

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Fall 2018 | Volume 59 • Number 1

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

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Summer learning and fun

Students stepped into the waders of environmental scientists this summer during the Adventures in Learning camp for elementary students who receive English Learner services. About 340 students learned about bees and pollinators, plants, water and conservation during the weeklong program in June. A highlight of the week was a field trip to Fort Snelling State Park and the opportunity to go canoeing. The program was made possible with generous community support from the Apple Valley Rotary Club, the Eagan Foundation, Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community and Traditional Capital Bank.

School construction projects on schedule for completion

Major construction projects at a number of district schools are nearing completion, giving students returning to class this fall larger, safer and more technology-rich learning spaces.

Dirt began churning soon after voters approved a bond and capital projects levy referendum in November 2015. The referendum provided \$180 million for safety and security upgrades districtwide, additional space to accommodate the district's growing student population and increased access to technology for all students. While construction continues at several sites across the district, Director of Finance and Operations **Jeff Solomon** said work is expected to be substantially complete by the beginning of school. The exceptions are Rosemount High School and Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science, which are expected to be complete before winter break.

Safety and security

Upgrades to school security began in spring 2016 with technology improvements. All schools received state-of-the-art security cameras, exterior door controls and emergency response buttons in school offices. Solomon said the majority of security technology upgrades are complete, except Rosemount High, which will receive final touches on security later this fall as part of the overhaul of the school's main entrance.

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District gets high marks for quality, safety and efficiency

The majority of residents believe District 196 spends tax dollars efficiently while providing a high quality educational experience in schools that are safe and secure, according to results of a recent survey conducted by The Morris Leatherman Company, a Minneapolis firm that also conducted surveys for the district in 2013 and 2015.

"There is a lot of good news in this survey," said pollster **Peter Leatherman**. "(Since 2015) you have not only had increases in positive responses, but you have also had increases in the enthusiastic positive responses."

Quality indicators

On the quality of education provided by the district, 91 percent answered excellent or good. That is down slightly from 95 percent in 2015; however, respondents who rated the quality as excellent increased from 36 percent in 2015 to 57 percent this year, a 21-percent jump. "Very few districts get over 50-percent excellent rating on quality of education," Leatherman said.

When asked to rate the district on a variety of characteristics, residents responded excellent or good at a combined 89 percent for academic instruction by teachers, 88 percent for co-curricular opportunities, 86 percent for the overall condition of school facilities and grounds, 79 percent for access to technology, 78 percent for vocational programs and 77 percent for opportunities for academically advanced students.

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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.

Survey results << from front page >>

"People are well aware of what is going on in your schools and they are rating it very high," Leatherman said. "I think that is also creating good value in their minds as they are thinking about the district as a whole."

School experience

Respondents with children currently enrolled in District 196 schools were asked whether they strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with several statements about their child's school:

- 99 percent said they feel welcome at their child's school;
- 97 percent agree their child's school provides a quality education;
- 97 percent said their child's school has a good leadership team;
- 95 percent believe their child's school is safe, and
- 95 percent agree teachers and staff care about their child, with the other 5 percent unsure.

Nearly three-fourths of respondents (71 percent) said they think the district is meeting the needs of all students. "You are the highest district we have had of people saying you meet the needs of all students," Leatherman said. "That is outstanding. The norm is 45 percent."

Job performance

Teachers led the list on job performance, with 93 percent rating the district's teachers as excellent or good. The School Board received favorable ratings from 83 percent of respondents, a 10-percent increase from 2013. Similarly, 80 percent of respondents rated the superintendent and administration as excellent or good.

"Really, residents are saying they see the governance and the administration sides working together," Leatherman said. "The ratings almost mirror each other and they have in the past."

On budgeting, 68 percent of respondents rated the district's financial management as excellent or good, up 11 percent from the 2015 survey and 13 percent better than the norm of 55 percent. "The district really is regarded as an excellent financial steward in the minds of its residents," Leatherman said.

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with a series of questions related to the performance of the district, which were also asked in 2015. Sixty-nine percent agreed or strongly agreed that the district spends money effectively, up 7 percent from 2015 and 21 percent higher than the norm for this question. In addition:

- 97 percent agree the district proves a safe and secure environment for students;
- 96 percent agree the community receives a good value from its investment in the schools, and
- 91 percent agree the district does a good job preparing students to be college and career ready.

Possible improvements

Respondents were asked what improvements they would support if the district had access to additional resources. They were presented with 10 options and asked to select their first and second choice. Additional mental health support for students topped the list, with 37 percent ranking it first or second. Other responses, in order of preference, were as follows:

- Additional elective courses for middle school students, 32 percent;
- Activity centers at the high schools, 29 percent;
- Transportation for after-school activities, 25 percent;
- Expanded preschool opportunities, 21 percent;
- Artificial turf at the high schools, 16 percent;
- Lower middle school class sizes, 14 percent;
- Lower high school class sizes, 14 percent;
- Lower elementary class sizes, 11 percent, and
- Other (additional technology), 3 percent.

The complete survey results are available in the News section of the district website at District196.org.

Building on our past to continue excellence into the future

By **Mary M. Kreger**, interim superintendent

The excitement of a new school year brings with it a renewed sense of curiosity and anticipation for students and parents alike, as they look forward to another year of learning, time with friends and opportunities for growth.

