

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196®
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Fall 2021 | Volume 62 • 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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Gable gets gold!

2018 Apple Valley High School graduate **Gable Steveson** was all smiles after receiving his Olympic gold medal in men's heavyweight freestyle wrestling Aug. 6. Steveson earned the medal with a last-second, come-from-behind win in a thrilling gold medal match. **Steveson** is one of three District 196 graduates competing in the Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo. 2014 Rosemount High School graduate **Payton Otterdahl** competed in men's shot put and 2007 Eagan High School graduate **Mallory Weggemann** is competing in her third Paralympics Aug. 24-Sept. 5.

See article on pages 8-9.

AP Photo/Aaron Favila

Early start offers time to build relationships and confidence

District 196 teachers and staff look forward to welcoming students back to a more typical year of in-person learning, five days a week, in 2021-22. Superintendent **Mary Kreger** said the district is not reverting back to the way things were in 2019, but rather transitioning forward with improvements based on key learnings from last school year.

One example is the benefit teachers reported in having time at the start of last school year to build relationships with their students and help them build confidence to start the year strong. To provide that time this year, school starts before Labor Day for all students, on different dates for different grades as detailed below. These are days of school that all students should attend/participate in, if possible. For more information, contact your child's school.

Kindergarten Transition Days, Aug. 30 and 31 (half days, K only) – These new transition days will give all kindergarten students the opportunity to meet their teachers and classmates, learn about classroom rules and routines, and explore their school without any other students in the building. The first full day of school for kindergarten students is Thursday, Sept. 9.

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Voting for School Board election begins September 17

Independent School District 196 will hold a general election on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 to elect three of the seven at-large positions on its School Board. Voters can cast their ballot on Election Day at their designated school district polling place, by absentee ballot beginning Sept. 17, or through early in-person voting during the week before Election Day.

Twenty-one residents filed for the School Board election during the two-week filing period and five withdrew their names before the Aug. 12 deadline, leaving 16 candidates whose names will be on the ballot. They are (in alpha order): **Kyle Anderson** of Rosemount, **Craig Angrimson** of Apple Valley, **Loren Jay Balazs** of Apple Valley, **Kim Bauer** of Apple Valley, **Art Coulson** of Apple Valley, **Rebecca Gierok** of Apple Valley, **Kayla Hauser** of Rosemount, **Curtis Henry** of Rosemount, **Derek J. Kottke** of Eagan, **Teresa A. Maki** of Rosemount, **Sakawdin Mohamed** of Eagan, **Jacob Mark Rylander** of Rosemount, **John Schaefer** of Rosemount, **Jessica Turner** of Eagan, **Bianca Virnig** of Eagan, and **Kaia Zeigler** of Inver Grove Heights. The terms of Angrimson, Coulson and Mike Roseen expire Jan. 3, 2022. The new terms for all three at-large positions run from January 2022 to January 2026.

The League of Women Voters of Dakota County has scheduled a virtual candidate forum for Wednesday, Sept. 29, time to be determined. The forum will be recorded and available on the District 196 YouTube channel. Information about the candidates may also be available in local newspapers and on candidate websites.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting begins Sept. 17. Voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots can be completed by mail or in person at the District Office

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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:

As required by Title IX and other state and federal nondiscrimination laws, District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its education 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) is the designated Title IX Coordinator and has also been designated to respond to employment-related inquiries regarding the district's non-discrimination policies. 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 district's non-discrimination policies. 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. The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068. Title IX inquiries may also be referred to the Assistant Secretary of the US Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

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



This drone photo taken in July shows the new access road to the Eagan High School south parking lot. Drivers will access the road from a roundabout at Diffley Road and Daniel Drive, in front of Northview Elementary School.

Diffley Road project will be done before start of the school year

Improvements to Diffley Road east of Lexington Avenue to Braddock Trail in Eagan are expected to be complete by the end of August.

The key objective of the redesign is to increase pedestrian safety by lowering vehicle speeds, reducing pedestrian and vehicle conflict points and increasing awareness of this as a school area in front of Northview Elementary School and the Dakota Hills Middle School and Eagan High School combined campus.

To accomplish this, Diffley Road is reduced to a single lane of traffic in each direction between Lexington and Braddock. Roundabouts have been added on Diffley at the intersections of Daniel Drive and Braddock. A new access road has been constructed from the north side of the Daniel Drive roundabout into the south parking lot of the high school, and there is a new walking path from the Diffley/Braddock intersection to the south parking lot. Crosswalks with pedestrian-activated, rapid-flash beacons are located on Diffley across from the Northview bus loop and at both roundabouts, and on Braddock at both entrances to the high school's east parking lot.

The Diffley Road project got a green light last October when the Legislature allocated \$4 million to the project as part of a state bonding bill. The district's share of the project cost is \$275,000. Dakota County and the City of Eagan are covering the remaining portion of the cost.

Members of the public are invited to orientation events presented by Dakota County on Monday, Aug. 30 at Northview Elementary from 8 to 10 a.m., Dakota Hills Middle from 4 to 6 p.m., and Eagan High from 6 to 8 p.m. At each session, there will be booths with informational displays and scheduled walking tours of the newly constructed improvements.

