

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Summer 2019 | Volume 59 • Number 4

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.

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'One District, Many Voices'

Dancers from The Shamrock School of Irish Step Dance gave the audience a taste of traditional Irish jigs and showed off their quick footwork during the 2019 "One District, Many Voices" event held at Eagan High School April 4. Hundreds of people from the community came together to learn more about the many cultures represented among our 29,000 students. Attendees sampled food from around the world, watched performances and explored informational booths.

DISTRICT196.ORG

Survey shows support for asking levy question this fall

The majority of District 196 residents surveyed this spring said they would support a local property tax increase to avoid additional budget cuts and preserve the quality of educational opportunities offered by District 196 schools.

Survey results were presented at the May 13 School Board meeting by pollster **Peter Leatherman** of The Morris Leatherman Company, which also conducted community surveys for the district in 2013, 2015 and 2018. This year's scientific telephone survey was conducted in late April and early May, and includes responses from 625 randomly selected residents who are representative of the district's key demographics.

Residents were asked about a \$400 per pupil increase to the district's operating levy, which would cost approximately \$17 per month or \$200 per year for the owner of a \$300,000 average-value home in the district. Sixty-four percent of respondents said they would support the levy increase, with 26 percent indicating they would strongly support the referendum. That compares to 20 percent who oppose it, 12 percent who strongly oppose it, and 4 percent who were unsure.

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District 196 students win seven of 13 state speech titles

District 196 students won seven of 13 state championships and 33 of the 104 total medals awarded at this year's Class 2A state speech tournament in April.

Medals are awarded at the state tournament for places one through eight in the final round of each of the 13 categories of competition. Students from Eastview High School finished with 13 medals, Apple Valley High School students won 11 medals and Eagan High School students brought home nine medals, including four state titles. In the team sweepstakes, Eastview finished runner-up to Moorhead High School and Apple Valley and Eagan tied for third place among all Class AA schools with students participating in the tournament.

Halima Badri of Apple Valley successfully defended her state title in original oratory. The other state champions from District 196 are **Jordan Adams** and **Joey Mayer** of Eastview in duo interpretation, **Isabelle Hopewell** of Eagan in extemporaneous reading, **Jason Scheller** of Eagan in extemporaneous speaking, **Claire Nelson** of Eagan in humorous interpretation, **Yeno Hakim** of Eastview in serious interpretation of poetry and **Trinh Nguyen** of Eagan in serious interpretation of prose.

State runners-up included **Abigail Brachio** of Apple Valley in extemporaneous speaking, **Audrey Parker** of Eagan in humorous interpretation, **Jake Lieder** of Eastview in serious interpretation of drama and **Uzo Ngwu** of Apple Valley in serious interpretation of poetry.

Third-place medals were awarded to **Campbell Bernstein** of Eastview in humorous interpretation, **Ceceilia Voss** of Apple Valley in informative speaking, **Divya Mouli** of Eagan in original oratory, **Kyrylo Pernatiy** of Apple Valley in serious interpretation of drama, **Jordan Arntz** of Eastview in serious interpretation of prose and **Dominic Towsen** of Eastview in storytelling.

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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.

Disclaimer: District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities, including vocational opportunities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, disability, sexual orientation, 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, Dr. Mark Parr (651-423-7712 - mark.parr@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 (504 Coordinator). The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068.

District 196 spends higher percentage on classroom instruction

District 196 spent \$669 per pupil less than the average of the 10 largest districts in the state last year while targeting a higher percentage of available resources on regular classroom instruction.

Each spring, the Minnesota Department of Education makes available financial data for all public operating elementary and secondary independent school districts in the state. District 196 is the state's fourth largest district. Comparable expenditure data for fiscal year 2018 shows that District 196 spent less per pupil than the averages for the state, metro area and 10 largest districts in four of the 10 general fund expenditure categories, including district administration (*see table*). Conversely, in the category of regular classroom instruction, District 196 spent approximately \$772 more per pupil than the average for districts statewide.

"Our teachers make the biggest difference in what we do for students and that is where we will continue to focus our efforts," said District 196 Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger**. She noted that expenditure comparisons for fiscal year 2018 are similar to previous years.

Expenditures Per Pupil for Fiscal Year 2018

Expenditure Category	District 196	State Average	Metro Average	10 Largest** Average
Regular Instruction	\$5,742	\$4,970	\$5,363	\$5,770
Special Education	2,475	2,151	2,200	2,531
Operations, Maintenance & Other*	717	876	894	916
Student Transportation*	618	685	727	756
Instructional Support Services	670	616	658	755
School-Level Administration	553	456	474	520
District-Level Administration*	447	509	572	514
Student Activities & Athletics	296	314	312	234
Pupil Support Services*	271	362	391	475
Career & Technical Instruction	179	159	143	166
TOTAL General Fund Operating Expenditures	\$11,968	\$11,098	\$11,734	\$12,637

* Category where District 196 spent less per pupil than the averages for the state, metro area and 10 largest districts.

** The 10 largest school districts in Minnesota in FY 2018 were, in order from largest: Anoka-Hennepin, St. Paul, Minneapolis, District 196, Osseo, South Washington County, Rochester, Elk River, Robbinsdale and North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale.

District earns national award for budgeting and transparency

For the fourth year in a row, the District 196 Finance Department has received the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. The MBA program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and transparency.

"This award reflects your district's commitment to sound fiscal management and budgetary policies," said ASBO International Executive Director **David Lewis**. "Awarded budget documents are accurate, easy to read and communicate the district's goals and objectives."

District 196 Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts** credits the entire Finance Department staff for the work they did to earn this prestigious recognition. The preliminary and final budgets for 2018-19 are available on the Finance Department page of the District 196 website at District196.org, along with budgets and finance documents for the previous 10 years.

Journey to graduation is a community achievement

By **Mary M. Kreger**, superintendent

Graduation season is an exciting time to celebrate excellence in District 196. This school year, more than 2,100 students graduated from our four, four-year high schools, the School of Environmental Studies, Area Learning Center, Adult Basic Education, Dakota Ridge School and Transition Plus.