As a district, we also feel a sense of new beginnings this fall, as we work to build on the traditions of educational excellence that have made District 196 a district of choice. We are constantly reminded of the foundational principles that guide our work, like the triple-A approach that is alive every day in our schools. We are proud of the quality and variety of opportunities we offer in academics, the arts and athletics, and the infinite possibilities they provide to learners of all ages.

This summer was busy with activity designed to build on our strengths and position us for continued success this year and into the future. Most notable, and noticeable if you drove by our schools this summer, was the construction taking place at many of our sites. Funding from the successful bond referendum in November 2015 has allowed us to reinvest in our schools to provide students with safer and more innovative learning spaces (*see related article on the front page*).

All schools received security upgrades. These include new entrances that route visitors directly into the office at our elementary and middle schools, and into secure vestibules at our high schools, where they must sign in before entering any other part of the school. Valley Middle School of STEM, Apple Valley High School and Rosemount High School were among the most extensive construction and renovation projects from the bond. These new spaces will transform the school experience for our students. All of our middle and high schools also received new classroom furniture that has created more flexible learning environments to better support collaboration and teamwork.

As construction projects from the 2015 bond referendum near completion, we are also entering the final year of a three-year phase-in of providing one-to-one technology access for all students in grades 4-12. This fall, each student in grades 4, 5 and 6 will receive a district-owned iPad to support their learning at school and home. Technology tools aid our students in conducting original research and developing critical-thinking skills, and expands their learning beyond the classroom.

Despite all of the construction taking place at our schools, learning continued this summer throughout the district. Some of our youngest learners participated in the Bridge to School program to better prepare them to enter kindergarten this fall. Elementary students participated in a variety of programs, including an Adventures in Learning camp for English Learners, Camp Propel, Camp Invention, Summer Academy and more. At the middle school level, there was a camp for gifted and talented students, Summer Academy and an extended school year program. At high schools, there were programs for honors students, incoming students and students needing to make up credits.

Many of our teachers were also busy learning this summer in the Summer Institute, which was four weeks of professional development opportunities organized by our Teaching and Learning Department and presented by district teachers. They could choose from sessions on literacy instruction, dyslexia, math, mental health and a variety of other topics.

Staff in our district Technology Department implemented our new student information system, Infinite Campus, which went live in July. Campus replaced Synergy/ParentVUE. Parents of middle and high school students received a letter in August with information on how to set up

their new Campus portal account to access information about their child. Parents of elementary students will receive this information when they attend their child's assessment day on Aug. 21 or 22 (*see related article on p.5*).

This year also brings new accountability standards set forth by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA has five indicators on which school districts will be measured: academic achievement measured by student proficiency on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs); academic progress measured by student growth on the MCAs; progress toward English language proficiency; consistent attendance, and graduation rates. The district follows a continuous improvement plan to ensure growth in all areas of ESSA, and our new Attendance Matters initiative will help students and parents understand the importance of regular attendance (*see related article on p. 7*).

During my first two months as superintendent, I've had the pleasure of meeting with many people in the outstanding communities that District 196 serves. It has truly been an incredible exercise in positivity. Our people are the biggest reason District 196 is a district of choice. Our School Board members, administrators, teachers and support staff are committed to building on our past to continue the tradition of excellence for which District 196 schools are known. I am honored to serve the District 196 community as we embark on all the opportunities this new school year brings!



Mary M. Kreger

District jobs available

District 196 has immediate job opportunities 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 four-year degree; obtain a short call substitute license, and attend a weeklong 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; complete online training, and attend an orientation.

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

Part-time **bus drivers** earn \$17.88 per hour and **chaperones** receive \$14.32 per hour. Prefer individuals who are available for both morning and afternoon routes. Bus driver applicants must have a Minnesota driver's license with a good driving record and be able to lift/drag up to 125 pounds. The district provides training to obtain necessary licensure. Benefits are available to employees who work 23 or more hours per week.

The rate for **food service associates** is \$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. Previous custodial experience is preferred.

District hires school safety and climate coordinator

Former Rosemount Middle School Principal **Mary Thompson** was hired to be the district's first school safety and climate coordinator. She started work July 30.



The position is being added this year in response to increased concerns about school safety, along with additional responsibilities for overseeing security equipment and systems that have been added at all District 196 schools as part of the successful 2015 bond referendum. The security improvements include a new electronic visitor management system, state-of-the-art security cameras, an exterior door management system, enhanced classroom door locks and emergency response buttons in all school offices.

In addition to these physical security improvements, Thompson will be responsible for reviewing and updating the district's emergency procedures, coordinating school safety drills with local police departments, training staff on bullying response and prevention, and assisting schools with coordination of student social/emotional support models, including restorative and trauma-informed practices. Thompson will also be a member of the district's emergency team, which includes district and school administrators, and members of local police departments who serve as school resource officers in the district's middle and high schools.

"The safety of students and staff is our top priority each day," said Interim Superintendent **Mary M. Kreger**. "We are a large district, with 29,000 students and 35 schools and learning centers. The responsibilities are too important and involved to be just part of somebody's job anymore. We need to have someone who is focused on school safety every day. (Thompson) is perfect for this position because of her familiarity with our schools and her years of experience as a principal."

Thompson worked for District 196 for 30 years before retiring in June 2017. She spent her first 10 years in the district as a teacher and then ninth grade coordinator at Rosemount High School. In 1997, she was hired as assistant principal at Rosemount Middle and served as principal from 2004 until she retired.

"I am incredibly excited to be back in District 196 doing this important work," Thompson said. "School safety is not something that can be taken for granted or left to chance. We will continue to be vigilant and redouble our efforts to ensure we are doing everything we can to provide safe and healthy learning environments for our students."

