

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

Winter 2018 | Volume 59 • Number 2



DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

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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Red-carpet greeting

Woodland Elementary School third-grade student **Sylvia Nilles** got high fives from teachers and other staff members who lined a red carpet to greet students as they arrived for the first day of school Sept. 4. Students throughout the district returned to class this fall to see improvements at their schools that were completed over the summer thanks to funding from the 2015 bond referendum. All schools have secure entries and upgraded security equipment, and major renovations and additions were completed at Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley High School.

District facing \$25M shortfall due to inadequate funding

In February, the District 196 School Board is expected to approve \$7 million in budget adjustments for next year to address a \$25 million shortfall the district is facing over the next three years due to inadequate state funding for basic and special education.

The proposed adjustments for the 2019-20 school year, a combination of budget cuts and revenue enhancements, were still being finalized by a district budget steering committee when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press. The list of proposed adjustments is available on the front page of the district website at District196.org.

The district invited staff, parents and other residents to submit suggestions for possible cuts and revenue enhancements this fall via a form on the website. The committee considered the more than 500 suggestions that were submitted before developing its preliminary recommendations that were presented at public focus group meetings Dec. 4, 5 and 6.

Input from the focus groups will be considered by the committee before it prepares final recommendations that will be presented to the School Board as new business Jan. 7. The board will review the recommendations and is expected to approve budget adjustments for the 2019-20 school year at its Feb. 11 meeting.

The committee will also identify budget adjustments totaling approximately \$18 million for the following two years, but the board will not take action on those

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Board removes 'interim' from Superintendent Kreger's title

In October, the School Board voted unanimously to remove "interim" from Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger's** title.

"We were confident in appointing Mary to be the interim superintendent when **Jane Berenz** announced her retirement last March and we have since witnessed her ability to do the job and do it well these past few months in the interim role," Chairperson **Jackie Magnuson** said at the board's Oct. 22 meeting. "She is a problem-solver, a relationship builder, a skilled communicator and strong educational leader with a vision centered on student learning and achievement."

The board voted to offer the position to Kreger Oct. 22 and approved a three-year contract with her at its Nov. 5 meeting.

"I am absolutely thrilled to take on this position," Kreger said. "We have huge challenges, but we can do it because we've got the right people and we've got the teamwork and collaboration to make a difference for all of our kids every single day."

Kreger has nearly 30 years of experience in education, including the last 13 in District 196. She was hired as director of special education in 2005 and served in that role until taking over as interim superintendent in July. Prior to coming to District 196, Kreger worked for South Washington County Schools for 13 years

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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, Mary Kreger (651-423-7629 – mary.kreger@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.

Budget cuts << from front page >>

recommendations. Cuts for 2020-21 and 2021-22 would be needed only if additional funding is not approved by district voters in a local operating levy referendum that the board is likely to call for November 2019.

These will be the first significant budget cuts in District 196 since \$34 million of adjustments were implemented over a three-year period from 2009 to 2012. Those cuts included elimination of nearly 200 positions, more than 100 of which were teachers; reduced transportation service; elimination of after-school activity buses; an increase in student fees for participation in cocurricular academic, arts and athletic activities, and elimination of three middle school sports. The board also negotiated labor agreements with no improvements to the salary schedule for nearly every employee group in the district for two years.

In 2013, voters approved a levy referendum that provided the district an additional \$375 per pupil. None of the previous cuts were restored, but district leaders promised at least two years with no additional budget cuts. Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts** said it has been five years since the levy was approved and the district has not made any additional cuts to the classroom. But that streak will end next year.

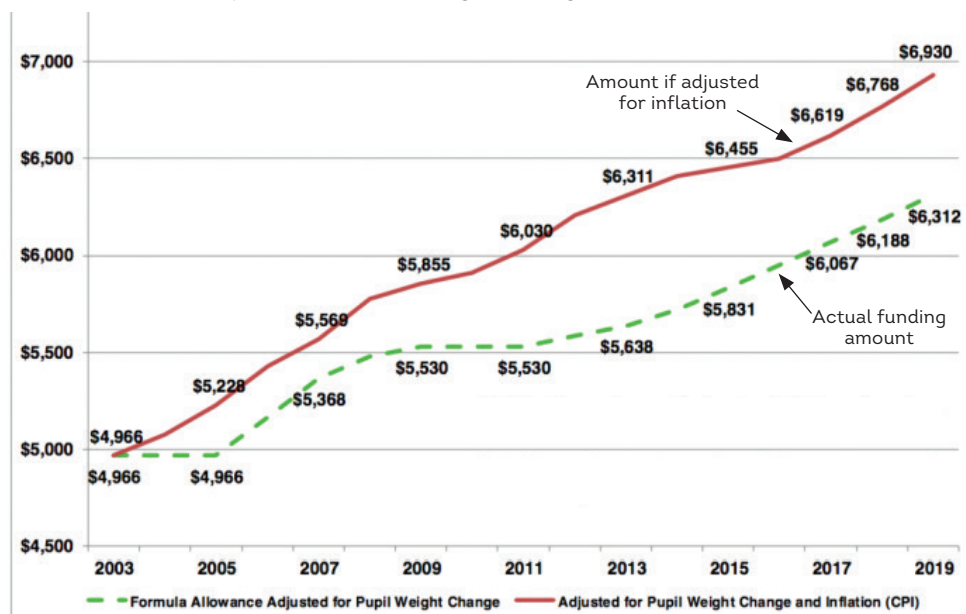
Stotts said the budget adjustments are necessary because basic education funding from the state has not kept pace with inflation and funding for special education, which is shared by the state and federal governments, falls far short of the actual cost of providing these mandated services.

The general education formula allowance is the single biggest source of revenues that Minnesota school districts receive. Since 2003, the gap between the actual and inflation-adjusted formula allowance has grown to \$618 per pupil (*see graph below*). If the general education formula had kept pace with inflation since 2003, District 196 would be receiving an additional \$18 million in state funding this school year.

The lack of adequate funding for special education is an even costlier issue for Minnesota school districts. This school year, the estimated gap between state and federal funding for special education and the actual cost of providing the service, known as the special education "cross-subsidy," will top \$700 million statewide. In District 196 alone, the funding shortfall for special education was \$29 million last year and is expected to be even more this year. As a result, the district needs to use general fund dollars to make up the difference.

General Education Formula Allowance, 2003 to 2019

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Embracing a time of opportunities, challenges and possibilities

By **Mary M. Kreger**, superintendent

The beginning of the 2018-19 school year has been one of building relationships. In these last three months I've had the opportunity to meet with the dedicated members of our advisory councils and parent groups, community leaders, and district administrators and educators. These meetings have provided great insight into the culture of District 196, and a common theme quickly emerged: unwavering support for the success of our students and our district.

As I begin my tenure as superintendent, I am grateful to have the confidence of the School Board and community as we enter this time of opportunities, challenges and possibilities.

