

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Spring 2021 | Volume 61 • Number 3

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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Celebrating Black history

Apple Valley High School freshman **Kamryn Britt** created the artwork above depicting famous Black Americans in history, including politicians, civil rights leaders, scientists, athletes and 22-year-old Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, who captured then nation's attention in January with her poem "The Hill We Climb" during President Joe Biden's inauguration. Students throughout District 196 celebrated Black History Month in February through artwork, book reads, discussions and virtual guest speakers. See related article and more artwork on page 10.

DISTRICT196.ORG

District hopes to finish year with all levels back in person

School district leaders were discussing plans to shift middle school and high school students from the hybrid model to in-person learning when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press in mid-March.

The decision to bring secondary students back to school in person is contingent on COVID-19 case rates continuing to decline and the ability to maintain a minimum three feet of distancing between students in classrooms. In deciding when to make the move, the district wants to avoid the possibility of any additional shifts in learning model and focus on finishing strong for the rest of this school year (*see related article on page 5*).

Elementary students returned to in-person learning in late January (grades preK-2) and early February (grades 3-5) after the state updated guidance in its Safe Learning Plan to prioritize getting the youngest learners back in school. The shift to in-person learning was contingent on meeting enhanced protocols for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in schools. In addition to requiring face masks for all students, masks and shields for staff, and daily cleaning and sanitizing, the district improved ventilation by providing a HEPA filter in each classroom at every school in the district. Since shifting to in-person learning, there have been some cases of COVID-19 among elementary students and staff that have required entire classrooms, and one whole school, to shift to distance learning during quarantine.

On Feb. 17, the state updated its guidance for secondary schools to allow districts to bring middle school and high school students back to in-person learning if they could ensure three feet of distancing and meet the enhanced

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New director reinforces district's commitment to equity

Apple Valley High School Assistant Principal and Athletics Director **Virgil Jones** was hired in February to be the district's director of equity and inclusion, and a member of the superintendent's cabinet leadership team.



Jones is in his eighth year in District 196, the first two as the 9th-grade student assistance coordinator for Rosemount High School and the last six years as assistant principal and athletics director at Apple Valley High. Prior to coming to District 196, Jones spent seven years at Gustavus Adolphus College as the assistant dean of students and director of the school's Office of Multicultural Programs.

Last June, following the death of George Floyd while in police custody, the School Board approved a resolution denouncing Floyd's death and reinforcing the district's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice. The resolution directed Superintendent **Mary Kreger** to provide the board with recommendations to address racial inequalities in District 196 schools. Creation of the director position is one of those recommendations.

"Equity and inclusion are considered in almost every decision we make; it is all of our jobs," Kreger said. "Virgil is a proven leader in this area and exactly the right

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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

NONDISCRIMINATION

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

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

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

Magnuson elected board chairperson for 14th time in 32 years

Jackie Magnuson was elected School Board chairperson for 2021 at the board's annual organization meeting in January. This is Magnuson's 14th year as chairperson during her 32 years on the board. She was first elected in 1989 and previously served as chairperson from 1994 to 1996, 2000, 2001, 2010 to 2012, and each year since 2016.



Also reelected to officer positions this year are **Joel Albright** as vice chairperson, **Sachin Isaacs** as clerk and **Art Coulson** as treasurer. The board also approved assignments to board committees and organizations on which the School Board is represented.

School Board committee assignments through December 2021 are as follows:

- Audit and Finance Committee – **Craig Angrimson**, chairperson; Coulson and **Mike Roseen**;
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Isaacs, chairperson, Magnuson and Roseen;
- Legislative Committee – **Cory Johnson**, chairperson; Albright and Angrimson, and
- Policy Review Committee – Albright, chairperson; Isaacs and Johnson.

The School Board holds regular meetings on Mondays at least once each month according to a schedule approved by the board each spring. Regular meetings begin at 6 p.m. at Dakota Ridge School, 4629 144th St. W., Apple Valley and/or via videoconference. All regular meetings are videotaped and are available to stream at www.District196.org.

School Board approves property tax levy increase for 2021

In December, the School Board held its annual truth-in-taxation hearing and certified a 2020 (payable 2021) property tax levy at the maximum amount allowed by the state. The approved levy is \$121,465,415, an increase of \$5,388,113 or 4.6 percent compared to the levy for payable 2020 property taxes.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) calculates the maximum levy limitation for each public school district in the state. The board approved a preliminary levy at the maximum amount in September. By law, the final levy may not be greater than the proposed levy, except for adjustments made by the state and voter-approved operating levy increases. There were no such adjustments or increases this year.

The 2020 property tax levy will provide revenue for the 2021-22 school year. For many of the individual levy categories that make up the district's total tax levy, there is corresponding state aid that would be reduced if the district levies less than the maximum amount in those categories.

Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts** told the board the three main reasons for the increase this year are projected enrollment increases, an inflationary increase to the operating levy approved by District 196 voters in November 2019, and the sale of certificates of participation in April to finance installation of artificial turf fields at Eagan and Rosemount high schools. He said the turf projects represent about 1 percent of the increase.

In November, Dakota County mailed notices to individual property owners showing estimated taxes based on preliminary levies approved by the school district, cities, the county and other taxing agencies.

Stotts said the district's tax capacity and market capacity rates increased by approximately 7 percent, meaning taxes are spread over a larger tax base. The tax impact on a particular property, he added, will depend on its assessed value. If a property's assessed value did not increase from last year, he said the increase in school taxes will be less than the 4.6 percent increase in the district's payable 2021 property tax levy.

Local property taxes represent approximately 20 percent of the operating revenues District 196 will receive this year. The other sources are state aids and credits (74 percent), federal aid (3 percent) and the remaining 3 percent from other sources such as self-insurance, gifts, donations and miscellaneous revenues such as food service fees, activity fees and admissions.

Making sea change in education and equity requires funding, flexibility and fairness

By **Mary M. Kreger**, superintendent

(Each fall, the students, parents, citizens and staff who serve on our district's Legislative



Advisory Council develop proposed priorities which are presented to the School Board for consideration. What follows are our district's priorities for the critical 2021 session of the Minnesota Legislature, which will determine our funding for the next two years. The state has responsibility for providing the majority of funding schools receive and it has not kept pace with inflation over the last two decades. We are very fortunate that District 196 voters have helped fill that gap multiple times by approving additional local funding, most recently in the 2019 levy referendum, but that cannot overcome a lack of stable funding from our state. Please contact your legislators and the governor to share your opinions on these and other issues that are important to you and your community.)

Much has changed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. These tragic events have resulted in great loss and pain, but can ultimately provide the impetus needed to bring about sea change in education and equity policy at the local, state and national levels.

The pandemic has presented great challenges and frequent changes for students, families and educators. It has also reminded everyone of the critical role public schools play in the overall health and well-being of our communities, the economy and our state's future. Our schools have also assumed a critical role in

facilitating the difficult community conversations needed to advance anti-racist practices and eliminate the unacceptable achievement and opportunity gaps that exist for students of color, students living in poverty and students receiving special education and language services.

To emerge from these life-changing events better than before, Minnesota public schools need stable funding from the state, greater flexibility for local decision-making, and fairness for all students and taxpayers.