Population nears 155,000 and 'capture rate' remains high

The state demographer's office estimates the total population of District 196 at 154,620, an increase of nearly 1,500 residents, or .9 percent over estimates from one year ago.

The School Board approved the district's 2018 certified census in June. The approved census figure is used to determine tax levies for funding community education programs in the district.

District 196 remains the fourth largest school district in Minnesota, with total enrollment of approximately 29,000 students.

Nearly nine of every 10 school-age children who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools. Of the 30,027 school-age students living in District 196 last October, 25,814 attended district schools in 2017-18. That represents an 86-percent "capture rate" among resident students. Anything over 80 percent is considered high for a school district in the Twin Cities area, according to former state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt**. She says capture rate is a reflection on the quality of local public schools, as well as the presence of charter schools, nonpublic schools and other educational alternatives in the area.



A Swim Strong instructor worked with a novice swimmer on her backstroke technique during a lesson this summer at Falcon Ridge Middle School

Swim Strong program teaches students life-saving skills

Physical education is often a favorite class for students. It's a time to get active with friends and learn new athletic skills. But in the last few years, more students have been showing up to gym class unprepared in one area – swimming.

Learning to swim is more than just recreational, it can be a life-saving skill. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the second leading cause of death among children age 14 and younger.

This summer, the district's community education staff made it a priority to ensure more incoming sixth-graders are prepared for their first class in the pool when they enter middle school. As part of the Summer Academy program, nearly 300 students took a break from the classroom to safely learn the basics of swimming.

Throughout the summer, students participated in individualized swim lessons that taught them about safety and drowning prevention, helped them overcome their fear of water and advanced their skills.

"During the short time we worked with the students we saw terrific progress," said Community Education Aquatics Coordinator **Pat Bennett**. "The aquatics staff really enjoyed working with the energetic students."

The aquatics staff also sent progress reports to students' respective schools.

"It's a good thing anytime we can get swim instruction for our kids who can't swim or who are reluctant swimmers," said Valley Middle School of STEM Principal **Dave McKeag**.

Support for the Swim Strong program was made possible through several grants, as well as funding from the U.S. Swimming Make a Splash Foundation.

Parents should activate new portal account to access student information

In July, the district switched to a new student information system. Infinite Campus replaced Synergy/ParentVUE.

The Campus portal provides parents and guardians with access to school and district announcements, class schedules, attendance records, report cards and more. Parents can also use the portal to update family contact information and link to the FeePay login page.

A letter with instructions on how to activate their Campus portal account was mailed to all parents of middle school and high school students in mid-August. Parents of elementary school students will receive this information during literacy assessment days Aug. 21 and 22.

When parents activate their portal account, they will be asked to review information the district has on file for their family, including immunization records and emergency contact information.

For assistance in activating your Campus portal account, contact your child's school.

Optional bus service is \$275 for the entire school year

Optional transportation service for a fee is available to families whose children are not eligible for free transportation based on current service distances of one or more miles from school for elementary students and one and one-half miles or more from school for middle and high school students.

The annual cost is \$275 per student, with a \$550 family maximum. Families whose children qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals receive the service for a discounted rate.

For more information or to sign up for the service, visit the Transportation Department page at District196.org or call 651-423-7685.

Meet our leaders: five schools have new principals to start the 2018-19 school year

Rosemount High School and four elementary schools have new principals this year as a result of retirements and resignations at the end of last school year.



Peter Roback is returning to Rosemount High, where his career in District 196 started in 2000 as a special education teacher.

From 2003 to 2008, he served as ninth-grade coordinator, and in 2008 was promoted to assistant administrator. In 2013, Roback left Rosemount to take a vice principal position at International School Bangkok in Thailand. He returned to the district in 2015 and was hired at Falcon Ridge Middle School, where he had been the assistant principal for the last three years.

"I am honored and grateful to return to Rosemount High School," Roback said. "Rosemount High is an innovative and collaborative learning community with a rich history of academic and co-curricular excellence."

Roback replaced **John Wollersheim**, who retired after a 33-year career in District 196, including the last 10 years as principal of Rosemount High.

Leah Hack has worked at Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies since 2011, as a first-grade classroom teacher, for the last three years as the assistant administrator and magnet coordinator and now principal.



Hack started her career in District 196 in 2001 as a teacher at Red Pine Elementary School. After leaving for jobs with Intermediate School District 917 and South Washington County Schools, she returned to the district in 2005 and worked at Cedar Park and Oak Ridge elementary schools for six years before accepting the teaching position at Diamond Path.

"We have a long history of academic excellence, innovation and collaboration, and I look forward to continuing my partnership with the staff, students and families of the Diamond Path community," Hack said.

Hack replaced **Lynn Hernandez**, who retired after a 22-year career in District 196, including the last 14 years as principal of Diamond Path.



Scott Thomas took over as principal of Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology after leading Glacier Hills

Elementary School of Arts and Science for the last four years. He was instrumental in developing the district's first three elementary magnet schools while serving as integration and educational equity coordinator from 2005 to 2012. Thomas left the district to become executive director of Magnet Schools of America in Washington, D.C. for two years and returned in 2014 to become principal of Glacier Hills. He started his career in District 196 in 1998 as a social studies teacher at Apple Valley High School and Rosemount Middle School.

"It is a great honor to be named principal of such a wonderful school that I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years," Thomas said.

Thomas replaced **Pam Haldeman**, who came out of retirement in 2016 to serve as principal of Echo Park for the past two years.

