



# INSPIRING NEWS

**EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS**

Inspiring each student every day

DECEMBER 2019 / VOL. 1 • ISSUE 6



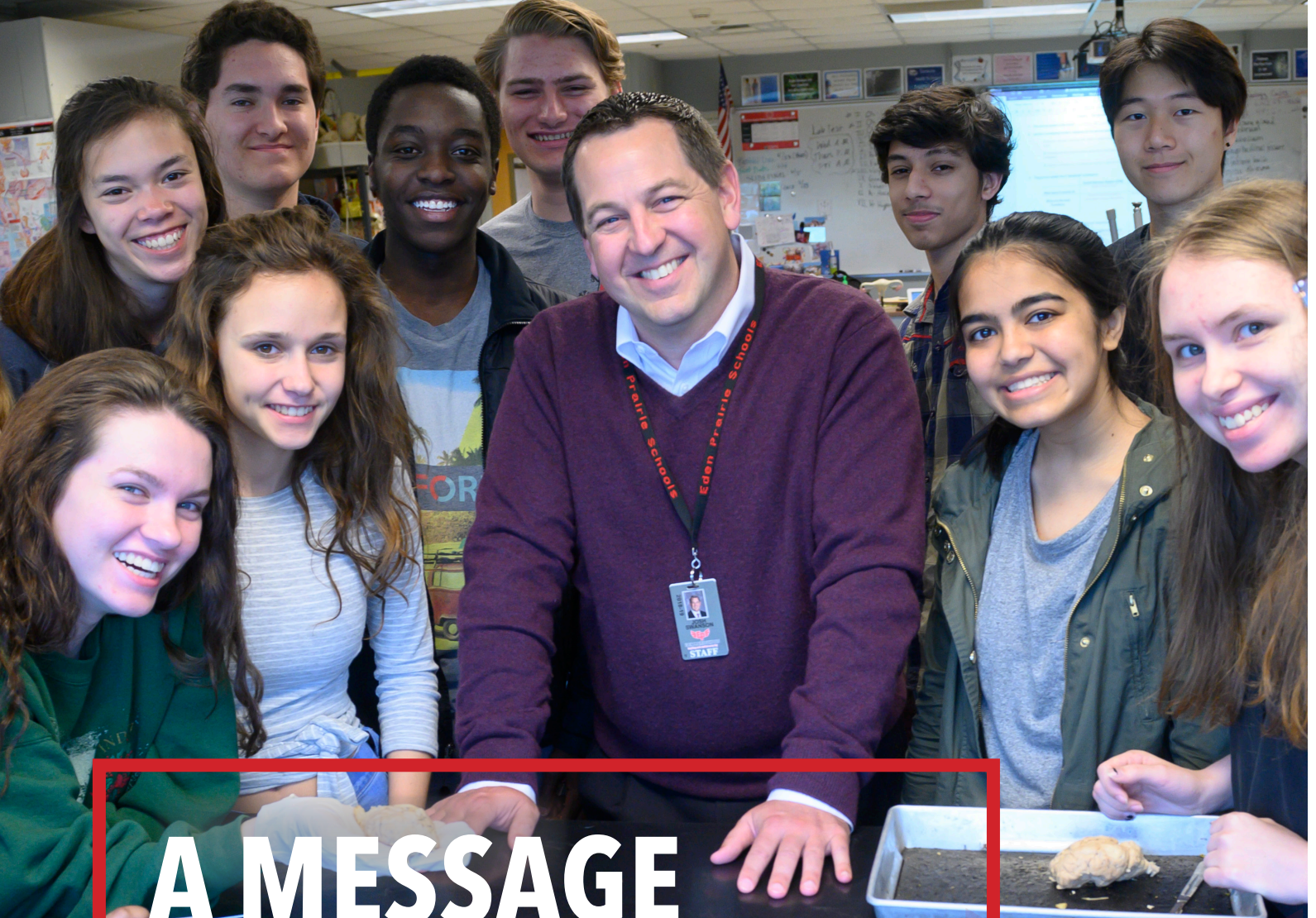
**EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS**

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# A MESSAGE

## from the Superintendent

As we bring the year to close and the school year nears its semester break, we take stock of our schools' accomplishments. Eden Prairie Schools' educational quality continues to be among the best in Minnesota. Our class sizes in kindergarten and grade one are among the lowest. Eden Prairie Schools' academic achievement at all levels puts us consistently in the top three or four school districts in the west metro. Third-grade reading – a key benchmark in student learning – is strong, with nearly 82 percent of students at a proficient level on district assessments. The average ACT score of the graduating class of 2019 significantly exceeded the state average and places Eden Prairie in the top tier of achievement among all Minnesota public school districts.

Our academic achievement is the result of incredible community support. Our voters approved a referendum in

May by the largest margin of support for any Eden Prairie Schools referenda in 25 years. Funding from the referendum will help us achieve key parts of our academic vision, known as Designing Pathways. I am pleased to let you know that we have prepared budget information and the tax impact of the referendum on the average home will be nearly 60 percent less than we estimated in May. This translates to \$2.67 per month on a \$400,000 home compared to the estimate of \$6.50 per month.

The value of our school system continues to be unparalleled, given our students' exceptional academic outcomes. We're grateful for your support as we continue to inspire each student every day.

**Dr. Josh Swanson**  
**Superintendent**





# NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

DEBJYOTI "DD" DWIVEDY

VERONICA STOLTZ

AARON CASPER

## SCHOOL BOARD THANKS MEMBERS, WELCOMES NEW REPRESENTATIVES

Winter break is upon us. This year, it will not only provide an opportunity for staff and students to enjoy family time and leisure activities, but it will also coincide with



**ADAM SEIDEL**  
RE-ELECTED

a change in membership on the Eden Prairie School Board. In November, our community elected Aaron Casper, Debjyoti "DD" Dwivedy, Adam Seidel and Veronica Stoltz to serve on the School Board from January 2020 to December 2022.