District 196 is a school district of choice. Our triple-A philosophy is a foundational principle that attracts students to participate in our award-winning academic, arts and athletic programs. Last spring, we conducted a scientific survey of our community and gathered feedback related to our services. We are fortunate to be rooted in a community that has confidence in our district. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of residents reporting that District 196 spends tax dollars efficiently while providing high-quality educational experiences in schools that are safe and secure. It's clear that the work we do as educators is important.

Families are continuing to choose to move to the communities that District 196 serves and are enrolling their children in our schools.

Currently, 86 percent of school-age children who live in our district attend District 196 schools. That is considered to be one of the highest "capture rates" among school districts in the Twin Cities metro area.

Our enrollment is increasing each year, driven by rapid growth in new home construction in Lakeville and Rosemount. This presents us with the unique opportunity to grow as a district, both in enrollment and capacity. In the next decade, we are projected to grow by as many as 5,500 students. The opening of East Lake Elementary School in Lakeville last fall helped alleviate crowding at nearby schools. And with careful budgeting, we were able to purchase land for a future elementary school with funds saved from the 2015 bond referendum. It's because of community support that we continue to be a district of choice.

In order to maintain this distinction, we need more support from state government, which has the majority responsibility for funding public education in Minnesota. Schools across the state are feeling the impact of years of inadequate state funding for general and special education. Here in District 196, we are facing budget challenges that require our administration to identify \$25 million in adjustments over the next three years. State funding for basic education has not kept pace with inflation. If it had, our district would be receiving an additional \$18 million in general education funding from the state this year. In addition, the funding we receive from the state and federal

governments to pay for mandated special education services was \$29 million less than the actual cost of providing these services in our district last year.

As an administration, we formed a Budget Steering Committee that identified possible cuts and revenue enhancements totaling \$7 million for next school year. I am grateful for the suggestions provided by parents and other residents via our online budget adjustment form and at focus group meetings the first week in December. The adjustments that are approved for next will have an impact on our program, but we are hopeful that the community will support additional local funding next year so we can avoid devastating cuts that would otherwise be necessary the following two years.

We are proud of the opportunities we provide in District 196, and we are focused on retaining our innovative programming to ensure students and teachers continue to have a world-class educational experience. We also know how vital state dollars are to helping us uphold our high level of service. As we work through this process, we are committed to maintaining the integrity of our triple-A philosophy and being good stewards of the public's money. The success of our district is a collaborative effort, and we are fortunate to have the many voices of our local leaders, families, educators, students and staff as part of the process. I firmly believe that students are best served when we work together to provide them with the learning experiences necessary to pursue their infinite possibilities.



Mary M. Kreger

Stay informed about School Board actions

The District 196 School Board meets on the second and/or fourth Monday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m., at Dakota Ridge School in Apple Valley. Regular board meetings for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year are scheduled for Jan. 7, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8, May 13 and June 10 and 24. Video of all regular School Board meetings is available on demand at District196.org the morning following each meeting.

New finance director has proven experience

In October, Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger** hired **Mark Stotts** to be the district's new director of finance and operations.



Stotts comes to District 196 with 24 years of experience in school finance in Minnesota. After spending the first 10 years of his career as a certified public accountant, pension manager and financial controller, Stotts was hired as the director of finance and operations for Albert Lea Area Schools in 1994. From 2006 to 2009, he held a similar position with the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District, and for the last nine years he has been the executive director of finance and operations for Austin Public Schools.

Stotts is replacing **Jeff Solomon**, who is retiring in January after a 30-year career in school finance, including the last 15 years as the director of finance and operations for District 196.

"We have an award-winning finance department with a history of conservative budgeting and fiscal transparency," Kreger said. "We are grateful for the leadership Jeff Solomon has provided and thrilled to hire someone with Mark Stotts' experience and understanding of school finance."

In addition to managing a \$370 million annual operating budget, Stotts oversees the district's facilities, food service, purchasing/receiving, technology and transportation departments.

"I am extremely excited to join a district with such an outstanding reputation as District 196," Stotts said. "I hope to contribute to the ongoing support of programs that provide opportunities for student success, while maintaining the district's excellent reputation for financial management."



Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger** helped Apple Valley High School students find their first-hour class on the first day of the school year Sept. 4.

Superintendent << from front page >>

as a special education teacher, coordinator and supervisor. She started her career as a substitute teacher, working in Minneapolis, Lakeville and in District 196 schools.

At a special meeting in September, board members agreed they should try to speed the process of hiring a superintendent and look to hire an internal candidate because of the challenges facing the district. Magnuson said the board did not see a need to hire a consultant to conduct an extensive search, which could take several months and cost tens of thousands of dollars to complete.

Magnuson and Vice Chairperson **Joel Albright** led a hiring subcommittee of the board that held meetings in October with a parent group representing district schools, members of the superintendent's cabinet and representatives of the employee bargaining groups in the district. The subcommittee shared a list of qualities and characteristics that were developed with input from staff and the public when Berenz was hired as superintendent in 2009.

"All three groups agreed that these qualities and characteristics are still relevant and we should want them in our next superintendent," Albright reported to the board Oct. 22. "One thing we heard very clearly is we want someone who is familiar with the district and can hit the ground running with the challenges we are facing." These include a \$25 million budget shortfall over the next three years, the retirement of key staff members and the likelihood of holding a levy referendum election next year.

Following the subcommittee's report, the board approved a motion to offer the position to Kreger and authorized the subcommittee to negotiate a contract with her.

"We have heard very clearly from the community that Mary is doing a great job," said board Treasurer **Art Coulson**.

Kreger has a master's degree in special education and a specialist degree in education administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and earned her superintendent licensure from Minnesota State in 2013.

Enrollment continues to rise, more rapid growth projected

Enrollment in District 196 reached an all-time high this year and is projected to grow by as many as 5,500 additional students over the next 10 years.

The official enrollment report for 2018-19 was presented to the School Board in October. It shows there were 28,871 students enrolled in the district on Oct. 1 this year, an increase of 227 students or 0.8 percent over last year. School districts are required to prepare an Oct. 1 enrollment report each year that is submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education to determine funding from the state.

This is the sixth consecutive year of rising enrollment in District 196 and the growth is expected to continue at a more rapid rate in the years ahead. Projections presented to the School Board last fall by former state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt** predict that an additional 4,300 to 5,500 students will be enrolled in the district by the 2026-27 school year. Reinhardt said the growth will be driven by new housing development in the southern and eastern portions of the district, including the 4,800-acre UMore Park property in Rosemount that the University of Minnesota started to sell to developers earlier this year. She said the UMore Park land alone could bring an additional 1,500 single-family homes and 300 townhomes to the district by 2025.

To help prepare for the projected growth in enrollment, the district recently purchased 34 acres of land east of Highway 3 and north of County Road 42 in Rosemount as a site for a future elementary school. The land was purchased with funds remaining from the 2015 bond referendum, resulting from careful management of project budgets and favorable bids for construction. Bond funds can only be used for capital projects, not operating expenditures. Before a school can be built on the site, the district would need to get voter approval of another bond referendum for funding.

