasquez. “Students are trained to national industry standards set by the Automotive Service



Excellence (ASE) Foundation”.

Having this accreditation has meant working to maintain compliance. Every five years the Saint Paul High School Automotive Center goes through a rigorous accreditation process where every aspect of the program is examined, from the curriculum, facility, tools, and safety protocols to instructor credentials. Instructor Ron Rybicka says he is constantly upgrading the curriculum as national standards change. “We want our students to be held to these high industry standards.”

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Nationally Accredited Vehicle Services Program Jump Starts Career Opportunities for Students

District 196

For the past 50 years, the vehicle services program at Rosemount High has served thousands of District 196 students who have graduated and built careers in the automotive, mechanical and industrial industries, including servicing, repairing, buying/selling and engineering.

The vehicle services course actually dates back to 1968 at Rosemount High School. It was started by Rich Rabanus, who taught the course for 34 years before retiring and turning it over to his son, Ian Rabanus. “I grew up coming to the shop on Saturdays with my dad,” Rabanus said. “Since that time, automotive industry equipment, technology and curriculum have transformed. There is a need, now more than ever, for automotive technicians in the marketplace. For me and my dad, who have spent our careers helping students build skills in the automotive industry, meeting this industry standard is so rewarding because of what this



means for our students. It provides them with increased career opportunities and pathways.”

Earlier this year, the program achieved an impressive milestone, becoming one of just 11 high school programs in Minnesota to earn national accreditation for automotive service technology through the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Industry Education Alliance.

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Duluth Automotive and Engines

Duluth Public Schools

The Duluth Public Schools automotive technician program is one of a handful of fully-accredited NATEF and ASE Educational Foundation programs in the state. Duluth Automotive and Engines is offered to students attending Denfeld High School and Duluth East High School. The program is located at Denfeld and transportation is provided to Duluth East students. Students enrolled in the program have the option to complete 10 of the NATEF and ASEEF certifications in automotive technician and medium light repair. These certifications provide a direct path toward a career or other post-secondary options in the mechanical field. The hands-on course utilizes an online curriculum that provides students to self-pace their learning through the respective areas. The program houses on average 16–18 vehicles in our fleet. The fleet is composed of vehicles donated from the community



and industry partners. Students utilize these as learning tools to work through authentic and staged diagnostic issues. The program also opens its doors to perform Medium Light Repair for the public throughout the school year.

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ISD 917 Total Auto/HDT

Intermediate School District 917

Two of our unique offerings are Total Auto Care and Heavy Duty Truck Technology. These two programs provide relevant hands-on learning opportunities for students interested in transportation and vehicle maintenance careers. Our two instructors and 1 technical tutor provide past industry experience for all students.

Our Total Auto Care program, taught by Tony Vilelli and supported by Danny Hoffman combines both automotive repair, auto body and welding that is related to these areas. Students perform all types of services and repair in the automotive industry. Students will repair automotive bodies, fenders and frames. Metal straightening, shaping, rust repair and spot painting. Skills in welding with oxy/acetylene gas, mig welding and plastic welding, along with cutting with oxy /acetylene gas and plasma cutting will be performed. Applying and finishing plastic fillers and fiberglass repairs. Primers, paints and vehicle detailing will also be performed.

Within our Heavy Duty Truck Technology program, taught by Tom LeDoux, students will overhaul various parts of a semi-truck diesel engine and drivetrain components. They will perform vehicle safety inspections, heavy truck engine troubleshooting diagnostics and preven-



tive maintenance procedures as well as cover different welding procedures while practicing with each method.

The true reward for both of these programs is how they impact the lives of young people as they move forward with career interests. Both Tom and Tony see many of their past students who now work in the industry. Because of the opportunities to learn and grow in such a place as ISD 917, these students feel success before they graduate.

