



COMMUNITYConnections

A newsletter for the stakeholders of Stillwater Area Public Schools

Spring 2020

Kids always come first

Even on the best day, our schools rely on the efforts of many different people coming together to support our kids. Now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more clear that we're all in this together.

It seems hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago it was business as usual in our schools. While our world has changed so much in just a few weeks time there is one thing that remains the same. Our kids will always come first.

When Governor Walz closed our schools to slow the spread of this disease, our staff immediately sprang into action. We've had to completely reinvent our school district and create new ways to support our students and families outside of our school walls. We're providing meals, caring for the children of emergency workers, and educating students in their very own homes.

If you could see the list of "to dos" our staff has been able to check off, I think you'd be amazed. But we haven't done it alone. In true Pony fashion, our community has rallied to support our students and families.

We are so grateful to our staff, our students and families, and the residents of the St. Croix Valley for all of the care and concern you've poured out on our schools. It takes a valley to educate the students of this district. And there isn't a valley anywhere that is better equipped than ours.

Thanks for all you do to support our kids in both the good times and the bad.

Denise Pontrelli

Superintendent Denise Pontrelli

Together WE'VE GOT THIS

Staff and students help keep health care workers safe

Faculty and students from Stillwater Area Public Schools are using district 3D printers to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

When they heard about shortages of protective gear among health care workers, staff from the district tech department jumped into action and set up 3D print stations at home.

Staff and students are making face shields by combining 3D printed plastic headbands with transparencies that were used with old overhead projectors. The face shield is meant for health care workers to use as an extra layer of protection over N95 masks.

They're also printing "ear savers" - a plastic device worn at the back of the head to hold face mask straps instead of behind the ears which can cause discomfort and even bleeding.

They have cranked out more than 1,000 ear savers and 200 face shields. The items have been given to Lakeview and Regions hospitals, the Minneapolis Police Department, several long term care facilities, as well as one of our own district custodians.

Workers at Regions Hospital who received a package of ear savers were thrilled. One nurse said, "It was like Christmas here when I brought the bag in."



Get more district news at stillwaterschools.org

Our New Normal



Going the distance for our students

Attending school may look differently for our students as a result of the COVID-19 quarantine, but thanks to the hard work and innovation of our teachers, quality learning is still happening.

When Governor Walz announced schools across the state would be closing to slow the spread of COVID-19, our teachers had just a few days to design an entirely different system to teach. Many of them had to first become students - learning new technology and online platforms to connect with kids and families. In just a week's time, our teachers and administrators not only determined what learning should look like from a distance, they also ensured students had access to the technology and the social and emotional support they would need along the way.

"I know that I have become a better teacher through this crisis," said Laura Hammond, a high school language arts teacher. "I believe that we have learned from each other, which is beneficial - it's important for students to see adults learning and growing."

DISTANCE LEARNING

A new way to teach and to learn

By definition from the Minnesota Department of Education, distance learning means students have to have access to appropriate educational materials and receive daily instruction by a teacher. In Stillwater, we've also made personal connections an essential part of our plan. Even before distance learning officially began, our teachers made phone calls to each and every one of their students to see how they were doing, ask what needs they had, and reassure them that we're all in this together.

Those personal connections have continued as teachers not only support student learning, but also help identify kids in need of additional mental health support or guide families toward resources to access food or financial assistance.

Teachers have also gotten very creative in how they are providing instruction to their students. Instead of simply sending out worksheets or assigning a project, teachers are working hard to engage with students one-on-one and in small groups. Many teachers are creating videos and presentations to introduce students to new concepts, and then offering one-on-one meetings throughout the week to provide further clarification or assistance, if needed. Others are utilizing discussion boards or video chats to allow students to interact with each other and discuss concepts.



"There was concern that this kind of a model might serve as an excuse for many students to disengage from school, but we have not found this to be the case," said Rob Bach, principal of Stillwater Area High School. "On the whole, our students have been resilient and demonstrated a great desire to stay connected as Pony learners."



CARING FOR OUR KIDS

Our students may not be in our buildings, but they are still very much under our care! We're honored to walk alongside families during this time to ensure our students have everything they need to help them learn and keep them healthy and strong.

