

A plan for student success

By Edell Fiedler, public information

At Mankato Area Public Schools' student achievement is a priority. Efficient budget management is a way to help ensure students succeed through funding needed programs and services, with at least 80 percent of total resources directed to these two items. By restructuring existing debt, local taxpayers were saved more than \$2 million. The district's budget aligns with its strategic roadmap, which helps plan for the future. Federal, state and local funding impacts make it important to ensuring there are enough available resources as the student population grows.

Mankato Area Public Schools' strategic roadmap focuses on strategic direction and serves as the foundation for Mankato Area Public Schools mission—Assuring

learning excellence and readiness for a changing world—and its core values of integrity, respect, excellence, adaptability, responsibility, engagement and collaboration.

“Our community supports Mankato Area Public Schools,” says Superintendent Sheri Allen. “That support helps continue to serve our students in the best way possible, contributing to their overall success. How we budget and prepare for the future is important—we're committed to helping students succeed.”

For more information contact staff at 507-387-1868 or maps@isd77.org.

Making more MakerSpaces

By Sara Gilbert Frederick

Over the past several years, Shelly Makela has seen dozens of students at Eagle Lake Elementary come alive using tools provided in the school's MakerSpace, from legos and tanagrams to robots and 3D printers.

“Kids who may struggle in a traditional classroom come in here and you just see them light up,” Makela says. “This makes sense to them and so they succeed. It builds them up.”

Makela was instrumental in helping secure grants that allowed Eagle Lake Elementary to start the first MakerSpace in the district. Now a \$17,000 Educare grant made possible by Jack Links is outfitting MakerSpaces in the rest of the district's elementary schools with the same tools that Makela uses.

“Once we had it put together here, we started talking about how we could share it with everyone,” Makela says.



With 3D printers in all of the district's elementary schools, students can create creatures like this.

To do so, Makela is sharing her ideas and expertise with media specialists at all the schools. She's also building a website where MakerSpace-related curriculum, much of which has been integrated across the district's curriculum, can be posted. “Our goal is to help everyone,” Makela says.

How to find school attendance areas, busing eligibility and walking routes

By Edell Fiedler, public information

Finding school attendance areas and busing eligibility is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Simply go online to isd77.org/discover-maps/district/boundary-map. Click the “Determine attendance area” box, which opens to a search page.

Once there:

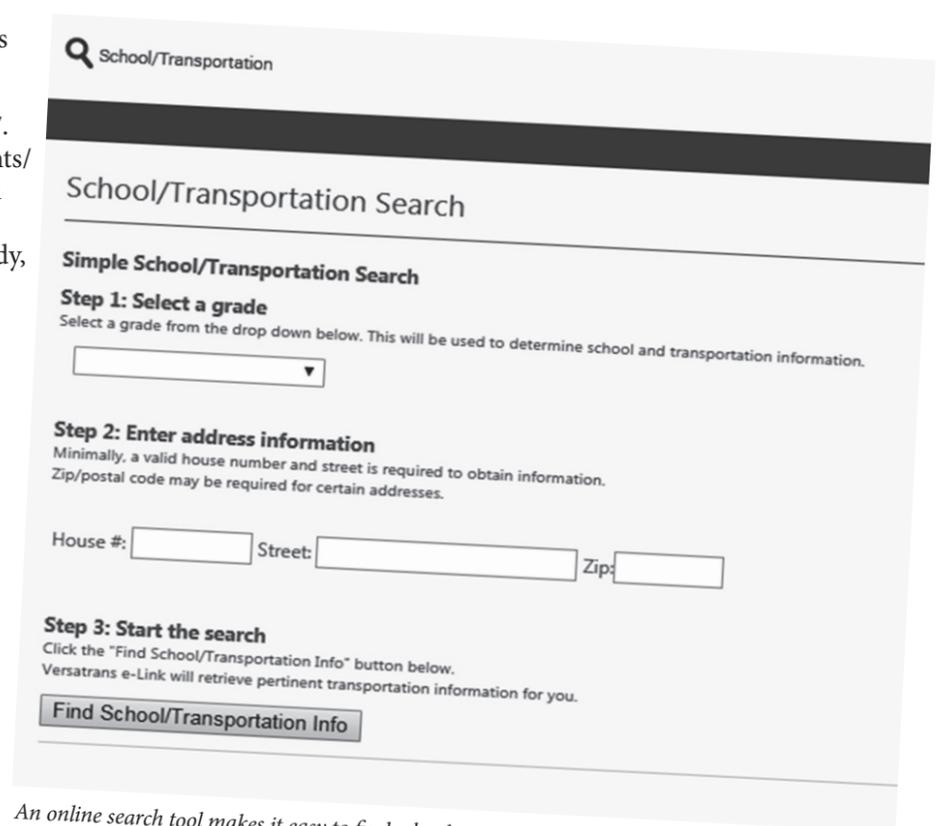
1. Select student's grade.
2. Enter address.
3. Click Find School/Transportation Information button to start the search.

Access the online search tool 24/7 from anywhere internet is available.

Not riding the bus? Visit isd77.org/discover-maps/departments/facilities/safe-routes-to-school to view Safe Routes to School for Franklin, Jefferson, Kennedy, Roosevelt, Rosa Parks and Washington elementary schools.

Mankato Area Public Schools' Central Registration Office personnel in the Intergovernmental Center, 10 Civic Center Plaza, is another resource to help. Staff can assist with registration, attendance area and busing questions.

For more information contact staff at 507-387-2125.



An online search tool makes it easy to find school attendance areas and busing eligibility.

Education Day at annual Mahkato Wacipi earns award

By Shelly Schulz, public information

Mankato Area Public Schools' received an award through the Humphrey School of Public Affairs local government innovation awards, which honors activities where creative ways to deliver service are provided with great impact and at reduced cost. In the Native nation category, Education Day at the Mahkato Wacipi is an award winner and done cooperatively between the Mahkato Mdewakanton Association, Mankato Area Public Schools and Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Megan Heutmaker, director for American Indian Affairs, Recruitment and Retention, Minnesota State University, Mankato; and Mankato Area Public Schools' Superintendent Sheri Allen. Photo by Steve Foley.

Scott Hare named Special Education Administrator of the Year



Scott Hare

The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Scott Hare, Director of Student Support Services of Mankato Area Public Schools, as the 2019 Special Education Administrator of the Year. Hare received this award for his dedication to students with disabilities and their families, and his active involvement in professional and community affairs.