In addition to new development, Reinhardt said District 196 continues to enroll a high percentage of school-age students who live in the district. Last year, the district had a "capture rate" of 86 percent of resident students compared to a statewide average of 77.4 percent. "You have a very high capture rate for a Twin Cities school district," she said. "You continue to be a public school district of choice."

The largest class in the district this year is grade six, with 2,228 students, and the smallest is grade 11, with 1,997 students. The breakdown by level shows that on Oct. 1, 2018, the district had:

- 12,256 elementary school students (grades K-5), an increase of 27 students from last year;
- 6,587 middle school students (grades 6-8), an increase of 169;
- 8,529 high school students (grades 9-12), an increase of four;
- 984 students in center-based special education programs, an increase of 33, and
- 515 students in early childhood special education, a decrease of six students from last year.

Students of color now represent 37 percent of total enrollment, up 2 percent and almost 4 percent higher than the state average last year. Sixty-three percent of students are white, 12 percent black, 9.8 percent Hispanic, 8.4 percent Asian, 0.3 percent American Indian, 0.1 percent Pacific Islander and 6.4 percent reported they are more than one race.

Students who qualify to receive English Learner (EL) services represent 5.7 percent of total enrollment, down 0.6 percent and approximately 2 percent less than the state average last year.

School taxes should decrease if no change in property value

In September, the School Board approved a proposed 2018 (payable 2019) property tax levy at the state maximum levy limitation. Based on calculations provided by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), the district's maximum proposed levy for payable 2019 property taxes is \$95,244,018, approximately \$4.3 million (4.7 percent) more than the current year's levy.

The biggest reason for the increase is the annual inflationary increase the district receives on the 10-year operating levy that was approved by voters in 2013.

The maximum levy limitation is calculated by MDE for each public school district in the state. The School Board will certify a final levy at its Dec. 10 regular meeting.

The district's proposed levy was submitted to Dakota County, which mailed notices to property owners in mid-November showing estimated taxes based on proposed levies approved by the school district, cities, the county and other taxing agencies. The total value of all property in District 196 increased by 7.1 percent over last year to \$16.7 billion. Local property taxes will be spread across this total valuation.

Based on current data and assumptions, school taxes on last year's \$277,000 average-value home in District 196 will decrease by 1.9 percent, if there was no increase in the assessed value of the home. The value of the average home in the district increased by 7.8 percent over last year to \$298,665. If the assessed value of last year's average-value home increased to the current district average, estimated school taxes on that property will increase by approximately 6.2 percent or \$81 for the year.

Students earned \$3.2 million in U of M credits

During the 2017-18 school year, District 196 high school students who participated in the College in the Schools (CIS) program earned a combined 6,628 college credits valued at more than \$3.2 million, according to a value statement released by the University of Minnesota's CIS program.

Students who participate in the CIS program earn college credits for taking advanced courses at their high school that are taught by their high school teachers. Last year, 911 students from the five District 196 high schools registered for at least one CIS course, 126 more students than the previous year. Students of color represented 31 percent of the students who registered for at least one CIS course in 2017-18.

The 911 participating students registered for 1,541 CIS courses, 175 more than the year before. Eagan High School had 486 course registrations, Rosemount High School had 433, Eastview High School had 340, Apple Valley High School had 255 and the School of Environmental Studies had 27.

The 6,628 credits earned by District 196 students in 2017-18 is 654 more than the previous year. At the 2017-18 U of M tuition rate of \$492.31 per credit, the 6,628 credits are valued at \$3,263,030. The school district paid the university \$223,445 (\$145 per course) for the students to take these college-credit courses at their high schools last year.

CIS is one of several opportunities available for District 196 students to earn college credit while attending classes at their high school. Others include Advanced Placement courses and tests, and concurrent enrollment agreements with specific colleges, community colleges and technical schools.



Brian Martin's eighth-grade class at Valley Middle School of STEM has partnered with the nonprofit organization Million Waves Project to create a prosthetic arm for a 9-year-old girl. Nearing completion on a prototype, Martin critiques his students' work.

Valley Middle students making prosthetic arm for girl

Somewhere across the country, a 9-year-old girl is waiting for a prosthetic arm so she can finally learn to swim. And right here in Apple Valley, eighth-graders at Valley Middle School of STEM are eagerly taking on the challenge.

The students in **Brian Martin's** first-period class are no strangers to technology. They have been mastering design software and 3D printers to create elaborate works of art, small machinery, sensory gadgets, even bobbleheads. But their most recent project is something different. A family member connected Martin to the Million Waves Project, a nonprofit organization that helps clean the oceans and uses plastic waste to recycle into prosthetics.

"I reached out to them in hopes of having them talk to my kids about what they do," Martin said, expecting only a video conference or brief introduction to the initiative. "But the conversation evolved into them asking if my students would be able to design a swimming prosthetic for a 9-year-old girl."

Typically, the organization uses designs online to print their prosthetics, but Martin said not only do his students know how to use the technology, but it would give them an opportunity to give back to someone in need. Every other day for the last month, the roughly 20 students in his class have been hard at work coming up with designs and creative ways to personalize the prosthetic arm.

"I've made a lot of things using the 3D printer, but I've never made anything for someone who was actually going to use it," said **Sofia Ishal**. "It makes me want to do my best work because it's actually going to help someone. It's cool because I know it's going to make a little girl happy."

Through this project, students are exploring intricate design software such as Adobe Illustrator and Autodesk Meshmixer, and they are using their creative skills to bring their innovative ideas to life. Martin said his students are enthusiastic about their work with this technology, but are even more determined knowing they are giving back to others in the process.

Three working designs of the prosthetic arm are nearly complete, Martin said, and he's hopeful his students will have a prototype by the end of December. Once the prototype passes class inspection, the files will be sent to Million Waves Project, who will then custom fit the prosthetic for the recipient.

Bilingual students can earn college credits

High school seniors who can demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English can earn recognition on their transcript and credits at a Minnesota state college or university as part of the state's Bilingual/Multilingual Seals and World Language Proficiency Certificate program.

The program was established last year to recognize the unique advantages of being a bilingual or multilingual speaker. Students who are bilingual are more culturally and linguistically competent and better prepared for a college or career experience with a global perspective.

"Being multilingual in today's world provides students with many opportunities," said English Learner Lead Teacher **Heather Nyseth**. "The level of proficiency students receive is recognized worldwide and will be very advantageous for their future employment. But most importantly, being multilingual helps create critical thinking skills and a better understanding of cultures around the world."

To earn this recognition, seniors must be assessed in reading, writing, listening and speaking in a language other than English. Students are scored in all four areas based on proficiency guidelines established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

- **World Language Proficiency Certificate** is awarded for students who score at the intermediate low level in a language other than English. Students can receive up to two semesters of college credit.