Adriana Henderson

was named principal of Glacier Hills after Thomas accepted the position at Echo Park. She comes to District 196 from the West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools, where she had been the interim principal of Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School for the last year.



Prior to that, she was the district's elementary literacy coordinator for five years, was an elementary reading specialist for the Farmington Area Public Schools for four years and spent the first 10 years of her career as an elementary teacher for the Roseville Area Schools, from 1998 to 2008.

"Glacier Hills is an exceptional school community with a longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching and learning," Henderson said.

Glacier Hills has earned national recognition multiple times since being converted to a magnet school in 2007. Last year, Magnet Schools of America named Glacier Hills a national demonstration school - one of only five in the nation - as a model of excellence to be studied and replicated.



As principal of Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences,

Dr. Cathy Kindem is now leading one of the

magnet schools she oversaw in her role as a coordinator in the district's Teaching and Learning Department since 2014.

Kindem started her career in District 196 in 2001 as a grade 5 teacher at Diamond Path. In 2007, she was hired as a science specialist to be part of the team that transformed Cedar Park into a STEM magnet school. In 2012, Kindem moved to the District Office to become coordinator of innovative educational programs and two years later was named a Teaching and Learning coordinator.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the amazing students, staff, families and supportive community members at Oak Ridge," Kindem said.

Kindem replaced **Cindy Magnuson**, who returned to classroom teaching after serving as Oak Ridge principal the past three years.

Attendance Matters: new initiative aims to curb absenteeism and keep students in class

A new campaign in District 196 is giving administrators and educators a renewed opportunity to dig deeper into the reasons for unexcused absences in an effort to keep kids in the classroom.

The Attendance Matters initiative uses research and resources from the national Attendance Works program to highlight the seriousness of chronic absenteeism and the effects it has on learning, as well as strategies to improve attendance.

"Students who are absent miss out on valuable learning activities with the teacher and their peers," said Eastview High School Assistant Principal **Jodi Hanson**, who is leading the effort. "Even strong students with good grades can fall off course in middle and high school if they miss too many classes. And while students may be able to make up assignments from days they were gone, they cannot make up for the missed instruction, discussion and classroom experiences."

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more days of class. In District 196, 13.6 percent of students were identified as chronically absent last school year, just slightly lower than the state average of 14 percent. But across the country, school districts are seeing a rise in chronic absenteeism at all levels. Consistent attendance is one of five indicators that school districts will be rated on in the state's accountability requirements under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law.

"Schools have always tracked and examined school attendance data," Hanson said. "And our interventions were mostly focused on students who were absent without an excuse, or truant. But now we're also looking at the potential loss of learning resulting from a combination of all absences."

In District 196, a student is referred to Dakota County Social Services when they reach seven or more unexcused absences, in accordance with the state truancy statute. Teachers

and administrators work with these students and their families to provide resources to help them be successful.

A proactive approach

The intent of the Attendance Matters campaign is to spread awareness and help students build positive school habits. School of Environmental Studies Principal **Lauren Trainer** said teaching students early about the importance of being in class is a core philosophy. Students in formative grades are learning key concepts that create their foundation for future learning, and even missing one or two days every few weeks can be detrimental to their learning.

The campaign will complement what the district already does to encourage consistent attendance. Beginning in early childhood classes through ninth grade, students start the school year with a dedicated literacy unit focused on the idea of community. Trainer said it teaches students responsibility and accountability, and the importance of being a constructive member of a group. Elementary and middle school students are immersed in the CHARACTER COUNTS! framework in which they learn about positive

behavior strategies and how to foster an inclusive classroom climate. And at all levels, educators rely on the conscious discipline model, which takes an innovative approach to addressing behavior issues by using misbehavior as opportunities for growth instead of punishment.

"We firmly believe that students who feel like a valued member of a positive school community are more likely to be engaged and attend," Trainer said. "This translates into successful students, not just academically, but socially as well."

The Attendance Matters campaign will kick off in September as part of national Attendance Awareness Month. The campaign will initially focus on awareness messaging through social media and will eventually include posters, flyers and school-specific incentives for good attendance. Hanson said once the initiative is off the ground, she hopes to partner with other community organizations.

For more information about the Attendance Matters campaign, go to District196.org.

What you can do to help prevent chronic absenteeism

- Talk with your child about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Don't let your child stay home unless her or she is truly sick.
- Know your school's attendance policy and stay on top of attendance records.
- Ask for help if you cannot get your child to attend class.

Bus stop information mailed to families

Postcards were mailed Aug. 20 to families of students eligible to receive transportation to and from school during the 2018-19 school year.

The postcard includes information on bus stop locations and pick up/drop off times. Parents and guardians who do not receive a postcard and believe their child is eligible

to receive transportation can call the Transportation Department at 651-423-7685. The district also offers optional transportation service for a fee for students who do not qualify based on the current service distances; see the Transportation Department page at District196.org for more information.



This aerial photo taken in early July shows the addition to the front of Rosemount High School and re-construction of the school's parking lot and access road. The glass-front addition will provide a gathering space for students and those attending events in the gym and performing arts area, which is also receiving an addition on the east end of the building. The revamped parking lot will include separate drop off/pick up areas for buses and cars, and will no longer require students to cross the access road when walking between the parking lot and school.

Construction projects << continued from front page >>

All new construction and existing infrastructure is in line to receive new classroom door locks. Solomon said new construction is outfitted with enhanced classroom door locks, but existing doors will receive new locks early this school year.

