



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## MAJOR BOND SAVINGS



Last year, Eden Prairie Schools refinanced **\$15.2 million** in bonds that were issued in previous years. Due to the district's exceptionally high Aa2 bond rating, interest rates were between .44 percent and .63 percent. This led to savings of **\$1.63 million** which will be used to hold steady the tax rate for bond payments.

## LOWER 2019 REFERENDUM TAX IMPACT



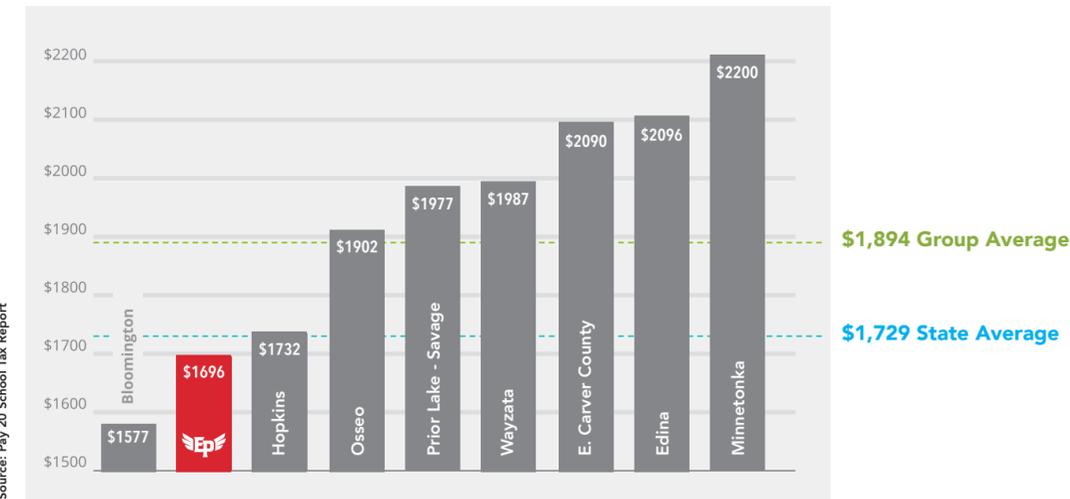
In May 2019, Eden Prairie voters approved a referendum to support the district's academic vision to connect students to more real-world learning. The tax impact on the average-price home was nearly **60 percent less than estimated** in May 2019.

## INCREDIBLE VALUE FOR THE DOLLAR



Eden Prairie Schools provides one of the **best educations in Minnesota**, with more opportunities for students, at a cost to home owners that is far below other school districts. Last year, Eden Prairie Schools' total school tax, which included the referendum from the previous year, was **one of the lowest** in the southwest metro.

## TOTAL SCHOOL TAX, PAYABLE 2020 HOME WITH ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE \$400,000



SHOW YOUR WINGS

**Name:** KHALID JAMA **Grade:** 7

**School:** Central Middle School

**My Wings:** One thing that inspires me about CMS is how everyone follows the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) rule of being safe, kind and responsible. Everyone stays safe by following the COVID guidelines. We stay kind by helping everyone. Lastly, we stay responsible by respecting everyone and their personal space.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- June 16:** School Board Listen & Learn Community Engagement  
The Eden Prairie School Board is hosting a Listen & Learn Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., June 16 at the PAC at Eden Prairie High School. This is an opportunity for the public to share feedback with the School Board.
- Aug. 16-19:** KinderCamp - This is a free opportunity for incoming kindergarten students to help build their confidence before the start of the school year. Dates and times vary by school location. Please visit [edenpr.org/kindergarten](http://edenpr.org/kindergarten) for more details.
- Back to School & Open House Events:** Dates and times for each school will be posted soon at [edenpr.org/calendar](http://edenpr.org/calendar).
- Sept. 8:** First day of school

## EXCERPT EP EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



## 01 We're hiring!

Are you interested in working for EP Schools? We're currently hiring custodial staff, bus drivers and paraprofessionals across the district. Check out these openings and other opportunities at [edenpr.org/jobs](http://edenpr.org/jobs).



## Dr. Carlondrea Hines 02



Eden Prairie Schools has selected Dr. Carlondrea Hines as the new associate superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools. Dr. Hines will officially start her position with the district July 1, 2021.

## 03 New to EP Schools?

We want to welcome you to our amazing school district! Schedule a tour to learn more about our schools, or register today at [edenpr.org](http://edenpr.org).



INSPIRING NEWS  
EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS  
Inspiring each student every day  
JUNE 2021 / VOL. 2 • ISSUE 3

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edenpr.org  
952-975-7150

# SCHOOL BOARD:

## Extraordinary efforts led to high-quality results

As we approach the end of this school year, the School Board is reflecting on the past year. We would like to express our profound gratitude, to the staff, students and families in our district for their tremendous creativity, resilience, persistence, and for the care they have shown for each other.

The School Board wants to recognize and celebrate the courageous and extraordinary efforts undertaken by teachers, staff, and leadership to maximize learning opportunities for every student in Eden Prairie during a very challenging time. The ability of our school teams to develop new learning pathways and delivery channels, pivot between learning models, and to show compassion and flexibility has been world-class. In addition, they also continued moving forward to make the plans for the future growth and success of the district a reality. Designing Pathways initiatives such as personalized learning programs, the Central Middle School construction, and new grade configurations are on track for implementation for the next school year.

The efforts on the part of staff, parents, and caregivers have been enormous, but most importantly, our schools have delivered results. Although learning conditions have not been ideal and challenges impeded some of our efforts, Eden Prairie schools have continued to deliver a high-quality education. This is confirmed by steady academic achievement results and continued narrowing of the achievement gap as shown by ongoing assessment data. In a year that was anything but normal, these are extraordinary results! Please take a moment to recognize a teacher, staff member, or school leader for their dedication and commitment to our children.