Transitioning forward in 2021-22

By **Mary M. Kreger**, superintendent

Every August, we anticipate the joy and excitement that comes with the fresh start of a new school year. In last year's message, I wrote with trepidation as we prepared for a return heavily focused on pandemic protocols, state mandates and keeping students and staff safe and healthy. While COVID-19 continues to dominate the headlines 16 months later, we know more and are better prepared to address it. The pandemic took a toll on our kids' educational experience last year. Our priority this year is to have in-person learning every day, all day. Our students and staff thrive on the relationships they build and experiences they have when they are physically present together at school.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, our administration has relied on state and federal public health experts to guide our decision-making process. As we enter into the 2021-22 school year, we will continue to monitor the ever-evolving situation and keep families updated if and when there are changes. Partnerships with our families are critical, and I am grateful for flexibility, patience and persistence as we transition back to a more typical school year.

All of us have been impacted by the pandemic. It forced us to adjust to a new way of delivering and receiving education. We are excited about the launch of our new, fully virtual school 196Online, which will be serving approximately 500 students this year. The majority of our students will return to school this fall for in-person instruction, five days a week. We know how important face-to-face interactions are. In a recent visit with the Rosemount High School Student Council, the students were adamant



about their desire to be in person with peers and teachers. I am confident that together we will make 2021-22 safe and successful.

Our efforts to make sea change in the areas of safety, equity and achievement continue to move forward with intention and urgency. As information on the COVID-19 Delta variant emerges, we continue to look for direction from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health on how to keep students and staff safe at school. We are grateful that most of our staff chose to get vaccinated in the spring when educators were prioritized, and more have continued to receive the vaccination since. Our safety measures will remain in place, including sanitization stations throughout buildings, HEPA filters in each classroom, regular disinfection and cleaning of learning spaces and district vehicles, and development of a comprehensive COVID-19 operational plan. At this time, we will not require masks, but continue to strongly recommend they be worn. All of these measures allow us to remain learning in person.

Our focus on equity remains a top priority. We are committed to doing the hard work necessary to help every child succeed and eliminate unacceptable achievement gaps. The inconsistent and varied learning models of the last 16 months, the loss of routines and opportunities, and the lack of social and cocurricular opportunities have had an impact on our students. As we begin this school year, we are focused on the well-being of our students and staff. The adults need to be healthy in order to do their best at serving our students. We know that adult wellness is a precursor to child wellness, and providing a

culture of social-emotional wellness is important for students as they transition into this year. To support our work, we have increased access to resources for students and staff who may need assistance and added more mental health professionals in every building.

The pandemic has helped us better incorporate personalized education, use technology more effectively and offer more opportunities for our students to pursue their infinite possibilities. In order to achieve their fullest potential, students must have strong relationships with those in our schools. And as we begin the year, teachers and staff are focused on establishing relationships, and providing welcoming and inclusive school environments. Our back-to-school Student Success Days are structured to do that. These days before the routines of the school year set in allow students and staff to meet each other, reconnect and renew the excitement of a new school year. We will continue to integrate technology into the learning process in all classes, as SeeSaw and Schoology help us align instruction, communicate with students and families, and consistently provide access to a high-quality education.

We are excited to begin another, more typical year of learning in District 196. But we are not reverting back to the way things were in 2019, before the pandemic. We are transitioning forward and implementing improvements based on our key learnings from last school year. We look forward to continued collaboration as we engage the community in the important work of educating our children.

A handwritten signature of Mary M. Kreger in black ink.

Attendance-area review moving forward as part of larger facilities needs solution

District 196 is moving forward with plans to recommend specific attendance-area adjustments intended to help ease current and future overcrowding at Rosemount High School, Rosemount Middle School and Scott Highlands Middle School by utilizing existing space at other district schools.

The administration was prepared to go through the process last year, but it was put on hold to focus on the district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the revised timeline, the administration will develop proposed recommendations and present them to residents in the potentially affected areas at informational meetings in October. After taking public input, final recommendations are expected to be presented to the School Board for action in November and December. Any recommendations approved by the board this year would go into effect at the start of the 2022-23 school year. Based on past practice, the recommendations will likely include options for students to remain enrolled in their current school for the remainder of that level.

Areas being considered for possible attendance-area adjustments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The northern section of the Rosemount High and Rosemount Middle attendance areas in Inver Grove Heights;
- The far southwestern corner of the Rosemount High attendance area;
- The northeast corner of the city of Apple Valley in the Rosemount High attendance area, and
- A larger section of the northeast corner of the city of Apple Valley in the Scott Highlands Middle attendance area.

Families living in these areas with children currently enrolled in the affected schools will be invited by the district to separate informational meetings that will be held in October at the schools involved.

With a projected enrollment of 2,520 students, Rosemount High is expected to be approximately 400 students over its 2,100-student building capacity this year. Similarly, Rosemount Middle is expected to be over capacity by 100 students this year and Scott Highlands Middle by approximately 50 students. All three of these schools are already closed to open enrollment and transfers from other district schools. Enrollment from within their current attendance areas is projected to continue to grow.

At the elementary level, district administrators and principals are working to identify options for addressing projected overcrowding at East Lake and Rosemount elementary schools this year, but elementary is not part of the current attendance-area review process.

The attendance-area adjustments are one part of a multi-faceted approach to meeting the district's projected space needs in the next five to 10 years.

Facilities Needs Review

Members of a district Facilities and Equipment Steering Committee began meeting in June with a charge to develop recommendations and a course of action to the School Board to meet the district's facility and equipment needs over the next 10 years.

To complete its work, the committee is reviewing enrollment and factors that influence enrollment change; the capacities, capabilities and expansion potential of existing facilities, and recommendations in the areas of safety and security, instructional space, early learning, special education, career and technical education, and cocurricular programming.