Many of our scholars will enter college or other postsecondary institutions, some will join the military, and others will explore career opportunities or continue with current employment. Each student has a unique journey to graduation. But collectively, their talents and perseverance led them to an achievement that has set them up for a future of infinite possibilities.

Our entire school community contributes to the success of our graduates. From their first days as young learners, students have been given the tools necessary to explore their individual potential. The dedication of staff in our early childhood education programs and elementary schools, middle schools and high schools provide students with educational experiences that are critical to their success and the future of our state and nation.

We understand that education is changing. We also understand the importance of adapting to meet the needs of an active, curious and tech-savvy population of learners. Throughout their school careers, our students are immersed in hands-on, real-world learning that fosters collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and inquiry. Foundational curriculum is taught by dedicated educators who are deeply committed to the success of each student. Industry experts are helping District 196 develop new learning opportunities to expose students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields;

health care; automotive repair; construction and manufacturing trades, and hospitality. And our administrators and counselors support students in the pursuit of their many passions. By the time graduation approaches, they are equipped with the confidence and skills to make a difference. Our students truly embody the Triple A philosophy of District 196. Their achievements in academics, arts and athletics are part of an impressive legacy of educational excellence.

This year we have had an extra focus on the importance of building relationships, among staff, between students and, most importantly, making sure every student knows there are adults at their school who know and care about them as a person. I continue to be energized by my Friday visits to classrooms across the district. In addition, our administrative team has gained valuable insight by talking with groups of students at each of our high schools and hearing what they like about their education and how we can improve the experience for them and the others who will follow. Throughout all of these interactions, a consistent theme emerged that highlighted the importance of relationships. In every school setting, students shared how powerful it is when school leaders and staff are intentional about developing a welcoming and supportive school culture. These positive connections are vital to the success of our graduates.



Rosemount High School seniors donned their caps and gowns to visit Rosemount Elementary and Middle schools May 16 for the "Graduation Walk" tradition.

It has been a school year full of incredible accomplishment for students and staff. We know that the journey to graduation is a reflection of the care and effort of the entire community. Most importantly, the support of families matters greatly. Often it is a family member who sparks an interest that helps form a child's passion. We are proud of our students, our families and our community for working with the teachers, administrators and district staff to provide an excellent education for every student. We continue to build on this foundation of support in fulfillment of our mission of educating our students to reach their full potential. We are exceedingly proud of our graduates in the Class of 2019, and are hopeful they enter the next stage of their lives feeling confident, prepared and ready to pursue their infinite possibilities!



Mary M. Kreger

Four School Board seats up for election this fall

Four of the seven at-large positions on the District 196 School Board are up for election Nov. 5, 2019. The terms of **Joel Albright**, **Sachin Isaacs**, **Jackie Magnuson** and **Bob Schutte** expire Jan. 6, 2020. The term of each open position is four years, from January 2020 to January 2024.

The two-week filing period for School Board candidates will open Tuesday, July 30 at 7:30 a.m. and runs through Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 5 p.m. All candidates must file during this two-week period.

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."*

Any person may be a candidate who is eligible to vote; would be at least 21 years old upon assuming office (Jan. 6, 2020); is a resident of the school district for at least 30 days before the election, and is not registered as a convicted sex offender.

Affidavits of candidacy will be available during office hours (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) in the Superintendent's Office, 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount. Completed affidavits of candidacy must be filed at the Superintendent's Office by 5 p.m. Aug. 13, along with a \$2 filing fee or a petition with at least 244 signatures of eligible voters in place of the filing fee.

Five or more voters may also draft a candidate by filing an application on behalf of the candidate. The candidate must indicate his or her willingness to serve by signing the application. The same filing fee requirements and time-line apply.

Persons considering running for School Board may call the Superintendent's Office at 651-423-7844 for more information or to schedule an informational meeting.



Parents **Wayne and Gwen Olson** (center) attended the ceremony with daughter **Shelcy Kamrud**, one of Daniel's two sisters. Also pictured are Post 594 Adjunct **Wayne Beierman** (left) and Commander **John Flynn**.

Legion Post 594 renamed to honor EHS grad killed in action

Eagan High School hosted a special ceremony in March to officially rename Eagan American Legion Post 594 in honor of 2005 graduate **Daniel R. Olsen**, who was killed in action while serving his country in Iraq.

Post Commander **John Flynn** said they chose March 15, 2019 as the date for the ceremony because it would have been Daniel's 32nd birthday and because it marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion in Paris, France on March 15, 1919.

Flynn thanked Principal **Polly Reikowski**, teacher and post member **Paul Kovach**, and Eagan High staff and students for hosting the ceremony. "Eagan High School meant a lot to Daniel and is a special place for his parents, Wayne and Gwen," Flynn said.

Growing up in Eagan, Daniel sampled a variety of sports and enjoyed participating in karate and the Boy Scouts. During his high school years, he was part of Eagan's drum line, was a valued worker at Camp Snoopy and volunteered in the children's program at church. Daniel enlisted in the Marines on his 18th birthday. While it was hard for his parents to watch him go, they supported his decision 100 percent, Flynn said.

In January 2007, Daniel deployed for his first tour of duty in Iraq. On April 2, 2007, he was shot and killed by a sniper while protecting a critical position at the police station in Saqliwiyah, Iraq. Flynn said Daniel's commanders described him as "a silent professional, reserved, modest and efficient. He was at the forefront of every one of his missions and had demonstrated proven courage under fire."

The Eagan American Legion Post 594 has been in existence since it received a temporary charter in January 1989. In June 2003, the post was granted a permanent charter. And on March 15, 2019, it was officially renamed the Daniel R. Olsen American Legion Post 594.

Pursuing Infinite Possibilities: Stephanie (Benson) Garr, Eagan High Class of 1999

Stephanie (Benson) Garr has always been on the move. As a student at Eagan High School, she was flying high as a state champion gymnast, excelled at her academic ventures and explored her creativity in writing. Today, she is a world traveler and blogger extraordinaire sharing her life as what she calls a “digital nomad.”