- **Gold Bilingual or Multilingual Seal** is awarded for students who score at the intermediate high level in a language other than English and earn English language arts credits. Students can receive up to the three semesters of college credit per language.

- **Platinum Bilingual or Multilingual Seal** is awarded for students who score at the advanced low level in a language other than English and earn English language arts credit or proficiency. Students can receive up to four semesters of college credit per language.

During the 2017-18 school year, 158 District 196 seniors earned recognition on their transcripts, representing 73 percent of students who took the assessments. These included one gold multilingual seal; four platinum bilingual seals; 20 gold bilingual seals and 133 world language proficiency certificates.

High school seniors interested in participating in the program during the 2018-19 school year should speak with their counselor, world languages teacher, English Learner teacher or cultural family advocate for more information on how to enroll for the proficiency exams. The exams are scheduled for March 14 at Rosemount High School, March 19 at the School of Environmental Studies and April 2 at Apple Valley, Eagan and Eastview high schools.

For more information, go to the "Academics" section of the district website at District196.org.

District 196 Foundation impacts students

The District 196 Foundation eliminates barriers to learning by ensuring students have consistent access to food and books to read over the summer.

Last school year, funding from the foundation provided weekend food for 480 students and summer reading books for 787 students.

The foundation seeks to double its impact this year and you can help. A \$215 donation provides a child with weekend food for a year and \$30 provides 10 books for a child. 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.

Gordon named new equity coordinator

Special Education Coordinator **Robin Gordon** was hired to be the district's new equity and inclusion coordinator in October.



Gordon was hired by District 196 in October 2017 as a special education coordinator working with the district's elementary schools. Prior to that she was an independent contractor with Minnesota Education Equity Partnership and Designs for Learning, as well as new charter sites in Minneapolis and St. Paul where she supported special education programming, leadership development and systems development. Gordon was also a principal on special assignment for behavior standards with Minneapolis Public Schools from 2014 to 2016 and served as an assistant principal and principal for South Washington County Schools from 2004 to 2014.

"I am dedicated to the successful academic journey for all students in District 196," Gordon said. "My foundational belief in equitable practice guides my work. I am excited to begin my new position and look forward to continued collaboration with such fantastic educators and being a part of supporting the boundless opportunities for students and families in District 196."

Gordon has a bachelor's degree in political science from Virginia State University and earned her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of St. Thomas, where she also received her educational specialist degree and principal licensure.

Gordon replaces **Carita Green**, who resigned as equity and inclusion coordinator in August to become an assistant administrator at Falcon Ridge Middle School.

Calendars approved for next two school years, no MEA break in 20-21

The School Board approved calendars for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years in October.

Both calendars are similar to the current school year, with 171 days of school for middle school and high school students, and 169 days for elementary students. The two-day difference is to provide time for each elementary student to attend an individual literacy assessment with their teacher in late August. Also in both calendars, school begins the Tuesday after Labor Day and spring break is the last full week of March.

The biggest change is elimination of the MEA break in October 2020. Director of Human Resources **Tom Pederstuen** said the administration conferred with leadership from Dakota County United Educators, which represents the district's teachers, and agreed the district should schedule students to be in school on these days due to uncertainty about the future of the MEA teachers' conference. By having school on those days, winter break can start on Dec. 23 instead of Dec 24 and the school year will end one day earlier in June for all students.

The current and following two years' calendars are available on the district website at www.District196.org/home/district-calendar/.

Budget information available online

Budget information for the 2018-19 school year and previous nine years is available on the Finance Department page of the district website at District196.org. The 2018-19 budget includes an introductory section that summarizes the district budget in user-friendly language.



Westview Elementary School students and Principal **Tami Staloch-Schultz** pose for a photo with Minnesota Timberwolf **Tyus Jones**, who helped fund a new technology lab at his elementary school alma mater.

Jones returns to Westview to help students find their voice

First a Westview Bulldog, now a Minnesota Timberwolf, **Tyus Jones** is all grown up. But he never forgot where he came from. Jones returned to his alma mater in September to surprise students and unveil a revamped technology lab as part of his "Write Your Own Story" campaign.

"I always knew I wanted to give back to Westview," Jones said. "I just had to figure out how and in which way I could give back. And once I decided, it was a no brainer. But I always planned on giving back to such a special place."

Students at Westview shuffled into the gymnasium Sept. 17 for what they thought was a regular school assembly, but were instead informed of the new state-of-the-art computer lab and shocked to see Jones enter through a side door.

As part of the lab renovation, a new mural boldly states "Write Your Own Story." A sign on the other side of the lab carries a message inspiring students to write. It ends, "Write

about the people who help you, and the people you help. Write a legacy, so your story never ends. You're the pen. You're the paper. You're the story. Start writing."

Five, large-screen televisions from TCL were donated and installed in the new lab and the media center.

"This lab gives students an opportunity to use their voice in so many new ways," said Principal **Tami Staloch-Schultz**. "Together with the new technology, we can all collaborate and share our work in new ways."

To show her gratitude, Staloch-Schultz gifted Jones with the old basketball chains from the school's hoop on which Jones and his younger brother, Tre, practiced. This technology lab project is Jones' second since starting his campaign. He said he hopes the revamped space at Westview helps students find their voice and empowers them to create their own story and follow their dreams.



Robert Anholt of Apple Valley (right), a veteran of WWII and the Korean War, stood with other Air Force veterans while the AVHS Wind Ensemble played the Air Force anthem during its rendition of the "Armed Forces Salute."

District schools honor local veterans and active duty soldiers

Apple Valley High School held its annual Veterans Day all-student assembly Nov. 9 to honor local veterans, active duty service personnel and their families.

The event included performances by the Valley Select Chorale and the AVHS Wind Ensemble. There were speeches by two students about how veterans have impacted their lives and the keynote was delivered by Brigadier General **Greg Haase** of the Air National Guard.

During the ensemble's performance of the "Armed Forces Salute," veterans stood on the gymnasium floor to be recognized by the crowd of students when the song representing their branch of the military was played.

Robert Anholt of Apple Valley was one of two WWII veterans who attended the assembly. Anholt served in the Air Force as a gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber. He said he "was a little late" getting to Europe for WWII, as the war was ending when he was being shipped overseas, but he remained in the Air Force and served in the Korean War before retiring after a 20-year career. Anholt and wife, Marilyn, moved to Apple Valley in 1967 after he retired. Their son was in the first graduating class at Apple Valley High 10 years later.

Near the end of the assembly, students in Apple Valley's unified physical education class presented a large U.S. flag that was flown on board the USS Abraham Lincoln, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. The flag was flown in honor of Apple Valley High School and the students – past, present and future – who have served their country. Principal **Michael Bolsoni** told the crowd that in recognition of Military Family Appreciation Month, this flag would be flown in front of the high school during the month of November as a reminder of the courage, commitment and sacrifices of these individuals and their families.