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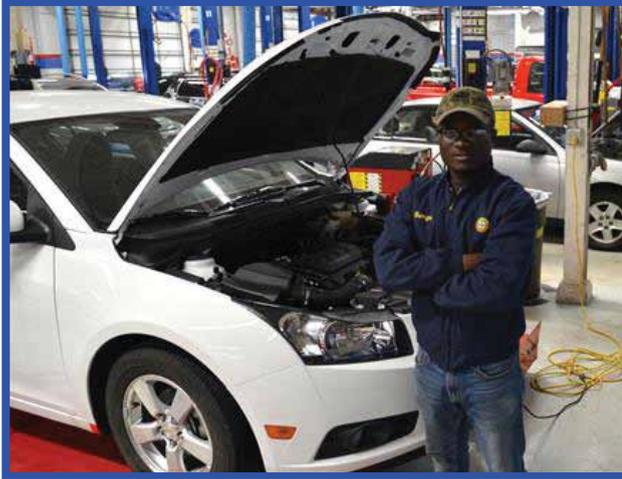


Anoka-Hennepin Technical High School Helping One Student Pursue Big Dreams

Anoka-Hennepin School District

George Bogar has always liked cars. When he was a kid growing up in Monrovia, Liberia, he'd visit a garage close to his home all the time. In 2017, Bogar moved to the United States to be with his mother. He worked with his school counselor and decided to enroll at Anoka-Hennepin Technical High School (AHTHS), Anoka-Hennepin's diploma completion program. Dave Larson, who teaches auto classes at the college, says George has a knack for cars and all that goes into working on them. "He's kind of blown us away," Larson said. "(George) is the kind of student we wish we could see more of."

"It's been a great experience at this school," Bogar said. Not only is Bogar on track to earn his diploma this spring, but he's going to do so with 29 college credits under his belt, including the 13 college credits he's



taking this semester. "It's amazing," Bogar said. "Now I'll be able to finish my degree in 2020 and then I hope to do some more college — maybe a four-year degree, and then work for a year or two." But it's his plan after working a year or two that has him, and his teachers at AHTHS so impressed. Bogar wants to go back to Liberia, both to open a garage, but also teach students like him.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 7

Edina Public Schools Receives 2019 Environmental Leadership Award

Edina Public Schools

Edina Public Schools (EPS) has received the 2019 Environmental Leadership award for adopting "cutting edge techniques" for snow and ice management. The district was recognized during the 2019 Road Salt Symposium. EPS invested in a Toolcat and a Ventrac with broom attachments for most of the district sites. The new equipment allows staff to clear paths to the concrete or tar surface. Buildings and Grounds staff now have a four-step process to ensure the walkways and parking lots are safe. A salt brine is applied overnight, then snow is cleared with a snow blower, followed by a broom on surfaces. Lastly, drop spreaders are used to apply salt to ensure it is spread in an even, efficient manner. Currently, EPS on average uses 14 pallets of salt annually, resulting in a cost savings of



\$10-12,000 per year. The reduction in salt has allowed EPS to decrease the harmful effects it has on groundwater. Johanson is proud that he is doing something great for the environment. "I know that when I go home, excessive salt is not going through the grass or waterways," he said. "I feel like I'm contributing to making our world a better place to live."

Spring, Volume 1, Front Page

University Avenue's Kate Watson Named Local Air Force Association Teacher of the Year

Anoka-Hennepin School District

University Avenue Aerospace, Children's Engineering and Science Elementary School (UAE ACES) in Blaine is home to a teacher of the year. Kate Watson, curriculum integrator at UAE ACES, was named the E.W. Rawlings Chapter of the Air Force Association Teacher of the Year on April 5. The award recognizes top performers in U.S. Air Force and related aerospace programs, according to the Rawlings Chapter, which includes most of Minnesota. Watson's job is unique, and one she loves, she said. As curriculum integrator at the school, she said she's able to facilitate teachers while also connecting our students, community, and families with STEM aerospace education in an inquiry-based and engaging way. "It's a fantastic job," Watson said. Watson, a number of years ago, strongly supported a relationship with the National Civil Air Patrol to bring in aerospace education to the school. Then, in 2014, Watson was honored as the National Civil Air Patrol's Coordinator of the Year for her work. "The Air Force Association partners with the Civil Air Patrol, so I was on their radar," she said. "Fast forward to this year, and the (Rawlings



Chapter of the Air Force Association) reached out and asked if I'd speak to their board about STEM education and how we use aerospace at our school. That's when I found out I was their Teacher of the Year, which was surprising. They had followed my work."

