

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Fall 2019 | Volume 60 • Number 1

At District 196, the sky's the limit. That's because our committed team of educators is dedicated to helping learners explore the outer limits of their vast potential.

IN THIS ISSUE

Here Comes the Bus tracking app P.4

196 on Forbes best-employers list P.5

Drone-building class at Apple Valley.. P.10



Levy By The Numbers

- Over the last 10 years, District 196 has **cut \$40 million**, including over 160 teachers.
- In District 196, special education was **underfunded by \$29 million** in fiscal year 2018.
- Without an increase in levy funding, the district would face **up to \$18 million in additional cuts** over the next two years.
- The tax impact of the levy increase would be **\$25 a month** on the average-value home in District 196, **or no tax increase** if not approved.
- **Voting begins September 20** via absentee ballot and runs through Election Day Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Our Children. Our Future. Our Choice.

Approved levy would avert cuts and fund improvements

In July, the District 196 School Board unanimously approved a resolution calling for a levy referendum ballot question in the school district election on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

If the levy is approved, there would be a \$25 per month tax increase on the average-value home in the district and the additional levy funding would be used by the district to:

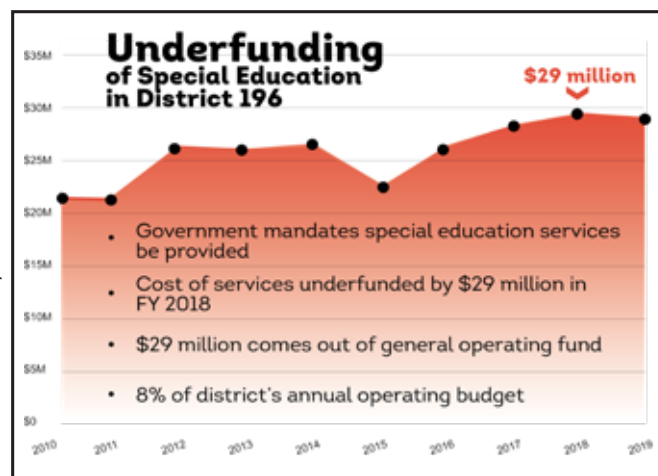
- Avoid additional budget cuts of up to \$18 million and maintain no cuts for at least five years;
- Restore staffing cuts that are part of \$7 million in budget adjustments approved by the board in February and implemented this school year;
- Restore classroom staffing to levels of 10 years ago, prior to \$40 million in cuts;
- Provide increased mental health support staffing at all schools in the district, and
- Restore after-school activity bus transportation that was cut in 2010 at all middle schools and high schools.

If the levy is not approved, there would be no tax increase and the district would:

- Continue staffing cuts implemented for this school year;
- Identify up to \$18 million in additional cuts that would be needed over the next two years. Although nothing has been decided, these would need to include cuts to teachers and all staffing areas, larger class sizes, programs cuts and elimination, and decreased transportation service.

"If you look at what we're asking for, we're not asking for any 'wants' in this," said Board Member **Mike Roseen**, who has been part of seven levy referendums during his 28 years on the board. "We're asking for the needs to get back to where we were 10 years ago."

"We need to keep teachers, we need to restore teachers and we need the funding to do so," **Lisé Frecking**, the parent of two graduates and a senior at Rosemount High School, told the board prior to them calling for the levy question. "The additional funding will guarantee other children the same opportunity that my children were able to benefit from."



Infinite Possibilities

District 196 is nationally recognized for providing boundless opportunities in which students can learn and grow. Whether they have an affinity for academics, arts or athletics, our goal is to expose students to the infinite possibilities within the district and throughout our communities. Together, we encourage them each day to pursue excellence as they experience their exciting journey along the road of life.

Spotlight Newsletter

This quarterly publication is mailed to every household in District 196 to inform parents and other residents about district news.

Send comments on **Spotlight** to tony.taschner@district196.org

NONDISCRIMINATION

NOTICE: District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities, including vocational opportunities, on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, national origin, marital status, familial status,* disability, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local human rights commission,* age or genetic information.* District 196 provides equal access to designated youth groups.

The Director of Human Resources, Tom Pederstuen (651-423-7859 – tom.pederstuen@district196.org) has been designated to respond to employment-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies including Title IX. The Director of Elementary Education, Sally Soliday (651-423-7782 – sally.soliday@district196.org) and the Director of Secondary Education, Michael Bolsoni (651-423-7712 – Michael.Bolsoni@district196.org) have been designated to respond to student-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies including Title IX. The Director of Special Education, Janet Fimmen (651-423-7629 – janet.fimmen@district196.org) has been designated to respond to inquiries concerning the rights of a student with a disability including Section 504. The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068.

*Asterisked categories are limited to employment-related discrimination and harassment.

Four School Board seats to be filled in November election

Four of the seven at-large positions on the District 196 School Board will be filled in the school district election on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The terms of Joel Albright, Sachin Isaacs, Jackie Magnuson and Bob Schutte expire Jan. 6, 2020. The term of each position is four years, from January 2020 to January 2024.

The two-week period for filing candidacy for School Board ended Aug. 13. At the time this issue of *Spotlight* went to press, the following nine candidates had filed for the four open seats: **Joel Albright** of Apple Valley, **Maggie Bruecken** of Apple Valley, **Rebecca Gierok** of Apple Valley, **Curtis Henry** of Rosemount, **Gary Huusko** of Eagan, **Sachin Isaacs** of Burnsville, **Cory Johnson** of Eagan, **Jackie Magnuson** of Rosemount, and **Kristin Schaub** of Apple Valley. To see the complete list of candidates who filed, go to District196.org.

The School Board is responsible for developing policy to ensure the proper care, management and control of district affairs, and supporting the district's mission of "Educating our students to reach their full potential."

The League of Women Voters Dakota County has scheduled a Candidate Forum for Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m., at Rosemount City Hall. The forum will be recorded for play-back on District 196 TV and available to stream on the District 196 YouTube channel.

District 196 voters can vote by absentee ballot beginning Sept. 20 through Nov. 4. In-person absentee balloting will be available at the District Office in Rosemount and at all Dakota County service centers. Early voting will also be offered the week before the election at the District Office and the Dakota County Government Center in Hastings. Polls in the 14 combined school district precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5. To find out where you vote, go to www.mnvotes.org or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-423-7725.

Levy referendum << continued from page 1 >>

Whichever choice voters make, the district's citizen-led Legislative Advisory Council will continue to advocate for increased state funding for education. Years of receiving less-than-inflationary funding increases for basic education, coupled with a nearly \$30 million annual underfunding of special education costs (*see graph on front page*) have led to more than \$40 million in budget cuts in District 196 schools and three levy referendum elections in the last 10 years, including this year's question.



If approved, it would revoke the district's current referendum authorization of \$939.67 per pupil, which was approved by district voters in 2013, and would replace it with a new 10-year authorization of \$1,566.67 per pupil, with annual adjustments for inflation.