Over the last two years, the most noticeable projects have been renovations to school entrances. With new entrances, schools are better able to control visitor access by routing visitors into the main office for identification and sign in before they are allowed access into the building. For several schools, including Greenleaf Elementary and Scott Highlands Middle, it involved relocating the main office.

Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley and Rosemount high schools are undergoing extensive renovations both on the exterior and interior, including reconfiguring learning spaces and creating more secure entrances. Valley Middle received a complete interior renovation which required last year's eighth-grade class to move to Apple Valley High for the year. All grades will be back at Valley this year.

"Our new safe and secure entry enhances the security of our school significantly," said Apple Valley Principal **Michael Bolsoni**. "The renovations will provide students and teachers with a variety of options for flexible learning spaces that expand beyond the four walls of the classroom. We will also be utilizing new STEM learning areas that highlight fabrication, inquiry, collaboration, problem-solving and technology."

Safety improvements to school grounds are also nearing the finish line, with 15 schools receiving upgrades to parking lots, student drop off and pick up areas and access roads.

They include: Cedar Park, Diamond Path, Echo Park, Glacier Hills, Greenleaf, Highland, Northview, Parkview, Rosemount and Southview elementary schools; Rosemount, Scott Highlands and Valley middle schools, and Apple Valley and Rosemount high schools. The largest of these projects involves a complete reconfiguration of the Rosemount High parking lots and access road through the site.

Space for learning

The addition of full-day kindergarten, expansion of early learning programs and growth in student enrollment created need for additional learning space at the elementary level.

Construction of a new elementary school was a top priority in the referendum, and last fall East Lake Elementary opened in Lakeville. Along with a new building, the district's five elementary magnet schools are receiving additions. The first phase was complete last fall at Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology, and Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences. The second phase of magnet school additions are being constructed this summer at Cedar Park Elementary STEM School, Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies and Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science. Additions to Cedar Park and Diamond Path are expected to be complete by the beginning of school.

Upgrades to learning spaces also included replacing some classroom furniture at all of the district's middle and high schools. District Purchasing and Central Receiving Supervisor **Carol Hauschild** said an audit revealed that

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Construction projects

<< continued from pg. 8 >>

about 75 percent of the classroom furniture was deemed in poor condition. Last year, the district launched a six-week pilot program during which sample furniture was tested at several schools. Using feedback from teachers and students, the district outfitted the schools with new flexible learning furniture.

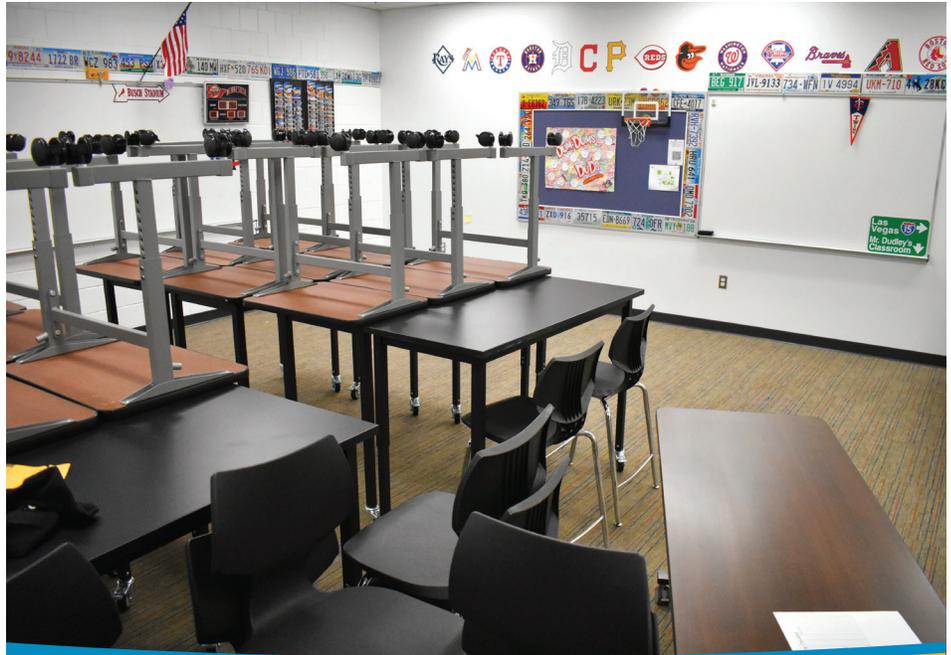
"We wanted these spaces to be student-centered, with furniture that would transform the classroom into a space that is optimal for learning, is technology-friendly, and encourages critical thinking, reflection and collaboration," Hauschild said.

Access to technology

This fall marks the final step in a three-phase rollout of district-owned iPads for all students in grades 4-12. The rollout began in fall 2016 with grades 7, 8 and 9, it continued last year with grades 10, 11 and 12, and will culminate this fall with grades 4, 5 and 6. The addition of iPads into the classroom is part of the district's commitment to providing innovative learning opportunities for students. Younger students, pre-K through grade 3, also have increased access to technology through classroom-based devices that have been added each year. Later this spring, Chromebook carts will be introduced into schools as a supplemental option.

As part of the technology upgrades, the district expanded Wi-Fi capacity in all buildings to support the increase in digital device usage, replaced an outdated telephone system and is maintaining interactive classroom equipment at all schools.