Personal connections

Our teachers are personally connecting with each child and family on a regular basis to ensure that they have what they need to engage in distance learning. Not only are teachers providing lessons and providing one-on-one help, they're also checking in on basic needs like access to food and mental health support. Some have even made socially-distanced house calls to send messages of love to students.

Feeding our kids

Each week our food services staff is preparing and distributing more than 10,000 meals to our kids. We're not just talking PB&Js, either. The team has developed a special menu with a variety of healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch items. Families pick up an entire week's worth of food each Monday at 14 distribution sites located throughout the district.

Emergency childcare

Each day we're providing care to more than 40 children of emergency workers. This emergency childcare ensures our community's most essential workers in areas like health care, law enforcement, and grocery stores can do their jobs to serve all of us.

Family support

Staff aren't the only ones impacted by distance learning, so we've developed a variety of resources to help parents navigate their new role. Our staff has created step-by-step training videos and online presentations to help parents connect with Seesaw and Schoology, and provided sample distance learning schedules and checklists specific to parents and students.

We've also created several parent support groups through Community Education, and offered a weekly webinar series with strategies and tips to navigate distance learning. We're posting positive messages of support and videos of encouragement from teachers, too, which can be found on [Facebook.com/Stillwater834](https://www.facebook.com/Stillwater834).

Mental health support

Our social workers and school counselors have put together resources to help students and families deal with the stress and challenges of COVID-19. The Support for Families link on our website provides a variety of resources to help families access mental health support as well as provide for basic needs - such as food and financial support. Counselors are also continuing to provide personalized support virtually including individual student meetings/check-ins, student groups, family meetings and more

Technology

We've provided - and in some cases personally delivered - more than 500 Chromebooks and 150 HotSpot internet connections to students without access to ensure they can continue learning.

Community partners

Lakeview Hospital, Washington County, the Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce, Valley Outreach, Family Means, Youth Service Bureau and our local faith community have been working closely with us to find creative ways to serve our students and families.

In Their Own Words

"As a family that has been able to rest a little easier knowing our kids would be with familiar faces each day, thank you. I am able to continue my role in health care because of you. The ripple effect of your service is more than you even know."

— Comments posted on [Facebook.com/Stillwater834](https://www.facebook.com/Stillwater834)



Need Support?



If you're in crisis, find a provider or resources for mental health and substance abuse fast with [fast-trackermn.org](https://www.fast-trackermn.org)

Mental Health:

- Canvas Health Crisis Connection: 612.379.6363
- Washington County Crisis Line: 651.777.4455
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK

Food Support/Financial Assistance:

- Community Thread: 651.439.7434
- Valley Outreach: 651.430.2739
- United Way: 651.439.3838
- St. Croix Family Resource Center: 715.684.5122

Learn more about the district's COVID-19 response at [stillwaterschools.org](https://www.stillwaterschools.org)