Because of inconsistent state funding, more Minnesota school districts than ever have an operating levy referendum (over 90 percent statewide) and the average amount is continually increasing.

"When the state established the local levy referendum option in the 1970s, the intent was so communities could fund programs and services that would be seen as extra," said Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger**. "For many years now school districts have been asking for levy referendum increases just to maintain what they have and avoid more budget cuts. Our survey results show residents also support restoring some previous cuts and improving mental health support for students."

District 196 receives \$284 less per pupil from its current operating levy compared to the average of the 10 largest school districts in the state, with District 196 being the fourth largest. School district taxes on the average-value home in District 196 are slightly below the average for the 10-largest districts (\$1,316 compared to \$1,346 on a home valued at \$286,500).

For more information about the levy, go to www.District196.org/Levy2019. Students pictured on the front page are from Woodland Elementary School in Eagan.

New year brings more exciting possibilities

By **Mary M. Kreger**, superintendent

Welcome to the excitement of another school year. My first year as superintendent of District 196 schools reinforced my sincere pride in our students, staff and district as a whole. I believe we are truly making a difference in our community through our steadfast educational leadership and commitment to providing each student with boundless opportunities to pursue their infinite possibilities.

It has been a busy summer in the district. Educational programs, athletics camps and professional development for staff have kept our buildings buzzing with activity. Our Food and Nutrition Services staff have provided free meals to children this summer at several schools and two neighborhood locations in Apple Valley and Eagan. Through our partnership with The Open Door, we were also able to provide free take-home bags of food for families that brought children to school for lunch.

On Sept. 3, we will welcome nearly 29,000 students back for another year of exciting possibilities. I hope families enjoyed these summer months, and are looking forward to the start of the school year. Our staff engaged in a variety of personal and professional development opportunities this summer, all which provided them with additional skills to support the success of our students. These weeks leading up to September are energizing for our teachers, who will be excited to once again have bustling classrooms. I hope you take advantage of the open house opportunities available at every school. All of this information is on our website at District196.org.

District 196 continues to be a school district of choice. We regularly hear evidence of this from our families who moved here because of District 196 and from Realtors selling homes in

the area. As our district continues to grow, we are excited for the opportunities to continue our commitment to the Triple-A philosophy. If we want to continue to provide students the current level of opportunities in academics, the arts and athletics, it will require additional local resources.

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, the voters of District 196 will make a choice that will determine the direction of our district for at least the next few years. The special election ballot will include a question giving voters the choice: 1) increase local taxes to avoid cuts, and fund staffing and program improvements, OR 2) do not increase taxes and make more cuts to eliminate an \$18 million budget shortfall.

If the levy passes, local property taxes will increase by \$25 per month on the average-value home in the district, and the additional funding it provides would be focused in four areas.

- First, it would allow the district to avoid up to \$18 million in additional budget cuts that would otherwise be needed over the next two years.
- Second, the funding would restore classroom-staffing ratios to a decade ago, before the district cut \$34 million and more than 100 teaching positions over a three-year period from 2009 to 2012. None of those cuts were ever restored. We know how important class size is for teachers to build relationships with students.
- Third, levy funding would increase mental health supports and address a growing need in our district, state and country. Our students have increasing mental health needs and our schools are not currently staffed to address the need.
- And the fourth thing the additional

levy funding would provide is restoration of after-school activity bus service at all middle schools and high schools. Studies show that students who are engaged in co-curricular activities are statistically more likely to do better in school. Activity buses help ensure that all students have the opportunity to become engaged in these activities. Activity buses were previously offered but eliminated as part of budget cuts in 2010.

If the levy does not pass, there will be no tax increase and the district will need to make up to \$18 million in additional budget cuts over the next two years. These cuts would include teachers and all other staffing areas, larger class sizes, less support through gifted and intervention services, cuts to and elimination of certain academic and co-curricular programs, and reduced transportation service.

We are committed to transparency and making sure voters have the information they need to make their choice and cast their ballot. To ensure our community is informed, we will be hosting public presentations at school sites and community events over the next several weeks. Voting begins Sept. 20 via absentee balloting through Election Day Nov. 5. For more information on the levy referendum or how to vote by absentee ballot, visit our levy referendum webpage, at www.District196.org/Levy2019/.



Mary M. Kreger

Parents can track child's bus with Here Comes the Bus app



Beginning this school year, parents whose children ride the bus to and from school each day can track the location of their child's bus using a smartphone application.

The District 196 Transportation Department piloted the "Here Comes The Bus" app this summer and is making the service available to families districtwide prior to the first day of the school year Sept. 3.

Transportation Coordinator **Karen Dayon** said the app lets parents and students know when the bus is getting close to their stop so they don't have to wait outside very long before their bus arrives. "This will be especially helpful on those cold winter mornings," Dayon said. "And in the afternoon, parents will know when the bus arrives at the stop and drops their child off."

With Here Comes The Bus, parents are able to set up a perimeter around their child's bus stop. When their child's bus enters that perimeter, the app sends an alert. Here Comes The Bus also sends notification messages if a bus is running late or if a different bus has been substituted for a child's usual bus.

The app uses HTTPS, or Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure, which encrypts all communication between the web browser and the app for security. The app tracks district buses using GPS; it does not track students.

The Here Comes The Bus app is available to download free on the Google Play Store for Android phones and the App Store for iPhones. To set up an account, parents will need the district identification number (73500) and their child's lunch account number. Parents will be able to monitor buses for multiple children from a single account.

New CMS to give parents consistent website experience

District 196 is launching a new district website this fall in the first phase of a two-year rollout that will move all District 196 schools and programs to a single website content management system (CMS) by August 2020. The Finalsight platform will improve communication between schools and parents by providing a consistent, user-focused experience across all District 196 school websites.

"Parents will no longer need to learn a new website each time their child moves up a level or enrolls in a different school," said Communications Director **Tony Taschner**. "There is consistency on what things are called and where to find them, from school to school."

The new District196.org features a media-rich, mobile-first design that is visually pleasing, practical on content and accessible to visitors with disabilities. The design provides a unified look across the district while allowing each school to maintain its

unique identity with use of colors, logo and content.

All school websites will have front-page access to news and announcements, and a calendar of events with feeds and reminder alerts. The system offers predictive search capabilities and the ability to publish content once and share it across all sites simultaneously. When there is a change to the school schedule due to weather, for example, visitors to District196.org and all school websites that have launched on the Finalsight platform will receive an emergency pop-up notification to inform them of the schedule change.

In addition to the district website, five other District 196 schools and programs will be launching new sites at the start of the school year. They are Community Education, Red Pine and Woodland elementary schools, Valley Middle School of STEM and Eastview High School. Phase two of the rollout includes all 30 other district schools that will launch on the Finalsight platform in or before August 2020.

Dealing with distraction to stay focused on learning

Beginning this fall, all District 196 schools will be offering ways to help staff, students and parents lessen digital distractions when using technology as a learning tool and keep the focus on learning.