The total cost of the referendum improvements is \$180 million. Approximately \$35 million was spent on safety and security upgrades, \$90 million for improvements to learning spaces, \$5 million for technology infrastructure and \$50 million to provide students with increased access to technology (\$5 million per year through the 2025-26 school year).



Newly constructed, fully enclosed classrooms like the one shown await students at Valley Middle School of STEM, which was completely renovated over the last 15 months. All three grades will be back at Valley this year. Eighth graders attended Apple Valley High School last year to free up space for construction during the school year.

District buys land in Rosemount for future elementary

The district was in the final stages of purchasing a 34-acre parcel of land at Bonaire Path and Akron Avenue in Rosemount as a possible site for a future elementary school when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press. The School Board was expected to approve the purchase at its Aug. 13 meeting.

The administration anticipates the need for additional school capacity within the next five years to accommodate new residential development in the southern and eastern portions of the district.

Enrollment grew by nearly 500 students last year, to almost 29,000, and could reach as many as 34,000 students in the next 10 years, according to demographic consultant **Hazel Reinhardt**. Based on conversations with city planners, Reinhardt estimates the district could have 1,300 new, single-family detached homes in the next three years. The bulk of this new development will be in Lakeville and Rosemount, including the 4,800-acre UMore Park property that the University of Minnesota has started to sell to developers. The new district land is located directly north of UMore Park.

The land is being purchased for approximately \$3.2 million with funds from the 2015 bond referendum. With all of the construction projects already bid or completed, approximately \$6 million remains unspent as a result of careful budgeting, favorable bids and investment earnings on the bonds. The board authorized the administration to use the remaining funds to purchase the land and add classroom space at Deerwood and Woodland elementary schools.

Before a new school can be built on the Rosemount site, the district would need to get voter approval for funding. The board had preliminary discussions in July about bringing a bond referendum in the November 2019 election for additional school capacity and other facility needs districtwide.

Meal account policy balances student needs and fiscal responsibility

District 196 strives to provide nutritious meals to students to promote healthy eating habits and enhance learning, while maintaining the financial integrity of the food service program.

Parents and guardians are responsible for meal purchases made by their child unless they qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Money can be deposited into a student's meal account online using FeePay or can be sent to school with the student.

While parents should replenish meal accounts before they are overdrawn, a regular school meal will not be taken away from a student with an overdrawn account. À la carte items are not allowed for students with an overdrawn account.

Reminders for payment of outstanding balances on student school meal accounts are communicated to parents. Collection of unpaid meal debt is done in a manner that does not demean or stigmatize students.

When a student's meal account reaches one remaining meal to a negative balance of five meals, the school food service manager will attempt to contact a parent or guardian to inform them that payment is required. If the student's meal account reaches a negative balance of eight meals, the school will send a letter to the parents requesting payment. If no payment is made after the letter is sent, the district may refer the matter to a collection agency.

Children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on federally established family income guidelines.

Families must apply for free school meals each year and may apply at any time during the year. For more information and a link to the online application, go to www.district196.org/about/departments/food-and-nutrition-services/.



Southview Elementary held a school-wide Leadership Day last March. Students had a variety of leadership roles in putting on the event. These students, pictured with Principal **Christine Evans**, served as greeters to visitors who were attending.

Southview recognized for teaching principles of leadership

Southview Elementary School in Apple Valley is at the forefront in preparing its students to become the next generation of leaders.

Earlier this year, Southview became the first school in Minnesota to be named a Leader in Me Lighthouse School by FranklinCovey Education in recognition of its commitment to implementing leadership principles in the classroom.

Launched nearly a decade ago, the Leader in Me initiative equips students and educators with resources and lesson plans focused on themes such as communication, respect, social-emotional learning, leadership, relationship building and critical thinking. Southview introduced the Leader in Me curriculum in 2015.

"Staff members and students utilize their strengths, passions and ideas to create the school they want to be in," said Southview Principal **Christine Evans**. "Students want to be here because they know they are loved and they have vital leadership roles in their classrooms and in the school. They feel a sense of ownership in their roles as leaders and this has bred new confidence."

To be certified as a Lighthouse School, Southview had to demonstrate the following:

- School administration effectively teaches students to think critically about and apply leadership principles;
- Families and the school work collaboratively to explore the themes in the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People;"
- Students are leading their own learning, setting their own goals and taking action steps toward goal achievement;
- Utilize the program's Wildly Important Goals to track progress of student-driven goals, and
- Build trusting relationships in a caring, supportive learning environment.

Sixteen Minnesota schools are in the process of trying to earn Leader in Me Lighthouse School certification, including two others in District 196 – Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology in Burnsville and Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences in Eagan.

District tests for lead in drinking water

The School Board recently adopted a model plan to test for lead in drinking water in schools. The plan was developed by the state departments of education and health to assist school districts in meeting requirements of a new state law that requires districts to have a plan to accurately and efficiently test for the presence of lead in water.

All taps used for drinking water and food preparation must be tested at least once every five years. The initial testing in District 196 schools under this plan began in July.

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

The Drinking Water Testing Plan is available on the Facilities Department page of the district website. Results of the testing will also be shared on the website.

For more information about the plan, contact Health and Safety Supervisor **Chris Pint** at 651-423-7735 or email christopher.pint@district196.org.

Homeschools required to report to district

Families living in District 196 who plan to homeschool their children for the 2018-19 school year must submit a yearly Full or Intent to Continue Report, as required by state law. The deadline to submit reports for 2018-19 is Oct. 1, 2018.