FUNDING: Provide stable, predictable and equitable education funding for Minnesota schools

Basic education funding has continued to lag inflation and the gap in special education costs over funding will reach nearly \$700 million statewide in 2021. To provide stable funding for schools:

- ✓ Increase general education funding by at least 2 percent per year in the 2021-23 state budget;
- ✓ Mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing school districts to use the greater of their 2019 or 2020 pupil counts for calculating general education and compensatory funding, and
- ✓ Begin phasing in recommendations of a School Finance Working Group that would stabilize education funding and ensure taxpayer equity.

FLEXIBILITY: Reduce mandates and increase local control

School districts' creative and innovative responses to the pandemic have highlighted the importance of flexibility and the ability to quickly adapt to changing conditions and needs of the local community. To provide greater flexibility and local decision-making authority:

- ✓ Eliminate the requirement for school districts to partner on Area Learning Center programs and oppose other unnecessary and unfunded mandates;
- ✓ Allow the continuation of full-time online learning currently offered under the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year, and
- ✓ Expand the Innovation Zone law to allow school districts to try new instructional models and increase collaboration with post-secondary institutions, nonprofit organizations and businesses.

FAIRNESS: Increase equalization aid and cultivate pathways for recruiting and retaining teachers of color

Equitable financial and educational practices ensure all taxpayers and stakeholders are treated fairly, regardless of race, socio-economic status or where they live. State equalization aid helps balance the impact of school taxes on homeowners in school districts with less commercial/industrial property wealth, like District 196. However, equalization aid has not kept pace with growth in property values over time and no longer provides the intended level of equalization or taxpayer fairness. To provide greater fairness:

- ✓ Maintain multiple pathways to teacher licensure and create incentives to attract and retain teachers of color;
- ✓ Increase access to school-based pre-kindergarten programs for underserved student populations, and
- ✓ Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional and debt service levies to provide taxpayer fairness and reduce funding disparities between districts.

Learning model

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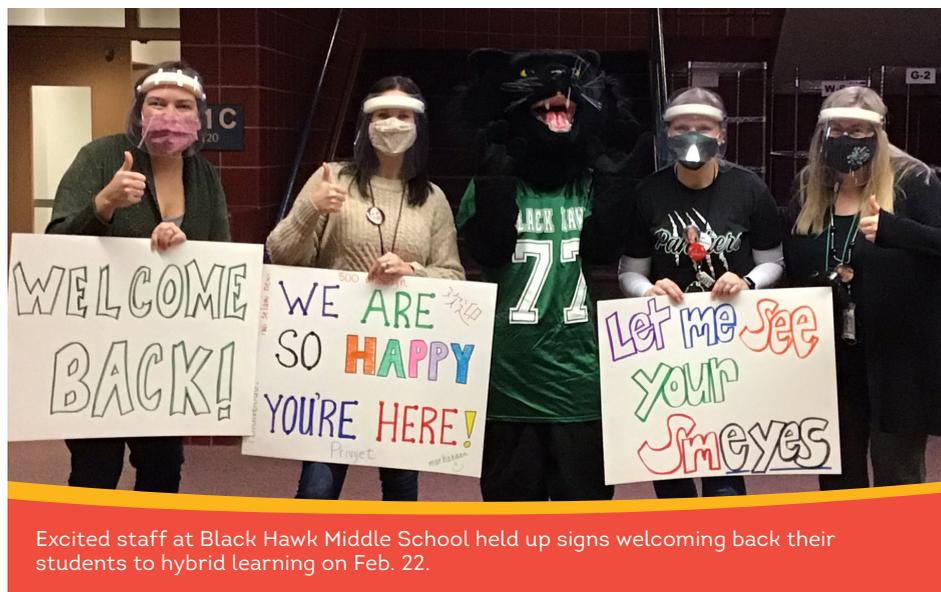
mitigation strategies. At the time of that announcement, the district was already scheduled to bring secondary students back in the hybrid model on Feb. 22. In hybrid, students attend school two days each week as part of one of two groups (A and B) and participate in distancing learning the other days of the week.

The in-person schedule for elementary students includes a two and one-half hour late start on Wednesdays to provide teachers time for planning and collaboration. If/when secondary students return to in-person learning this year, they will attend school four days each week. Wednesdays will continue to be a day of distance learning for all students in order to provide time for teachers to plan and align curriculum, and opportunities for selected students to receive individual and small-group support at school based on need.

The number of students who returned to in-person learning at elementary and hybrid at secondary is less than normal. That's because approximately 30 percent of students at all levels chose to finish the year in the 196 Digital Academy, the full-time distance learning option that was developed for this school year.

The district will continue to offer a full-time distance learning option for families next school year and beyond. 196Online is a new districtwide K-12 school that takes the best from the current 196 Digital Academy program and adds enhancements based on suggestions from students and teachers (see related article on page 5). Families were asked to enroll their children in 196Online in by March 4 to provide time for the district to determine staffing needs and hire the administrators and teachers who will finish developing the program this summer.

Barring any unforeseen changes, the district is making plans to start the 2021-22 school year in an in-person learning model. District leaders are also developing options for enhanced summer programming to help boost



Excited staff at Black Hawk Middle School held up signs welcoming back their students to hybrid learning on Feb. 22.

student learning and avoid learning loss that typically happens over summer break. Additional information on summer learning opportunities will be shared with parents as soon as it is available. Although many parents may be concerned about their child's learning and growth during this difficult school year, research on grade retention does not recommend holding students back a grade.

Equity and inclusion director << continued from page 1 >>

person to move our district forward with this critical work."

Equity and inclusion was previously part of the district's Teaching and Learning Department and was led by a coordinator who resigned from the position in January. Filling the still vacant coordinator position will be among Jones's first duties.

As director of the Equity and Inclusion Department, Jones will oversee the coordinator and a team of cultural family advocates who provide direct service and support to students and families of color and multilingual students and families at schools throughout the district. He will also help lead the district's new Equity Advisory Council, which Kreger recommended and the School Board approved last year. The council's role is to review data and programs, offer multiple perspectives and participate in community outreach. The council can make recommendations to the

Thanks to a partnership with Dakota County, all school staff, transportation workers and other district employees were offered the opportunity to receive a vaccination by mid-March. The district created a priority list based on employees' level of student contact and notified them in that order as additional vaccines became available.

superintendent's cabinet on potential changes to ensure equitable practices and systems, and to eliminate the predictability of student achievement based on race, gender, special education status or eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

"I look forward to working with students, parents, staff and members of our district learning community to create educational environments where every student feels welcome and excited about learning," Jones said. "Our schools should continue to improve cultural awareness in all classrooms and be brave spaces for voices of inclusion."

Jones has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, earned his master's degree in leadership in student affairs from the University of St. Thomas and has his principal licensure from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

A challenging year of planning, uncertainty and change

Just over a year ago, on March 15, 2020, Governor **Tim Walz** announced that all schools would close the following week and switch to distance learning due to concerns with cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota. By late April, he announced that distance learning would continue through the rest of the 2019-20 school year.

On June 1, a team of district administrators, school principals, teacher leaders and support staff started meeting to begin planning for the 2020-21 school year. These daily planning meetings continued throughout the summer, focused on developing learning models for three scenarios: all in person, all distance learning and a hybrid of the two.