Spring, Volume 2, Page 21



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High-tech features in vehicles evolve constantly



Options for employment are endless

Farnsworth Celebrates 15 Years of Aerospace

Saint Paul Public Schools

“The Farnsworth traditions that started 15 years ago are still going strong today,” said Laura Saatzer, principal for Farnsworth’s PreK-4 Campus. “Our students love our extended field trips and learning from aviation experts who visit our school.” Since 2001, Farnsworth has infused aerospace into every aspect of curriculum. As a “Home of Future Leaders,” the school inspires students to expand their imagination through hands-on learning and character building.

“I want every student to know that when they come to Farnsworth, they are coming into a special place,” said Hamilton Bell, principal for Farnsworth’s 5-8 Campus. “I always challenge students to see themselves as leaders by respecting themselves and gaining respect from their peers.”

One of those experts is astronaut and St. Paul native Lt. Col (Ret.) Duane “Digger” Carey. “Out of the hundreds of schools I have visited, Farnsworth stands out as an inspiring success story,” he said.



Farnsworth has created a culture that values teamwork when solving problems. Students are able to experiment, present ideas, gain confidence and become leaders. The school encompasses a wide range of disciplines, from designing airplanes to writing stories about space flight. In fact, many students are able to experience many “firsts” — plane rides, visits to a space museum and time in the cockpit of an on-site flight simulator. In many cases, these “firsts” inspire a student’s earliest career goals of scientist, engineer or even an astronaut.

Winter 2019, Volume 1, Page 6

Aviation Taking Flight at Johnson Aerospace and Engineering High School

Saint Paul Public Schools

It’s a typical Tuesday morning in early December. Malik, A 10th grade student at Johnson Aerospace and Engineering High School in St. Paul, is flying across the San Francisco landscape in a small twin engine airplane. Of course, these high school students were not actually flying, nor were they in San Francisco. They were in the school’s ultra-realistic flight simulator lab.

Introduction to Flight, has introduced the students, how to fly airplanes and get down the basics of air traffic control. The class is one of three different flight simulator classes, all built around a standard private pilot curriculum. It is part of the Aerospace career pathway at the school and will give students a head start in multiple careers of the aviation field — ranging from



pilot, air traffic control, airport management and aircraft maintenance. Within the school, the word has gotten out about the class. It’s become a school favorite — not because everyone is interested in flying, but because it is the most unique educational experience a high schooler could ever imagine having.

Winter 2019, Volume 1, Page 4

CAP Students Bring Unique Display

Delano Public Schools

One of the most unique attractions at the DHS SciTech event last month was the brief appearance of an F-4 Phantom fighter jet’s nose and cockpit. The exhibit’s visit was due to the efforts of three DHS students who are members of the Civil Air Patrol, as well as support from parents and the Delano American Legion. Freshmen Bridget Sundheim and Adia LaFromboise, along with sophomore Sydney Bjorgum, have been members of “CAP” for two or three years each, and Bjorgum already has her private pilot’s license.

“I got involved in it through the SciTech event here two years ago,” said Bjorgum. “It was the flying part that really interested me because I wanted to be a pilot, and the opportunities it’s given me have been great.”

The Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the Air Force, and SciTech aims to expose students to opportunities in education, training and careers. Bjorgum aims to become



a commercial pilot after school. LaFromboise said she plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or the medical field by way of the Air Force.

While the showpiece of their exhibit ultimately did not make it inside the TAC, flight simulator programs at the students’ booth were popular with their peers.

“The simulator is pretty realistic, actually, because it has the rudder pedals and the levers,” said Sundheim. “That’s really fun on its own, and it’s a good way to learn the basics of flying.”