CLASS OF 2020

We Love Our Ponies

Asmeret Abraha	Augustus Buettner	Samuel Ek	Ellie Gruber	Samuel Johnson	Lexie Ligday
Meghana Acharya	Tomas Bumgardner	Braiden Elfert	Mackenszi Gulbrantson	Tyler Johnson	Grace Lilla
Anghom Ajak	Tristan Cady	Madeline Eliasen	Aidan Gunderson	Zachary Johnson	Courtney Lillemoen
Heather Akey	James Calderone	Sean Ellis	Salugla Gurhan	David Jones	Anna Lindeberg
Rachel Allan	Grace Campbell	Lauren Enerson	Madeline Haase	Nick Kahle	Alexis Litchy
Abygail Andebrhan	Mekhi Cannedy-Grady	Jed Ericksen	Allison Hafner	Connor Kapfer	Teddy Lockhart
Claire Anderson	Kieler Carlson	Grant Erickson	Jack Haley	Aliza Karlen	Amielya London
Grace Anderson	Zachary Carlson	Nathan Erickson	Destiny Halleland	Samuel Kavapalu	Benjamin Long
Molly Anderson	Jackson Carter	Yunita Erniajan	Logan Halverson	Benjamin Kazmerski	Maria Longtin
Isabella Anderson	Paige Carter	Tucker Estenson	Holden Hammerlund	Logan Kelley	Tony Lor
Kirsten Anderson	Kirsten Castillo	Amelia Evanoff	Lucas Hamp	Quinn Kelley	Sophia Lord
Olivia Anderson	Lauren Caywood	Caroline Evans	Samuel Hansen	Alexis Kellogg	Jackson Lowe
Jacob Andreachi	Jared Celentano	Connor Evenson	Ryann Hanson	Allison Kelm	Anthony Lucas Jr.
Carlos Andrews	Adelaine Charlsen	Jaden Eviota	Garrett Hanson	Kevin Kerber	Charlotta Lueth
Na'Shaun Andrews	Ava Chaves	Ezekiel Fajemirokun	Katelyn Harris	Zaid Khudhair	Elena Luna
Dara Andringa	Noah Chlebeck	Ibrahem Fakri	Helaina Hart	Ethan Kilmer	Blake Lund
Mitchell Ardolf	Alayna Christian	Vincent Falkenberg	Halle Hauer	Anne Kiolbasa	Levi Lundstrom
Colette Argiro	Makenna Christiansen	Hannah Farmer	Ty Hawkins	Owen Kiser	Juliana Lussio Litschauer
Porcia Asiedu	Lillian Cichon	Estelle Fearing	Jacob Hegner	Julia Klancher	Logan Lynn
Ryan Augustine	Ryan Cimini	Robert Fedor	William Heieren	William Klein	Chase Lynskey
Grant Auleciems	Emily Clayton	William Fedorowski	Olivia Heim	Abigail Kneeskern	Jemina Ruth Maasin
Justin Avery	Logan Clendenen	Fayuma Felema	Colin Heininger	Dustin Knighton	Zimm MacLeslie
Ethan Badger	Cameron Cole-Scott	Alexander Fena	Justice Heinrichs	Nicholas Knutsen	Blake Madden
Alyssa Baggenstoss	Jahnett Coleman-Cotton	Aubrie Filandrinios	Chase Heintz	Jonathan Koehn	Carson Madsen
Hannah Bahma	Andrew Constant	Michael Finch	Jack Heintz	Pablo Koller	Juan Malon
Brandon Baker	Lilyann Cosgrove	Elizabeth Fisher	Madeline Heinz	Madeline Koltun	Lucas Mann
Terrance Ball	Emily Cossetta	Dominick Flach	David Helgeson	Jack Konigson	Hunter Marcaccini-Teeples
Ethan Barclay	Grace Cote	Hazel Flock	Anthony Hels	Anthony Koslowski	Tyler Maroney
Cristopher Bardwell	Luke Cullen	Rachel Fogelberg	Faythe Hendry	Haden Kraft	Rebecca Marquez
Adriaunna Bass-Funke	Aidan Cummings	Savanah Foix	Paige Hendry	Austin Kramar	Camryn Martin
Clayton Batterton	Joseph Curtis	Rachel Folden	Grace Henke	Ashton Kramer	Katrina Martin
Benjamin Bauer	Maria Curtis	Jack Ford	Linda Herr	James Kratz	Giovany Martinez Cruz