Eagan High School and Highland Elementary School also held Veterans Day programs.



Students presented a U.S. flag that was flown on board the USS Abraham Lincoln in honor of the Apple Valley High School students who have served their country in the military.

Applications to attend SES due December 17

Students interested in enrolling at the School of Environmental Studies (SES) for the 2019-20 school year must complete an online application by Dec. 17. The application is available at www.sesmn.org.

SES is a magnet school for high school juniors and seniors. The 400-student school is located adjacent to the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley and offers an active and innovative curriculum with an environmental theme.

Informational meetings for all current sophomores were held the first week of December at their high schools. Informational meetings for all interested high school students and their parents will be held Dec. 12 and 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. both nights; attend only one meeting. For more information, call the school at 952-431-8750.

District serves homeless students

Children who are living in a shelter, hotel/motel, car, or sharing housing with relatives or friends due to a lack of or loss of housing are eligible to receive educational assistance under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Students identified as homeless are provided transportation, free or reduced-price school meals and information about state-assisted insurance coverage.

During the 2017-18 school year, District 196 assisted 213 students identified as homeless, representing 135 families. That is down slightly from 240 students the previous year.

Persons assisting a homeless student in District 196 can receive more information by contacting **Nandi Rieck**, federal and state programs coordinator, at 651-423-7719, or any school social worker, nurse or counselor.

District students outscore ACT averages

District 196 students scored higher than the state and national averages on the ACT college admissions test in 2018, according to results released in October.

The average composite score for District 196 students is 23.1 out of a possible 36. The district average is 2.3 points higher than the national average of 20.8 and 1.8 points higher than the Minnesota average of 21.3, which is highest among the 19 states where more than 98 percent of all students took the test.

Since 2016, Minnesota law requires that all high school juniors have an opportunity to take a college entrance exam during the school day. In District 196, 2,087 students in the graduating class of 2018 took the ACT at least once.

The 2018 average composite scores for individual District 196 high schools are as follows:

- Apple Valley High School – 21.1
- Eagan High School – 24.5
- Eastview High School – 24.2
- Rosemount High School – 22.9
- School of Environmental Studies – 22.8

Website advertising

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.

Three sponsorship options are available: bronze (\$1,000 per year), silver (\$1,250) and gold (\$1,500). All options include an ad on the front page of the district website that links to the company's website.

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

Magnet school applications are being accepted for 2019-20

Parents interested in having their child attend a District 196 magnet school for the 2019-20 school year must submit an application by Jan. 9 to be considered for one of the five elementary magnet schools and by Feb. 13 for Valley Middle School of STEM. The elementary and middle school applications are available at www.district196.org/magnetschools.

Magnet schools offer parents increased choice in their child's education by providing a concentrated focus that offers innovative ways to meet students' learning goals through a particular theme. Magnet schools still teach the district's core curriculum in the areas of science, math, language arts and social studies.

The five elementary magnet schools are Cedar Park Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School in Apple Valley; Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies in Apple Valley; Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology in Burnsville; Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science in Eagan, and Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences in Eagan.

District 196 offers a K-12 STEM pathway that includes Cedar Park and Echo Park elementary schools for grades K-5, Valley Middle School of STEM for grades 6-8 and Apple Valley High School for grades 9-12.

Parents can learn more about magnet school opportunities during spotlight events held at each school during the application period. For information on dates and times, contact your school of choice or visit the website.

Any District 196 student attending elementary or middle school in the 2019-20 school year can apply to attend a magnet school. Enrollment at magnet schools is determined by lottery and is limited to space available at each school and grade level. Students residing in the district who are selected for magnet school enrollment receive transportation if they live more than one mile from the elementary magnet school they will attend or more than one and one-half miles from Valley Middle School of STEM.

The elementary magnet school lottery will be held after the Jan. 9 application deadline. Parents of students selected for enrollment will be notified by the end of January and will be asked to confirm their child's enrollment for the 2019-20 school year. The lottery for Valley Middle School of STEM will be held after the Feb. 13 application deadline and parents of students selected for enrollment will be notified by the end of February. Students not selected for enrollment in the lotteries will be placed on waiting lists.

More information about the magnet schools and the application process is available at www.district196.org/magnetschools or by calling **Tony Eatchel**, magnet schools and innovative programs teacher on special assignment, at 651-423-7810.

Instrument donations help make Band For All

In 2007, a group of instrumental music teachers began an effort to collect gently used instruments that could be used by students who could not otherwise afford to participate in band.

To date, more than 1,700 District 196 students have been able to participate in band with a donated instrument through the Band for All program.

To continue to provide the same

opportunities to the next group of students, another 150 instruments are needed. Donations of instruments and money to pay for repairs and supplies are accepted at Scott Highlands Middle School, c/o Michelle Hoff, 14011 Pilot Knob Rd., Apple Valley, MN 55124. If you wish to receive a donation letter for tax purposes, include your name, address and phone number inside each instrument case.



Celebrating unity

Schools across District 196 turned their halls orange in a districtwide display of kindness and acceptance for Unity Day Oct. 24 as part of National Bullying Prevention Month. "Our schools are intentional about building quality relationships with students," said School Safety and Climate Coordinator **Mary Thompson**. "The Unity Day philosophy isn't just a one-day event, it's embedded into the everyday actions of our schools." These Woodland Elementary students celebrated Unity Day by wearing orange and joining together in a school assembly.

More than 800 students earn AP scholar honors

The College Board recognized 823 District 196 high school students for their performance on Advanced Placement (AP) course exams taken during the 2017-18 school year.

District high schools offer 24 different AP courses which have been audited and approved by the College Board, a nonprofit organization of colleges, universities, secondary schools and higher education institutions focused on college readiness programs. Students who complete an AP course can take an optional exam and earn college credit, depending on their score on the exam and admission requirements at the college or university they attend. An AP exam score of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5) earns credit at many of the nation's colleges and universities.

There are four different levels of AP scholar recognition that are defined by the scores received and the number of exams taken during a student's high school career. The top designation is National AP Scholar, which recognizes students who received an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more exams. Forty-eight District 196 students were named National AP Scholars last year. The other designations are AP Scholar with Distinction, AP Scholar with Honor and AP Scholar.

To see the names of all 823 AP scholars in District 196 last year, go to District196.org, click on the News section and find the article dated Aug 2.

District has variety of job opportunities

District 196 has immediate job opportunities listed below for quality individuals who enjoy working with children. For more information and to apply online, go to District196.org and click on the red "Quick Links" circle in the top right, then select "Employment."

Substitute teacher rates are \$135 for a full day and \$78 for a half day. Applicants must have a current Minnesota teacher's license or have a four-year degree, obtain a substitute license from the state and attend a weeklong district training workshop.

The **substitute clerical** rate is \$12.75 per hour and **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, and complete training and an orientation.