Winter 2019, Volume 1, Page 6



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The TigerPath Initiative

Hutchinson Public School District

Visits with Hutchinson manufacturers have revealed a significant and growing shortage of skilled workers. To address the situation, 28 partners from manufacturing, local government and education have developed the TigerPath Skilled Workforce Initiative. The TigerPath Academies began over four years ago at Hutchinson High School with the recognition that the educational outcomes being achieved did not match the real world needs of our students. Starting with the adoption of an academy model of education at the high school, TigerPath has grown to become a community-wide effort to better prepare students for their future. Comprised of six overlapping and mutually supporting strategies, TigerPath takes a comprehensive approach to providing students with the skills they need to be successful in the 21st century.

The Center for Technical Excellence has been established at Hutchinson High School with over \$1 million of new equipment, making possible state-of-the-art skills training for students. Hutchinson now has the best-equipped, most-advanced high school technical education facility in Minnesota.

We feel TigerPath has the potential to become a new national model for better preparing students for their future while meaningfully addressing America's skilled workforce needs.

Back to School, Page 12



New at TigerPath

Hutchinson Public School District

Youth Skills Training Grant

Hutchinson was one of five schools chosen from across Minnesota (out of 25 applicants) to receive funding through the program. \$95,000 was obtained to help fund the TigerPath Coordinator position, the primary function of which is to establish internships with local employers for high school students.

Applied Engineering Lab

A \$150,000 grant, authored by EDA staff the previous year, was awarded in January. Funds were used by Hutchinson High School to establish an applied engineering lab in the fall of 2018. Over \$153,000 of new equipment was ordered for the new classroom, with classes starting in December, 2018. The new lab makes possible an applied engineering class called "Physical Science: Engineering" featuring classroom trainers. Initial enrollment in the new class was 120 (with 40 being female) necessitating five sections of the class.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 16



Three Years After Showing a Renewed Commitment to Manufacturing, White Bear Lake Area Schools Manufacturing Program / Career Pathways Continues to Grow

White Bear Lake Area High School

Three years ago, the White Bear Lake Area School District renewed its commitment to implementing a manufacturing curriculum. The Manufacturing and overarching Career Pathways program continues to grow at White Bear Lake Area High School. The district, community partners, teachers, and students have committed to these programs. The program builds strategic partnerships in order to help students explore career possibilities. There is also a very healthy workforce development side of this where our industry gets an opportunity to showcase what they have to offer students with the goal of maintaining a healthy workforce in the future.

The crown jewel of our field experience program is the Gen Z Connections Program. This is a joint partnership between Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation (VHEDC), White Bear Lake Area Schools, Ramsey County, and the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation. This collaborative effort led to VHEDC earning the 2018 Partnership Award from the Economic



Development Association of Minnesota. What started as paid internships for 4 student in 4 different manufacturing settings grew to the same opportunity being afforded to 8 students with 8 industry partners in the summer of 2018. The students also get 8 hours of employment readiness and 21st Century skills training provided by the White Bear Lake Area High School Career Navigators, positions that were created by the White Bear Lake Area School District to provide support to students and other professionals who collaborate in the Career Pathways program.

Back to School, Page 10

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Metals Course Builds Hands-On Skills

Delano Public Schools

Shop class students developed hands-on skills while building a trailer in Joe Finn's Advanced Metals course last year. Welding, wiring, wheel alignment and more made the trailer project challenging but enjoyable for 19 students in grades nine through 12. Welding, wiring, wheel alignment and more made the trailer project challenging but enjoyable for 19 students in grades nine through 12, though the majority of the class consisted of seniors. When asked if that knowledge would impact his career choice, Schansberg did not hesitate. "Absolutely," he said. "I think it's something I would enjoy. I like



working with my hands. This was probably the perfect opportunity to try something like that.

With graduation only a few months away, some of those seniors voiced appreciation for an experience that could help them land a job in the future. "It's good for them to get real-life applications," said Finn, adding that he often hears people say they wish they would have had more hands-on skills coming out of school. "They can say they made something."