After graduating from Eagan High in 1999, Stephanie set her sights on a career using her talents as a storyteller. She pursued a double major in journalism and psychology at the University of Iowa and graduated in 2003 with two bachelor’s degrees. She moved to San Francisco and kickstarted her career as a writer and editor at various music, travel and yoga publications. Eventually she landed a gig at Rhapsody—now Napster—as a music writer and editor. Throughout her career, she interviewed some of her favorite music artists and attended countless shows. But in 2016, Stephanie and her husband made a lifechanging decision.

“We moved out of San Francisco, put most of our belongings in storage and headed out for a life of travel as ‘digital nomads,’” she said. “We’ve since visited and temporarily lived in 21 countries and counting. And we’re still on the move.”

From the Amalfi Coast to the bustling

streets of Belgrade, Serbia, and down to Sri Lanka, Stephanie is taking her viewers on tours of some of the most unique places in the world. Her YouTube blog “Big & Small Travel” is a video diary offering first-hand accounts of her travels. Most recently, Stephanie and her husband were in Singapore and created a video detailing their fast-paced 24 hours. This year, Stephanie said will bring more travel and more time to use her creativity to share the world with her viewers.

Stats

A 1999 graduate of Eagan High School; B.A. in journalism and B.A. in psychology from the University of Iowa; freelance writer and editor, and is currently traveling the world sharing her passion for adventures and writing on her YouTube channel, “Big & Small Travel.”

Fun fact

The Garr couple spent 2018 crisscrossing the globe, beginning and ending in Italy. In total, they slept in 41 beds and visited eight new countries. And for them, this was “slightly less” traveling than the year prior.

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

“There were definitely a few, but I have to call out **Heather Megarry**,



“At District 196, I felt a supportive push to be creative, work and study hard, and pursue anything I wanted,” Stephanie says. “I graduated feeling like I could achieve anything. It gave me the confidence to take risks and make some big decisions in my life that I have never once regretted.”

the Eagan High School gymnastics head coach, who was there with me all four years as a gymnast, and who celebrated with me as I won the state gymnastics competition as a senior. My time on the gymnastics team at Eagan was fun, challenging and inspiring, and has since shaped who I am and the way I approach both work and play.”

Donations to District 196 Foundation impact students

The District 196 Foundation eliminates barriers to learning by ensuring students have consistent access to food, books to keep them reading during the summer and instruments so they can participate in band.

Last school year, funding from the foundation provided bags of nutritious weekend food for 480 students facing hunger issues and new books for 787 elementary school students to help keep them reading and learning through the summer months.

The foundation seeks to double its impact next school year and you can

help. A \$215 donation provides a child with weekend food for a year; a \$30 donation provides 10 age-appropriate books for a child, and a \$25 donation provides a refurbished instrument for a child who cannot afford to rent or buy one.

To make your tax-deductible donation, visit www.district196foundation.org or send a check payable to The District 196 Foundation, 15180 Canada Ave, Rosemount, MN 55068. For more information, call Community Education Director **Khia Brown** at 651-423-7720.

Website sponsorships

Local businesses interested in reaching potential customers in the state’s fourth largest school district can partner with District 196 by purchasing an advertising sponsorship on the district website at District196.org. Sponsorship options range from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year.

For more information or to place your ad, contact Communications Director **Tony Taschner** at 651-423-7775 or tony.taschner@district196.org.

Survey results << from front page >>

"If we look at the intensity in support versus opposition, it's better than two-to-one strong support versus strong opposition," Leatherman said. "Folks are ready in this district to have a conversation and consider a potential operating levy for 2019."

District 196 is facing a projected \$25 million budget shortfall over the next three years due to years of less-than-inflationary funding increases from the state and chronic underfunding of mandated special education services, to the tune of \$29 million last year in District 196 alone. In February, the School Board approved \$7 million in budget adjustments for the 2019-20 school year to begin to address the shortfall. The cuts include 31 teaching positions and 15 administrative and clerical support positions, reduced funding for instructional supplies and increased fees for students to participate in cocurricular activities. Without an operating levy increase, the district will need to cut another \$18 million for the following two years.

Survey respondents identified lack of funding and large class sizes as the two biggest issues facing the district. "These top two issues really combine into a discussion of an operating levy focus," Leatherman said.

Respondents were presented with program improvements that could possibly be funded with an operating levy increase, including increased mental health support for students, maintaining or lowering class sizes, enhanced academic opportunities for middle school students, reinstating transportation for after-school activities, and expanded preschool programs. There was majority support for all six, with three-fourths of respondents indicating that mental health support, lower class sizes and middle school opportunities would make them much more likely to support a levy referendum.

On questions related to financial management:

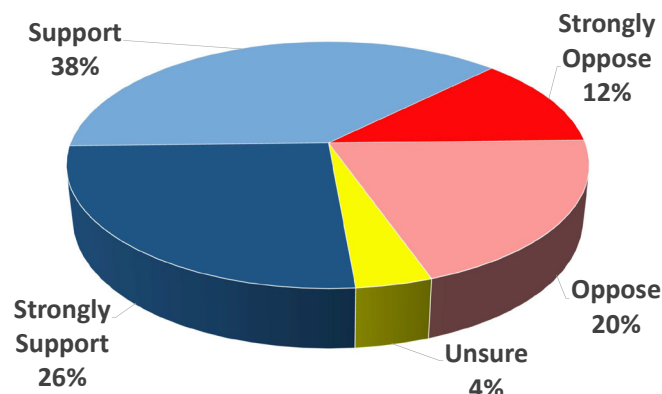
- 73 percent of respondents agree District 196 spends tax money effectively and efficiently, compared to a norm of 55 percent for metro districts;
- 68 percent agree the district has spent past referendum funds responsibly, compared to a norm of 52 percent;
- 64 percent agree the district asks voters for a tax increase only as a last resort, compared to a norm of 52 percent;
- 94 percent agree the community receives good value from its investment in district schools, and
- 61 percent rate the district's financial management as excellent or good, compared to a norm of 50 percent.