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

Part-time **bus drivers** earn \$17.88 per hour. Prefer individuals who are available for both morning and afternoon routes. Applicants must enjoy working with children, have a Minnesota driver's license with a good driving record and be able to lift/drag up to 125 pounds.

The rate for **food service associates** is \$15.86 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.

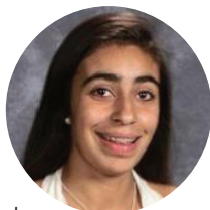
Full-time and substitute custodial positions pay \$18.75 and \$13.20 per hour, respectively. Applicants must be available Monday through Friday, 3 to 11:30 p.m. most weeks; able to perform custodial duties, including lifting up to 50 pounds on a regular basis, and pass a pre-employment physical and background check.

Congratulations!

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

Eight of the 25 Minnesota students selected to receive the Target Women in Science and Technology EPIC Awards this fall are from District 196. The award is given to young female scholars who embody the EPIC mission of being engaged, passionate, innovative and curious in STEM fields. The eight recipients from District 196 are **Clare Dixon** of Dakota Hills Middle School; **Laine Ciaramitaro** of Apple Valley High School; **Ashley Chen**, **Grace Hansen**, **Claire Myers**, **Anusha Sharma** and **Corinn Sievwright** of Eagan High School, and **Sonia Li** of Eastview High School.

Eagan High School senior **Eesha Varma** won the consolation championship in the singles competition of the state Class 2A girls' tennis tournament in October. Eagan qualified for the team competition and lost in the consolation championship match.



The **Eagan High School girls' soccer team** won third place in the Class 2A state tournament Oct. 31. The Wildcats lost to eventual state champion Minnetonka 1-0 in a semifinal-round shootout. Senior **Megan Plaschko** and junior **Julia Barger** were named to the Class 2A All-Tournament Team.

The **Eastview High School football team** advanced to the quarterfinals of the Class 6A state tournament.

The **Eastview High School boys' and Rosemount High School girls' cross-country teams** qualified for the state tournament in November and finished in eighth and 11th place, respectively, in the team competition. In the boys' race, Rosemount senior **Luke Labatte** finished in seventh place and Eastview junior **A.J. Green** took eighth place. In the girls' race, the top finisher from the district was seventh grader **Daisy Islas** of Rosemount.



Eagan earns fourth straight top-two finish in volleyball

For the second year in a row, the Eagan High School volleyball team finished runner-up in the Class 3A state volleyball tournament, losing to Champlin Park 3-2 in a thrilling championship match Nov. 10 at Xcel Energy Center. **Ellie Husemann**, **Kaylyn Madison** and **Kennedi Orr** were named to the Class 3A All-Tournament Team. In the last four years, Eagan has won back-to-back state championships and finished runner-up twice.

District has 50 all-state musicians for 2018-19

Fifty District 196 high school students were named all-state musicians by the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) for the 2018-19 school year.

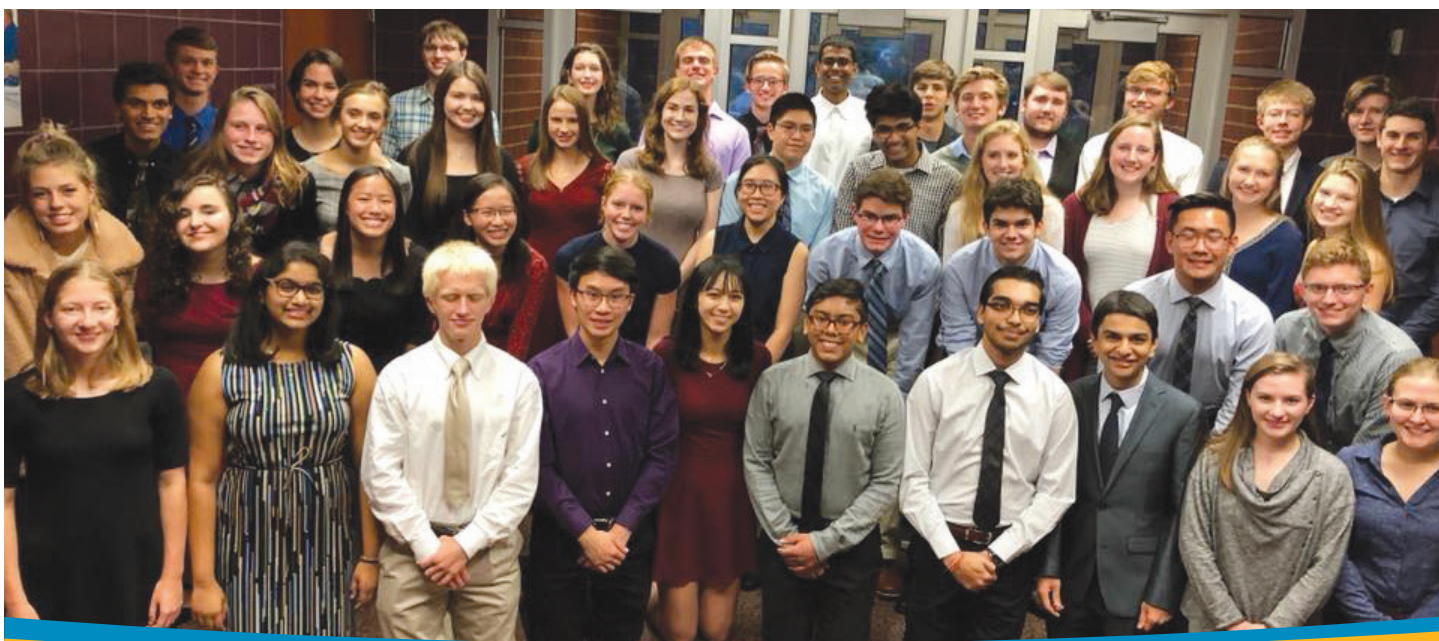
Students were selected by recorded audition last spring and participated in camps in August. The groups will come back together in February 2019 to perform during MMEA's annual Midwinter Clinic at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Apple Valley High School students are **Collyn Camara**, **Amanda Jackson** and **Abigail Morrison**, Symphonic Band; **Jarett Huard**, Jazz Band; **Maquanet Collins**, **Julia Lee**, **Kathryn Murphy**, **Ryan Nechanicky** and **Hailey Phoulavan**, Concert Band; **Christina Monsen**, Mixed Choir, and **Laurel Carter**, wind, brass and percussion (WBP) alternate.

Eagan High School students are **Maria Coughlan** and **Audrey Parker**, Women's Choir; **Mara Currens**, Mixed Choir; **Jake Berran**, Orchestra; **Annika Dean**, Concert Band; **Riley Kazukiewicz**, Symphonic Band; **Sam Hauser**, jazz alternate; **Garrison Allen**, vocal alternate, and **Mary Dratz**, **Anna Duffy**, **Ayush Patel** and **Lauren Pross**, WBP alternates.