On July 30, the state released its Safe Learning Plan to guide districts' plans for the 2020-21 school year. In addition to the three learning models, the plan required districts to offer a full-time distance learning option, child care for children of essential workers and daily meals for all students.

On Aug. 12, the School Board approved a recommendation for all levels to begin the school year in the hybrid model, with two days of in-person learning at school and distance learning the other days of the week.

On Sept. 14, students attended the first day of in-person learning in the hybrid model. Since then, the district has gone through the following shifts in learning model based on rising and falling COVID-19 case rates:

- Nov. 12 - Secondary students shift to distance learning due to rising cases
- Nov. 23 - Elementary students shift to distance learning due to rising cases
- Dec. 17 - State updates guidance for elementary students
- Jan. 21 - Students in preK to grade 2 shift to all in-person learning
- Feb. 4 - Students in grades 3-5 shift to all in-person learning
- Feb. 17 - State updates guidance for secondary students
- Feb. 22 - Secondary students shift to hybrid model

New District 196 online school option launching this fall

District 196 families have a new option for their children's learning beginning this fall with 196Online, a fully virtual school for students K-12.

196Online is an optional program that replaces 196 Digital Academy, the full-time online option created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 196Online takes the best of the digital academy model and implements enhancements based on suggestions from students and educators.

"Online learning provides a flexible opportunity for students to learn with more control over time, place and pace," said Director of Teaching and Learning **Steve Troen**.

196Online will be staffed by District 196 teachers. The districtwide online school will offer students a comprehensive curriculum that allows for flexible, personalized and equitable learning experiences, and access to similar academic support available in district school buildings. At the secondary level, students will be able to participate in cocurricular activities at their attendance-area schools,

Troen said while in-person learning will continue to be the choice for the majority of families, 196Online will provide a virtual option for students who thrived in distance learning and want to continue this momentum.

The priority enrollment period closed March 4, but families interested in having their child attend 196Online can still sign up to be on a waiting list. Later this spring, families will receive additional information and will be asked to confirm their enrollment for this fall. For more information and to join the waiting list, visit 196Online.district196.org.

District students earned \$2.7M in U of M credits

District 196 high school students who participated in the College in the Schools (CIS) program during the 2019-20 school year earned a combined 5,232 college credits valued at more than \$2.7 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, 768 students from the five District 196 high schools registered for at least one CIS course. Students of color represented 38 percent of district enrollment last year and accounted for 33 percent of the CIS course registrations.

The 768 participating students in District 196 registered for 1,239 CIS courses in the 2019-20 school year, slightly fewer than the year before. Rosemount High School led with 389 course registrations, Eastview High School had 323, Eagan High School had 287, Apple Valley High School had 212 and the School of Environmental Studies had 28. Ninety-five percent of all registrations resulted in a grade of C or better to earn college credit.

At the 2019-20 U of M tuition rate of \$512.30 per credit, the 5,232 CIS credits earned by District 196 students in 2019-20 are valued at \$2,768,467. The school district paid the university \$179,655 (\$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.



Legislative Advisory Council has openings

District 196 is accepting applications through April 30 for three at-large citizen positions on the district's Legislative Advisory Council (LAC). Applicants should have some experience or interest in government affairs lobbying and/or the legislative process. The terms of all three positions are for two years beginning July 1, 2021.

The purpose of the LAC is to increase citizen participation in the legislative process and community understanding of legislative issues and how they impact District 196. The council's role is to provide input on and advocate for the district's legislative priorities, review legislative suggestions submitted by citizens and staff, and provide input to the School Board regarding proposed legislation. The LAC meets at least four times during the school year, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and holds occasional meetings with legislators.

LAC membership consists of seven citizen members, five high school students and one representative from each of eight district advisory councils who are appointed to the LAC annually by their council. The district communications director and members of the School Board's Legislative Committee serve as ex-officio members. The LAC is a nonpartisan council and members are expected to maintain neutrality regarding party politics.

People interested in being considered for LAC membership must apply by April 30. The application is available at District196.org by searching "Application to Serve on the Legislative Advisory Council" or by calling 651-423-7775. Completed applications should be mailed to Independent School District 196, Director of Communications, 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068, or faxed to 651-423-7633.

Join the district and make a difference in students' lives

District 196 has employment opportunities for individuals who enjoy working with children. For more information and to apply online, go to District196.org and click on "Employment" on the top right.

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

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

Substitute school nurses are paid \$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.

Substitute custodial positions pay \$13.20 per hour. 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. Previous custodial experience is preferred.

Bus drivers (substitute and part-time) earn \$19.41 per hour and benefits for those who work 23 or more hours per week. Prefer individuals who are available for both morning and afternoon routes.

Food service associates earn \$16.90 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.

Parents wanted for open positions on curriculum council

Parents and guardians interested in becoming involved in districtwide conversations regarding curriculum, instruction and assessment are encouraged to apply for membership on the district's Curriculum and Instruction Advisory Council (CIAC). Applications for seven open positions (five elementary and two middle school) will be accepted through May 3 from parents with children attending specific schools in the 2021-22 school year. The terms for all seven positions are for three years beginning July 1, 2021.

The purpose of the CIAC is to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum aligning with state graduation standards. The CIAC also recommends to the School Board districtwide education standards, assessments and program evaluations.

CIAC parent membership is determined, in part, by the grade level of children attending District 196 schools and geographic representation

within the district. For the 2021-22 school year, the following positions are open:

- One parent with a child attending Cedar Park, Echo Park, Southview or Westview elementary schools;
- Two parents with a child attending Deerwood, Glacier Hills, Northview, Pinewood or Woodland elementary schools;
- Two parents with a child attending Diamond Path, Greenleaf, Highland, Oak Ridge or Thomas Lake elementary schools;
- One parent with a child attending Black Hawk or Dakota Hills middle schools, and
- One parent with a child attending Valley Middle School of STEM.

Parents interested in being considered for CIAC membership must submit an application by May 3. The application is available at District196.org or by calling 651-423-7885. Completed applications should be mailed to Independent School District 196, Teaching and Learning Department, 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068, or faxed to 651-423-7897.

Roundabouts and new access road to Eagan High School will improve pedestrian safety

Construction is scheduled to begin in May on changes to Diffley Road and other related projects designed to improve pedestrian safety on Diffley, Braddock Trail and the adjacent campuses of Northview Elementary School, Dakota Hills Middle School and Eagan High School.

Leaders from Dakota County, the City of Eagan and District 196 have been working together for more than two years to address concerns about speed and high traffic volume on Diffley Road and Braddock Trail before and after school. Public meetings were held several times throughout the process to get input on possible solutions, as well as the improvements that were ultimately approved last summer by the Dakota County Board, Eagan City Council and District 196 School Board.

The project got a green light last October when the Legislature allocated \$4 million in funding as part of a bonding bill approved during special session. The construction cost for the improvements is estimated at \$5.3 million. With the \$4 million in state bond funds, the district's portion

of the construction costs is \$108,000 and will be paid using remaining funds from the 2015 bond referendum. The county and city will cover the remaining portion of the construction cost.