Ninety-three percent of respondents rate the quality of education provided by District 196 as excellent or good. "Compared to the metro area, you have an extraordinarily high quality rating," Leatherman said. "You have twice as many residents rating the quality of schools as excellent (42 percent) compared to other districts (21 percent)."

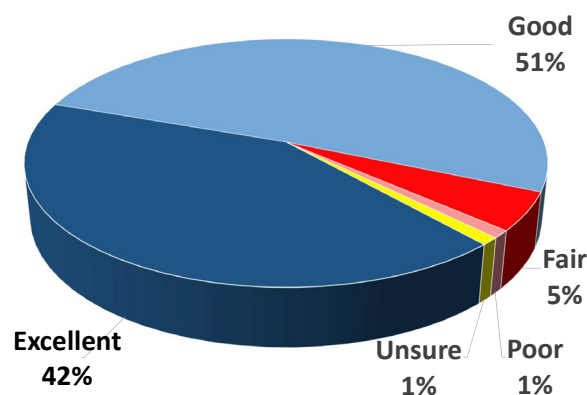
On other questions related to quality and performance:

- 92 percent of respondents agree the district does a good job preparing students to be college and career-ready upon graduation;
- 93 percent agree the district provides a safe and secure environment for students;

Operating Levy Increase



Quality of Education in District 196



- 90 percent trust the School Board to do what is right for children in the district;
- 83 percent agree the district does a good job involving parents and citizens in decisions about the schools, and
- 94 percent rate the quality of District 196 teachers as excellent or good.

"What people are thinking about first is the good quality of teachers in the district and next are the high academics," Leatherman said. "Your district has a clear priority, it's personnel, the teachers, and it's the high academics happening in the classrooms."



Members of the Apple Valley team posed with their trophy after defeating Breck High School in the mock trial state tournament at the Saint Louis County Courthouse in March.

Apple Valley High wins mock trial state championship

A team of Apple Valley High School students argued their way to first place at the Minnesota high school mock trial state tournament in March. The win qualified Apple Valley for a trip to the national tournament in Athens, Georgia May 15-18, after this issue of *Spotlight* went to press.

This is Apple Valley's first state title in the 33-year history of the mock trial program in Minnesota, which is sponsored by the Minnesota State Bar Association. Eastview High School also qualified to participate in the state tournament. In addition to the team title, Apple Valley's **Ben Orzolek** was selected as an All-State Attorney and **Karl Vanhorsen** was named an All-State Witness.

Other members of the state championship team are **Amanda Jackson, Camryn Peck, Diana Bender, Elise Gort, M. Justin Niska** and **Nicholas Pederson**. Students who served as alternates for Apple Valley at the state tournament are **Noah Becker, Maya Gort, Sam Hubley, Bobby Smith, Paige Peterson, Terry Krueger** and **Gonzalo Palacios**. The team is coached by **Eric Strauss**, a 2006 graduate of Apple Valley who participated in mock trial as a student.

"I have been working with many of these students for the past four years," Strauss said. "It was an absolute joy to watch all their hard work and dedication culminate in a near-perfect performance at the state championship."

In mock trial, each team consists of three attorneys and three witnesses, and must be prepared to argue both sides of the case. Apple Valley argued the defense in its championship match against Breck High School. The teams give opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations and closing arguments. Students must also know a simplified version of the Federal Rules of Evidence in order to make and respond to objections. The competitions are judged by practicing attorneys and judges, who award points for each part of the mock trial.

All teams receive the same case, which is used throughout the season. Strauss said this year's case, a civil trial involving defamation of character, consisted of about 60 pages of materials, including six witness statements and seven exhibits. The Apple Valley team needed to learn and practice a new case for the national tournament. They received the case on April 1 and had six weeks to prepare for the national tournament.

Miller selected next Eastview High principal

Eastview High School Assistant Principal **Bruce Miller** has been selected to be the school's next principal.



Miller will replace **Randy Peterson**, who is retiring at the end of this school year after a 27-year career in District 196, the last 12 as principal at Eastview. When Miller officially takes over July 1, he will become the third principal in the school's 22-year history.

Miller was part of the administrative team that opened Eastview in 1997. For the first 10 years, he was assistant principal for athletics and curriculum. For the last 12 years, he has been assistant principal for student services and curriculum.

"I am very proud to have been part of the team that created Eastview's identity and the principles that continue to guide our work," Miller said. "Eastview's success is the result of our outstanding students, talented and caring faculty, and supportive community. I am honored to have this opportunity and look forward to continuing to support Eastview's great tradition of learning and achievement."

Miller started his career in District 196 in 1993 at Eagan High School, where he taught science and coached baseball, football and track and field. Prior to joining District 196, Miller was an adjunct instructor and graduate assistant football coach at St. Cloud State University and spent the first three years of his career teaching science at a high school in Missouri.

Miller has a bachelor's degree in education from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, a master's degree in athletic administration from St. Cloud State University and a specialist degree in educational administration from Saint Mary's University.

Bolsoni named director of secondary education

Apple Valley High School Principal

Michael Bolsoni

was selected to be the district's next director of secondary education.



Bolsoni will replace **Mark Parr**, who is retiring at the end of this school year after a 19-year career in District 196, the last 16 as director of secondary education. Bolsoni will finish the school year at Apple Valley and start in his new position July 1. The process of hiring a new principal at Apple Valley was still in process when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press.

Bolsoni has been part of the administrative team at Apple Valley since 2011, serving as principal the last three years. As an assistant principal, he helped implement Apple Valley's E3 STEM Program, funded by a \$3 million grant from the U.S. departments of education and labor. The grant enabled the school to add a fabrication lab and the program is giving students expanded opportunities to earn college credits and explore STEM-related career options.

"I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to serve as director of secondary education for District 196 and to continue to provide all students the opportunities they need to pursue their infinite possibilities," Bolsoni said.

Prior to joining the staff at Apple Valley, Bolsoni was a teacher peer leader for the district's Quality Compensation Program from 2007 to 2011 and was a teacher at the School of Environmental Studies for his first 11 years in the district.