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Apple Valley High School Wins National STEM Excellence Award



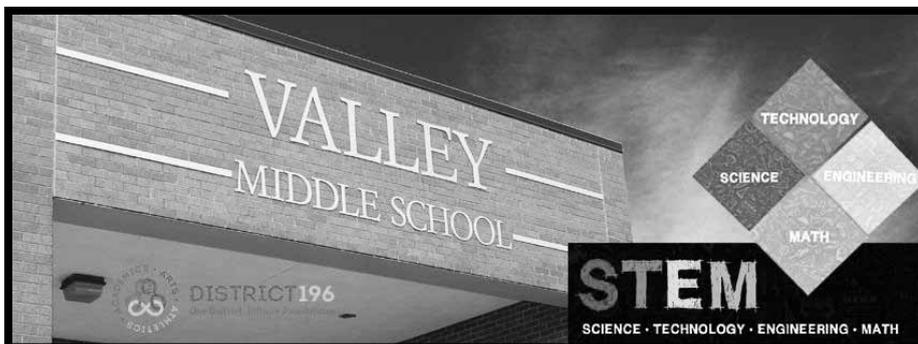
District 196

Apple Valley High School received the 2019 STEM Excellence Award in the high school category at the national Future of Education Technology Conference in Orlando Jan. 30. The award recognizes schools for their innovative approaches to implementing science, technology, engineering and math education. In 2014, District 196 received nearly \$3 million through a federal Youth-Connect grant from the U.S. departments of education and labor. The grant supported the establishment of the E3 STEM program,

focusing on exploration, education and employment. The grant also funded creation of Apple Valley's fabrication lab, or "fab lab," which has equipment and machines that give students the ability to design and make almost anything they can imagine. The fab lab and the school's commitment to providing opportunities for all students were main factors in the judges' decision to select Apple Valley for the STEM Excellence Award.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 11

Fab Labs at Valley Middle School of STEM



District 196

Valley Middle School of STEM is now home to 2 Fab Labs, a Makerspace, and a STEM Applications Lab. VMSS is the first middle school in Minnesota

to implement a Fab Lab. Valley Middle School of STEM prides itself on the original, cutting-edge projects its students take part in every day. From designing robotic arms in Engineering and Design

classes to creating swim prosthetics in STEM Innovations classes, students are exposed to fun, engaging, and challenging activities that allow them to imagine, design, and create. The Fab Lab at Valley Middle is designed to support the school mission (Rigor, Relevance, Relationships: Educating a Global Community of Innovative Thinkers), providing opportunities for students to solve real-world problems



through imagination, innovation, collaboration, and technology.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 11

Jacket Manufacturing Gives PHS Students the Chance to Earn Course Credit, Cash, and Some Serious Job Prospects



Perham-Dent Public School District

A new group of young worker bees is buzzing around Perham High School's Career Tech Center. The school has started a manufacturing education class that's giving students the chance to learn valuable business skills while earning course credit — and cash. In collaboration with some of the area's leading manufacturers, the year-long class provides students with hands-on, real-life experiences

across various aspects of production work, including finance, marketing, design, welding, machining, maintenance and more.

It's a "win-win" for the students and local manufacturers, Perham-Dent Superintendent Mitch Anderson said, as the kids develop skills that directly apply to their own career interests while local employers get a larger pool of qualified workers to pick from after graduation. Perham manufacturers have struggled

with significant worker shortages in recent years, even as they actively and aggressively recruit.

The kids in Jacket Manufacturing learn not only "hard" skills like machinery and welding, but also the "soft" skills that employers appreciate in their top applicants, like how to dress for an interview and look someone in the eye when shaking hands. Students who complete the class get a certificate showing they've had 10 hours of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) online training, giving them yet another 'leg up' on the competition when it comes time to find a job.

With the skills they learn in Jacket Manu-



facturing these kids will be more hireable than those who don't have that experience."