The report is available at <http://www.district196.org/community-ed/homeschool/>. Completed reports should be submitted to **Khia Brown**, director of community education, 15180 Canada Ave., Rosemount, MN 55068. For more information or to request a homeschool packet, call 651-423-7722.



National tournament qualifiers from Eagan High School celebrated their top-10 team performance and individual awards.

Apple Valley and Eagan top 10 in national speech and debate

Apple Valley High School junior **Halima Badri** won a national championship in original oratory, and for the fourth year in a row Apple Valley and Eagan high schools were two of the top 10 Schools of Outstanding Distinction at the National Speech & Debate Association tournament in June in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

The top 10 schools are determined by the number of rounds of competition their students complete in speech and debate events during the national tournament. Each event started with approximately 250 competitors. Of the 10 Apple Valley students who qualified for the national tournament, three were finalists (top six) in their events, three advanced to the semifinal rounds (top 14), one was a quarterfinalist (top 30) and one was an octofinalist (top 60). Of the 14 Eagan students who qualified, three were finalists, four advanced to the semifinal rounds and two were octofinalists.

Badri won the state title in original oratory in April and followed that up with a championship in the same category at the national tournament. Her Apple Valley teammates **Zach Mundt** and **Reese Johnson** finished national runners-up in duo interpretation, **Zach Frye** and **Liza Rotty** took seventh in duo interpretation, **Trinity Ek** finished

in 11th place in informative speaking, **Kenan Anderson** was 16th in Lincoln Douglas debate and **Abigail Brachio** was an octofinalist in extemporaneous speaking.

Finalists from Eagan included **Emily Albert Stauning**, third place in poetry; **Claire Nelson**, third place in storytelling, and **Tram Nguyen**, fourth place in original oratory. Eagan's semifinalists were **Elsie Goren**, 14th place in informative speaking, and **Grant Davis**, **Nautica Flowers** and **Emma Zellmer** in congressional debate. Octofinalists from Eagan were **Claire Nelson** in humorous interpretation and **Jason Scheller** in U.S. extemporaneous speaking.

Three students from Eastview High School also qualified for the national tournament. **Campbell Bernstein** advanced to the semifinal round and placed 14th in humorous interpretation and **Ross Abram** was a quarterfinalist in international extemporaneous speaking.

All totaled, 27 District 196 students qualified to compete at this year's national tournament.

Eagan Head Speech Coach **Joni Anker** was recognized as the 2018 National High School Coach of the Year at this year's tournament.

Congratulations!

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



Three District 196 students were champions at the state Class 2A girls' and boys' track and field tournaments in June.

Natalie Windels of Eagan High School took first place in the 100-meter hurdles and in the 300-meter hurdles; **AJ Green** of Eastview High School finished first in the 800-meter run, and **Max Otterdahl** of Rosemount High School was the state champion shot putter.

Eastview High School students **Sourabh Terakanambi** and **Nisal Liyanage** won the doubles championship of the Class 2A boys' state tennis tournament in June, defeating the number one-, three- and five-seeded teams on their way to the title.

The **Dakota United Hawks** took third place in the physically impaired division of the state adapted softball tournament in June.

The **Eagan High School boys' lacrosse team** competed in the state tournament in June.

The **Eastview High School baseball team** competed in the Class 4A state tournament in June.

Nine District 196 students qualified to compete in the Class 3A girls' and boys' state golf tournaments in June. **William Frazier** of Eastview High School was the district's top finisher in the boys' tournament, taking 10th place, and **Josalynn Abbott** of Eagan High School was the top finisher in the girls' tournament, in 12th place.

Jack Bechard, a 2018 Eagan High School graduate, was named a 2018 Scholar of Distinction in Theater Arts by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Eagan High School students **Olivia Crutchfield**, **Aishwarya Mankala**, **Lauren Moy** and **Atulya Reddy** won



Apple Valley girls win historic lacrosse title

For the first 15 years in the history of the Minnesota girls' lacrosse state tournament, the only two teams to win the title were The Blake School and Eden Prairie High School. That streak ended in June when Apple Valley High School defeated Eden Prairie 11-10 in a championship game that featured four lead changes. **Molly Moynihan**, **Reagan Roelofs**, **Brynne Rolland** and **Sophia Leong** were named to the All-Tournament Team. Roelofs was also named the *Star Tribune* Metro Player of the Year, *Pioneer Press* Player of the Year and Minnesota's Ms. Lacrosse.

first place in the website design team event at the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Texas at the end of last school year.



Valley Middle School of STEM Principal **Dave McKeag** was selected 2018 Administrator of the Year by the Minnesota Association of

Secretaries to the Principal. Criteria for the award includes openness to new ideas, collaboration with staff and students, and interest in concerns from staff, students and the community.

Apple Valley, Eagan, Eastview and Rosemount high schools all earned silver medal status in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings of the **nation's Best High Schools for 2018**.

Eastview High School Assistant Principal **Rob Franchino** received the Administrator of the Year Award from the Central Minnesota District of the National Speech & Debate Association earlier this year.

Members of the **Eagan High School kitchen staff** won the 2018 "E Team" Award from the Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA) for their customer service, creativity in the kitchen, teamwork and willingness to go the extra mile. **Kathryn Hanson**, a member of the Eagan staff, was also named MSNA's Employee of the Year for 2018.