Enrollment projections used by the committee were developed by consultant **Hazel Reinhardt**, who presented them to the School Board in December. The projections show district enrollment will rebound to pre-COVID levels this year and will

continue to increase over the next 10 years. Most of the current and projected growth is the eastern part of the district in the Rosemount Middle and Rosemount High attendance areas.

In the next five years, total district enrollment is expected to increase by a range of 1,000-1,600 students and will exceed current building capacity by 800-1,400 students (this assumes facilities are fully utilized).

The breakdown by level shows that in the next five years:

- Elementary school enrollment is expected to increase by 730-1,020 students and exceed current building capacity by 430-720 students;
- Middle school enrollment is expected to increase by 170-370 students and exceed current building capacity by up to 120 students, and
- High school enrollment is expected to increase by 140-230 students and exceed current building capacity by 470-560 students.

In the next 10 years, projections show a total enrollment increase of 1,430-2,500 students, which would exceed current building capacity by as many as 2,300 students, 1,300 of them at the high school level.

The Facilities and Equipment Steering Committee is expected to complete its initial review in September and present the board with an updated and comprehensive facilities master plan to accommodate educational needs, enrollment and programs over the next 10 years that is financially stable. The board will review the plan, recommendations and provide direction on next steps.

Did You Know?

District 196 serves nearly 30,000 students, making it the fourth largest school district in Minnesota, behind Anoka-Hennepin, St. Paul and Minneapolis. District 196 owns and maintains 38 buildings with a total of 4.5 million square feet of space.



The former Minnesota Autism Center building at 2120 Silver Bell Road in Eagan is now the Silver Bell Learning Center. It will house the district's ALC high school program, as well as early childhood screening and programming.

District buying building in Eagan for new learning center

District 196 is purchasing the Minnesota Autism Center (MAC) building in Eagan to become the district's third learning center.

The purchase agreement was approved by the School Board Aug. 9. The purchase will be completed in February 2022 at a cost of \$10,820,000. The price includes \$320,000 in non-refundable earnest money that will allow the district to take occupancy of the building before the sale is completed. The purchase will be financed through the sale of certificates of participation, which will happen in February along with the purchase. The certificates will be paid off over a 15-year term using annual lease levy funding.

Constructed in 2017, the two-story, 50,000-square-foot building is located in the northeast corner of Highway 13 and Cedar Avenue in Eagan, across from the Twin Cities Premium Outlets and the Metro Red Line station on Cedar. The building is part educational space, part office space. It includes 16 classrooms, eight private offices, eight open offices, three meeting rooms, a large training room and gym.

The 7.25-acre site includes a track, baseball/softball field, large parking lot and room to expand.

The District 196 Area Learning Center (ALC) high school program will be located in the new building to start the school year this fall. The ALC's approximately 150 students and staff were temporarily housed at the Rosemount Community Center last year. The district's Early Childhood Screening program will also be located in the new building and there will be classrooms for early childhood programming and space for staff. The district took occupancy of the space Aug. 10 to begin moving programs in before the start of the school year.

In a separate action Aug. 9, the board approved an administrative recommendation to name the building Silver Bell Learning Center, located at 2120 Silver Bell Rd. in Eagan. This will be the district's third learning center, along with the Cedar Valley and Dakota Valley learning centers in Apple Valley, which both offer early childhood and adult education programs.

196Online offers families a District 196 online option

196Online opens its virtual doors this fall, offering students in grades kindergarten through 12 flexibility and personalized learning from home. This optional program replaces 196 Digital Academy, the full-time online option offered last year in response to the pandemic.

The district began developing 196Online in January 2021 and received approval from the Minnesota Department of Education in July. Following an enrollment period last spring and processing the waitlist this summer, approximately 500 students will be attending 196Online when the school year begins.

196Online offers a comprehensive curriculum taught by District 196 educators. Students have access to similar academic courses and supports available in other District 196 schools. There is also staff to provide counseling support, technical assistance and services for English Learners, gifted and talented, and special education.

At the elementary level, the learning model is built on synchronous, or live, opportunities. Students have tangible, hands-on learning experiences and access to math and literacy workshops, science materials and specialist classes such as physical education, music and art. Morning meetings provide students opportunity to connect with their teacher and classmates, and regular office hours ensure they get the timely assistance they need.

At the middle and high school levels, the learning model is built on asynchronous, or independent, learning where students spend most of their time accessing and analyzing content, completing coursework and engaging in teacher feedback independently at their own pace. Students can attend specialized elective courses in person at their attendance-area school and can also participate in cocurricular activities there.

The enrollment window for 196Online has passed. Families interested in having their child attend 196Online can get more information and join the waitlist at 196Online.district196.org.

Join the district and make a difference in students' lives

District 196 has employment opportunities for the 2021-22 school year 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 teachers earn \$165 for a full day and \$99 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.

Custodians earn \$19.57 per hour (\$13.20 per hour for substitutes). Typical hours are 3 to 11:30 p.m.; able to perform custodial duties, including lifting up to 50 pounds on a regular basis, and pass a pre-employment physical and background check.

Bus drivers earn \$19.03 per hour. Prefer individuals who are available for both morning and afternoon routes. Applicants must enjoy working with children, have a Minnesota driver's license with a good driving record and be able to lift/drag up to 125 pounds. The district provides training to obtain necessary licensure. Benefits are available to employees who work 23 or more hours per week.

Food service associates earn \$17.53 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. Applicants must have basic math, reading and writing skills, and be able to safely lift up to 40 pounds.