Bolsoni has a bachelor's degree in history from Gustavus Adolphus College, a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota and a specialist degree in educational leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Eastview High School students posed with their trophies and medals following the state tournament April 13 at Wayzata High School.

State speech results << from front page >>

District 196 students who medaled in places four through eight are as follows:

4th Place – Three medals: Eastview's **Esha Rao** in extemporaneous reading, and Apple Valley's **Maria Michaelson** in great speeches and **Dominique Paulk** in storytelling.

5th Place – Four medals: Apple Valley's **Jonah Johnson** and **Jessica Connors** in duo interpretation, Eastview's **Charlotte Krekeler** in humorous interpretation, and Eagan's **Julia Sexton** in informative speaking and **Sanjana Krishnamurthy** in original oratory.

6th Place – Four medals: Eastview's **Thor Reimann** in creative expression and **Mai Matsuhashi** in original oratory, and Apple Valley's **Frank Knier** in humorous interpretation and **Laurel Carter** in serious interpretation of drama.

7th Place – Two medals: Eastview's **Mimi Le** in creative expression, and Eagan's **Nathan LoPresto** and **Chayla Velandar** in duo interpretation.

8th Place – Three medals: Eastview's **Grace Jesch** in discussion and **Ella Erdahl** in storytelling, and Apple Valley's **Semaj Lee** in serious interpretation of prose.

Nine District 196 students were named 2019 All-State Speech by the Minnesota State Speech Coaches Association. They are Badri, Paulk and Ngwu of Apple Valley; Scheller, Sexton, Hopewell and Nelson of Eagan, and Lieder and Mayer of Eastview.

A total of 52 District 196 students qualified to compete at this year's state tournament and two-thirds of them advanced to the final round in their category to earn medals.

Including this year's results, Apple Valley remains in first place with 89 state champions and 410 total medals won in the history of the state speech tournament. Eagan remains second with 67 state champions and 319 total medals won.

The head coaches for speech in District 196 are **Luke Ostrander** at Apple Valley, **Joni Anker** at Eagan, **Ryan Roseen** at Eastview and **Carol Sylvester** at Rosemount.

SES students celebrate Earth Day by receiving a national green building certification

This Earth Day was a special one for students at the School of Environmental Studies (SES), as it marked the completion of a five-year process to become a LEED certified green building. What started out as the vision of four SES alums is now a reality thanks to senior **Anna Amadeo** and 2018 graduate **Griffin Peck**, along with more than 40 other students who took the cause to the finish line.

During the April 22 Earth Day celebration at SES, **Steph Leonard** of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) formally presented the LEED v4.1 O+M gold certification to the school, praising the efforts of everyone involved. LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class green building design and maintenance strategies and practices. This specific certification is internationally recognized and designates SES as a leader in efforts to ensure their existing building operations and maintenance practices are environmentally focused.

"It was inspiring to work with so many students and professionals as we all worked together to investigate and analyze SES as a green building," said SES instructor **Jane Tunseth**. "Getting



Steph Leonard (left) of the U.S. Green Building Council presented the School of Environmental Studies with the LEED v4.1 O+M certification on Earth Day, April 22. Also picture are senior **Anna Amadeo**, 2018 graduate **Griffin Peck** and SES teacher **Jane Tunseth**, who were instrumental in securing the LEED certification.

the LEED certification is a testament to our commitment to sustainability."

Throughout the five years, students worked closely with the USGBC, community partners and local engineering and architectural firms to ensure the integrity of the complex project. The data collection, analysis and policy writing and reporting was all led and completed by students, making this the first student-led project in Minnesota to receive a LEED certification.

"This certification allowed us to enact a few new policies that change the way we buy and get rid of things, but by in large we have long been a school focused on green practices," Amadeo said. "But this is a great way for us to show our commitment to being a sustainable learning community now and in the future."

The USGBC requires certifications to be renewed every three years, and Amadeo said a succession plan is already in place at SES.



As part of Earth Day festivities each year, SES students create a themed banner. For 2019, the banner chosen was designed by junior **Lemu Korpah** (left) and senior **McKenna Krey**, with the theme "Students for Sustainability."

Purchase transportation service for 2019-20 now and save

Fee-for-service transportation will again be offered in the 2019-20 school year for families of students not eligible to receive free bus transportation to and from school based on current service distances.

The annual cost of this optional transportation service is \$300 per student, with a \$600 family maximum. Families whose children qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals receive the service for a discounted rate. Families who register for the service before Aug. 1 receive an approximate 10 percent discount.

Minnesota law requires districts to provide transportation for students living two miles or more from their school and for students who receive

special education services and require transportation as part of their individual education plan. District 196's current transportation policy sets one mile from school as the starting point for elementary bus service and one and one-half miles for secondary students. Students living within these distances from their school are not currently eligible for free transportation, except those who would, if they were to walk to school, need to cross a railway or roadway defined by district regulation as hazardous.

For more information about the fee-for-service option and to register, visit the Transportation Department website at District196.org or call 651-423-7685.

More than 2,100 students graduating this year

More than 2,100 students graduated from District 196's four, four-year high schools during commencement ceremonies held June 1. The diploma count of 2,114 includes 400 from Apple Valley High School, 525 from Eagan High School, 585 from Eastview High School and 604 from Rosemount High School.

The high school totals include 160 seniors from the School of Environmental Studies, seven from Dakota Ridge School, 24 from the Area Learning Center alternative high school program, 60 from the Transition Plus program that serves young adults with special needs ages 18-21 and 85 adult learners who graduated from Community Education's Adult Basic Education program.

District 196 high schools receive high rankings in U.S. News report

All four, four-year high schools in District 196 are in the top 60 high schools in Minnesota, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2019 ranking of the nation's Best High Schools.

Eastview and Eagan were both in the top 10 among Minnesota high schools, ranking third and eighth, respectively. Rosemount was 23rd and Apple Valley was 59th in the magazine's ranking of more than 850 Minnesota high schools, published in April.

2019-20 calendar is online

The district calendar for the 2019-20 school year is available at District196.org.