Winter, Volume 2, Page 4

Centennial High School is Developing Manufacturing Skills

Centennial ISD 12

Over the past four years Centennial High School in Circle Pines, Minnesota has responded to the need to develop highly skilled people in the trades. With manufacturing careers in high demand the decision to offer a high school manufacturing class was a no-brainer. Computer Integrated Manufacturing was offered for the first time in the 2017-2018 school year. Students in this course are exposed to key skills needed to enter into manufacturing careers. These skills include learning CAD/CAM, G and M code, processes, speeds/ feeds, while developing problem solving skills with interactive and hands-on projects. Having a Mini-Mill has allowed students to be exposed to the same control panel that machine operators use in industry. Students have learned how to set tool offsets, work offsets, and run their programs. The addition of the CNC mill has allowed students to take ideas in their head, create a dimensioned CAD part on the computer, 3D print a prototype to make sure of proper fitment, write their CAM strategy using Autodesk HSM, and machine the final product. The CNC mill has also been a nice addition to our high school FIRST robotics team. During the course of the robotics sixweek build season, students were able to take design ideas and machine parts out of aluminum to use on the team's robot.



The offering of engineering and manufacturing courses at Centennial has helped prepare students for careers in these fields. The skills gap is a major problem in the United States and the need to expose students early to these fields will help fill jobs and decrease unemployment rates.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 10

Work While You Learn at Rice Lake Weighing Systems

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I started working at Rice Lake Weighing Systems while I was a senior in high school. My dad and grandfather welded, and I always liked working with metal, so I enrolled in the Welder Training Program at Rice Lake Weighing Systems and became a welder. Now, once I finish welding a live-stock scale together, I can stand back and say "I built that."

Tony Blake, Welder



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Champlin-Brooklyn Park Academy Math Garden



Anoka-Hennepin School District

The garden itself is actually a great big pie chart — and it's something that Sloneker's transition math class, which usually comprises of about 25 fifth graders every year, plan and plant themselves. In the spring, Sloneker's transition math students will have CBPA's stu-

dent-population fill out a survey asking them to pick their favorite flower from a list of five. Once completed, the results are compiled, and a pie chart created. The garden is that chart.

Fall Volume 1, Front Page

Skilled at Making a Difference in Life



New Prague Area Schools

When Nicole Saatzer was 12 years old, her younger brother was diagnosed with autism. Saatzer, now a special education teacher at Falcon Ridge, draws from her first-hand experience to help students and families

navigate the journey of special education and makes a huge difference by teaching life skills to the students who need her help most. "My experience with my brother was one of the things that led me to choose a career in special ed," said Saatzer.

Anoka Middle School Fabric Arts Class Offers New Skills, Lessons In Life And Business



Anoka-Hennepin Schools

Eighth graders at Anoka Middle School for the Arts (AMSA) are learning how to launch their own clothing label, and not only are the garments they're creating one-of-a-kind, but they're going to benefit children in need. "It's been a really cool experience," said

eighth-grader Olivia Buxton. "Designing the shirt has been a lot of fun. But there are a lot of kids in need, too, and it's super cool that we're doing something like this to help them while we're learning at school."

Winter, Volume 2, Front Page

Minnetonka Students Show Team Spirit By Giving Back

Minnetonka Public Schools

A Minnetonka eighth grade boys basketball team is paying it forward and showing us all what it means to "do the right thing" in our daily lives. As part of a fundraiser for the traveling basketball program, the boys went through a series of drills and stations and were each given a number a tickets based on their performance. In the end, though, it wasn't the flashy electronics or signed basketballs that drew in the tickets of the team; it was a shiny green trike, a trike that would later be gifted to the students from the special ed room at Excelsior Elementary.

Spring, Volume 2, Front Page



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Curtis Slater, Forest Lake Area Schools Principal, Named Minnesota National Distinguished Principal



Forest Lake Area Schools

“Creating a positive school culture for students, staff, and families is the most important work and accomplishment that I do each and every day as a principal,” said Slater. “I know that creating a positive school culture is the foundation for any school that wants to create an amazing learning environment for students, staff, and families.”

Back to School, Page 18

Minnesota Principals of the Year

2018 High School Principal of the Year — Mark Mischke, Buffalo High School



Students share that because of Mr. Mischke’s leadership and caring, Buffalo High School is a safe and inclusive place to learn.

2018 Middle Level Principal of the Year — Matthew Aker, Discovery Middle School Alexandria



Students shared “Mr. Aker has a great love for his students and is able to see potential in everyone”

2017–2018 Assistant Principal of the Year — Jason Bakke, Century Middle School



Student leaders say Mr. Bakke’s daily greeting of “It’s a great day to be a Panther” motivate them to excel.