More students enrolled in summer programs

Students in teacher **Marta Nelson's** Extended School Year (ESY) class at Greenleaf Elementary School explained a number activity they were working on when Superintendent **Mary Kreger** stopped in to ask how their summer was going. Enrollment in summer programming was up in all areas this year, as the district used state and federal pandemic resources to provide expanded options for families. Camp Propel served 2,100 elementary students, up from 1,100 last year; the Middle School Summer Academy increased from 450 to 650 students, and the ESY program served 650 students this summer compared to 500 last year. This year's summer programming was also provided by a higher percentage of District 196 teachers compared to previous years.

Board election << continued from page 1 >>

in Rosemount, 3455 153rd St. W., or at one of the Dakota County government centers located in Apple Valley, Hastings and West St. Paul.

To absentee vote by mail, voters may download an application from the district website at District196.org and mail the completed application as directed in the application materials. Once an application is received and processed, an absentee ballot will be mailed to the voter along with instructions for completing and returning their ballot in the postage-paid envelope that is provided with the ballot. If the person applying for an absentee ballot is not registered to vote, a voter registration application will be mailed with the absentee ballot and the completed voter registration application should be returned along with the ballot. Voter registration can also be completed online at www.mnvotes.org.

Early In-Person Voting

Early in-person voting will be offered Tuesday, Oct. 26 through Monday, Nov. 1, each business day during regular office hours at the District Office in Rosemount (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extended hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 1), as well as at the Dakota County Administration Center in Hastings, 1590 Highway 55 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 1).

Election Day Voting

Voters can also cast their ballot on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021. There are 14 combined school district precincts in District 196. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. For information about where you vote, go to www.mnvotes.org or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-423-7725.

Community listening sessions offer new way to connect with School Board members

Beginning in September, District 196 stakeholders will have the opportunity to share comments and concerns directly with up to three School Board members during new community listening sessions that will be held monthly during the school year at different schools throughout the district.

The community listening sessions were proposed as a way to connect board members and stakeholders in a less formal setting than a regular board meeting. The board approved changes to Policy 801, District-Community Relations in June to establish the community listening sessions.

The tentative schedule of community listening session dates and locations for the 2021-22 school year is as follows:

- Sept. 21 at Dakota Hills Middle School;
- Oct. 25 at Valley Middle School of STEM;
- Nov. 15 at Black Hawk Middle School;
- Dec. 6 at Rosemount Middle School;
- Jan. 19 at Falcon Ridge Middle School;
- Feb. 28 at Scott Highlands Middle School;
- March 29 at Rosemount High School;
- April 25 at Eagan High School, and
- May 23 at the School of Environmental Studies.

The listening sessions will be held in the evening to increase opportunity for members of the public to attend. Each community listening session will last up to one hour. The schedule is available on the School Board webpage at District196.org.

The community listening sessions are open to the public. Up to three board members (less than a quorum of the board) will attend each community listening session, along with the superintendent and other invited staff.

Stakeholders are limited to district residents, district property or business owners, district employees, current students and their parents/guardians, district contractors, bidders on district contracts that are open for

bidding or awarded but not completed, and authorized representatives of these stakeholders.

Up to 10 school district stakeholders may sign up in advance to speak at the next scheduled community listening session. To sign up to speak, speakers must complete 801.7P, Request to Speak at Community Listening Session, and submit the completed form to the Superintendent's Office no later than five working days in advance of the next community listening session. If more than 10 speakers submit a timely request, a lottery will be conducted to determine the 10 speakers.

If speaking spots remain at the time the community listening session is scheduled to begin, stakeholders may sign up for the remaining spots on a first-come, first-served basis at the beginning of the community listening session and must complete 801.7P, Request to Speak at Community Listening Session. The community listening session will adjourn if no district stakeholder has signed up

to speak within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

Each speaker has up to five minutes to speak and any remaining time may be used by board members or administrators to ask clarifying questions. The listening session ends after the last speaker. Questions asked by speakers during community listening sessions will typically be deferred, pending appropriate administrative and board member consideration.

Speakers may not use community listening sessions to air complaints about specific employees or other individuals. Such complaints should be addressed privately. Speakers are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner, adhere to the time limit, follow the directions of the board members and requirements of district regulations or risk being disqualified from speaking at future community listening sessions. Comments offered at community listening sessions do not necessarily represent the views of the administration or School Board.

School Board meetings streamed live on YouTube

In June, the School Board approved its schedule of regular meetings for the 2021-22 school year.

Regular board meetings will begin at 6 p.m. at Dakota Ridge School in Apple Valley on the following Mondays: Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13 and June 27. The board also occasionally holds special board meetings. Notice of all School Board meetings are posted on the district website.

Regular board meetings are streamed live on the District 196 YouTube page and are available to stream the day after from the District 196 TV webpage.

Materials for agenda items for regular board meetings are available on the School Board webpage; click School Board Meetings and Agendas.

District 196 stakeholders may participate at regular board meetings by addressing items on the agenda after being recognized by the board chair, or by submitting a special communication request form no later than five days before the board meeting at which they wish to speak. In June, the board approved changes to its policy on board meetings, limiting the number of special communication requests to 10 district stakeholders per meeting, for up to four minutes per speaker. If more than 10 special communication requests are submitted for one meeting, the 10 will be selected by lottery.

The board eliminated the open forum portion of its regular meetings because it was very similar to special communication requests and the board is adding monthly community listening sessions beginning in September.