The key objectives of the project are to increase pedestrian safety and connections, increase awareness of the school area, lower vehicle speeds and reduce pedestrian and vehicle conflict points. To accomplish these objectives:

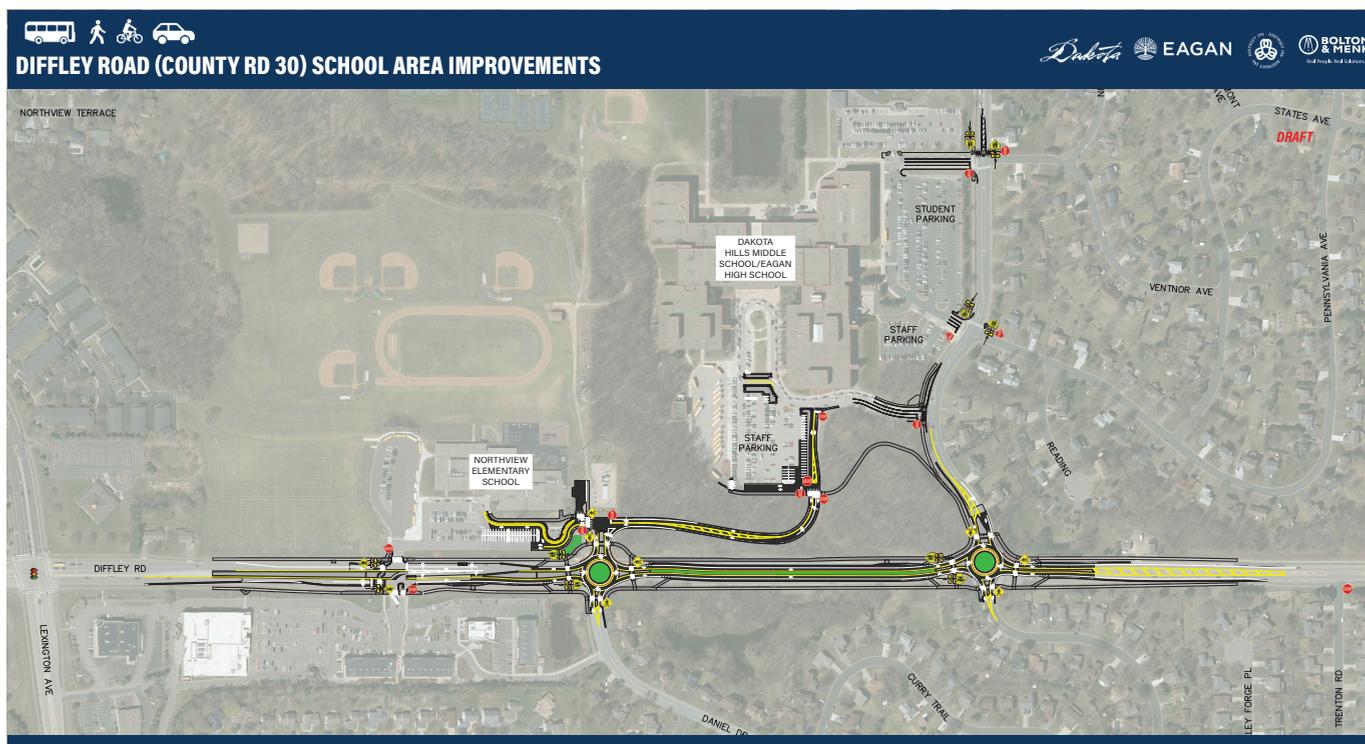
- Diffley will be reduced to a single lane of traffic in each direction between Lexington Avenue and Braddock Trail;
- Roundabouts will be installed on Diffley at the intersections of Daniel Drive, directly across from Northview Elementary, and at Braddock Trail;
- Crosswalks with pedestrian-activated rapid-flash beacons will be installed on Diffley Road across from the Northview Elementary bus loop and at both roundabouts, and on Braddock Trail at both entrances to the high school's east parking lot;
- Modifications to parking lot entrances/exits on Braddock Trail;

- A new access road will be constructed from the north side of the Daniel Drive roundabout into the south parking lot of the high school, and
- A new walking path will be constructed from the Diffley/Braddock intersection to the south parking lot.

Dakota County Project Manager **Jenna Fabish** said construction of these improvements will begin in May and are expected to be mostly complete by the start of the school year in September, with some clean-up work remaining.

Eagan High School was awarded planning assistance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to create a Safe Routes to School Plan for the three schools. The plan is being developed this year as an extension of the Diffley Road improvements.

The district will continue to provide bus transportation to students living on the south side of Diffley Road because it believes that is the safest way for students to get to and from school.



Shannon Park's Radspinner named state's elementary music educator of the year



The sound of elementary singers and instruments is music to **Kathleen Radspinner's** ears. Even after nearly 35 years in District

196, her passion for music education remains fine-tuned. Earlier this year, she was recognized for her commitment and named a 2020-21 Music Educator of the Year by the Minnesota Music Educators Association.

Radspinner began her career in District 196 at Rosemount Elementary School in 1988. Two years later she moved to Shannon Park Elementary, where she has been the school's vocal music specialist ever since. Her creativity has been the inspiration for many school concerts and musicals, and at her direction, students have performed several times at the Mall of America.

"The most rewarding aspect of being a music educator is connecting with students through music, celebrating small daily achievements, as well as large all-grade performances," she said. "I also cannot fail to mention how rewarding it is to hear from former students who fondly remember their elementary music experiences, some who have made careers in music themselves, and some who are now parents of children I teach."

When COVID-19 forced schools to close in March 2020, Radspinner said she had to radically rethink her process of teaching. However, she remained focused on the mission of instilling each child with "the spark to discover and connect with music." To ensure students had the support and resources to stay engaged with music while in distance learning, Radspinner brushed up on her technology skills.

"A silver lining has emerged in the close connections we are able to form with individual students as they create and respond to music through videos and audio recordings," she said. "I have been moved to laughter and tears many times to see formerly reserved



Shannon Park Elementary music teacher Kathleen Radspinner directs students at a performance at a local Barnes & Noble store prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

students confidently sing, improvise and present profoundly meaningful responses to music through online platforms."

As students transitioned back to in-person learning, Radspinner continues to explore one of her successful music teaching innovations, which is using movement and drama to make listening to music an exciting and engaging activity.

"One of the surest signs of music learning success in the classroom I see as we learn about musical elements through play is a first-grader asking, 'Can we do that again?'" she said.

Radspinner was celebrated with other music educators during a virtual ceremony on Feb. 12.

"Receiving this award is indeed a huge honor, and brings to mind the many talented District 196 educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, school support staff, parents, extended family members, and, most of all, the students who inspire and support me every day," she said. "I am awed by the talents of my district music educator colleagues, as well as music educators throughout Minnesota and the country."

Services available to homeschool students

District 196 offers services to families who homeschool their children, including textbook reimbursement, shared-time courses for students in grade 5 (band only) and grades 6-12 (maximum of two courses per grading period), and participation in cocurricular activities.

For families who registered for textbook reimbursement for the 2020-21 school year, the deadline to submit requests is April 30. Students who wish to participate in shared-time courses must register at their attendance-area school by June 1. Students who wish to participate in cocurricular activities at their attendance-area school must register annually. For more information on these services, call 651-423-7722.