Back to School, Page 20

Five Schools Achieved Recognition as 2018–2019 Minnesota Schools of Excellence

- Eastview Elementary, Lakeville Area Public Schools, Principal Taber Akin
- Floodwood School, Floodwood School District, Principal Dr. Rae Villebrun
- Hawley Elementary, Hawley Public Schools, Principal Chris Ellingson
- New York Mills Elementary, New York Mills Public Schools, Principal Judith Brockway
- Vandyke Elementary, Greenway Public Schools, Principal Susan Hoeft

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Saint Anthony Park Science Teacher Honored with Presidential Award



St. Paul Public Schools

Saint Anthony Park Elementary School Teacher Jim Schrankler loves to get students excited about science. Mr. Schrankler recently became the fifth science teacher from SPPS to be honored with the Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Saint Anthony Park Principal Karen Duke said “I see students active and engaged with hands-on experiments, approaching tasks with curiosity and a desire to do well. I see students who struggle at school feeling valued and successful. I always think to myself, ‘I wish I could be a learner in Mr. Schrankler’s classes!’”

Fall 2018, Volume 2, Page 16

Shakopee Alternative High School Teacher is Teacher of the Year



Shakopee Public Schools

Kelly D. Holstine, an English teacher at Tokata Learning Center in Shakopee, is the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. “It is true that our population can consist of students with varying abilities and temperaments, but these same students are also some of the most creative and brilliant humans with whom I have ever worked,” Holstine said. “And, without fail, the students who arrive angry, sad, hurt and/or scared reveal their vulnerability, brilliance and beautiful selves when they feel safe and valued.”

Back to School, Page 19

Soupir Earns ‘Excellent Educator’ honors



Delano Public Schools

Kelli Soupir suspected that something unusual was happening as she descended the stairs from her second-floor classroom to the Delano Elementary School media center. When she reached the bottom of the stairs Kim Johnson, an anchor for WCCO-TV, approached and presented Soupir with a plaque identifying her as one of the station’s “Excellent Educator” award winners. “It is so humbling, as a second-year teacher, to be recognized, because you don’t always know that what you’re doing in the classroom is the right thing.

Fall 2018, Volume 2, Page 17

Farmington Teacher of the Year: Erica Winters

Farmington Area Public Schools

Ms. Winters has been a teacher for 17 years and spent the last 16 of those years teaching music at Meadowview Elementary. As much as Ms. Winters loves music, she sees being a teacher as a greater calling. “I truly believe the work that happens inside the music room goes far beyond teaching and learning the fundamentals of music. The music room is a place of expectation, laughter and inclusion. Students who struggle in other areas throughout the school find success in my classroom,” she said.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 22



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A Near-Record 168 Teachers are Candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

The 2019 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be chosen from a field of 168 candidates. These candidates have accepted their nominations and completed the required materials to become eligible for the honor. The number of candidates this year is the third-most in the 55-year history of the award.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 22

2019 Minnesota
TEACHER
of the **YEAR**
55th Anniversary

John Awsumb, Bay View Elementary School, Selected MN National Outstanding Assistant Principal

Proctor Public Schools

John Awsumb, Proctor Public Schools assistant principal of Bay View Elementary School in Duluth, is Minnesota's 2019 NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal. Awsumb's work creating and implementing a multiple-tiered system of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is one of his most significant accomplishments at Bay View Elementary. Another of Awsumb's accomplishments is the creation of the Bay View Community Garden thanks to a \$25,000 grant he secured. "If you walk the halls with Mr. Awsumb, you would know in an instant how well respected he is among our students, faculty, and staff," wrote John Engelking, Superintendent of Proctor Public Schools, in his letter of recommendation for Awsumb.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 23



Anoka Hennepin Health Service Coordinator Cynthia Hiltz Earns National Honor

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Earlier this year, Hiltz was named a National Academy of School Nursing (NASN) fellow, an honor only 98 other school nurses have earned nationally since 1997. It's the highest honor a school nurse can earn. "The public thinks that a child goes to school and they get sick or they fall and someone helps them, but in reality, that's just the tip of the iceberg," she said. "Oh my gosh, it was amazing," Hiltz said of learning she had earned the fellowship."