We would also like to acknowledge the loss and pain experienced by so many and extend our condolences and support. We are committed to ensuring that staff,



students, and families have access to the resources they need to recover, rebound, and move forward.

Last, and certainly not least, we would like to thank the entire community for supporting our schools. Because of you, the district had the resources to make the adjustments necessary to continue the important work of educating our kids and supporting our families during these unprecedented times. As a community, we can all be proud of the planning, solutions, and execution by our education teams as they continued to deliver academic excellence.

In the coming months, the School Board will return to meeting with the community in person, as we restart our Listen and Learn series. We will use outdoor venues as weather permits and look forward to hosting the community in the new Central Middle School Performing Arts Center in the late fall/winter. As we move forward into the next school year, we look forward to engaging with the community, using what we have learned to emerge stronger, and to being held accountable for delivering results for students. We are truly grateful to be a part of the extraordinary Eden Prairie school district and community.

### June 16: School Board Listen & Learn Community Engagement

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## CMS CONSTRUCTION - PUBLIC TOURS COMING SOON!

Central Middle School celebrated a construction milestone by "Topping Out" its Performing Arts Center. The last support beam for the CMS PAC was signed by the entire student body, staff and administrators before it was raised and set in place. It is a symbol of the half-way point of construction. The amazing abilities of our students and staff to adapt to distance learning allowed more space and time for construction at CMS to progress steadily. In addition, ending the school year before June this year allows construction workers sufficient time to prepare CMS for Sept. 8. Because the priority is providing learning spaces, the PAC will continue to be under construction this fall. When it's ready, the PAC will provide world-class opportunities for our middle school students and the Eden Prairie community.

Watch [edenpr.org/CMS2021](https://edenpr.org/CMS2021) for ways that you can tour CMS this fall. The community invested in these essential upgrades for learning, and we will make sure the community has opportunities to see the renovations and understand how middle school students learn in the 21st century.



All CMS students and staff had an opportunity to sign the last major support beam installed this spring as part of the school's renovations.

Want to see a preschool classroom?



## SUPERINTENDENT: OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR



Dr. Josh Swanson

As we look back on this remarkable year, there are so many stories to tell about how our Eden Prairie Schools staff brought hope, stability and resilience to our students and families. The positive difference was felt in small ways, through daily classroom check-ins where students could talk with a trusted adult, and there were large contributions like meal distribution to families across our community.

Some of the outcomes are astounding. Eden Prairie Schools logged 214 years of video conferences this school year (more than 113 million minutes). Our Technology Department resolved more than 9,600 support requests this year. Our 3rd grade students' math and reading proficiency exceeded national averages by 18 and 20 percentage points, as measured by the FastBridge assessment.

We continued to realize our community's shared vision of Designing Pathways – an academic plan where students have more choice in rigorous and authentic learning. A major part is the expansion and renovation of Central Middle School. After 25 years without significant improvements, the 2019 bond referendum is raising our middle school learning environment to an exceptional standard. Even with the bond, Eden Prairie school taxes on the average-priced home remain low among west metro school districts.

As we look to the coming school year, plan on public tours of CMS. We will communicate those details throughout Eden Prairie. This fall, we'll continue to follow public health requirements, but anticipate welcoming students back to school with regular routines and familiar environments. In a couple of months, schools will share information with families on their back-to-school events. We're looking forward to the new school year, and in the meantime, have a safe and restful summer!

## LITTLE EAGLES PRESCHOOL IS AVAILABLE THIS FALL AT YOUR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

Create a school community connection, reduce transitions and prepare your child for kindergarten through Little Eagles 4-year-old preschool – now at each Eden Prairie elementary school. Our highly-qualified staff are excited to get to know your child and help them build upon their unique gifts that contribute to our wonderful school community!

### WHY CHOOSE LITTLE EAGLES?

- Create excitement for school, build independence and provide a foundation for lifelong learning
- Experience personalized learning with lessons designed around your child's skills and interests to prepare them for elementary school
- Benefit from our teacher's balanced approach of social-emotional and academic areas
- See how an Eden Prairie Schools K-12 curriculum/system contributes to a successful kindergarten transition

Learn more at [edenpr.org/Preschool](https://edenpr.org/Preschool) or call us at 952-975-7200.

Classes available for the 2021-22 school year: 4 and 5 day options – Morning, Afternoon, or Morning + Rest and Enrichment  
Para obtener información en Español, contáctese con Heriberto Vargas en [hvargas@edenpr.org](mailto:hvargas@edenpr.org) o 952-975-7068.  
Haddii aad ubaahan tahay caawinaad af Somali so wac 952-975-7069.

## OUTSTANDING ACADEMICS IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

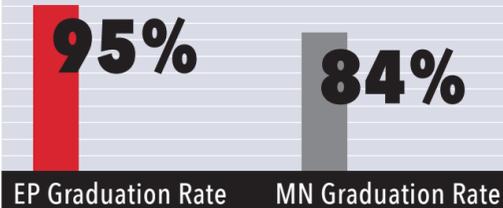
### 9 Perfect ACTs

Congratulations to the following EPHS students for earning a perfect score of 36 on the ACT exam:

- Fergus Xu
- Sriyan Reddy
- Matthew Pihowich
- Benjamin Pankratz
- Rishi Natraj
- Jacob Dorson
- Ashton Diermeier
- Sreya Patri
- Samir Sarma



## 2020 Graduation Rate



2021 graduation rate to be reported later this year

## Grade 3

Reading and Math FastBridge compared to national averages