No arguing District 196 students' success in state debate

Eagan High School senior **Arush Iyer** (right) won a state championship and 14 other District 196 students advanced to the elimination rounds of the state debate tournament, which was held online in January for the first time in the 120-year history of the tournament.



After finishing as a quarterfinalist last year, Iyer returned to this year's tournament and took the state title in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Four of the eight finalists were from District 196 schools. **Nora Bolsoni** of Apple Valley High School advanced to the semifinal round and **Tanvi Adige** of Rosemount High School and **Ashley Chen** of Eagan High were quarterfinalists. This year's Lincoln-Douglas resolution was, "Resolved: States ought to ban lethal autonomous weapons."

In policy debate, the team of **Eric Li** and **Archan Sen** of Eagan High were state runners-up. **Kate Nozal** and **Niko Jackson** of Rosemount High also advanced to the finals before losing to Li and Sen in the quarterfinal round. This year's policy resolution was, "Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing."

Twelve seniors named National Merit finalists

The 12 District 196 seniors selected semifinalists in the 2020-21 National Merit Scholarship Program last fall were all named finalists and are eligible for one of the approximately 7,600 merit scholarships totaling more than \$30 million awarded this spring.

The National Merit finalists from District 196 are **Amy Monsen** of Apple Valley High School; **Ryan Diaz**, **Ryan Madigan**, **Morgan Madsen**, **Colin Roberts** and **Samyak Tiwari** of Eagan High School; **Carter Henning**, **Thor Reimann** and **Anne Warren** of Eastview High School, and **Anika Jackson**, **Alexander Owens** and **Jake Zimmer** of Rosemount High School.

Students are selected for the National Merit Scholarship and Achievement programs each fall based on their scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which they take as juniors. Approximately 1.5 million students at 21,000 U.S. high schools took the qualifying test last school year. Students who score in the top 1 percent nationwide are selected semifinalists and can submit additional information to become a finalist.

In public forum debate, two teams from Eastview High were among the eight that advanced to the final rounds.

Isaiah Dalzell and **Izhan Qureishy** made it to the semifinals before losing to the eventual state champions, and **Malaya Galindez** and **Akansha Kamineni** advanced to the quarterfinals. This year's public forum resolution was, "Resolved: The National Security Agency should end its surveillance of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents."

In Congressional debate, students simulate the legislative process and debate a wide variety of bills and resolutions. **Elise Noonan** of Eastview High School finished as state runner-up, **Prapthi Sirkay** of Eagan High placed third and **John Novack** of Eagan High was 12th.

Twenty-four District 196 students qualified for and competed at this year's state debate tournament. The 15 finalists from District 196 represent nearly one-third of the 52 students total who advanced to the elimination rounds in the four categories of competition at state.

The head coaches for debate in District 196 are **Scott Voss** at Apple Valley High, **Chris McDonald** at Eagan High, **Todd Hering** at Eastview High and **Cort Sylvester** at Rosemount High.

All-state musicians give virtual performances

Fifty-one District 196 high school students were named all-state musicians by the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) for the 2020-21 school year.

Students were selected by recorded audition in spring 2020. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the students were not able to attend camps last summer, but did perform in fully virtual events in February.

Apple Valley High School students are **Krystanah Lumantas**, Symphonic Band; **Alex Bengtson** and **Branda Leung**, Jazz Band; **Caleb Martin** and **Aaron Sesay**, Concert Band; **Frank Knier**, Mixed Choir; **Andrew Meyer**, Orchestra; **Jonah Johnson**, Tenor Bass Choir, and **Bethelhem Collins**, Soprano Alto Choir.

Eagan High School students are **Spencer Ainza** and **Anna Schuller**, Symphonic Band; **Ryan Diaz**, **Ana McMahon** and **Mengyuan Zhou**, Concert Band; **Grace Park** and **Graham Zemke**, Mixed Choir, **William New** and **Finn Wallace**, Tenor Bass Choir; **Zoe Wiens**, Orchestra, and **Neha Nayak** and **Audrey Schwartz**, Soprano Alto Choir.

Eastview High School students are **Ariel Edwards**, **Jordan Gressman**, **Akshara Molleti**, **Brenda Olander**, **Thor Reimann** and **Sarah Titcombe**, Symphonic Band; **Nathan Labiosa** and **Jayson Nguyen**, Jazz Band; **Gabriel Mahlen**, Concert Band; **Davey Wright-Walstrom**, Mixed Choir; **Adrea Turchi**, Orchestra, and **Brianna Barry**, **Brigid Coyne** and **Hazel Myers**, Soprano Alto Choir.

Rosemount High School students are **Laura Maeda**, Symphonic Band; **Nathan Boucher** and **Dan Ewing**, Jazz Band; **Zahra Azzazi**, **Izaak Cheeran**, **Aidan Firchow**, **Isaac Olson** and **Grace Whaley**, Concert Band; **Miriam Marks** and **Alexander Nunez**, Mixed Choir; **Henry Buck** and **Guyal Buckley**, Tenor Bass Choir; **Ava Perry** and **Audrey Stenger**, Orchestra, and **Greta Green** and **Uchenna Ngwu**, Soprano Alto Choir.

District 196 schools honor Black History Month through art, literature and reflection

Students in District 196 explored the rich history of Black artists, authors and illustrators, and continued their equity work this February in honor of Black History Month. Classrooms across the district, both in person and virtual, hosted discussions, book reads and guest speakers, and empowered students to share their talents and stories.

At Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science, fourth-graders delved into the works of contemporary black artists and historical fiction books. In **Holly Grimsrud's** multimedia class, students investigated the portraiture and figurative work of artists like Jordan Casteel and Kerry James Marshall. Grimsrud said students make observations, relate to the work and assert their judgements. They took those observations into **Elise Kretchman's** homeroom class to explore their thoughts more, and ultimately created a video sharing their critiques.

"The goal is to invite conversations, increase visibility and hopefully build empathy," Grimsrud said. "Art can be viewed as both a window and a mirror.



A Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science student examines the work of figurative painter Jordan Casteel as part of a school-wide project celebrating Black artists.



Original artwork by Apple Valley High School freshman **Zaria Hollins**, who took first place in the school's creative expression challenge.

It provides an opportunity to look into the experiences of others, and as a way to see a reflection of ourselves."

At East Lake Elementary School, third-through fifth-grade students learned about prominent Black authors from Minnesota. Through a partnership with Strive Publishing, the annual artist-in-residency experience was shifted to a digital space this year. Principal **Miles Haugen** said in a typical year, authors would visit classrooms, share their stories and empower students to use their voices as young authors.

"We want students of color to see representations of authors, historians, scientists and more, and it's important we provide those opportunities," he said. "There are so many amazing people of color and we continue to use these stories in our curriculum."

Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies hosted a wide variety of guest speakers, including WNBA player Tayler Hill, a St. Paul Police officer and local professionals. This activity gave students an opportunity to learn about those

respective careers, how the speakers overcame challenges and gain advice on being successful.