The calendar for next school year is similar to this year, with 171 days of school for middle school and high school students, and 169 days for elementary students. School will begin the Tuesday after Labor Day (Sept. 3) and will end June 5 for elementary students and June 10 for middle school and high school students.



'Grit to Great'

Minnesota State Patrol trooper **Tiffani Nielson** talks about her career in law enforcement as part of a panel discussion at the "Grit to Great" breakfast at Apple Valley High School April 25. The purpose of the annual student-led event is to give young women networking opportunities and the chance to hear about the educational and professional journeys of women who are leading companies across the metro area. More than 75 professionals attended, representing career fields such as law enforcement, aerospace engineering, cybersecurity, carpentry and construction, public relations and human resources.

Six Destination ImagiNation teams qualify for Global Finals

Six Destination ImagiNation (DI) teams representing five District 196 schools had top finishes at the state tournament in March and qualified to compete at the DI Global Finals in Kansas City, Missouri May 22-25, after this issue of *Spotlight* went to press.

Destination ImagiNation is a worldwide, performance-based competition that develops students' creative skills through problem-solving, improvisation, teamwork and independent thinking. Teams of students ranging from elementary to high school compete by age level in one of eight different challenges: technical, engineering, scientific, fine arts, improvisation, service learning, early learning and an instant challenge.

A total of 16 teams from District 196 schools qualified for the state tournament at regional competitions held this spring. The teams listed at right had top finishes at state to earn a spot at the DI Global Finals. Teams that chose to attend must cover their own

expenses to make the trip.

Crazy Creators from Woodland Elementary School took first place in the technical challenge.

Funny Like Your Funny Bone from Woodland Elementary finished first in the scientific challenge.

Extraordinary Ordinaries from Dakota Hills Middle School took first place in the fine arts challenge.

Little Neon Monsters from Eagan High School finished second in the technical challenge.

Dancing Icicles from Westview Elementary School finished second in the improvisation challenge.

The Sirens from Rosemount Middle School finished third in the service learning challenge.

Neon Falafels Not Marshmallow Waffles from Greenleaf Elementary School took fourth place in the service learning challenge and was an alternate for the Global Finals.

District's overall graduation rate was 90.5 percent compared to 83.2 percent statewide

The four-year graduation rate for students in District 196 high schools was 90.5 percent in 2018 compared to 83.2 percent statewide, according to data released by the Minnesota Department of Education in April.

Of the 2,163 District 196 seniors included in the state's 2018 graduation data, 1,958 or 90.5 percent graduated, defined by the state as completing high school in four years. Of the students who did not graduate, 6.3 percent are continuing school, 2.1 percent dropped out and the graduation status of the remaining 1.1 percent is unknown because they may have moved out of the district.

The state's goal by 2020 is for school districts to have a graduation rate of at least 90 percent for all students, with no student group below 85 percent graduating in four years. In 2018, District 196 met the state goal for all students, White students and Asian students.

The four-year graduation rates for

individual groups of District 196 students in 2018 were as follows:

- 93.8 percent of Asian students graduated compared to 86.6 percent statewide;
- 82.3 percent of Black students graduated compared to 67.4 percent statewide;
- 80.7 percent of Hispanic students graduated compared to 66.8 percent statewide;
- 92.7 percent of White students graduated compared to 88.4 percent statewide;
- 83.8 percent of students who are of two or more races graduated compared to 72.0 percent statewide;
- 75.3 percent of students receiving English Learner services graduated compared to 65.7 percent statewide;
- 68.4 percent of students receiving special education services graduated compared to 62.3 percent statewide, and

- 77.6 percent of students eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals graduated compared to 70.2 percent statewide.

Graduation rates for American Indian/Alaskan Native were not reported for District 196 because there were fewer than 10 students in the group.

The overall graduation rates for each of the district's four, four-year high schools increased in 2018: Apple Valley High School, 88.8 percent, up 0.6 percent; Eagan High School, 95.4 percent, up 0.5 percent; Eastview High School, 95.1 percent, up 1.0 percent, and Rosemount High School, 92.4 percent, up 0.3 percent. The School of Environmental Studies had a four-year graduation rate of 91.3 percent, the Adult Basic Education program was 55.3 percent and the district's Area Learning Center alternative high school program had a four-year graduation rate of 30.6 percent.



Mix it up, make new friends!

Rosemount Middle School held its sixth annual Mix It Up Day in April to encourage students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with students they don't know or typically sit with during lunch. Teachers and members of the eighth grade leadership team attended each grade-level lunch and helped initiate conversations by posing fun questions for students to discuss. There was also music, a photo booth and Irish-themed decorations to provide a high energy, healthy environment to promote confidence for students to meet new friends.

Congratulations!

A sampling of recent student and staff achievements in academics, arts and athletics

Rosemount High School senior **Shaza Hussein** was one of two students selected to represent

Minnesota at the United States Senate Youth Program in Washington D.C. in March. Hussein joined Minnesota Senators **Amy Klobuchar** and **Tina Smith**

in an immersive week of studying the federal government. She also received a \$10,000 scholarship for undergraduate study.



Eagan High School students **Nils Peterson** and **Emma Veldhuis** and Eastview High School students **Sanjana Molleti** and **Sarah Zipf** were selected by Dakota Electric to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour June 15-20, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Association.

Apple Valley High School senior **Sebas Swiggum** won an individual state title in the 138-pound category of the Class 3A state wrestling tournament in March. Senior **Brady Gross**, also of Apple Valley, finished runner-up in the 145-pound category.

The **Dakota United Hawks** took third place in the physically impaired division of the state adapted floor hockey tournament in March.



Video production stars

Students representing the journalism and video production programs at Apple Valley and Eastview high schools won 12 of the 24 Crystal Pillar Awards presented at the regional Student Production Awards ceremony in April. Apple Valley students won three awards and the Eastview students (pictured) won nine awards. The Student Production Awards are sponsored by the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Seniors **Mykel Parham** of Apple Valley High School, **Megan Plaschko** of Eagan High School, **Lauren Glas** of Eastview High School and **Arianna Passeri** of Rosemount High school were selected by their schools as 2019 Athena Award recipients. The awards are given each year to the outstanding senior female athlete at more than 50 Twin Cities-area high schools for their excellence and achievements in individual and/or team sports.