Megan Baxter	Maggie Dalager-Ericsson	Sidney Foreman	Braden Hilde	Zackary Kraus	Grace May
David Beck	Benjamin Dandeleit	Grace Foss	Braden Hill	Zane Kraus	Sophie McAfee
Audrey Behm	Soren Danelius	Bayley Foster	Lauren Hill	Matthew Krogstad	Trevor McClaine
Daniel Beletsky	Nicholas Dario	Madison Foster	Linda Hill	Henry Kruse	Logan McCormick
Juliauna Belisle	Hudson Day	Charles Franke	Alexis Hiltunen	Trey Kruse	Grace McDonough
Rowan Bell-Myers	Jacob Day	John Franklin	Julia Hinz	Madison Kulzer	Riley McDonough
Julia Bennett	John DeBeer	Logan Frattalone	Sierra Hippel	Martin Kurler	Amy McElin
Camden Benson	Cole DeCorsey	Tyson Fredkove	Serena Hiveley	Samantha Kvaas-Reed	Daria McGee
Zachary Benson	Perla DeLa rosa	Logan Fritsche	Cuong Ho	Emily Laabs	Nikita McGee
Derek Berg	Noah deLeon	Mary Fultz	Laurny Hoff	Ava LaBelle	Katlyn McGrath
Jack Berger	Ellie DeMars	Morgan Gackstetter	Jacob Hoffman	Shaudae Lacy	Carter McGraw
Paige Berheim	Joseph Devins	Erin Gallion	Raina Hoge	Stacy Lam	Marlee McGuire
Olivia Bernard	Michael Deziel	Matthew Gallion	Royce Hogue	Jacob Lambrides	Mallory McKay
Rachel Bernath	Fatoumata Diallo	Antonio Garcia	Dylan Holmes	Nicole Lammers	Sydney McNurlin
Luke Bethke	Claire Dicks	Hannah Genosky	Nicholas Hong	Theodore Lammers	Leslee Menjivar
Logan Bies	Alexia Dobbs	Cade Gentes	Madison Horn	Tra LaMosse	Rachel Menzel
Haakon Bjork	Nya Dobier	Alison Gerard	Vivian Horning	Gabrielle LaMotte	Cecil Meredith
Elizabeth Blair	Lauren Doe	Raif Gergen	Christian Howlett	Andrew Langenberger	Mildred Osei
Elizabeth Bliss	Ronald Donar	Nathan Gessler	Dawson Hoyos	Ivy Lariviere	Jack Ostrander
Carina Block	Dylan Doroff	Christopher Geving	Elsa Huckels	Marisa Larson	Matthew Oswald
Isabelle Boegel	Wyatt Dorweiler	Luke Giesregen	Maleka Hussein	Madissen Lavalie	Daniel Palmer
Emma Boehle	Calvin Dougherty	Benjamin Gjerde	Zakharia Ibrahim	Shae Layne	Nicholas Parent
AnnaMarie Born	Dylan Doyle	William Isaacson	William Isaacson	Marie Lecuyer	Meredith Parry
Carol Boules	Gavin Dunbar	Maria Gorde	Kevin Jaap	Abigail Lee	Austin Paseka
Kellen Bourdaux	Bridget Dupre	Carly Gordon	Benjamin Jacobs	Cody Lee	Dhara Patel
John Bouthilet	Mitchel Ebner	Gaven Gow	Connor Jacoby	Taylor Lee	Wyatt Patzner
Shelby Braund	Sienna Ecker	Samantha Gow	Taylor Janssen	Mary Legato	Joshua Paulson
Jacob Breth	Delston Eckerman	Molly Graber	Grady Jerdee	Aftyn Lehman	Casey Pearson
Kyle Breth	Allison Eder	Peter Grace	Ryan Jinks	Patrick Lentz	Joseph Pearson
Savina Brinda	Haley Eder-Zdechlik	Emily Gray	Cody Johnson	Sean Lenz	Alyxandria Moosai
Annika Brown	Andrew Edwards	Adam Green	Cooper Johnson	Benjamin Leon	Elsa Persson
Isaac Brown	Lauren Einan	Paxton Grobe	Imani Johnson	Sean LeRoux	Michelle Peterson
Sophie Browning	Jordan Eiselt	Walker Grogan	Jeremy Johnson	Jordan Le vasseur	Mitch Peterson
Meredith Bruening	Connor Eisenmenger	Brady Gross	Lauren Johnson	Myah Lienke	Lily Mowery
					Aaron Mozey