At Apple Valley High School, Principal **Drew Mons** and his team extended a challenge to students to use their creative skills and share an artistic expression that honored the perseverance and accomplishments of Black Americans. Submissions came from all grades and included musical performances, interpretive dance, paintings and drawings, and original oratories. Freshman **Zaria Hollins** took first place with her abstract depiction of Malcolm X.

"We can create the conditions for equitable school transformation at Apple Valley High School," Mons said. "We are working together to plan and facilitate experiences that build bridges that empower our students, families, staff and alumni to celebrate and meet the needs of our community as a core element of what we mean when we say that 'learning and relationships look different at Apple Valley High School.'"

Congratulations!

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

Tanner Walters, the STEM inquiry specialist at Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences, was selected as the elementary recipient of the 2020 Science Teaching Award from the Minnesota Science Teachers Association. Walters has been instrumental in the development of STEM programming and outdoor learning initiatives in the district. He also developed "STEM To Go" kits featuring things like telescopes that students can check out to enjoy at home.



Eight District 196 juniors were nominated for the 2020-21 Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Awards sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). The awards recognize high school juniors who are active in fine arts and athletic activities, who demonstrate leadership qualities and who are model citizens in their community. Each high school in the state can nominate one junior boy and girl for the ExCEL Awards. Two recipients are selected from each of the eight competitive regions in the state for both Class A and AA schools. The ExCEL Award nominees from District 196 are **Sarah McDevitt** and **Ryan Cardella** of Apple Valley High School; **Kathryn Wong** and **Arlan Hegenbarth** of Eagan High School; **Rhea Rajvansh** and **Hunter Dunne** of Eastview High School, and **Emma Duchscherer** and **Matthew Condon** of Rosemount High School.

Eastview High School seniors **Nathan Labiosa** and **Akansha Kamineni** won the Congressional App Challenge for Minnesota's Second Congressional District. The annual nationwide competition is for middle school and high school students interested in computer science. Labiosa and Kamineni designed a mobile app called Rethink Recycling to get young people excited about recycling.

Eagan High School senior **Kennedi Orr** received the 2020 Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Association Ms. Baden Award, given to the state's top senior player. Orr, who will play college volleyball at the University of Nebraska, was selected for the award despite not playing this year due to a knee injury. The award was presented for her body of work during five varsity seasons in which she helped lead Eagan to two Class 3A championships and three second-place finishes. Orr is a two-time Gatorade Minnesota Player of the Year and was selected all state three times. **Lauren Crowl** of Eastview High School was also a finalist for the 2020 Ms. Baden Award.



Eight District 196 seniors were nominated for the 2020-21 Academics, Arts and Athletics (Triple A) Award sponsored by the MSHSL. The Triple A goes to nominated seniors with a 3.0 or higher grade-point average who participate in athletic and fine arts programs, and exhibit exemplary citizenship and the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct. The Triple A Award nominees from District 196 are **Grace Lankas** and **Noah Friedt** of Apple Valley High School; **Kai Wilson** and **Jacob Frost** of Eagan High School; **Miranda Kerndt** and **Gabe Mahlen** of Eastview High School, and **Sonya Ramesh** and **Anders Roback** of Rosemount High School.

Three District 196 graduates and one retired employee were recognized by the South Suburban Conference in 2020 for excellence in their field or service to the conference. **Jennifer (Riggs) Kocur**, a 1999 graduate of Apple Valley High School and **Zach Vraa**, a 2009 graduate of Rosemount High School, received the Outstanding Achievement in Athletics Award for their achievements in swimming and football, respectively. **Laura Rudolph**, a 2004 graduate



Minnesota's Mr. Football

Rosemount High School senior **Jake Ratzlaff** was named Minnesota's Mr. Football for 2020-21. He was also named Player of the Year by the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press, earned a spot on KARE 11's All-Decade Team, was first-team All-State two times and served as a team captain two years. Ratzlaff was a two-way player for the football team and also starred on Rosemount's hockey and baseball teams during his high school career. He accepted a scholarship to play football at the University of Wisconsin and will also be allowed to play for the school's hockey team.

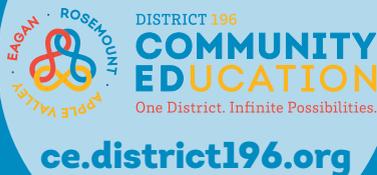
of Eagan High School, received the Outstanding Achievement in Arts Award for her achievements in music and drama. Former Eastview High School Principal **Randy Peterson** received the Distinguished Service to the Conference Award for his contributions as an athletics director and principal.

Missy Tutewohl, building secretary at Valley Middle School of STEM, received an Officials Distinguished Service Award from the MSHSL for her leadership and service in growing the avocation of officiating. Tutewohl has been a registered dance team official for 31 years and is an original member of the Judges Association of Minnesota Dance Teams.

Learn now!

District 196 Community Education offers lifelong learning opportunities for your engagement, enrichment and inspiration. Please know the safety of you, your family and our staff is our primary concern.

These are highlights of our spring programming. Visit ce.district196.org to find your passion, learn a new hobby, get fit, train for a new career and more at a school or learning center near you.

Learn now!

ce.district196.org

Locations

AVCC | Apple Valley Community Center, 14603 Hayes Rd.

BHMS | Black Hawk Middle, 15040 Deerwood Dr., Eagan

DSC | District 196 Service Center, 14301 Diamond Path W., Apple Valley

DVLC | Dakota Valley Learning Center, 4679 144th St. W., Apple Valley

EVHS | Eastview High, 6200 140th St. W., Apple Valley

FRMS | Falcon Ridge Middle, 12900 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd., Apple Valley

SHMS | Scott Highlands Middle, 14011 Pilot Knob Rd., Apple Valley

Learning For All Ages

Strengthening community through lifelong learning

Planning and Planting a Successful Vegetable Garden (adults)

Food doesn't get any more local than your own yard! Always wanted to plant a vegetable garden, but didn't know where to start? Discuss how to get the most from our relatively short growing season and review things to consider when planning and designing your growing space, no matter how big or small.

Thu. | April 15 | 6-8 p.m. | \$25
DVLC | ABWVG-S1

The Dirt on Seed Saving (adults)

Discover the wonderful world of seed saving! Discuss some of the easier seeds to save and explain the differences between heirloom, open pollinated and hybrid plants. Learn about self-pollinating vs. cross-pollinating flowers and the best practices for selecting, identifying and ensuring that the seeds you harvest and save will produce true plants the following year.

Thu. | May 20 | 6:30-8 p.m. | \$19
DVLC | ABWDS-S1

Security For Your Home (adults)

Discover different options to protect your home, including video cameras (active and hidden), security lighting (motion detectors) and audible alarms. Discuss advantages and disadvantages for each option and much more.

Sat. | April 17 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | \$55
FRMS | AGDSH-S1



Simple Ethiopian/Eritrean Recipes (adults)



Discover exotic spices and ways to easily pair them with your daily ingredients such as vegetables, beans, lentils and flax seed. For non-vegetarians, use different types of meat sautéed with flavored butter and healthy oils. Every step of the way is educational, informative and a dream-like trip into the food culture of historic countries.

Wed. | April 21 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | \$35
FRMS | ASPER-S1

Instant Pot® All-In-One-Pot Cooking (adults)

Prepare your entree and a side vegetable at the same time, freeing you up to enjoy a more hands-off kitchen experience. See how to make *Turkey and Wild Rice Meatloaf with Sweet Potatoes* and *Instant Pot Spaghetti*. Receive an extensive handout, get answers to your questions and receive a link to the class recording.