New members will be provided with the training and mentoring necessary to perform their jobs effectively. The Board is the sole entity to oversee the Superintendent, directing him or her through written policies in a governing model called Policy Governance. These policies prescribe ends to be achieved (regarding student achievement, communication

with the community and financial management, as just a few examples) and situations to be avoided. We thank these newly elected Board members for their willingness to represent the community in this important task.

We also thank our outgoing Board members, Karla Bratrud and Dave Espe for their contributions and service, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

If you'd like to observe our meetings and workshops, or give feedback during one of our listening sessions, the School Board meeting calendar can be found on the district website, [edenpr.org](http://edenpr.org). The next community listening session is scheduled for Jan. 27, 10 a.m. at the Eden Prairie Senior Center.

Thank you for your participation in the last election and for your support of our schools!

**The Eden Prairie School Board**



# REFERENDUM UPDATE

## Central Middle School

Planning for construction at Central Middle School began the day after voters approved the May referendum.

Projects are on track to receive bids from contractors next year, with ground-breaking in the spring. Central Middle School will be expanded to unite 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with their middle school peers. This will happen in the fall of 2021. A classroom wing, a gym and theater will be added to the school along with an expanded cafeteria. With our personalized learning approach, students learn in large groups, small groups, one-to-one conferences and independently. Classroom updates will be made and new furniture provided to about half of the school's classrooms to match these various styles.

## Classroom updates

A portion of elementary and high school classrooms were updated over the summer. More classrooms will be updated over winter break and yet more next summer.

## Security

This summer, additional security cameras were added to Eden Prairie Schools buildings across the district. Additional updates will continue for the next two years including improved communication systems and protective glass.

Learn more at [edenpr.org/referendum](https://edenpr.org/referendum).

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# 2019 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR!



**Janine Olson**

Central Middle School teacher Janine Olson has been named the 2019 Minnesota Middle School Association (MMSA) Educator of the Year. The Coleen Yatcoske Middle Level Educator of the Year Award recognizes outstanding middle level educators in the state.

Olson said it is her goal every year to create a positive learning environment by celebrating student successes as often as possible. "Seeing my students smile when they get something puts the biggest smile on my face," said Olson.

Congratulations to Olson for exemplifying our excellent teachers in Eden Prairie Schools!

## STUDY OF SCHOOL START AND END TIMES BEGINNING

As we look ahead to 2021, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be united with their middle level peers at Central Middle School. The district's preschool option also will be expanded by moving classrooms to each elementary school.

Because these decisions require redesign of our transportation program for the fall of 2021, the time is right to look at school start and end times. A process to study school start and end times will begin with



a public meeting on Feb. 6 at Eden Prairie City Center. Following this, a task force will be created to review public input, meet with district staff to study the issue deeply and to consider options. One or more recommendations may emerge from the task force, and those would be presented to the public for feedback in the fall of 2020. Then, the district will decide if there is a decision to be made for the fall of 2021. Follow the process at [edenpr.org/starttimes](https://edenpr.org/starttimes).



The first day of school for the 2020 school year is Mon., Aug. 31.  
View the full calendar at [edenpr.org/calendar](https://edenpr.org/calendar).





**SHOW YOUR WINGS**

**Name:** Maryan Hussein **Grade:** 7

**School:** Central Middle School

**My Wings:** What I love about CMS is the community throughout the school. The teachers, staff and my peers are very kind and encourage me to persevere and always do my best. I am really glad I'm in such a great environment at CMS. I can trust every person to help me not only academically, but personally. This school is truly outstanding.



**EXCERPT Ep EXPRESS**

**EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS**



## 01 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Join us in January at our Kindergarten Registration Night at your child's elementary school. Be sure to complete your child's registration by Jan. 31. Learn more at [edenpr.org/kindergarten](http://edenpr.org/kindergarten).



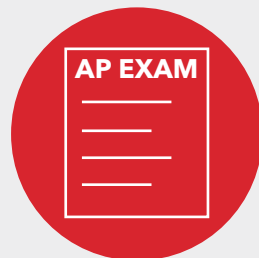
## COURSE REGISTRATION FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL 02

Course registration for the 2020-21 school year opens Jan. 30 for high school students, and Feb. 5 for incoming middle school students. Learn more at [edenpr.org/register](http://edenpr.org/register).



## 03 AP EXAM SUCCESS

733 Eden Prairie High School students took Advanced Placement exams this past spring, and **82%** earned college credit!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3: No School - Winter Break
- Jan. Kindergarten Registration Nights: Details at [edenpr.org/kindergarten](http://edenpr.org/kindergarten)
- Jan. 20: No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 24: End of Second Quarter/First Semester
- Jan. 27: No School - Grading Day
- Jan. 27, 10-11:15 a.m.: School Board Listening Session at Senior Center  
Topics: Election update, Policy Governance, and Designing Pathways.
- Jan. 29: EPHS Registration Open House
- Feb. 4: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, Central Middle School
- Feb. 6: Community Meeting on School Start Times, EP City Center
- Feb. 11 & 13: Elementary Conferences
- Feb. 14: No School - Elementary Conferences/Prof. Development
- Feb. 17: No School, Presidents Day
- Feb. 20: EPHS College Planning Night
- Feb. 26 & Mar. 2: High School Conferences
- Feb. 27 & Mar. 5: Middle School Conferences