Abigail Mueller	Parker Petronack	Ethan Scheel	Paige Speedling	Elizabeth Tuttle	Kylie Weyer
Nawal Mukhtar	Nevyn Pflugradt	Alex Scherber	Livia Spitzer	Emma Urban	Quinton White
Grace Murphy	Jaden Phelps	John Schilling	Elle Sprenger	Daniel Ustipak	William White
George Musser	Serenity Phernetton	Avery Schlagel	Barath Sridher	Nicole Vagle	Madeleine Whittington
Nikita Nederloe	Alexander Philion	Reid Schlosser	Eric Stack	Anna Valek	Charles Wick
Britta Nelson	Joshua Piechowski	Jordan Schmidt	Ben Stafne	Allen Vang	Connor Willingham
Haley Nelson	Siri Pomarius	Andrew Schoenecker	Emma Stansbury	Anjali Vang	Nathaniel Willius
Kate Nelson	Brandon Pott	Samuel Schraut	Jack Steele	Souryeeta Vang	Elijah Wilson
Linh Nguyen	Alex Potter	Skyler Schreiber	Joseph Stengl	Olivia Velte	Ethan Wilson
Phuong Anh Nguyen	James Prendergast	Courtney Schroeder	Hunter Stevensen	Taylor Venancio	Caeden Windschitl
Sidney Nguyen	Catherine Price	Austin Schuldt	Henry Still	Marc Villalobos Puertas	Grace Wirkkala
Thanh Nguyen	Isabelle Primeau	Trevor Schultz	Joel Stockstead	Maxwell Vogel	Truman Wojski
Rosella Nichols	Owen Prom	Rachel Schulz	Dylan Stormoen	Delaney Wagner	Ayla Womeldorff
Kylee Nicoski	Megan Puhrmann	Lucas Schumacher	Ella Stratmann	Mark Wagner	Avery Wright
Samuel Nitardy	Nicholas Purdie	Jakob Schuman	Caleb Strom	Jacob Wallace	Benjamin Wrightsman
Braedy O'Brien	Josephine Ramirez	Sophie Schuster	Julia Styrbicki	Nathan Wallace	Paige Wulfling
Ashlynn O'Connor	James Rapp	Luca Schweins	Daisha Suedkamp	Matthew Walton	Cooper Wylie
Michael O'Gorman	Kailey Rapp	Linus Schwenke	John Sullivan	Rebekah Warner	Justin Wyzykowski
Kyra O'Loughlin	Grace Rauker	Jordan Schwingler	Nelson Summary	Tyler Warner	Khuluc Yang
Paige O'Neal	Mya Reeves	Hatti Score	Cody Sundberg	Bianna Warzeka	Lucas Yang
Adelyn O'Reilly	Cole Reimann	Sydney Scott	Drew Supina	Sophie Watkins	Queniesha Yang
Adelyn Oberg	Haley Reiter	Brady Seekel	Carly Suro	Abigail Weaver	Vanessa Yang
Emmanuel Obikwelu Jr.	Wakinyan Renville	Zachary Seitz	Elli Swanson	Adrian Weber	Autumn Yangwakue
Zach Obler	Campbell Reynolds	Ethan Selph	Joely Swanson	Andrew Weber	Emmanuel Yarison
Olajide Oduloye	Benjamin Richardson	Andrew Sentman	Keller Swanson	Avery Weber	Jenna Yingling
Olawunmi Oduloye	Maximus Richardson	Madeleine Servais	Scott Swanson	Caitlin Weiland	Carly Young
Margaret Odumuyiwa	Elise Riniker	McKenzie Sessing	Harrison Swift	Zachary Weicherding	Joseph Young
Madeline Oeltjen	Jacob Ristow	Katelyn Shanahan	Sarah Symalla	Sophia Weiss	Yingjie Zhong
Louis Oesterreich	Wyatt Rivers	Hailey Sharon	Israel Taddese	Toby Weiss	Mason Ziegelmann
Joseph Ogaard	Michael Robinson	Elizabeth Shay	Tony Tan	Colin Welch	Joshua Zimmer
Carter Robinson	Quentin Robinson	Lily Shayegan	Alaina Tanski	Isaac Welshons	Sarah Zimmerman
Elizabeth Olafson	Theodor Robinson	Sarah Shelton	Javon Taschuk	Xavier Weston	Piper Zoller
Adam Olson	Luke Rodlund	Grace Silbernack	Noah Tatro		
Eliot Olson	Owen Rodriguez	Nathaniel Simcik	Philip Taube		
Olivia Olson	Grace Roeske	Nicholas Simcik	Austin Taylor		
Sofia Olson	Ryan Roeske	Jacob Sletten	Isabella Thao		
Omar Omar	Erin Rogers	Benjamin Smalley	Anthony Thomas		
Mildred Osei	Patrick Roisum	Stella Smebak	Tristan Thomas		
Jack Ostrander	Catherine Roloff	Allison Smith	Zachary Thometz		
Matthew Oswald	Rachel Roth	Cory Smith	Isaac Thompson		
Daniel Palmer	Alexandra Roti	Hayley Smith	William Thomson		
Nicholas Parent	Jerrold Rude	Madeline Smith	Anders Thorager		
Meredith Parry	Ely Runk	Olivia Smith	Josie Thrall		
Austin Paseka	Daniel Russell	Tristan Smith	Robert Thueson		
Dhara Patel	Isabelle Rustad	Addison Smith-O'Brien	Tyler Thureson		
Wyatt Patzner	Reagan Sadler	Nathan Smith-Wessel	Isaac Timberlake		
Joshua Paulson	Eleanor Sand	Emma Sneden	Gabriella Tirado		
Casey Pearson	Paige Sanders	Benjamin Snyder	Kylie Tollefsbol		
Joseph Pearson	Jackson Sandquist	Julia Snyder	Alayna Tomaro		
Alyxandria Moosai	Cristina Santamaria Quesada	Lyndsey Snyder	Morgan Tope-Yates		
Jimena Morales Rodriguez	Issac Sauer	Cady Solberg	Tabatha Torrejon		
Dante Moreno	Sawyer Sawotin	Tyson Sonnek	Gavan Townsend		
Maxwell Morris	Isabella Schaak	Cora Souffront	Elise Truman		
Lily Mowery	Abby Scheel	Devin Spaulding	Madison Tubbs		
Aaron Mozey					