Mon. | April 12 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | \$29
Live Online | AKMPC-S1

A Road Trip Around Minnesota: Lakes and Waterfalls (adults)

Join professional photographer, Jay Grammond as he takes you on a virtual road trip around the state to learn about some of Minnesota's waterways that were so vitally important to travel and trade in bygone days. In today's world, these same waterways are vital to the state and local economies, and to the citizens as a form of recreation and relaxation.

Thu. | May 20 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
\$25 | Live Online | AJGRT-S1

Bob Ross Method of Oil Painting (ages 16+)

Do you remember Bob Ross from his **Joy of Painting** series on PBS? His "wet on wet technique" of painting is for all skill levels, including those who have never painted before. Complete an entire oil painting. Be amazed at how much fun and enjoyment this painting technique will give you!

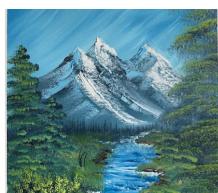
Supply fee of \$15 payable to instructor at class.



Rushing Waterfall

Mon. | April 12
6-9 p.m.

\$45 | DVLC
AKNBR-S1



Mountain Stream

Mon. | May 17
6-9 p.m.

\$45 | DVLC
AKNBR-S2



Hidden Stream

Tue. | June 8
6-9 p.m.

\$45 | DVLC
AKNBR-S3

SoulFusion (adults)

If you like PiYo, you will love this! We've added weights, blended more yoga and amped up the music. Enjoy a new creative blend of yoga-inspired flows, short cardio bursts, balance sequences and strength training exercises all set to crazy fun music.

Mon. | April 5-26 | 6:45-7:30 p.m.
4 sessions | \$29 | [Live Online](#) | AAESF-S1



Golf Tune Up: Improve Your Game (ages 16+)

Learn and develop solid golf skills by working on correcting your hook or slice, and more! Review the fundamentals for solid contact with irons and woods. Improve around the green, including bunkers. Understand your putter and sink those putts.

4 sessions | \$79

Mon. & Wed. | April 12-21 | 6:30-8 p.m. | ABWIG-S1

Tue. & Thu. | April 13-22 | 6:30-8 p.m. | ABWIG-S2

Get Golf Ready: Beginners (ages 16+)

Want to learn to play golf, return to the game or refresh your skills? Develop skills that allow you to be comfortable and competent on the course. Discover the skills of full swing, putting and chipping. Understand the basic etiquette and equipment of the game. Includes two, one-hour lessons on the driving range, two one-hour lessons around the green and a three-hour on-course lesson to practice what you have learned under the patient guidance of instructors. Range balls, clubs if needed, tees and training aids provided.

5 sessions | \$79

Sat. | May 1-June 5 | 11 a.m.-noon | skip May 8 | ABWBG-S7

Mon. | May 3-24 | 6:15-7:15 p.m. **or** 7:15-8:15 p.m. | ABWBG-S1 or S2

Tue. | May 4-25 | 6:15-7:15 p.m. **or** 7:15-8:15 p.m. | ABWBG-S3 or S4

Wed. | May 5-26 | 7:15-8:15 p.m. **or** Thu. | May 6-27 | 7:15-8:15 p.m. | ABWBG-S5 or S6



Golf II: Intermediate Golf (ages 16 +)

Continue to develop your golf skills. Learn to be more consistent with woods and irons. Hit it farther with more accuracy. Improve your shots around the green, including bunkers. Includes three, one-hour driving range lessons, a one-hour short game lesson and a three-hour on-course lesson where you will practice the skills you have learned under the patient guidance of skilled instructors. Range balls, clubs if needed, tees and training aids provided.

5 sessions | \$79

Sat. | May 1-June 5 | noon-1 p.m. | skip May 8, 29 | ABWGO-S3

Wed. | May 5-26 | 6:15-7:15 p.m. **or** Thu. | May 6-27 | 6:15-7:15 p.m. | ABWGO-S1 or S2

Golf Lessons (adult and child ages 5-14)

It's tee time! Develop the skills to learn a life-long sport to enjoy with that special adult in your life. Lessons are designed to provide a solid introduction to the game of golf for a junior golfer and adult. Practice putting, chipping, full swing and etiquette. Emphasis will be made on helping you feel comfortable and competent on the golf course. Includes four, one-hour lessons, a three-hour on-course lesson, use of all equipment, a youth t-shirt and a bag tag.

5 sessions | \$40/person

Sat. | May 1-June 5 | 1:30-2:30, 2:30-3:30, or 3:30-4:30 p.m.

skip May 8, 29 | YBWPCG-S1, S2 or S3

Financial assistance is available.

Please call 651-423-7920 for more information.



Sets in the City Tennis (adults)

Be active and connect with other recreational tennis players in your community. Players will be matched according to ability, then mix and mingle while playing matches of singles and/or doubles. Basic understanding of the rules of tennis is important. Prizes will be awarded!

Location: Northview Park, 980 Northview Park Rd, Eagan

Fee: 4 sessions | \$59 | 6:30-8 p.m. Sun. | June 6-27 | AJESC-U1

Sun. | July 11-Aug. 1 | AJESC-U2

Beginner Tennis Lessons (adults)

Learn basic stroke mechanics of forehand, backhand, volley, serve, footwork, rules and scoring. Designed for the player with little or no tennis experience. Players should have their own racket, but tennis balls are provided.

Mon. | June 7-28 | 6:30-8 p.m. 4 sessions | \$49 SHMS | AJEBT-U1

Intermediate/Advanced Tennis Lessons (adults)

Review and improve your groundstrokes, volleys, serves and footwork, as well as learning overheads and approach shots in competitive drills and match-type experiences. Designed for players that can rally the ball with forehand and backhand, and can serve over net.

Tue. | June 8-29 | 6:30-8 p.m. 4 sessions | \$55 EVHS | AJEIT-U1

Tue. | July 6-27 | 6:30-8 p.m. 4 sessions | \$55 EVHS | AJEIT-U2

Writing Your Own Will (adults)

Having a will is important for married couples, singles and divorced people. If you are without a will, the laws of Minnesota and a judge will make all the decisions regarding your estate. Don't let this happen. Learn about estates and wills, and prepare a legal will in class. Receive instructions and a professionally prepared form, have access to witnesses and a notary public.

Tue. | April 13 | 6:30-9 p.m. | \$59 DVLC | ATMWW-S1

Tue. | June 22 | 6:30-9 p.m. | \$59 DVLC | ATMWW-U1

Single-Lens Reflex (SLR) Digital Photography (adults)



For anyone who has a digital SLR camera and is striving to get the shots you want. Cover

ISO, F-stops, shutter speeds, DOF, white balance and more! Improve the composition and quality of your photographs as you learn the fundamentals of digital SLR photography. Bring your camera with interchangeable lenses.

Sat. | May 15 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$55 | FRMS | AGDDC-S1



Disputed American Presidential Elections (adults)

Examine an election year with disputed results: 1800, 1824, 1876, 1960 and 2000. Also, hear about elections where third parties made a difference in the outcome (1860, 1912, 1968, 1992 and 2016).