The Digital Distraction and Filtering Guidance Team of district and school staff and parents was established earlier this year to identify best practices for students, staff and parents to lessen learning distractions when using technology.

"The goal is to set expectations that are consistent at all levels," said **Steve Troen**, director of teaching and learning. "And not just the district-issued iPads, but also their personal devices at home and how we can keep the focus on learning."

The team developed 10 recommendations in these five areas: expectations and protocols; professional learning; parent communication and resources; technical filters, and curriculum. Work this summer has focused on the first three areas, according to Teaching and Learning Specialist **Jenny Huling**.

Proactive protocols were developed to establish a general set of norms and expectations that can be adapted for each grade level. Huling said students will participate in digital citizenship learning experiences during the first week of school and again each quarter. Responsive protocols were also developed to help teachers and parents respond if a distraction arises and a restorative conversation is needed.

"The recommendations are grounded in building relationships with students," Huling said.

This fall, parents will be invited to a presentation at their child's school to learn more about what school staff is doing to help ensure students are safe, productive and focused on learning when using technology.

"We want to work with parents to protect and guide students as they navigate learning in the digital world," Huling said.

District 196 makes Forbes list of Minnesota's best employers

District 196 ranked 12 out of 51 Minnesota employers included on Forbes' inaugural list of Best-in-State Employers for 2019 in an article published in June.

Forbes and market research company Statistica selected America's Best-in-State Employers based on an independent survey of 80,000 Americans working for employers with at least 500 employees. The surveys were administered in a series of anonymous online panels that provided a representative sample of the U.S. workforce. The respondents were asked to rate how likely they would be to recommend their employer to others and to nominate employers in industries outside their own. The number of employers ranked in each state was dependent on the number of qualifying employers and the size of the state's workforce. The combined list includes 1,430 employers that received the greatest number of recommendations in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. To review the list, go to www.forbes.com/best-employers-by-state.

District 196 is one of seven public sector employers on the Minnesota list and the only school district to make the state's ranking. The 11 Minnesota employers ranked higher than District 196, in ascending order, are: Andersen Corp., 3M, CenterPoint Energy, General Mills, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Hennepin County, Medtronic, Costco, Kwik Trip, Delta and Mayo Clinic at number one.

"District 196 is a school district of choice for families because of the quality of education provided and the boundless opportunities available for students to pursue their infinite possibilities in academics, arts and athletics," said Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger**. "This recognition from Forbes shows that District 196 is also a district of choice among employees, allowing us to attract and retain the best teachers, administrators and support staff in our industry."

District 196 employs approximately 3,500 full- and part-time employees in both licensed and support positions. The district offers competitive salaries and benefits, and rewarding opportunities to make a difference in the lives of students each day. District 196 is nationally recognized for providing boundless opportunities for students – and employees – to learn, grow, and explore their infinite possibilities. The district's committed team of educators is dedicated to helping learners explore the outer limits of their vast potential.

District 196 has a variety of career opportunities available for teachers, nurses, paraprofessionals, clerks, food service associates, custodians, bus drivers and chaperones. To review current openings and apply, see the story on this page or visit the Careers section at District196.org.

Bus stop info mailed, optional service is \$300 per year

Postcards were mailed beginning Aug. 19 to families of students eligible to receive transportation to and from school during the 2019-20 school year.

The postcard includes information on bus stop locations and pick-up/drop-off times. Parents and guardians who do not receive a postcard and believe their child is eligible to receive transportation can call the Transportation Department at 651-423-7685.

The district also offers optional transportation service for a fee for students who do not qualify based on the current service distances. The cost is \$300 per student, with a \$600 family maximum. For more information, visit the Transportation Department webpage at District196.org. Families whose children qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals receive the service for a discounted rate.

Join the District 196 team!

District 196 has employment opportunities for the 2019-20 school year for individuals who enjoy working with children. For more information and to apply online, go to District196.org and click the Careers button.

Substitute teacher rates are \$135 for a full day and \$78 for a half day. Applicants must have a current Minnesota teacher's license and attend a substitute teacher orientation.

Substitute paraprofessionals are paid \$14 per hour. Applicants must be available Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. most weeks; pass a pre-employment physical and background check; complete online training and attend an orientation.

The **substitute school nurse** rate is \$24 per hour. Applicants must be a licensed LPN or RN (preferred), be available week-days during the school year and attend an orientation.

Substitute and part-time bus drivers earn \$17.88 per hour. Prefer individuals who are available for both morning and afternoon routes. Applicants must have a Minnesota driver's license with a good driving record and be able to lift/drag up to 125 pounds. The district provides training to obtain necessary licensure. Benefits are available to employees who work 23 or more hours per week.

The rate for **food service associates** is \$16.46 per hour (\$13.20 per hour starting wage for substitutes) plus a complimentary meal each shift. Regular and substitute positions are available, three to five hours per day.

Substitute custodial positions pay \$13.20 per hour. Applicants must be available Monday through Friday, 3 to 11:30 p.m. most weeks. Previous custodial experience is preferred.

Population tops 157,000, 'capture rate' remains high

The total population of District 196 is estimated at 157,475, according to projections by the Minnesota State Demographic Center. That represents an increase of 2,855 residents or 1.8 percent over the demographer's estimate of 154,620 from one year ago.

The School Board approved the district's 2019 certified census in June. The annual census figure is used to determine tax levies for funding community education programs in the district.

District 196 is the fourth largest school district in Minnesota, with total enrollment of nearly 29,000 students. The district covers approximately 110 square miles and includes all or parts of the cities of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights and Lakeville, and Empire and Vermillion townships.

Nearly nine of every 10 school-age children who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools. Of the 32,840 school-age students living in District 196 when the district's official enrollment report was calculated last October, 28,394 attended District 196 schools in the 2018-19 school year, giving the district an 86.5-percent "capture rate" among resident students. Anything over 80 percent is considered high for a school district in the Twin Cities, according to former state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt**. She says capture rate is a reflection on the quality of local public schools, as well as the presence of charter schools, nonpublic schools and other educational alternatives in the area.

Early levy and School Board voting begins September 20

Beginning Sept. 20, voters can cast their ballot ahead of Election Day through the absentee balloting process. Registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots can be completed in person at one of four locations: the District Office in Rosemount, 3455 153rd St. W., and the Dakota County government centers in Apple Valley, Hastings and West St. Paul, beginning Sept. 20. If voting absentee at one of these locations, the voter can submit their absentee ballot application and their voted ballot all in one stop, if desired. They can also take their ballot and submit the completed ballot by mail.

To absentee vote by mail, voters may download an absentee ballot application form on the district website at District196.org and mail the completed application as directed in the application materials. Once an application is received and processed, an absentee ballot will be mailed to the voter along with instructions for completing and returning their ballot in the postage-paid envelope that is provided with the ballot. If the person applying for an absentee ballot is not registered to vote, a voter registration application will be mailed with the absentee ballot and the completed voter registration application should be returned along with the ballot. Voter registration can also be completed online at www.mnvotes.org.