STORIES *From Around the District*



Good News!

Stay up-to-date on the latest district news at [Facebook.com/Stillwater834](https://www.facebook.com/Stillwater834)

Student recognized for excellence in theatre

Zachary Benson, a SAHS senior, has been named a finalist in the Technical Theatre Excellence program, sponsored by the Hennepin Theatre Trust.

Steil named finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Stillwater Area High School teacher Rachel Steil has been named a top ten finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year for a second time. Steil has taught English at SAHS for 20 years. She also serves as an adviser for the Pony Express student newspaper. Steil was a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year in 2015. The 2020 finalists are tentatively slated to interview with a selection panel in June.

Student selected to prestigious Berklee Global Jazz Institute Workshop

Ella Grace, a high school junior, has been accepted to the prestigious Berklee Global Jazz Institute Workshop at the Newport Jazz Festival® 2020. This is a first for a SAHS musician. The jazz workshop offers aspiring young musicians a five-day intensive jazz program taught by world-renowned faculty. The program features ensemble rehearsals, master classes, and final performances on the festival stage.

Student identified as Future Medical Leader

Sophomore Ava Karlstad has been selected as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to motivate and direct the top students in the country interested in these careers and provide resources to help them reach their goal.

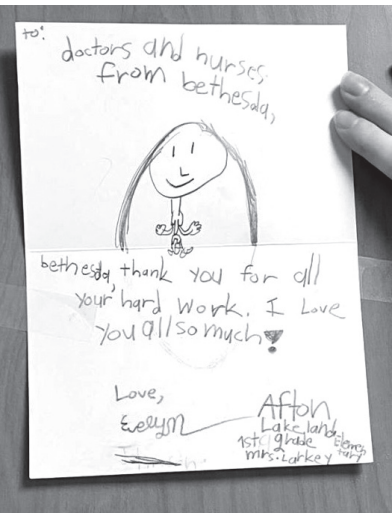
Student makes masks to protect essential workers

Stillwater Middle School sixth grader Natalie Jansen is doing her part to help stop the spread of COVID-19. In between distance learning she's sewing face masks. Natalie knows first-hand about the big need for personal protection equipment because her dad is a full-time firefighter/EMT.

She provided masks to Lakeview Hospital, an inpatient mental health facility for teenage boys, and the rest have been given to family and friends and people she knows in the health care and emergency medical field.



Students send messages to health care workers



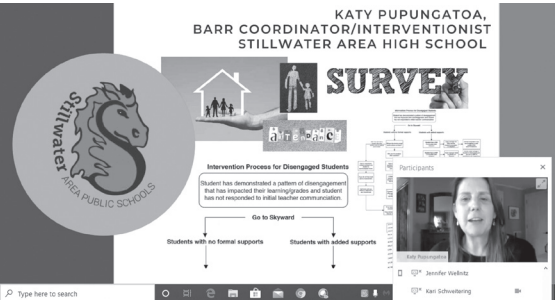
Handwritten notes from our students are bringing smiles to local health care workers. As part of distance learning, first graders were asked to write a thank you note to an area doctor or nurse. A message of love and appreciation from an Afton-Lakeland student made its way to workers at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul.