The **Eastview High School Lightning Dance Team** finished runner-up in jazz and third place in high kick at the Class 3A state dance team tournament in February. **Hayley Miller** and **Jennifer Terry** were named to the all-tournament team in high kick.

Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science educator **Jill Jensen** was selected a 2019 Regional Teacher of the Year by Magnet Schools of America. The award recognizes exemplary magnet school teachers who have demonstrated a strong commitment to maximizing learning opportunities for all students through theme-based education, while also setting high expectations within their schools and communities. Jensen has been a science educator for 24 years, including the last 12 at Glacier Hills.



Special saxophonist

Apple Valley High School sophomore **Sophia Kickhofel** is one of only two alto saxophonists in the country chosen to be a member of the prestigious National Youth Jazz Orchestra. Kickhofel will attend a four-week jazz program that includes a residency at Purchase College, SUNY, and will perform on the famed Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall. This summer, Kickhofel and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra will take their show on a tour of Asia, performing in Taipei, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The program is tuition-free and covers all student expenses.



Apple Valley High School Principal **Michael Bolsoni** was named Administrator of the Year and Valley Middle School of STEM Teacher **Ryan Rosen** was named Coach of the Year by the Central Minnesota District of the National Speech and Debate Association.

The **Eagan High School FIRST robotics Team 2220** won awards for engineering and safety at a regional event in Kansas City, Missouri in March. Coach **Dave Hendricksen** won the Woodie Flowers Award, given to an outstanding mentor who leads, inspires and empowers their team.

Rosemount High School students **Nicole McFee** and **Lilly Parla** took third place out of 200 teams that competed in the hospitality and tourism event at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April. **Rose Sieve** and **Olivia Alberts**, also of Rosemount, had a top-10 finish in the travel and tourism event.

Eastview High School junior **Brianna Cairns** had a top-10 finish in fundamental accounting at the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California in May.

Apple Valley High School Teacher **Jeni Heineman** was named Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota chapter of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools.



Izak Hofstad of Eagan High School finished in eighth place in the boys' alpine ski tournament in February.

The **Falcon Ridge Middle School percussion group** performed at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in February.

Eagan High School students **Teagan Ramboldt** took second in floor exercise and **Hannah Maccarone** finished eighth in the all-around competition at the Class 2A state gymnastics tournament in February.



Eagan High stars again at state one-act festival

The cast and crew of Eagan High School's one-act play, "She Kills Monsters" (pictured) earned a starred-performance rating at this year's state One-Act Play Festival. Apple Valley High School was also among the eight state qualifiers in Class 2A, but not among the three to earn a starred rating. For Eagan, it was the school's record 21st appearance at the state festival and 19th starred rating. Members of the cast are **Isabelle Hopewell, Mara Currens, Neha Nayak, Graham Scott, Kai Wilson, Audrey Schwartz, Matt Anderson, Joey Galles, Evelyn Gore, Tessa Krog, Fiona Gray, Lillith Allan** and **Steve Xiaaj**. The stage manager is **Mary Dratz** and members of the crew are **Ava Lundquist, Jorge Mogollon, Addie Stern, Ella Janky** and **Tori Westenberg**.

2019 Eagan High School
Summer Community Theatre presents

Directed by Jodene Wartman

Big Fish

A NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

Senior Citizen Preview, Thurs., July 11, 7 pm

Fri., July 12, 7 pm
Sat., July 13, 7 pm
Sun., July 14, 3 pm

Wed., July 17, 7 pm
Thurs., July 18, 7 pm
Fri., July 19, 7 pm
Sat., July 20, 7 pm
Sun., July 21, 3 pm

Wed., July 24, 7 pm
Thurs., July 25, 7 pm
Fri., July 26, 7 pm
Sat., July 27, 7 pm

ALL SEATING RESERVED
\$15 (Adults) - \$10 (Seniors 62+, Children 12 and under)

Tickets on sale beginning
buy online at www.eagan.k12.mn.us - Box Office: 651-683-6964

Asbestos removal projects scheduled this summer

The District 196 Office of Health and Safety has completed surveys confirming that all asbestos-containing materials in district buildings are in good physical condition and therefore do not indicate a hazard or require immediate removal. The district's asbestos management plan and related records also passed review.

The asbestos management plan, which includes information about the asbestos-containing materials, was developed following an inspection of all district buildings in 1988. Buildings constructed or leased since 1988 are inspected before opening.

The 16 buildings where asbestos-containing materials exist are Apple Valley and Rosemount high schools, Rosemount, Scott Highlands and Valley middle schools, and Cedar Park, Diamond Path, Echo Park, Greenleaf, Highland, Northview, Parkview, Rosemount, Southview, Thomas Lake and Westview elementary schools.

Each school has a list of the location(s) and type(s) of asbestos-containing material found in that school. That list and copies of the district's asbestos management plan are available for public review in the office of the building chief at each school. The plan is also available at the district's Facilities and Grounds Office, 14309 Diamond Path, Apple Valley.

The district plan calls for systematic removal of some of the asbestos-containing materials. Last summer, asbestos removal projects included abatement work at Apple Valley and Rosemount high schools; Scott Highlands and Valley middle schools, and Diamond Path, Highland and Southview elementary schools.

Asbestos removal and repair projects are scheduled this summer at Rosemount High and Highland Elementary as part of ongoing construction projects, and minor repairs at other buildings as needed.

For more information or questions about the district's asbestos management plan or scheduled removal projects, call Health and Safety Supervisor **Christopher Pint** at 651-423-7735.

Reimbursement for nonpublic transportation

District 196 residents may request reimbursement for a portion of their costs for having transported their child during the 2018-19 school year to a nonpublic school to which the district does not provide transportation and does not have a comparable nonpublic school available within its boundaries.

Requests for reimbursement for nonpublic transportation must be submitted prior to June 30, 2019 to: Independent School District 196, Director of Finance and Operations, 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068. For more information or to obtain a reimbursement form, call 651-423-7715.