In addition, early in-person voting will be offered beginning Tuesday, Oct. 29 through Monday, Nov. 4, each business day at the District Office in Rosemount (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on November 4). Early in-person voting will also be available these dates at the Dakota County Administration Center in Hastings, 1590 Highway 55 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 4).

For more information about absentee and early in-person voting, go to www.District196.org/Levy2019 or call 651-423-7725.

Help develop district's next integration and equity plan

District 196 is looking for residents and staff members interested in assisting with the development of a new achievement and integration plan that will guide integration and equity efforts in the district for the next three years.

The district works to ensure the Community Collaboration Council is representative of the diversity in the district and includes representation from the district's three racially identifiable schools: Cedar Park, Echo Park and Oak Ridge elementary schools.

The plan developed by the council will benefit all students and schools in the district and may include programs with multicultural emphasis, duplication of successful programs, staff development opportunities and targeted resources at the racially identifiable schools. The draft plan will be presented to the School Board for consideration.

Interested district residents and staff are encouraged to apply for membership at www.district196.org/student-services/inclusion-services/ or by calling the Equity and Inclusion Department at 651-423-7916. The deadline to submit online applications is Aug. 30.

Applicants should be able to attend all meeting dates, 6-8:30 p.m., Oct. 3, Nov. 14 and 21, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, with an optional meeting Jan. 23. Child care and translation services will be available during meetings.

Before- and after-school job opportunities in SAC program

The YMCA is seeking positive, energetic people who like to work with elementary age children in an educational setting. Successful candidates engage students in a variety of fun activities and homework assistance before and after school in the YMCA's School Age Care, or SAC program, which is offered at all 19 elementary schools in District 196. Starting pay is \$12 per hour. For more information, contact **Peggy LaCroix** at 651-259-6148. To apply online, visit www.ymcamn.org/jobs and look under School Age Care.

Pursuing Infinite Possibilities: Mark Dahlen, Apple Valley High School Class of 1997

Music has been a lifelong passion for Apple Valley High School 1997 graduate **Mark Dahlen**. Even as a youngster making his way through Westview Elementary and Valley Middle schools, he had dreams of pursuing a career in the music industry. Now a successful audio engineer in Nashville, Dahlen recently released his debut album, "Return To Love," under his project titled We Are Vibrational Beings.

Dahlen said he seized every opportunity to get involved in school during his days in District 196, especially when it came to music. Through a mentorship program at Apple Valley, he had the opportunity to work in a local recording studio where he could get hands-on experience and learn about the industry. Dahlen said that experience in high school as was a pivotal point for him in deciding what to do after graduation.

"It definitely laid the ground work for all of the success I've had," he said. "Not every place in the country has those type of educational opportunities. I'm fortunate and grateful to have grown up in Apple Valley."

After graduation, Dahlen studied music and eventually moved to Nashville, where he's lived for nearly 20 years. He has spent time touring the United States and 19 countries with big-name artists like Eric Church, Richard Ashcroft, SheDaisy and Jake Shimabukuro. And when he's home, he works alongside other major acts as an audio engineer for the Nashville Symphony.

Riding on the heels of his debut album, Dahlen said he looks forward to more time writing music and essays that "help others awaken to their infinite possibilities."

"With this record I want to inspire people to follow their dreams, even if they are going through their own challenges right now," he said. "We are incredible beings with the ability to create what we want in life. There really are infinite possibilities."



Apple Valley High School 1997 graduate **Mark Dahlen** decided to pursue his passion for music after participating in a mentorship experience at a recording studio during high school.

Stats

A 1997 graduate of Apple Valley High School; studied music at Music Tech (later renamed McNally Smith College of Music), and works as an audio engineer for the Nashville Symphony, and a musician and producer for his personal music projects. His music can be found at www.wavb.life.

“The opportunities I had in class selection in a range of topics ... really gave me a chance to find out what I was good at and what I liked to do.”

Fun fact

Dahlen released his debut album, "Return To Love" on June 18 under his project We Are Vibrational Beings. He said the record "is about awakening to our infinite nature, overcoming hardships and moving beyond the fear

that holds us back from our dreams to experience all that life has to offer." The album features Dahlen's close friends and musicians who regularly play alongside some of the industry's biggest names.

How did District 196 prepare you for life after high school?

"I think fondly of my time in District 196. The opportunities I had in class selection in a range of topics from shop classes, woodworking and metals, to art and music, to sports really gave me a chance to find out what I was good at and what I liked to do. Having a mentorship opportunity in a recording studio was a key step in moving into the music business."

Which District 196 teachers made the biggest difference in your education?

"I don't think I can pick just one teacher that had a huge impact on me. Like much of life, the variety of influences in our lives will shape us, if we are willing to listen and learn from every encounter."

Parents' back-to-school online review provides up-to-date information

Each year, District 196 asks parents and guardians to review and update information currently on record with the district, including contact information, emergency contacts, student health records and more.



This annual review process is completed online through the Infinite Campus parent portal known as Campus Parent. The next time a parent logs into an existing account, they will be prompted to complete this review process before proceeding.

This is the one time each year that parents are prompted to complete this review, so schools have the most up-to-date information at the start of the school year. However, changes can be made at any time throughout the year either through Campus Parent or by contacting your child's school.

This year, the district added a question aimed at better identifying and serving families in households where multiple languages are spoken. For each parent/guardian, a "preferred communication language" can be selected on a dropdown menu; English is the default selection. The data from this question will be used by staff to make decisions about providing interpreter services and written translations of certain materials.

All District 196 parents and guardians are encouraged to have a Campus Parent account of their own to stay involved in their child's education, to access end-of-term report cards, transcripts, attendance and other important information. Parents who do not have their own Campus Parent account can request an activation key from the office at their child's school.

Directions for setting up a Campus Parent account and completing the annual online review process are available at www.district196.org/parents.

Immunization clinics offered at five schools in late August

Immunization clinics will be held at five District 196 schools in late August. Immunizations will be given to any District 196 student or sibling ages 6 months to 18 years who still needs to receive required immunizations before the start of the 2019-20 school year. Families who are insured should bring their health insurance card. Families who are uninsured or underinsured can receive the immunizations at no charge, but donations will be accepted.

The immunization clinics will be held according to the following schedule:

- Cedar Park Elementary School of STEM, 7500 Whitney Dr. in Apple Valley – Tuesday, Aug. 20, 4:30-7 p.m. and Wednesday, Aug. 21, 12:30-2 p.m.
- Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology, 14100 County Rd. 11 in Burnsville – Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2:15-3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Aug. 21, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences, 4350 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd. in Eagan – Tuesday, Aug. 20, 12-1:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Aug. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Apple Valley High School, 14450 Hayes Rd. in Apple Valley – Wednesday, Aug. 28, 3-4:30 p.m.