Three District 196 graduates represent Team USA at Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

Team USA was stacked with athletes from across Minnesota, including three graduates of District 196. 2018 Apple Valley High School graduate **Gable Steveson**, 2014 Rosemount High School graduate **Payton Otterdahl** and 2007 Eagan High School graduate **Mallory Weggemann** competed in wrestling, shot put and swimming, respectively, in the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. This was the first Olympic appearance for Steveson and Otterdahl, and Weggemann's third appearance in the Paralympics.

"It is an incredible accomplishment to qualify for the Olympics and Paralympics, and it's amazing to have three District 196 graduates on Team USA this year," said Superintendent **Mary Kreger**. "We are so proud of them and their stories of struggle, success and infinite possibilities."

Steveson wins gold in epic final

Steveson's story just keeps getting better and better. At just 21 years old, he is a four-time Minnesota state wrestling champion, a two-time Big Ten champion, the reigning NCAA and Pan American Continental champion, and now reigning Olympic champion following a last-second comeback win in the men's 125 kg. freestyle wrestling final.

"I knew I had it in me. I knew I had it in me," Steveson told reporters following the match. "Everybody talks about bringing home a gold medal, and I did it."



2014 Rosemount High School graduate **Payton Otterdahl** threw the 16-pound shot 20.32 meters during the finals of the men's shot put in Tokyo and finished in 10th place.
AP Photo/Michael Kappeler

Steveson led 5-2 with 1:20 left in the match, but just 20 seconds later found himself trailing 5-8 after getting turned twice by the reigning world champion. Steveson scored with 6.5 seconds remaining to pull within a point. On the reset, he made a quick runaround move to the right and scored another two points to win as the final horn sounded. Steveson erupted with emotion, celebrated with his coach and performed his signature backflip to the small group of spectators in the arena and the worldwide audience watching on video.

Steveson won his first three matches by a combined score of 23-0, including an 8-0 win over the reigning Olympic champion. He is the first heavyweight gold medalist for Team USA since 1992.

Steveson said all of the steps of his wrestling career were critical to preparing him for the Olympics. He qualified for Team USA by sweeping the competition at the wrestling team trials in April.

"After making the Olympic team, my emotions were all over the place," Steveson said. "This is really a childhood dream come true to represent America on the biggest stage."

Otterdahl reaches Olympic dream

Just a few years ago, Otterdahl graduated from Rosemount as the Class 2A state champion in shot put and discus, and had his sights set on collegiate titles. During his time at North Dakota State University (NDSU), he consistently upped his game, earning top spots in the NCAA rankings,



Gable Steveson is pictured in his senior year at Apple Valley High School in 2018.

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Team USA

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shattering school records and ultimately becoming NDSU's first individual Division I national champion in any sport.

Now, at age 25, Otterdahl reached another milestone in his sporting career by competing as an Olympian. He edged the competition in the qualifying round in Tokyo to make it to the finals. On his first three attempts, he threw 66 feet, 8 inches (20.32 meters) and placed 10th overall.

"All the hard work and dedication had finally paid off, and I couldn't believe it," Otterdahl said of his opportunity to go to the Olympics. "I shared the moment with my family right afterward, and I was so glad they could be there to share it."

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of the NDSU gym where he trained, Otterdahl had to switch up his training routine. To say training was a challenge would be putting it lightly, he said. His garage was converted to his training space in the winter and spring, and a local middle school provided him space to throw when the snow melted.

"I didn't have any training partners most days, so I had to be very internally motivated," he explained. "I am lucky my coach could be there most days. And once in a while I would have some teammates come throw with me."

Self-discipline and the lure of pursuing his lifelong dream to represent the United States propelled him to the world stage. Among his many accomplishments, Otterdahl also won national titles for shot put and weight throw at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships his senior year of college in 2019.

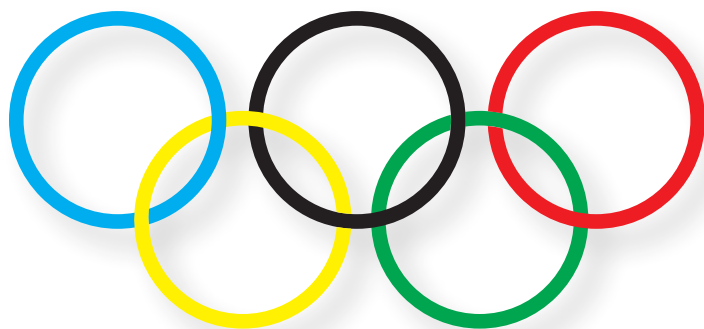
Weggemann is three-time Paralympian

If there were ever an example of grit, determination and breaking down barriers, Weggemann is it. A decorated swimmer during her time as a Wildcat, Weggemann grew up loving the thrill of competition. At age 18, she was looking forward to a future full of possibilities.

But shortly after graduating, while receiving an epidural steroid shot for severe back pain, Weggemann was paralyzed from the waist down. Despite the devastating situation, Weggemann tapped into incredible grit and determination to



2007 Eagan High School graduate **Mallory Weggemann** is competing in her third Paralympic Games Aug. 24-Sept. 5 in Tokyo. She won gold and bronze medals in her first Paralympics in London in 2012.



not only adjust but thrive in her new reality. She would go on to swim in her first Paralympic Games in 2012, winning gold and bronze medals and adding to her 34 American records and 15 world records.

A fall in a hotel bathroom in 2014 shattered her arm and damaged nerves from her elbow down. Determined to continue fighting for her goal of another Paralympic appearance, Weggemann pushed through the pain and became a member of Team USA during the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

This year, the 32-year-old has her eyes on gold in Tokyo after winning four of her six events during trials in June. She took first in the 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter fly, 100-meter backstroke and the 200-meter individual medley. The Paralympics started Aug. 24, after this issue of *Spotlight* went to press.