Eastview High School students are **Alison Hitchcock** and **Alison Steger**, Concert Band; **Andrea Wallick**, **Calvin Kotrba**, **Ryan McClure** and **Henry Rieffer**, Orchestra; **Adam Labiosa**, Jazz Band; **Campbell Bernstein**, **Jake Brockman**, **Mackenzie Donais** and **Charlotte Krekeler**, Mixed Choir, **Christopher Hahn**, Men's Choir; **Casey Hubbs**, Women's Choir; **Austin Bodin**, **Gillian Hitchcock**, **Umar Rehman** and **Kirsten Rotvold**, Symphonic Band, and **Ian Kenney**, jazz alternate.

Rosemount High School students are **Jenna Gillich** and **Gabe Molitor**, Concert Band; **Caleb Maeda**, Jazz Band; **Madison Bailey**, **Hannah Beumer** and **Jose Santos**, Mixed Choir, and **Andrew Sundquist**, **Ryan Niedenthal** and **Jake Richards**, Men's Choir.



Most of the district's 56 National Merit semifinalists, commended students and National Hispanic Recognition Program honorees attended the Oct. 8 School Board meeting to be recognized by the board.

Fifty-six seniors recognized as merit scholars for earning top scores on national test

Fifty-six District 196 seniors received special recognition this fall for scores they achieved on a national standardized test taken last year as juniors.

Seven of the 56 students were named semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program, 47 were recognized as National Merit commended students and two were selected for the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Names of the semifinalists in this 64th annual scholarship program were released by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in September. The seven National Merit semifinalists from District 196 are: **Brady LaBahn** of Apple Valley High School; **Elisabeth Duffy**, **Kevin Huang** and **Emily Hull** of Eagan High School; **John Kotrba** of Eastview High School, and **Olivia Alberts** and **Michelle Quan** of Rosemount High School.

Students are selected for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program based on their scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which they take

as juniors. Semifinalists rank in the top 1 percent of the approximately 1.6 million high school juniors who took the test last year in the United States. The semifinalists may submit additional information to be considered for selection as a finalist. Students named National Merit finalists will compete for some 7,500 scholarships totaling more than \$31 million that will be awarded next spring by businesses, colleges and universities, and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Students whose scores on the PSAT/ NMSQT rank them in the top 5 percent of students nationwide receive letters of commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. In District 196, the following 47 seniors are 2019 National Merit commended students:

Jack Glad, **Elise Gort**, **Amanda Jackson** and **Nicholas Pederson** of Apple Valley High;

Marissa Amerongen, **Jared Dawson**, **Safwan Diwan**, **Eva Erickson**, **Lauren Ferg**, **Morgan Hamernik**, **Riley Kazukiewicz**, **Jennifer Lenertz**, **Noah**

Maddio, **Isaiah Milbank**, **Elizabeth Moon**, **Jacob Rutzick**, **Aidan Schmidt**, **Sarah Schuller**, **Graham Scott** and **Saksham Vashistha** of Eagan High;

Siddharth Addagudi, **Josephine Bierbaum**, **Connor Block**, **Austin Bodin**, **Samuel Erickson**, **Ronit Gupta**, **Jesse Laursen**, **Oliver Matte**, **Ryan McClure**, **Sanjana Molleti**, **Jack Moody**, **Pratik Nehete**, **Sakthi Saravanapandi**, **Margarita Sytcheva**, **Kenny Ta**, **Robert Thai**, **Elizabeth Zarate** and **Mulan Zhu** of Eastview High;

Jennika Bunney, **Abigail Doran**, **Sydney Essler**, **Sophia Kucera**, **Jacob Liggett**, **Justin Rygg** and **Aquila Schachel** of Rosemount High, and

Jozie Burns and **Noah Ricard** of the School of Environmental Studies.

In addition, **Erica Broeker** and **Marina Navarro** of Eagan High were selected for the National Hispanic Recognition Program, sponsored by The College Board, based on their scores on the PSAT/NMSQT last year.

'Snow-day' decisions are based on safety of students and staff, and communicated broadly

With the arrival of winter comes the possibility of school cancellations or delayed starts due to inclement weather. District leaders understand these decisions impact many families throughout the district who need to arrange care for their children when school is not in session.

The over-riding concern in making these decisions is the safety of students, staff and others in the community. Several factors are considered, including road conditions and visibility, snow depth, wind chill, the weather forecast for the remainder of the day and the actions of other districts in our area. The superintendent makes these decisions based on what is best for all children in the district. If parents are ever concerned about sending their child to school because of weather conditions, it is always the parents' choice to keep their child at home.

If the decision is made to either delay or cancel school, the information will be communicated to district employees and parents via an early-morning phone call from the superintendent using the SchoolMessenger mass notification service to which the district subscribes. District staff will also make separate calls to notify Spanish- and Somali-speaking families.

In addition to the phone calls, the cancellation or delay will be communicated in the following ways:

- At the top of the district website at District196.org (this is where information appears first) and on the district's Facebook page and Twitter feed;
- On all four Twin Cities network affiliate television stations and WCCO-AM (830) radio. Look/listen for "Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools," and
- On the district information line recording at 651-423-7700.

If school is canceled, all daytime and after-school community education activities, including early childhood and Adult Basic Education (ABE) are also canceled, as well as all elementary and middle school after-school and evening

The superintendent makes these decisions based on what is best for all children in the district. If parents are ever concerned about sending their child to school because of weather conditions, it is always the parents' choice to keep their child at home.

activities. YMCA School-Age Care (SAC) will be canceled when there is a snow-related cancellation; SAC will be held at pre-determined locations if there is a temperature-related school cancellation. Decisions about whether to hold evening high school and community education activities are communicated on the district website and information line.

If the opening of school is delayed, all school buses operate on a normal, but two-hour delayed schedule and the following activities are canceled: morning and afternoon early childhood special education (ECSE) and early childhood family education (ECFE) classes, morning and afternoon Connections Preschool classes and morning community education activities, including SAC and ABE.

If severe weather develops during the school day, schedules may change and would be communicated via the SchoolMessenger service and on the district website, information line and television and radio stations.

Students are released early from school only in the event of an emergency. To prepare for a possible early dismissal for weather or an emergency, parents are encouraged to develop a plan with their child, keeping in mind that in certain emergency situations students may be immediately evacuated and may not be able to go back into the school to get keys or other belongings from their lockers.

Parents and adult students may request intradistrict school transfers by December 15

Parents and guardians may apply to have their child attend a different school within the district (intradistrict transfer) or a school in a different district (interdistrict transfer) for a number of reasons.