- Valley Middle School of STEM, 900 Garden View Dr. in Apple Valley – Wednesday, Aug. 28, 5:15-7 p.m.

The immunizations will be administered by licensed nurses with Homeland Health Specialists, a private company, as part of an agreement with the district. A District 196 nurse will be available at each site to look up the child's immunization records that are on file with their school.

To enroll in school in Minnesota, parents must show that their child has had the required immunizations for their age or file a legal exemption. Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent or guardian and notarized. To review the immunization requirements, go to www.district196.org/student-services/health-services/immunization-requirements.

A record of the required immunizations or legal exemption must be on file with the school nurse before the first day of school on Sept. 3, 2019. Students will not be able to attend school until they have shown proof of vaccination or legal exemption.

For more information about immunizations or the clinics, contact your child's school nurse.

Free hotspots provide home Wi-Fi for high school students

Today's education requires access to digital resources at school and at home. Sprint's 1Million Project is helping ensure all high school students have the reliable connection to the Internet they need to do schoolwork at home, stay connected with their teachers and collaborate with classmates outside of the classroom.

Last year, Sprint provided District 196 with 250 hotspots to distribute to students in grades 9-12 who do not have access to Wi-Fi at home. More than 200 hotspots were distributed. Some of last year's units are still available for students in need and Sprint will provide additional hotspots for this school year as needed.

Any District 196 high school student who does not have reliable Wi-Fi access at home can contact an administrator at their school to ask about the no-cost hotspots and determine their eligibility. Students who receive a hotspot can keep the device until they graduate from high school.

"Our partnership with Sprint has provided a significant academic benefit for some students," said **Rob Franchino**, assistant principal at Eastview High School. "These students are now able to use their iPad to access Schoology and other resources at home. They wouldn't be able to do so without the support of Sprint's 1Million program."



Adventures in Learning

Approximately 350 elementary students who receive English Learner services participated in the Adventures in Learning camp in June. Students focused on developing language and literacy skills through the study of STEM disciplines related to sports and health. Highlights of the week included workshops with Rosemount ATA, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and Caldecott Honor author Bao Phi. Campers also took an exciting trip to Target Field to study the science of baseball.

New AVHS principal embraces 'STEM for all' philosophy

Drew Mons is excited to become part of Apple Valley High School's tradition of success in academics, the arts and athletics. In July, he became the fifth principal in the school's 43-year history.

Mons comes to District 196 from Mounds View Public Schools, where he spent the last seven years as dean of students and then associate principal at Irondale High School. He replaced **Michael Bolsoni**, who in May was hired to be the district's new director of secondary education.

"I feel honored to join a school where students and staff embrace a 'STEM for all' philosophy and are encouraged to try new things and help others succeed," Mons said. "The dedicated staff at Apple Valley have created something very special."

In January, Apple Valley received a national STEM Excellence Award for the school's innovative approaches to implementing STEM education. Supported by a \$3 million grant from the U.S. departments of education and labor in 2014 and under Bolsoni's leadership, Apple Valley launched its E3 STEM program focusing on exploration, education and employment in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

As an associate principal at Irondale, Mons implemented academic and social-emotional programming to support the district's equity promise to prepare all students for post-secondary success regardless of race, class, gender or disability.

Mons started his career as a math teacher at schools in Columbia Heights and Mahtomedi, then was hired as a teacher and administrative intern at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, where he worked from 2001 to 2012. Mons has a bachelor's degree in communications, a master's degree in education and a specialist degree in educational leadership, all from the University of St. Thomas.



New Falcon Ridge Middle principal led Hopkins school for last eight years

In July, **Becky Melville** was hired to be the next principal of Falcon Ridge Middle School. She replaces **Noel Mehus**, who retired in June following a 14-year career as principal at Falcon Ridge.



Melville has been the principal at North Junior High School in Hopkins for the last eight years, and was a teacher at the school from 2000 to 2007. In between her times at North, Melville worked for Farmington Public Schools, first as director of teaching and learning then as an assistant principal at Farmington High School.

As principal at North, Melville led implementation of a schoolwide instructional framework focused on connecting classroom experiences to the real world. She says she led a service-focused school in which all students participated in a culminating community project in their final year, choosing to influence positive change in the world through advocacy, research or direct action service projects.

"The opportunity to be principal at Falcon Ridge is full of personal and professional connections for me, so I am thrilled at the honor of being chosen as its principal," said Melville, who is a resident of District 196 and graduate of Eagan High School. "I am excited to join this caring community that is committed to helping all students grow academically and personally in an engaging environment."

Melville has a bachelor's degree in social studies from Hamline University, earned a master's degree in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota, and is working toward a doctorate degree in leadership at Saint Mary's University.

Drone-building class is taking STEM learning to new heights at Apple Valley High

A new class at Apple Valley High School has students showing up well before the first bell rings and staying after the school day has ended. The Drone Construction, Modification and Flight course is the first of its kind in District 196 and students are eager to put their engineering skills to the test.

The class started last spring after more than two years of research and planning by instructor **Chris Lee**. As the coordinator of the school's fabrication lab, Lee believed a drone course would give students another opportunity for hands-on learning, and that they would be popular. He was right. Both sections offered in the spring were full.

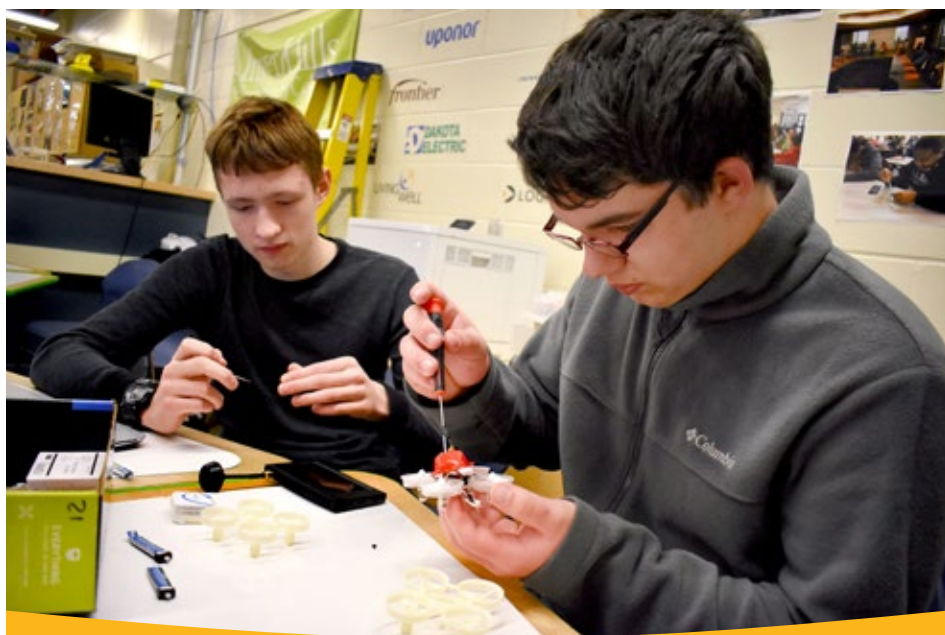
"I really pushed for this class because I see it as a natural fit with the science, technology, engineering and math components, and the fabrication lab," Lee said. "That has really turned out to be true. We are using almost every machine in the lab as part of the course."