District 196 students and schools earn more national speech and debate honors

Two District 196 students won a national championship and Apple Valley, Eagan and Eastview high schools all won top team honors at this year's National Speech and Debate Association national tournament, which was held online in June.

Jonah Johnson and **Frank Knier** of Apple Valley are national champions in live duo interpretation, and **Hanna Olson** and **Thor Reimann** of Eastview were runners-up. They are among the 13 District 196 students who advanced to the final round of competition (top six) in their category. Third-place finishes went to **Alice Hovendon** and **Colin Roberts** of Eagan in dramatic duo asynchronous, **Ella Erdahl** of Eastview in humorous interpretation and, for the third year in a row, **Cecelia Voss** of Apple Valley took third place at the national tournament in informative speaking. **Archan Sen** of Eagan placed fourth in big question debate, and fifth-place finishes went to **Lydia Voss** of Apple Valley in program oral interpretation, **Claudia Liverseed** and **Aerin Engelstad** of Eagan in policy debate, and **Akansha Kamineni** of Eastview in storytelling.



Apple Valley, Eagan and Eastview were three of the 10 Schools of Outstanding Distinction in Speech and Debate in this year's national tournament, based on the number of rounds of competition their students completed during the tournament. This was the eighth year in a row with at least one District 196 high school earning the top 10 outstanding distinction honor.

A total of 45 District 196 students qualified for this year's national tournament, including 14 from Eastview, 16 from Eagan, 11 from Apple Valley and four from Rosemount High School. In addition to the 13 finalists listed above, 25 others advanced to the elimination rounds. Semifinalists include **Heden Abdulahi** of Eagan, seventh place speaker in policy debate; **Allison Hering** of Eastview, eighth place in international extemporaneous speaking; **Maria Michaelson** of Apple Valley, ninth place in program oral interpretation; **Vikash Giritharan** and **Faye Zhang** of Eastview, 10th and 11th place, respectively, in U.S. extemporaneous speaking; **Sophie Todaro** of Apple Valley, 12th place in humorous interpretation; **Flynn Gray** of Eagan, 14th place in expository speaking, and **Elise Noonan** of Eastview in congressional debate. Speech quarterfinalists are **De'Marco Walton** and **Cooper Roberts** of Apple Valley; **Trinh Nguyen**, **James Eiden** and **Kai Wilson** of Eagan, and **Rhea Rajvansh** and **Morgan Oksendahl** of Eastview. Speech octofinalists (top 60) are **Morgen Allen** of Apple Valley, **Evelyn Gore**, **Audrey Schwartz** and **Wilson** of Eagan, **Akshara Molleti** and **Erdahl** of Eastview, and **Hermela Solomon** of Rosemount. Other students advancing to elimination rounds in policy debate were **Abdulahi** and **Saanvi Malhotra** of Eagan, and **Niko Jackson** and **Kate Nozal** of Rosemount, and in public forum debate were **Isaiah Dalzell** and **Izhan Qureishy** of Eastview.



Proud parents **Scott and Tzitel Voss** pose with daughters **Lydia Voss** (middle left) and **Cecelia Voss**, who were both finalists at this year's National Speech and Debate Association national tournament. Lydia took fifth place in program oral interpretation and Cecelia, who graduated in June, finished third in informative speaking for a school-record third time as a national finalist during her high school career. Scott and Tzitel both teach and coach speech and debate at Apple Valley High School.

New Spanish and Somali websites launched

New human-translated websites for Spanish- and Somali-speaking families are available on the district website. They were added to help ensure parents have access to the important information they need to support their children's education. Access the sites at District196.org, in the black utility bar at the top of every page, or by clicking on the white box menu at the top on a mobile device.

SPANISH Lanzamiento de las páginas web en español y somalí para las familias multilingües del Distrito 196.

Estas páginas forman parte de una iniciativa más amplia de parte del distrito para mejorar la comunicación con las familias multilingües y garantizar que tengan acceso a información fundamental para el éxito de sus hijos. Visite la página District196.org/espanol.

SOMALI Boga internetka cusub oo loo heli karo Degmada 196 qoys oo ku hadla Af -Soomaali.

Si loo caawiyo qoysaskeena ku hadla Isbaanishka iyo Soomaaliga, waxaan daahfurnay laba bog oo internet ah oo si gaar ah adiga laguugu sameeyay. Websaydhadaan waxaa kujira xog ururin xoog leh oo laxiriira isqorista, cuntada iyo nafaqada, tikniyoolajiyadda, adeegga baska, barnaamijyada barashada Ingiriisiga, iyo in kabadan. Dhammaan macluumaadka bani aadmi ayaa tarjumay oo ku qorey luqadda hooyo. Tag degelkan, District196.org/somali.

SES students take learning to the stratosphere in a weather balloon they designed and built

Last spring, students at the School of Environmental Studies (SES) designed, built and launched a weather balloon that gave them a unique look into life 20 miles into the stratosphere.

The experiment was part of the school's seven-day intensive theme course, an option available each trimester that gives students an opportunity to immerse themselves in a topic and earn an elective credit. Physics teacher **Eric Colchin**

and students in the scientific inquiry course collaborated with **Dr. James Flaten**, a professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, to get the course off the ground.