One health care worker posted the note on Facebook with the message: "I don't know who this sweet little Evelyn is but you made our night!! Especially when she writes she loves us all so much!! What a sweet heart!! You're making a difference wherever you are sweet Evelyn!!!!"



Paints for Ponies

Art lessons are continuing at home for our students. Some 900 watercolor paint sets along with paper and pencils were purchased with funding from The Partnership Plan, and Stillwater Middle School's Parent Teacher Organization and art department. SAHS teacher Christina Weese led a group of teachers and staff who volunteered to pack all the items in bags. The nutrition services department handed them out during meal distribution. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this important learning opportunity happen.



State looks to Stillwater schools as positive example for distance learning

The effort to pull off distance learning in

Stillwater Area Public Schools has gained attention at the state level. Stillwater Area High School was one of three schools to be featured as part of a presentation to educators across the state of Minnesota on the importance of relationships in engaging students in learning – whether in person or at a distance. Stillwater was selected because of its work with the BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risk) program, which helps to build connections with our students. SAHS staff presented during the state-wide distance learning planning and training days in early May, which Governor Walz ordered as a way to help educators finish the school year strong.



High school named one of the best in the state and nation

Stillwater Area High School has once again been named one of the top high schools in the nation and state. U.S. News and World Report analyzed data from more than 24,000 public high schools and ranked SAHS in the top 10% in the country and top 3% in Minnesota.

The rankings are based on six factors, including college readiness, curriculum, math and reading assessments, and how underserved students perform.

Student earns international recognition

Milan Jostes has been named an International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Finalist. He's one of only about 1,800 high school students from around the world to earn the honor.

The Stillwater Area High School junior was recognized after placing first in the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair. Jostes' FourS 2.0 (School Safety and Security System) project uses cell phones and internet access to regulate who can enter a school. By using the United States Secret Service Threat Assessment Model, he was able to implement a bag check system that is unbiased and will reduce the amount of prohibited items in schools, thereby making schools safer.



Four selected as 2020 Distinguished Alumni

Four individuals will be honored for a lifetime of distinction after graduating from Stillwater Area High School. They will join nearly 100 others who have been named Distinguished Alumni since the award was first given in 1987.

This year's class of Distinguished Alumni includes: Wendell Beardsley (1958); Dr. Mark Hill (1988); Jean Marie Miller (1971); and Jan Spreeman (1964).

Learn more at stillwaterschools.org/alumni.

The banquet to honor our distinguished alumni will be postponed until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted to ensure the health and safety of all. More details will be shared as they become available.

Nominate your classmates, family or friend!

We're always looking for the next incredible alumni to be recognized! Learn more about the Distinguished Alumni Award, and how you can nominate an individual at stillwaterschools.org/alumni

Celebrating **CLASS OF 2020**



Stillwater
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District 834
1875 South Greeley Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

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This year's graduates have proven they are resilient, adaptable and Stillwater Strong! We're so proud of the more than 650 students who will graduate from Stillwater Area High School this year for all they've overcome. The Class of 2020 is the 144th to graduate from SAHS.

This year's graduation will be unique in order to ensure everyone stays safe and healthy, and maintains social distancing guidelines! Learn more at stillwaterschools.org/Grad20.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 and best wishes to all of our Pony graduates!

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de esta hoja informativa, por favor llame a la oficina de su escuela para hablar con un intérprete.

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Together, We've Got This!

Sharing the love!

Here's what people are saying about our schools...

"The positive support for parents and families through all of this has been amazing. Stillwater Teachers and Staff, you are inspiring."

"Thank goodness FOR our teachers and administrators!!!!"

"The support we have received from teachers is nothing short of amazing! We appreciate all of the extra time teachers are taking to adapt to this changing environment all while still providing educational and emotional support to our girls."

"Thank you for your support, your patience, your endless hours helping all of us get thru this challenging time. We appreciate you!"

— Comments posted on
Facebook.com/Stillwater834

Community comes together to celebrate our students

Thanks to donations from local businesses and individuals, the high school was able to purchase a special Class of 2020 sign for each of the nearly 700 seniors at SAHS.

Did You Know?

The mayors of Afton, Oak Park Heights and Stillwater issued official proclamations making the month of May Pony Pride month.

Thank you to our community for supporting our students and spreading Pony Pride!



stillwaterschools.org | 651.351.8340