For juniors **Devin Martin** and **Quinlan Rowland**, the class provided a learning space to explore their passion for technology. The two friends had built computers and other small electronics before, but they said this was the first time they built a drone.

"I've always been interested in remote-controlled stuff and flying drones," Quinlan said. "It's cool that we get to work on this for a class. It's just so different from any other class I've taken."

As part of the course, students work in teams of two to build a pint-sized drone, much of which comes pre-assembled. Devin and Quinlan built a custom chase for their drone using a 3-D printer in Apple Valley's fab lab, and added a camera.

"I like the engineering aspect of this class," Devin said. "And we're learning how to keep detailed notes and a design record. Usually I just build things and then forget how I designed or built it. This class is making me a better engineer."



Apple Valley High School juniors **Devin Martin** (left) and **Quinlan Rowland** put together a Tiny Whoop micro drone, one of the required projects in the Drone Construction, Modification and Flight course.

The introductory drone class is just the beginning, Lee said. He plans to propose an advanced drone-building course this fall and spend the year researching and planning the curriculum. He hopes to have the course ready for the 2020-21 school year.

In the meantime, Lee said he would like to get more girls involved in the introductory class. As far as how drones will be used in the future, he said the possibilities for these students are wide open for drone-related careers in the future.

Last spring, Apple Valley hosted the state's first-ever high school drone-racing tournament. St. Louis Park High School, which also has an introductory drone-building course, partnered with Apple Valley to put on the event. Teams from both schools competed against one another on an indoor course and put to the test their engineering, navigating and landing skills. The Eagles came out on top, with senior **Andrew Martin** taking home the championship title.

Apple Valley is the nationally award-winning high school in District 196's magnet STEM pathway, which includes Cedar Park Elementary School of STEM and Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology for pre-K to grade 5, and Valley Middle School of STEM for grades 6-8. All District 196 students can enroll at Apple Valley High through an intra-district transfer; space is available. Students who attend Valley Middle School of STEM are eligible for transportation to Apple Valley High School.

Homeschools must report

Families living in District 196 who plan to homeschool their children for the 2019-20 school year must submit a yearly Full or Intent to Continue Report, as required by state law, by Oct. 1, 2020.

The report is available at <http://www.district196.org/community-ed/homeschool/>. For more information or to request a homeschool packet, call 651-423-7722.

New club opportunity at Rosemount High is netting students hook, line and sinker

In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, it should be no surprise that one of the fastest growing high school sports takes place on the water and involves a net. Rosemount High School fielded its first fishing team last year.

Head coach **Jeremy Abbott**, a seventh-grade science teacher at Rosemount Middle School, was eager to pair his lifelong passions for fishing and education. "I thought about starting a team for a few years and got the push I needed in 2018 when a couple of parents contacted Rosemount High School looking to start a team," Abbott said.

Last year's inaugural roster included 10 skilled student anglers. It is the first co-curricular opportunity of its kind in District 196, but Rosemount is one of 10 teams that competes in the Greater South Conference of the Minnesota Junior B.A.S.S. league. Across the state, there are seven conferences and the number of schools adding teams continues to grow.

Schools open their season with three conference tournaments in June and July. In these tournaments, two teammates are paired with an adult who navigates the boat. The two-man teams fish for six hours and turn in their five biggest bass to be weighed. The bigger the bass, the more points awarded.

Results from the three tournaments are used to qualify the top 10 two-person teams for the state tournament in August. Three Rosemount teams were among the 10 state qualifiers this year.

Now in its second season, the roster has doubled to 20 and is quickly becoming a team to watch.

The Irish came out on top in the final conference tournament of the season July 27 on Washington and Stella lakes outside of Dassel. Rosemount earned the top team finish and three two-person teams had top-10 finishes, including winners **Jordan Loranger** and fellow senior **Christian Prestegard**, who took first place with 13.9 pounds of bass for an average of just under three pounds per fish.

"(It's) fun to fish with other guys our age," said Rosemount student **Jack Morrison**. "I love to bass fish and have always wanted to fish competition. It's important to do what you love, and being involved doesn't always have to mean playing football and hockey. Outdoorsmen can be athletes, too."

The Minnesota State High School League doesn't formally recognize fishing as a sport. Instead, it is designated a club.

Abbott has high hopes for the future. "I would love to get more kids interested, especially girls," he said. "A lot of kids do not have athletic interests, or music interests. But outdoor activities are something they like to do. We live in a great state with a long history of fishing and hunting. And the more kids that we can get involved, the better for our state and our schools."



Rosemount High School anglers **Noah Glitto** (left) and **Jack Morrison**, both recent graduates, show off their catches during a tournament in June.

Magnet high school has global opportunities

Does your student have an interest in environmental issues or a passion for learning more about our world through an environmental lens?

Join staff and students at the School of Environmental Studies (SES) for a tour and informational session Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 3:15 p.m.

SES is a premier environmental magnet high school right here in District 196. Since its founding in 1995, the school has been offering interdisciplinary, hands-on learning focused on understanding the importance of our environment. Students can participate in field experiences, intensive theme studies, Advanced Placement courses and in a United Nations conference.

Spots are still available for fall 2019 and 2020. SES is open to students in grades 11 and 12 throughout the metro area. For more information, call SES at 952-431-8750, email greatschool@district196.org and visit sesmn.org.

Congratulations!

A sampling of recent student and staff achievements in District 196

(The student and staff achievements noted below occurred since the end of the 2018-19 school year, after the summer issue of *Spotlight* went to press.)



Recent Eagan High School graduate **Megan Plaschko** ended her prep career with selection as the 2018-19 Gatorade Minnesota Girls' Soccer Player of

the Year. In her final season with the Wildcats, Plaschko recorded 15 shutouts and gave up just eight goals the entire year in helping lead Eagan to the Class AA state tournament semifinals. She also earned the title Class AA Ms. Soccer, was the 2019 *Pioneer Press* Player of the Year, 2019 Downtown St. Paul Lions Club Female Athlete of the Year and a United Soccer Coaches All-American selection. Her accomplished career included 44 shutouts in goal. Megan is continuing her academic and athletic career on scholarship at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities this fall.

Recent Rosemount High School graduate **Max Otterdahl** won state titles in shot put and discus at the boys' Class AA state track and field tournament in June. Max will be continuing his academic and athletic career on scholarship at North Dakota State University.