Students were tasked with building the sensor package that would be key to collecting important data during the flight, including air temperature, distance, light and speed. The package included a camera and its power system, which needed to be protected from the inhospitable



SES students built a weather balloon, launched it and collected and analyzed data as part of a seven-day, intensive theme course offered at SES last spring.

stratosphere. Students then built the balloon's payload with Styrofoam boxes, inserted the sensors and GoPro camera, and held it all together with zip ties.

"They checked that all the batteries were charged and the memory cards were ready to collect the data they needed," Colchin said. "At the end of the day, Dr. Flaten came to answer questions and look over their designs."

With questions answered and the go-flight orders given, Dr. Flaten took the payload and handed it off to his launch team.

On May 25, the balloon set off from Elmore, Minnesota, near the Iowa border. The students watched the launch live via Zoom. A little over two hours into the journey the balloon reached its maximum height of 99,107 feet into the stratosphere, then it popped and fell near Red Wing.

"I love working on a project like this because the students decide what they want to learn about the atmosphere, and they decide what kind of information needs to be collected to get the answers they want," Colchin said. "In this case, it is hard to imagine that only 20 miles up is that difficult to get to. When they realize the scale, it seemed to give the students an appreciation for the air that they are surrounded by."

Colchin retrieved the payload, which landed high in a tree. Over Zoom, students eagerly reviewed the data with Dr. Flaten. Colchin said students had in-depth conversations about their interpretation of the data and examined the video to see how the design of the payload helped it land safely.

"Many of them wanted to launch another balloon right away," Colchin said. "This platform provided a great opportunity for students to use real science and engineering practices."

On the last day of the intensive theme course, students presented their data and conclusions to Dr. Flaten and his team, as well as their peers in other intensive theme courses. Dr. Flaten, who also works with NASA as an associate director of the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium, regularly works with students on how to engineer effective payloads and launch weather balloons.

"They got to learn about the importance of understanding the limitations of measuring equipment and how to work as a team," Colchin said. "This activity allowed students to get a personal look at the air they live in and practice building instruments to answer questions that they have. We all walked away with a new perspective of our planet."



Physics teacher **Eric Colchin** pointed to the weather balloon, which landed in a tree near Red Wing.

School meals free again; families urged to apply for Educational Benefits

All District 196 students ages 18 and younger can receive free school meals again this year through special funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Free meals include one breakfast and one lunch. Second entrees are \$3 and additional milk is \$0.40. Adult lunch is \$3.85 and adult breakfast is \$2.05. A la carte menu items are not included and vary by pricing. For a la carte prices, visit the Food and Nutrition Services Department webpage at District196.org/services/food-and-nutrition-services.

Parents and guardians are responsible for all meal account debts incurred prior to this school year and any charges incurred through a la carte purchases.

All staff follow practices consistent with Minnesota Department of Health, Department of Education and CDC health and safety guidelines when distributing meals in schools.

All families are encouraged to complete an Educational Benefits Application, formerly the free and reduced-price meals application, even though meals are free this year. An approval for educational benefits also allows families to receive discounted or free activity participation or Community Education fees.

The Educational Benefits Program directly supports your child's school with compensatory aid, which is determined by how many families apply. This critical funding provides additional teachers, additional instructional materials, math and reading support, and additional paraprofessionals and social workers.

Apply online at District196.org/edbenefits; the process is safe, secure and private. Only one application is needed per household, but a new application must be submitted each year. Paper applications are also available from the front office at every school. If you have questions about the application, call 651-683-6958 or email nutrition@district196.org.

Face coverings required on buses for daily transportation

All drivers, chaperones and students are expected to wear a face covering whenever they are riding in a school bus or other district vehicle, per federal order. Students should bring a face covering for use on the school bus. A supply of face coverings will be available on buses if a student forgets or misplaces theirs.

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected between each route, focusing on frequently touched surfaces such as handrails and door handles. Weather permitting, windows and roof hatches will be open to increase airflow and circulation.

If you have questions, call the Transportation Department at 651-423-7685.

Bus stop information mailed

Postcards were mailed Aug. 16 to families of students eligible to receive transportation to and from school during the 2021-22 school year.

The postcard includes information about bus stop locations and pick-up/drop-off times. Parents and guardians who did not receive a postcard and believe their child is eligible to receive transportation can call 651-423-7685. Bus stop information is also available through the Infinite Campus parent portal. Click on "More," then "Transportation." This information is updated nightly to reflect any changes to bus routes and stops.

Bus service for a fee

Optional transportation service for a fee is available to families whose children are not eligible for free transportation based on current service distances. The annual cost is \$300 per student,

with a \$600 family maximum. Families whose children qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals receive the service for a discounted rate. For more information, visit the Transportation Department page at District196.org or call 651-423-7685.

Here Comes the Bus tracking app

Students, parents and guardians can track their school bus to their stop using the smartphone application "Here Comes the Bus."



Users of the app can establish a perimeter around their stop and it sends an alert when the bus enters the perimeter. Here Comes the Bus also sends a notification message if a bus is running late or if a different bus has been substituted for a child's usual bus.

The app uses HTTPS, or Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure, which encrypts all communication between the web browser and the app for security. The app tracks district buses using GPS, it does not track students. The Here Comes The Bus app is available to download free on the Google Play Store for Android and App Store for iPhone.

To set up an account, users will need the school district identification number (73500) and the student's meal account number. Parents can monitor buses for multiple children from a single account. Parents of children in early childhood education programs can call the Transportation Department at 651-423-7685 to get a temporary meal account number.

day of regular classes for grades 1-12 is Wednesday, Sept. 8.