Homeschools are required to report to district

Families living in District 196 who plan to homeschool their children for the 2019-20 school year must submit a completed Compulsory Instruction Report to the director of Community Education by Oct. 1.

Information about the report and other programs and services will be addressed at an orientation meeting Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office, 3455 153rd St. W. in

Rosemount. Families that homeschooled this year and those who will be new to homeschooling this fall are encouraged to attend.

Homeschool packets will be available at the orientation meeting and are also available on the district website at www.district196.org/community-ed/home-school/. For more information, call 651-423-7722.

Recruiters can request data; parents can opt out

Under state and federal laws, military recruiters and institutions of higher education can request from school districts the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Parents of students in these grades have the option to refuse the release of this information by completing form 505.2.4.3P, "Denial of Release of Directory and Yearbook Information," checking the appropriate boxes and submitting it to their child's school. The form is available at all school offices. This is the same form parents and guardians may use to deny the release of specific "directory" and yearbook information about their child. For more information, contact your child's school.

State law prohibits armed forces recruiting personnel from further distributing this student information. State law also requires that school districts provide information to the requesting military recruiter within 60 days of receiving the request.

Forms needed for students transported to or from a daycare next school year

Parents of elementary school children who will be attending a daycare site in the 2019-20 school year that is eligible for transportation services must submit the appropriate form described in Administrative Regulation 707.5.2AR, Transportation for Elementary School Students in Daycare.

Go to www.district196.org/district/schoolboard/policies/700/707.5.2AR.pdf for submission deadlines and the appropriate forms, which are also available on the website.

For more information, call the Transportation Department at 651-423-7685.

State immunization requirements for students to attend school this fall

To enroll in child care, early childhood programs and school in Minnesota, children must show they have had the immunizations listed below or file a legal exemption. Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a healthcare provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

This information 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.

To read the chart below, find the child's age/grade level in one of the columns and read down to determine which immunizations are required and how many doses, shown by the number of check marks. Each column is meant to be read separately; do not add up the rows of checkmarks for each vaccine.

If you have questions, call the nurse at your child's school or call the district's Health Services Coordinator **Deb Mehr** at 651-423-7909.

Birth to Age 4 (Early Childhood programs)	Ages 5-6 (Kindergarten) ①	Ages 7-11 (Grades 1-6)	Age 12 and older (Grades 7-12)
Hepatitis A √√	---	---	---
Hepatitis B √√√	Hepatitis B √√√	Hepatitis B √√√	Hepatitis B ⑥ √√√
DTaP/DT √√√√	DTaP/DT ④ √√√√√	Tetanus and Diphtheria containing doses √√√	Tdap ⑦ √
Polio √√√	Polio ⑤ √√√√	Polio √√√	Polio √√√
MMR √	MMR √√	MMR √√	MMR √√
Hib √	---	---	Meningococcal ⑧ √√
Pneumococcal ② √√√√	---	---	---
Varicella √ ③	Varicella √√ ③	Varicella √√ ③	Varicella √√

- ① First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and DTaP/DT schedules for kindergarten.
- ② Not required after 24 months.
- ③ If the child has already had chickenpox disease, varicella shots are not required. If the disease occurred after 2010, the child's doctor must sign a form.
- ④ Fifth shot of DTaP not needed if fourth was after age 4. Final dose of DTaP on or after age 4.
- ⑤ Fourth shot of polio not needed if third was after age 4. Final dose of polio on or after age 4.
- ⑥ An alternate two-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for children age 11 through 15 years.
- ⑦ Proof of at least three doses of diphtheria and tetanus vaccination needed. If a child received Tdap between ages 7 and 10 another dose of Tdap is not needed. Td does not meet the Tdap requirement.
- ⑧ One dose is required beginning at grade 7. The second dose is required when entering grade 12.

Looking for records? For copies of your child's vaccination records, talk to your doctor or call the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) at 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970.

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Engage in fun, educational and affordable programs for parents and children from birth through prekindergarten.

Parents and Little Movers (10-18 mos)

Discover your toddler's new skills and ways to keep up with them during this active time.

Wed. | July 10-31 | 8:30-10 a.m.

4 sessions | sliding fee scale | DVLC

Wide-Open Spaces (birth to pre-K)

Find out ways you and your child(ren) can interact with the environment and enjoy the great outdoors.

Wed. | July 10-31 | 9-11 a.m.

4 sessions | sliding fee scale | DVLC

Register at www.district196.org/ecfe.

Summer classes begin the week of July 9.

Call 952-388-1953 to find out more.

Family Playtimes for parents and their children from birth through prekindergarten to pop in to play are also available.
 Thu. | July 11-Aug 1 | 9-11:30 a.m.
 \$5 per child | DVLC

Summer Resource Fair a success!

Adult students in ECFE and ABE programs at Dakota Valley and Cedar Valley learning centers had the opportunity last month to learn about summer programming and services available for them and their children. Organizations at the fair included District 196 Community Education, Dakota County Library & Health Services, CareerForce, Amazon, Apple Valley and Eagan Parks & Recreation, Prince of Peace Mission Outreach, Children's Dental, 360 Communities and Minnesota Transit Authority.



Adults attend Adult Basic Education | ABE Summer School Free ... and pay no annual \$20 materials fee for 2019-20!

Improve your skills and move ahead in your job, prepare for further education and begin to attain your educational goal or dream. Learn English, earn your high school diploma or GED! Summer school begins July 8 and goes through Aug. 1, 2019, in the morning, afternoon and evening, at Dakota Valley and Cedar Valley learning centers in Apple Valley. Visit www.district196.org/abe or call 952-431-8316.

Learn to love to swim!

Learn to swim with our caring and dedicated instructors. They are Red Cross-trained to help you and/or child enjoy developing swimming and water safety skills in our positive learning environment. Swim lessons are offered for children ages 6 months and older, teens and adults. Register now for classes throughout the summer. Great value - \$82 for eight group lessons with five students or less per instructor! Visit www.district196.org/swim or call 952-431-8777.



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COMMUNITY EDUCATION
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