Fall 2018, Volume 2, Page 10



U.S. Department of Education Recognizes Eight Minnesota Schools as 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools



The recognized schools from Minnesota are

- **Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Elementary School**, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Schools
- **Canby Elementary School**, Canby Public Schools
- **Fertile-Beltrami Elementary School**, Fertile-Beltrami School District
- **Maple River East Elementary School**, Maple River Schools
- **Red Rock Central Secondary School**, Red Rock Central Public School District
- **School of Engineering and Arts**, Robbinsdale Area Schools
- **Vandyke Elementary School**, Greenway Public Schools
- **Wayzata Central Middle School**, Wayzata Public Schools

Fall Volume 1, Page 20

Moorhead High Teacher of the Year Focuses on Relationships

Moorhead Area Public Schools

For Moorhead High School science teacher Eric Stenehjem, teaching is about building relationship with students to engage them in learning. "I believe if I can get students to trust me, then I can teach them anything," Stenehjem said. "There are many tools and strategies that we can learn to be better teachers. But if you can't connect with kids, those tools aren't as effective."

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Albany Area Eighth Grade Teacher Carrie Schmitz Named Minnesota Middle School Teacher of the Year



Albany Area School District

In this her eighth year of teaching at the secondary level, Mrs. Schmitz is currently an 8th grade English Language Arts instructor at the middle school. Commenting on her performance in and out of the classroom, Albany Area Middle School principal Paul Conrad had this to say: "In the classroom, Mrs. Schmitz has a way of working with all students that is something special."

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Horizon East Health Teacher Named Moorhead Teacher of the Year



Moorhead Area Public Schools

Brian Meyer is proud to come from a family of educators. Meyer, a health education teacher at Horizon Middle School East Campus for nine years, has been named the 2019 Moorhead Teacher of the Year. "We practice and implement coping skills and refusal skills — healthy ways students can stay drug free and make healthier choices," Meyer said. "I work hard on trying to make my class pertain to all students. Not until they feel that rapport and connection to my class, can education truly take place."

Winter, Volume 2, Page 20

Teachers Earn LEEA Honors



Delano Public Schools

A quartet of Delano teachers have received honors as Leaders in Educational Excellence. The four included second-grade teacher Nate Uselding, DIS speech clinician Mary Somers, DHS School Within A School instructor Shallyn Tordeur, and DHS social worker Marie Techam, who attended as Delano's 2017–18 Teacher of the Year. Their Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards were distributed at the 27th annual Award and Recognition Ceremony.

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Jay Haugen is the 2019 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year

Farmington Area Public Schools

“During his time at Farmington Area Public Schools, Jay has become an inspiration within his community through his extraordinary leadership and community outreach practices,” said MASA Executive Director Dr. Gary Amoroso. “Jay is a leader in education innovation within Minnesota and the nation – and I am very eager to see the continued transformations that Jay has in store for his district.” During Haugen’s eight-year tenure with the Farmington Area Public Schools, he has cultivated and inspired the design of a new system of schooling.



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Mapleton Educator Named Recipient of \$15,000 Award for Excellence

Maple River Public Schools

Melanie Urban, a teacher at Maple River High School in Maple River Public Schools, was surprised April 18 with the news that she is a recipient of a 2018 WEM Outstanding Educator Award for Ethics in Education, an honor that is accompanied by a \$15,000 award. Urban has been teaching for 10 years and currently teaches high school social studies, government and economics at Maple River High School. While teaching the fundamentals are essential, Urban also wants to help students transition from high school government class knowledge to active participation in the American democracy.



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John Fitzer is Delano Teacher of the Year

Delano Public Schools

The Spanish instructor is in his 30th year of teaching in Delano, but time has not eroded his enthusiasm for his subject or his students. “I’m very passionate about what I do. I love what I do. I can’t imagine doing anything else,” said Fitzer. “I don’t consider this a job. It’s not work to me. I just love being with the kids and seeing their eyes open to new things.”

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