Early start

<< *continued from page 1* >>

Elementary School Assessment

Days, Sept. 1 and 2 (grades K-5, by appointment) – Elementary school parents and guardians should sign their child up for a scheduled opportunity to meet with their teacher one-on-one and take a short literacy assessment that helps teachers best meet their students' individual needs from the first day of school. The sign-up for assessments is available on all elementary school websites. The first

Student Success Days, Sept. 1 and 2

(grades 6-12) – Students will attend each day to help transition back to school by connecting with teachers and classmates, walking through their schedules, picking up learning devices and participating in planned educational and community building activities. Schools are sharing details with families. The first day of regular classes for grades 1-12 is Wednesday, Sept. 8.

COVID-19 plan features current safety protocols and mitigation strategies

As of mid-August when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press, students and staff will be strongly encouraged, but not required to wear face coverings inside schools when they return to start the new school year.

District 196 will continue to support guidance from public health officials by strongly recommending everyone age 2 and older wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status. The district also strongly recommends that everyone receive the free COVID-19 vaccination, when eligible. Local case positivity rates and county vaccination rates are factors that will be considered in deciding whether changes are needed locally.

Many of the health and safety protocols and mitigation strategies implemented last year will continue, including the standard of having a HEPA filter in every classroom and office area districtwide. Social distancing of 3 feet between students will be implemented when possible, and all schools will continue their education around hygiene and frequent hand washing. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of learning spaces, district vehicles and frequently touched surfaces will also continue.

In the event of a positive COVID case, families will receive a general classroom-level notification directing them to follow the recommendations in the Minnesota Department of Health's decision tree.

The district updated its *COVID-19 Operational Plan for Families, Students and Guests* for the 2021-22 school year. The online plan is available on the District 196 COVID-19 Dashboard by going to District196.org, under About.

The health and safety protocols included in the plan are rooted in prevention strategies based on community spread, vaccination coverage, populations at risk and efficacy of mitigation steps, while also allowing families opportunities for personal choice and responsibility.



Crews worked on the site of Apple Valley High School's new lighted turf practice field, which is located behind the school along 140th Street. Fields at Apple Valley and Eastview High School are on schedule to be completed before the start of the school year.

Turf project nearing finish line with fields AVHS and EVHS

All four comprehensive high schools in District 196 will have an artificial turf stadium field and lighted practice field when projects are finished at Apple Valley and Eastview high schools this fall, completing a two-year, phased project that started at Eagan and Rosemount high schools last year.

"Our students, staff and community are thrilled for the opportunity to have new, top-of-the-line turf fields installed," said **Cory Hanson**, Apple Valley High School athletic director. "These fields will provide more opportunities for our students to engage in co-curricular activities, as well as offer a safe and durable playing surface. With the addition of the fields, Apple Valley High School will have some of the premier high school athletic facilities in Minnesota."

The turf projects were proposed by district administration in late 2019 in response to growing concerns

about safety and playability of the deteriorating sod fields at the district's high school stadiums.

The projects are being financed with two separate sales of certificates of participation. In April 2020, the School Board approved the sale of \$8.96 million in certificates of participation to finance the Rosemount and Eagan projects, and \$9 million in March 2021 for the projects at Apple Valley and Eastview. Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts** said both projects were slightly under budget estimates of \$19 million.

In addition to providing a reliable playing surface for teams, the turf fields can be used for physical education classes and learning spaces during the school day, marching band practice and for rent to local athletic associations and other community groups.

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;
- * 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;
- 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), 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.

District doesn't 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.

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 students' educational program, communicate with parents and guardians, and comply with state requirements. 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 they are 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 superintendent.

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 Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20202-8520.

District tests for lead in drinking water

District 196 tests for the presence of lead in drinking water in schools, as required by state law. 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 began in July 2018.

The district 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 district's Drinking Water Testing Plan and test results are available on the Facilities Department page of the district website at District196.org. For more information on the plan, contact Facilities and Grounds Manager **Chris Pint** at 651-423-7735 or christopher.pint@district196.org.

Notice of pest control materials 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 district's 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 Facilities and Grounds Manager **Chris Pint** at 651-423-7735 or christopher.pint@district196.org.



DISTRICT196

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We are working hard every day to ensure a variety of **lifelong learning opportunities** for your **engagement, enrichment** and **inspiration**.

Also, please know the **safety** of you, your family and our staff is our primary concern.

Our programming is consistent with state and federal health guidelines. We have developed a wide variety of learning opportunities for all ages in various modes of delivery. Although the attending method may be different, our goal is the same: to engage, enrich and inspire your lifelong learning! **The sky's the limit.**

Give the gift of learning!

There are many ways you may give the gift of learning...

Purchase a **Community Education Gift Certificate** and send it to a friend or a loved one to honor a special occasion like a birthday. Give a gift of a learning experience; it lasts a lifetime!

Support Infinite Possibilities in District 196 and donate to Community Education. Your gift will help an individual in need to participate in a quality learning activity. We strive to offer our programs at the lowest possible fee to best serve the needs of our community. Unfortunately, some families in our district struggle to pay and need some help. Our fee assistance program helps those in need participate in our programs that teach essential life skills, assist in employment, or extend classroom learning.

Support quality education programs for young children and their families by donating to **Foundation for Early Childhood Family Services ISD 196**. Help families with young children become self-sufficient, improve their parenting and ready their children for school.

Give to **RVPE Foundation** to provide fee assistance, transportation and support new programming for adults with disabilities in River Valley Project Explore activities.

Help us strengthen our community through lifelong learning. Visit ce.district196.org to find out more.



DISTRICT 196

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