Intradistrict Transfers

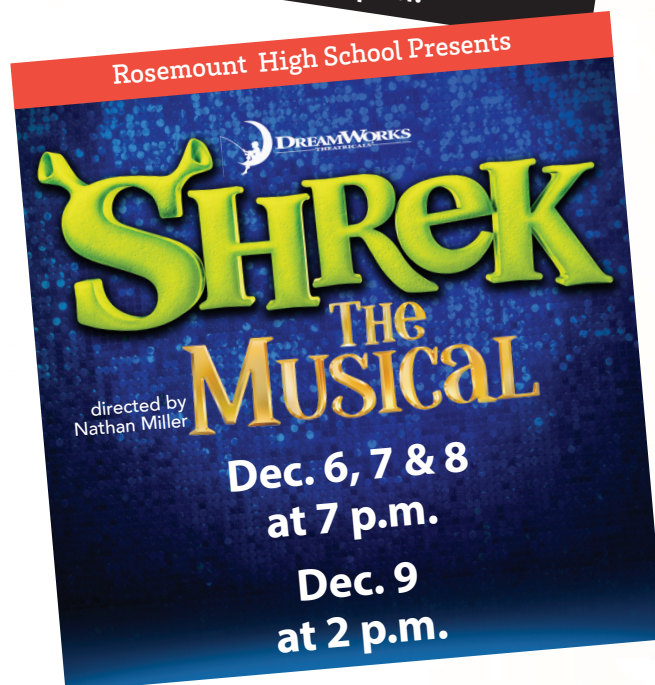
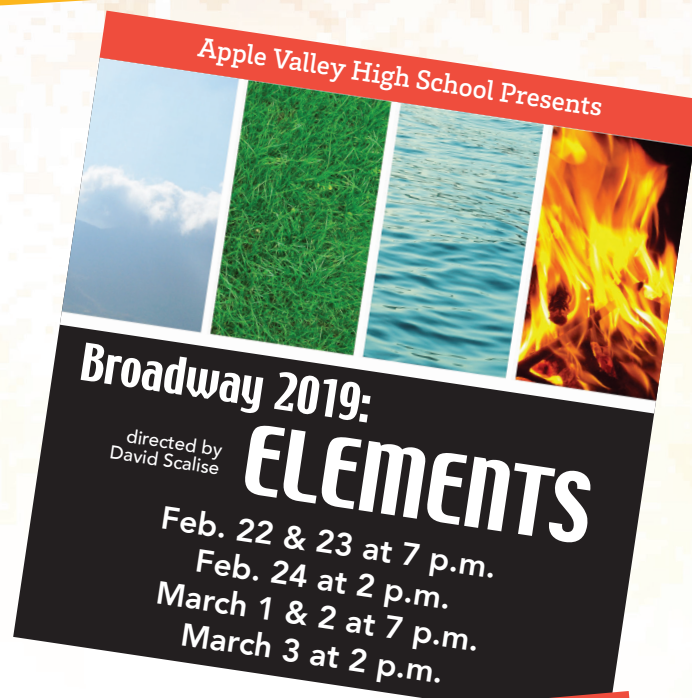
Elementary school students (grades K-5) may request a transfer from one District 196 elementary school to another based on daycare, intent to change residency or parent/guardian request.

Secondary school students (grades 6-12) may request a transfer from one District 196 secondary school to another based on intent to change residency, continued enrollment of an 11th-or 12th-grade student, or parent/guardian/adult student request.

Intradistrict transfer applications for non-magnet schools are due by Dec. 15 to be considered for enrollment in the next school year. For more information, contact your child's school or Student Information at 651-423-7640.

Interdistrict Transfers

Students living outside the district may apply to enroll in District 196 schools through the state's 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. Applications for enrollment under the Enrollment Options Program are available by calling Student Information at 651-423-7640.



Upcoming high school concerts and performances

Apple Valley High

- Holiday Choir Concert, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
- Jazz Ensemble, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
- Panorama of Bands, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
- Band Concert, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

Eagan High

- Holiday Vocal Concerts, Dec. 17, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Jazz Instrumental Concert, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.
- Mid-Winter Band Concert, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
- Drumline Invitational, Feb. 2, 6 p.m.

Eastview High

- Winter Choral Concerts, Dec. 17, 6 & 8 p.m.
- Winter Band Concerts, Jan. 7, 6 & 8 p.m.
- Winter Dance Show, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.
- Jazz Showcase, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.

Rosemount High

- Holiday Choir Concerts, Dec. 16, 3 p.m. & Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
- Winter Band Concerts, Jan. 14, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Dance Show, March 1 & 2, 7 p.m.



DISTRICT 196
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

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

School Board

Jackie Magnuson, chairperson
Joel Albright, vice chairperson
Sachin Isaacs, clerk
Art Coulson, treasurer
Craig Angrimson, director
Mike Roseen, director
Bob Schutte, director

Mary M. Kreger, superintendent
Tony Taschner, communications director

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Community Education

Cross-Country Skiing (families, 5+)

Slide and glide across the trails of Lebanon Hills. Discover your love of the outdoors with your family. Enjoy a lesson guided by a naturalist who will help you get started on a lifelong hobby to enjoy with family members. Ski rental is included. *Guided by a park naturalist*
Sat. | Jan. 19 | 2-4 p.m. | \$15 each

In Our Own Voice

Hear personal and compelling stories from two trained speakers about living with a mental illness and achieving recovery. Learn about their journey and the hope for recovery for people with mental illness.

Presented by NAMI MN

Tue. | Jan. 29 | 6:30-8 p.m. | \$3 | FRMS



Looking to share your expertise?

Teach a Community Education class!

Visit www.district196.org/ceemployment or call 651-423-7920 for more information.



DISTRICT 196
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Now Hiring!

Love the water? We are hiring lifeguards and swim instructors. Earn certification by enrolling in the following classes:

Lifeguarding plus Waterpark Module (ages 15+)

Become certified in American Red Cross lifeguarding for pools and waterparks.

Wed.-Sat. | Dec. 26-29 | 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | \$260 | BHMS

Water Safety Instructor (ages 16+)

Become certified to teach American Red Cross swim lessons.

Wed. | Dec. 26-29 | 9 a.m.-6 p.m. | \$270 | BHMS

Water Safety Aid (ages 13+)

Train to become a swim instructor aide.

Wed.-Sat. | Dec. 26-29 | 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | \$160 | BHMS

Renewal classes are also available. Visit www.district196.org/swim or call 952-431-8777 for more information.



Valentine Party (families with children 10 years old or younger)

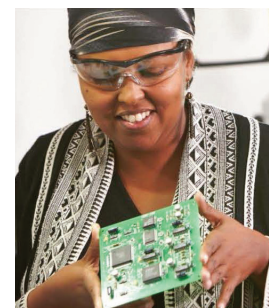
DJ Entertainment • Make a Necklace • Face Painting • Refreshments

Sat. | Feb. 9 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | \$5 each child (max of \$15/family) | DVLC

Proceeds benefit ECFS Foundation

Train for a New Career

Adult Basic Education (ABE) has teamed up with Dakota County Technical College and Goodwill Easter Seals to offer electronics soldering technician training. Earn certification and gain skills and experience. Available at no cost to eligible adult students. For information call 651-379-5837 or email soldering@gesmn.org.



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