Wed. | April 7-May 12 2-3 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. 6 sessions | \$19 | Live Online | AFSPE-S1 or S2

How to Cut the Cable Cord (adults)

Discover many viewing options that are free or at a much lower cost than cable. Discuss the pros and cons of cable, how to get internet without cable, how to get TV from your computer to your television and much more.



Tue. | May 18 | 7-8:30 p.m. | \$29 DVLC | ARTCC-S1

Microsoft Excel: Getting Started (adults)

Learn the basics of using an electronic spreadsheet. Discover how to effectively manage and present data. Learn to input data, add rows and columns, do simple calculations and apply the AutoSum function. Develop skills to create, open, edit, print and save spreadsheets. Demonstration and hands-on.

Mon. | May 10 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | \$39 DSC | AEXCEL-S1

Mother's Day Gift Making



They love you, hug you and make you brush your teeth!

Show your mom how much you love her with a handmade gift! Your mom loves flowers, right? Create a beautiful sculpture of a rosebud using air-dry clay, paint, glitter and lots of love to create this masterpiece ... a great keepsake!

Ages 4-9

Wed. | April 21 | 9 a.m.-noon | \$35 AVCC | YKCMD-S2

Adult and child(ren) ages 4-9

Sat. | May 6 | 9 a.m.-noon | \$35 AVCC | YKCMD-S1



Humpty Dumpty (adult and child ages 18 mos-6yrs)

Play along and create art inspired by this famous nursery rhyme. Create a 3-D diorama of Humpty Dumpty before his big fall. Humpty Dumpty never looked better! Spend time with your favorite adult helper.

Sat. | April 17 | 8:30-9:30 a.m. | \$21 | FRMS | YKCHD-S1

Canvas and Clay (ages 5-12)



Experiment with many different types of art while learning simple step-by-step painting and clay techniques. Make 3-D bears, owls that glow-in-the-dark, a scratch board painting of a cat and so much more! What a great way to explore the incredible world of art!

Sat. | April 24-May 1 | 1-4 p.m.
2 sessions | \$85 | FRMS | YKCC-S1

Babysitting Clinic (ages 11+)

Learn to be a responsible babysitter. Receive a babysitting guidebook and obtain valuable information on safety guidelines, healthy eating and indoor games.

Sat. | April 10 | 9 a.m.-3 p.m. | \$55 | FRMS | YBSIT-S1

Sat. | May 15 | 9 a.m.-3 p.m. | \$55 | FRMS | YBSIT-S2

Musical Safari

Go on a musical safari and discover your love of music! Sing songs, read books, dance, do fingerplays and play instruments.

4 sessions | \$60

Banana Babies (adult and child birth-18 mos)

Thu. | May 6-27 | 8:30-9 a.m. | AVCC | YMSBB-S1

Twocans and Chimpanthees (adult and child ages 2-3)

Thu. | May 6-27 | 9:15-10 a.m. | AVCC | YMSTC-S1

Grandparent and Me (grandparent and child birth-3 yrs)

Thu. | May 6-27 | 10:15-11 a.m. | AVCC | YMSGM-S1

Extreme Robotics: Virtual Battlebots (grades 3-8)

Smash into virtual walls to tear down castles or navigate labyrinth maze. Code virtual robots, using Vexcode VR. VEXcode VR lets you code a virtual robot using a block-based coding environment powered by Scratch Blocks. Create robotic mayhem in a virtual playground, while igniting a lifelong love of problem-solving.

Sat. | April 10-17 | 10:30 a.m.-noon
2 sessions | \$80 | [Live Online](#) | YTAVB-S1



Swim Lessons

Every child deserves a chance to learn to love the water. Learning to swim with District 196 Community Education is a great place to start. Our caring and dedicated instructors are Red Cross trained and certified to help your child enjoy developing good habits in, on and near water, become comfortable in the water, learn and refine new strokes, and become stronger, safer swimmers.

American Red Cross

Preschool Levels 1, 2 & 3 with Parent (ages 3-5)

Level 1 with Parent: Introduction to Aquatic Skills (ages 5+)

Level 2 with Parent: Fundamental Aquatic Skills (ages 5+)

Level 3 with Parent: Stroke Development (ages 5+)

Level 4: Stroke Improvement (ages 5+)

Level 5: Stroke Refinement (ages 5+)

Mon. | April 5-May 24 | 5:30-8:15 p.m. (45 minute lessons)
8 sessions | \$90 | BHMS

Tue. | April 6-May 25 | 5:30-8:15 p.m. (45 minute lessons)
8 sessions | \$90 | SHMS

Wed. | April 7-May 26 | 5:30-8:15 p.m. (45 minute lessons)
8 sessions | \$90 | BHMS

Thu. | April 8-June 3 | 5:30-8:15 p.m. (45 minute lessons)
8 sessions | \$90 | skip May 6 | SHMS

Sat. | April 10-June 5 | 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
(45 minute lessons)

8 sessions | \$90 | skip May 29 | BHMS or SHMS

Sun. | April 11-June 6 | 2:30-8:30 p.m. (45 minute lessons)
8 sessions | \$90 | skip May 30 | BHMS



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Community Education

Parenting in a Pandemic (adults)



Hear Erin Walsh, M.A., a dynamic, knowledgeable speaker with a down-to-earth approach that will help you and your family engage in complicated topics and leave feeling capable and motivated.

Pay what you can | Live Online
Wed. | 6-7 p.m.

Staying Engaged in Learning and Work: The Science of Motivation

March 31 | AEWSE-W1

Screen Time During COVID-19: Three Supportive Insights From Research to Guide Your Parenting Today

April 14 | AEWST-S1

Parenting in a Pandemic: Setting Limits and Avoiding Power Struggles

April 21 | AEWPS-S1

learning & fun now
ce.district196.org/learnnow for all ages



See pages 12 to 15 to find your passion

Raising Race-Conscious Children (parents of children ages birth-7 yrs)

No child is too young to talk about race, but where to begin? Examine how racial identity develops in children, what role parents play in raising race-conscious children and the impact of power and privilege in our society. Join us for these courageous conversations and learn specific strategies for practicing anti-racist parenting. Visit ce.district196.org/ecfe to learn more and to register.

Mon. | March 29-June 7 | 6-7p.m. | Fee* | Live Online | skip May 31 | 505-116



Parenting Your School-Age Child (parents of children kindergarten-grade 3)

Parenting a school-aged child brings new joys and challenges. You may notice developmental changes with regard to independence, social skills and responsibility. Explore shifting family dynamics as you welcome the school experience. Visit ce.district196.org/ecfe to learn more and to register.

Thu. | April 1-June 3 | 1:30-2:30 p.m. | Fee* | Live Online | skip April 22 | 314-118

* Fees are based on your income with a sliding fee scale. All District 196 families are encouraged to attend, regardless of their ability to pay.



English for Citizenship (adults)

Do you want to be a United States citizen? Learn about and prepare for the United States citizenship interview while improving your English skills. Visit ce.district196.org/abe to learn more.

Mon. & Wed. | April 5-28 | 12:30-2 p.m. | Free | Live Online



DISTRICT 196

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