Eastview High School students **Sourabh Terakanambi** and **Nisal Liyanage** won the doubles championship of the Class 2A boys' state tennis tournament in June. They were seeded first entering the doubles tournament this year after surprising the competition as unseeded champions of last year's state tournament. Eastview finished second in the team competition and **Max Zagrebelny** of Eagan High School took third place in singles.

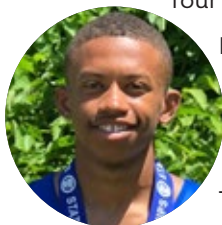
For the fifth year in a row, Eagan High School was named one of the top-10 Schools of Outstanding Distinction



Hawks capture adapted softball state title

The Dakota United Hawks posed with their hardware after winning the state championship in the physically impaired (PI) division of the adapted softball tournament in June. The Hawks' sister team won the consolation championship in the cognitively impaired division. Members of the state champion PI team are **AJ Conner, GiGi Ayers, Fiona Sitzmann, Charlie Henderson, Chuck Schultz, Jack Cahn, Gabby Stahl, Kyle Jackson, Hailey Douglas, Alex Jorgenson, Ryan Costley, Daniel Sonnenberg, Cooper Chelstrom, Blake Jackson, Sam Holland, Nate Jaworski, Sam Gerten, William Davidson, Hayden Hedegaard** and **Eddy Nelson**. The head coach is **Brett Kosidowski** and assistant coaches are **Bryan Herzan, Scott Kunze, Jon Schmitz, Riley Wisniewski, Lantz Estep** and **Owen Olson**.

and Apple Valley and Eastview high schools were two of the top-20 Speech Schools of Excellence at the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Apple Valley students and coaches also brought home the tournament's top trophy, the Bruno E. Jacob Award, for winning the greatest number of cumulative rounds in main events at national tournaments. Of the 43 District 196 students who qualified for this year's national tournament, 31 had top-60 finishes, including nine finalists (top six) and four semifinalists (top 14).



Eastview High School senior **AJ Green** was named the 2018-19 Gatorade Minnesota Boys' Track & Field Player of

the Year over the summer. His historic season included 800-meter wins at the Section 3AA championships and state tournament. He followed that up with a first-place finish at the Brooks PR Invitational in Seattle and capped off his year with a fourth-place finish at the USATF U20 National Championships in Miramar, Florida.

Eighty-eight District 196 Adult Basic Education students wrote short stories that were published in *Journeys, An Anthology of Adult Writing* by Minnesotans. The personal stories tell about their countries, cultures and beliefs; immigrating to the United States, and their pride in being American.



Rosemount girls are track and field state champions, Sara Hatleli named coach of the year

Rosemount High School owned the track and the fields in the team competitions of the Minnesota State High School League girls' and boys' track and field state tournaments at Hamline University in June. The Rosemount girls (pictured) won the team title while the boys finished state runners-up. **Lauren Peterson** won three individual state titles in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs, and as a member of the 4x400 relay team with **Ava Cinnamo**, **Amber Johnson** and **Jenna Johnson**. Other members of the state champion team are **Makayla Bishop**, **Daisy Islas**, **Lucy Jagoe**, **Taylor Heimerl**, **Ariana Passeri**, **Sydney Essler**, **Rose Sieve**, **Tierra Doss**, **Lexy Berger** and **Lauren Preiner**. Alternates were **Kate Beckwith**, **Ellie Launstein**, **Catelyn Ketterling** and **Taya Buchman**. In addition the MSHSL state title, the Rosemount girls won the South Suburban Conference, Section 1AA and Class 3A True Team titles. Head Coach **Sara Hatleli** was named Minnesota girls' track coach of the year for 2019 by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Assistant coaches are **Jay Hatleli**, **Brett Larson**, **Parc Williams**, **Doug Anderson**, **Tom Hatleli**, **Lance Walsten**, **Tim Conboy**, **Elijah Buecksler** and **Drew Conboy**. Photo courtesy of Alec Hamilton. RiverTown Multimedia.

Eagan's Currens is pursuing possibilities for career on stage

Mara Currens, a 2019 graduate of Eagan High School, is solidifying a name for herself in the theater world. Over the summer, she took another step in the pursuit of an acting career by winning the Hennepin Theatre Trust Triple Threat competition.

The rigorous competition requires student-actors to compile a portfolio of video submissions, including two solos, a monologue and a choreography. After her portfolio was selected, Mara was invited to a live audition where she sang, delivered



another monologue and showed off her dancing chops. She was among the top 26 in the state chosen to perform in front of a sold out State Theatre in Minneapolis, where she was crowned the Triple Threat champ.

This title earned Mara a trip to New York City, where she attended several live shows, participated in masterclasses with Broadway actors, worked alongside theater professionals and learned more about how to turn her passion into a possibility for a career in theater.

County recognizes district for immunization numbers

The Dakota County Public Health Department presented District 196 with an Immunization Achievement Award for promoting immunizations and protecting children from infectious diseases.

The award recognizes District 196 schools for having the highest overall vaccination rates among kindergarten students last year (96.3 percent) compared to other school districts in the county.

On-time vaccination throughout childhood helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases and helps prevent the spread of disease in the community, said **Deb Mehr**, the district's health services coordinator.

Parents and adult students may deny release of directory information

Notice is hereby given that District 196, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, declares the following as "directory information" as provided in said Act, and that information relating to students may be made public if said information is in any of the following categories:

- *Student's name;
- Date and place of birth;
- Major field of study;
- Participation and performance in officially recognized activities and sports;
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams;
- Dates of attendance;
- Enrollment status;
- District-issued email address;
- Grade level;
- Degrees, honors, diplomas and awards received;
- Honor roll;
- School of attendance;
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended;
- Photographs and other video and audio representations for school-approved publications, yearbooks, newspapers, public presentations, student ID badges and publication on school-approved Internet pages;
- *Student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems or displayed on a student ID badge;
- Home addresses, telephone numbers, school schedule, daily attendance record and parent or guardian names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers (for release to law enforcement officials);
- Home addresses and telephone numbers (for release to the Dakota County Library), and
- **9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student's home address and telephone number (for release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education).

**A parent/guardian may not prevent the disclosure of a student's name, identifier or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled or on a student ID badge.*

***In accordance with the law, the district must release to military recruiting officers and institutions of higher education the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of students in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades within 60 days after the date of the request, unless a parent or adult student denies the release of the information.*

Directory information does not include identifying data which references religion, race, color, disability, social position or nationality.

Any parent or guardian of any student in the district, or any student 18

years of age or older, may notify the district that they deny the release of one or more categories of directory information by contacting the principal and completing Procedure 505.2.4.3P, Denial of Release of Directory and Yearbook Information. If filed, a denial will remain in effect until it is modified or rescinded by the parent, guardian or eligible student.

Please understand that if you choose to deny the release of all directory information, your child (or you, if a student 18 years of age or older) will be excluded from such published lists as honor rolls, news releases regarding sports achievements, honors received, graduation programs, and athletic, theater and fine arts programs.