Rosemount High School girls' golf coach **Barry Wallin** was inducted into the Minnesota High School Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Parents and adult students may deny release of directory information

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

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

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

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

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

Any parent or guardian of any student

in the district, or any student 18 years of age or older, may notify the district that they deny the release of one or more categories of directory information by contacting the principal and completing Procedure 505.2.4.3P, Denial of Release of Directory and Yearbook Information. If filed, a denial will remain in effect until it is modified or rescinded by the parent, guardian or eligible student.

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

Nonresident students may apply to attend District 196

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

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

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

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

District obtains required criminal background checks

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

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

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

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

Parents, guardians and adult students can access educational records

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

District recognized for excellence in financial reporting

For the 16th year in a row, District 196 has earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).

The certificate of excellence is the highest recognition of school district financial operations offered by ASBO, a professional organization with more than 6,000 members. The program reviews and critiques district accounting practices as represented in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and recognizes school districts that meet or exceed the program's high standards



for financial reporting and accountability. Fewer than 1,000 school districts nationally apply for the Certificate of Excellence each year.

This year's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting recognizes the preparation and issuance of the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2017.

The report is available on the Finance Department page of the district website at District196.org, along with financial reports and annual budgets for the current year and previous nine years.

Advertise on District196.org

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 three options include a logo ad on the front page that links directly to the company's website. The silver and gold options include sponsorship of the Superintendent's NEWS e-newsletter three times a year and gold-level sponsors are also recognized at the all-staff picnic and employee recognition banquet.

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

Notice of pest control materials use in buildings

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

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

State law requires parents to be informed that the long-term health effects on children from the application of pesticides used by the district may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per federal law.

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

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

Budget information and history available online

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



Retired Superintendent **Jane K. Berenz** is pictured with **John Flynn** (left) and **Wayne Beierman** of the Eagan American Legion Post 594 after receiving the American Legion Gold Medal of Merit at the June 25 School Board meeting.

American Legion gives Berenz medal for community service

The Eagan American Legion Post 594 presented **Jane K. Berenz** with the American Legion Gold Medal of Merit during her final School Board meeting as superintendent June 25.

Legionnaires **John Flynn** and **Wayne Beierman** from Post 594 presented Berenz with a certificate of gratitude and the Gold Medal of Merit, the highest medal of merit in the organization. The award is presented to those the American Legion deems "exceptionally meritorious" in their work and service to others and their community. It is a nationally certified designation from the American Legion organization.

"Over her 36-year career, Jane K. Berenz has distinguished herself with exceptionally meritorious service while serving in positions of increasing responsibilities, culminating as the superintendent of Independent School District 196 for the past nine years," Flynn said. "She has displayed

an exceptional ability to lead, as well as partner with other branches of the state, county and local community administration to improve upon an already high quality of education program.

"(Berenz) has used the values of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service to guide her, to support her decisions, to foster her teams and to serve all of us."

Throughout her 31-year career with District 196, and especially as superintendent, Berenz was steadfast in her support of men and women in uniform and championed a number of efforts to show her respect for the military. Berenz was instrumental in creating flag etiquette initiatives, supported local and district Veterans Day events, invited veterans groups to collaborate with students and praised the recognition of students entering the military upon graduation.

District does not provide accident insurance

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

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



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Community Education

ECFE fall open house



Free! • Police, fire truck and school bus visit • Classroom activities

Come and see what Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is all about! It is a great time to greet friends and neighbors and meet ECFE staff. No registration needed.

Wed. | Sept. 5 | 5-7 p.m. | **Free!**
Dakota Valley Learning Center

4th Annual Project Explore Craft Show!

Sat. | Oct. 13 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | **Free!**
Valley Middle School of STEM

See a variety of crafts for sale from some of our Project Explore friends, along with local vendors. Get a jump on your holiday shopping while supporting a great program! Food and beverages available for purchase.

Parenting in the 21st century

Especially for parents of children ages 3 through 7 years old.

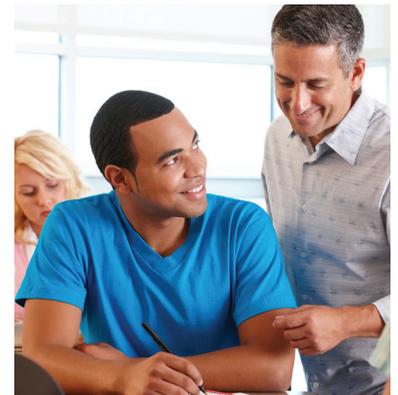
Find out how to manage so much digital information in our complex and fast-paced technological world. Learn about changes in education, unstructured play and keeping your kids safe. Explore what the 21st century has to offer. Attend on your own or register to attend with your children ages birth to 5 years old.

Wed. | Sept. 5-Dec. 19 | 1:30-3:30 p.m. | sliding fee scale
East Lake Elementary School | register online at www.district196.org/ecfe

We need you!

Volunteers play an essential role in the success of our adult learners. Consider helping an immigrant learn English or the skills to earn a GED or high school diploma. Our morning, afternoon and evening Adult Basic Education classes prepare adult students for college and careers. Make a difference. Become a volunteer.

Visit www.district196.org/abevolunteer, email abe@district196.org or call 952-431-8316 for more information.



Opioids in Minnesota

Learn about current opioids on the street and prescribed opiates, what local opioid trends are, how to recognize opioid use versus opioid overdoses and how to use an opioid overdose reversal drug. Resources will be available. Please register, as there is limited space.

Thu. | Oct. 11 | 6:30-8 p.m. | **Free!** | Falcon Ridge Middle School



DISTRICT 196
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
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Visit www.district196.org/ce or call 651-423-7920 for more!