District does not provide accident insurance

District 196 does not provide accident insurance for injuries that happen to students at school or during school activities, nor does the district provide insurance protection for student property that is lost,

stolen or damaged at school or at school activities. Families that wish to have accident or property protection are encouraged to contact an insurance company.

Nonresident students may apply to attend District 196

Students living outside the district may apply to enroll in District 196 schools through the Minnesota Enrollment Options Program. Nonresident students are encouraged to apply to the district by Jan. 15 to be considered for enrollment in the following school year.

Nonresident applicants are also encouraged to request the school(s) they wish to attend. The district

assigns transfer students to schools based on their preference and whether that school has space available. Students who are accepted under the Enrollment Options Program can remain in the district through grade 12, but will be assigned to schools that have space available.

For information on how to apply, call the district Student Information Office at 651-423-7644.

District obtains required criminal background checks

Minnesota school districts are required to notify parents annually about compliance with state law requiring school districts to perform criminal history background checks.

District 196 obtains criminal history checks on everyone offered employment in the district, as well as selected volunteers and independent contractors, including volunteer coaches (except enrolled students). In exercising its discretion with

respect to independent contractors and volunteers, the district considers such factors as the amount of student contact and the duration of the contact.

The district does not perform background checks on the staff or volunteers of outside clubs and organizations that offer activities for youth in the community that are not organized or operated by the district.

Parents, guardians and adult students can access educational records

District 196 schools maintain educational records on all students to help plan the student's educational program, communicate with parents/guardians and comply with state regulations. Student records include information such as standardized achievement and ability test data, grades, attendance records, health/medical records and evaluations by professional staff.

Except in limited circumstances authorized by law, most information from student records will not be released to members of the public without the written permission of the student's parent or guardian, or of the student if they are 18 or older. One exception, which permits disclosure of educational records without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff; a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials, including the

school district's insurer or an authorized volunteer. Legitimate educational interests include those directly related to the school official's professional responsibilities for classroom instruction, teaching, assessment and research, student achievement and progress, student discipline, student health or welfare, or other legitimate professional responsibilities.

District 196 forwards educational records (including disciplinary records) of students to other schools and school districts in which a student seeks or intends to enroll upon request of that school or school district. A parent, guardian or student who is age 18 years or older may request and receive a copy of the records which are transferred and may, pursuant to policy, challenge the accuracy of the records. The district does not, however, notify parent(s), guardian(s) or students age 18 or older prior to such transfer.

Parents(s) or guardian(s) of a student, or a student who is age 18 or older, may request to inspect and review any of the student's educational records

except those which are, by state or federal law, made confidential. The district will comply with the request immediately if possible and, if not, within 10 days exclusive of weekends and holidays. Copies of records may be obtained upon written request. A copying and handling fee will be charged.

A parent, guardian or student age 18 or older who believes that specific information in the student's educational records is inaccurate, misleading, incomplete or violates the privacy or other rights of the student, may request that the district amend the record in question. Challenges may be made by requesting and filing Procedure 505.2.11P, Request to Amend Educational Records, with the superintendent.

Parents, guardians and students age 18 or older may submit written complaints of violation of rights accorded them by 20 USC Section 1232(g) to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20202-8520.

Notice of use of pest control materials use in buildings

District 196 uses a licensed, professional pest control service for the prevention and control of rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the district's buildings. The program consists of:

- Inspection and monitoring to determine whether pests are present and whether any treatment is needed;
- Recommendations for maintenance and sanitation to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
- Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening, and
- Application of EPA-registered pest control materials when needed.

State law requires parents to be informed that the long-term health

effects on children from the application of pesticides used by the district may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review at each school's main office and the Office of Health and Safety.

Parents may request to receive prior notice of each pesticide application. Additionally, parents may request to receive prior notification of any application of pest control material on a day different from the days specified in the schedule. Requests can be made to Facilities and Grounds Manager **Christopher Pint** at 651-423-7735 or christopher.pint@district196.org.

District tests for lead in drinking water

District 196 tests for the presence of lead in drinking water in schools, as required by state law. All taps used for drinking water and food preparation must be tested at least once every five years. The initial testing in District 196 schools began in July 2018.

The district plan requires that the tests be conducted using "first draw" samples, meaning the samples are collected before the fixture is used or flushed during the day. Taps located closest to where the water enters the building are tested first to avoid the potential of accidentally flushing a tap before it is tested.

The district's Drinking Water Testing Plan and test results are available on the Facilities Department page of the district website at District196.org.



DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Independent School District 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
3455 153rd Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068

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Joel Albright, vice chairperson
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Community Education



new One-day-a-week swim lessons are here

You asked, we listened. To accommodate your busy schedules, we will offer eight swim lessons in a one-day-a-week session beginning Sept. 19. Those wishing to take lessons twice a week are welcome to sign up for two one-day-a-week sessions. Conveniently offered in our middle school pools, swim lessons are available for children ages 6 months and older, teens and adults. Lesson fees are an excellent value, \$70 to \$86 per eight-class session, with five students or less per instructor!

Every child should have the opportunity to learn to love to swim. Our caring and dedicated instructors are Red Cross-trained to help your child enjoy developing swimming and water safety skills in our positive learning environment. Visit www.district196.org/swim or call 952-431-8777 for more information.



Come one, come all to the Project Explore Craft Fair

See a great variety of crafts for sale from some of our Project Explore friends and various local vendors. Get a jump on all of your holiday shopping. Invite your friends, family and co-workers. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. *Proceeds benefit River Valley Project Explore.*

Sat. | Oct. 12 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | **Free!** | Valley Middle School of STEM

Save money for a good cause!

Purchase Metro Dining Club South of the River discount cards for \$25 (starting Oct. 15). The cards feature two-for-one dining or 50 percent off meals at 166 area restaurants. All proceeds support scholarships for children and families to partici-



pate in Community Education programs. You may stop by our offices (after Oct. 15) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 15180 Canada Ave. in

Rosemount; Falcon Ridge Middle School, 12900 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd. in Apple Valley; or Cedar Valley Learning Center, 14420 Glenda Dr. in Apple Valley. You can also order from our online catalog at www.district196.org/ce and add \$4 for shipping and handling. Call 651-423-7920 for more information about our scholarship programs.

"The scholarship program ... gives [District 196 students] so many opportunities to find themselves, their likes and dislikes! My children would not have been able to be a part of many activities offered without it. I'd like to thank District 196 Community Education for giving my girls this wonderful opportunity to participate and hope others will also benefit from it in the future."

~ Parent of two District 196 students

ECFE Fall Open House **Free!**

Families with children birth to age 5 are invited to explore a police car, fire truck, school bus and visit our classrooms. See what ECFE is all about!

Tue. | Sept. 3 | 5-7 p.m. | DVLC
Dakota Valley Learning Center, 4679 144 St W., Apple Valley



DISTRICT 196

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

One District. Infinite Possibilities.



Visit www.district196.org/ce or call 651-423-7920 for more!