

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Spring 2022 | Volume 62 • Number 3

At District 196, the sky's the limit. That's because our committed team of educators is dedicated to helping learners explore the outer limits of their vast potential.

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Amazing oboist

Rosemount High School sophomore **Izaiah Cheeran** was selected to play oboe in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra of the United States in 2022. Cheeran, who is a member of Rosemount's wind ensemble and marching band, is the only high school student in Minnesota to be selected for the National Youth Orchestra. As part of the group, this summer he will participate in a two-week residency at Purchase College in New York, perform at Carnegie Hall, and tour Europe, with concerts in Amsterdam, Berlin and Lucerne. See more student achievements on page 14.

Attendance-area changes will ease overcrowding in Rosemount schools, facilities master plan to follow

In December, the School Board unanimously approved changes to high school, middle school and elementary school attendance areas to ease current and projected overcrowding at Rosemount High School and Rosemount Middle School by utilizing available space at other district schools. The attendance-area changes are the first step in a two-step approach to addressing the district's growing facility and equipment needs currently and over the next 10 years.

The attendance-area changes take effect with the start of the 2022-23 school year and will be phased in to allow students living in the impacted areas the option to finish out at the school they are currently attending. Families were asked to make enrollment decisions by early January so schools could move forward with staffing and course registration for next year. Transportation will be provided through the 2023-24 school year during a two-year phase-in for middle school and through 2025-26 during a four-year phase-in for high school.

District leaders first started talking about possible attendance-area adjustments in spring 2019 and again in spring 2020, but delayed the process until this fall to focus efforts on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The four high school attendance-area changes move the outermost parts of the Rosemount High attendance area to the district's three other comprehensive high schools – Apple Valley, Eagan and Eastview. Assuming similar enrollment patterns continue, approximately 600 students will be shifted from Rosemount High to the

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Two district wrestlers make herstory by winning first-ever girls' state wrestling titles

Two wrestlers, two different paths, two hard-earned, herstory-making state championships on the mat.

Sophomores **Grace Alagbo** of Apple Valley High School and **Riley Myers** of Eastview High School are paving the way for female wrestling in Minnesota and they wasted no time setting the tone at the first-ever Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) girls' state wrestling tournament in March. Grace and Riley both pinned opponents in their championship matches to win state titles in the 145- and 138-pound weight classes, respectively.

"I feel like it's one of those things that you don't realize you really did it until it's over," Grace said. "I'm so grateful to be able to give back to everyone who has dedicated their time into who is now a state champion."

At first, wrestling wasn't a sport she even considered. Grace was already busy breaking barriers as a linebacker on the Apple Valley High School football team. After some convincing from her speed and strength coach and football teammates, she decided to give wrestling another look. Just three short months later, Grace was stepping onto the mat at the 2022 state tournament.

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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.

Magnuson remains chair, elected board members take oath of office

Jackie Magnuson was reelected chairperson of the School Board for 2022 at the board's annual organization meeting in January. This will be Magnuson's 15th year as chairperson during her 32 years on the board. She was first elected in 1989 and previously served as chairperson from 1994 through 1996, 2000 and 2001, 2010 through 2012, and 2016 to present.

Other board officers elected at the Jan. 10 meeting are **Cory Johnson**, vice chairperson, **Sachin Isaacs**, clerk and **Art Coulson**, treasurer. Newly elected board members Coulson, **Sakawdin Mohamed** and **Bianca Virnig** took the oath of office as part of the organization meeting. All three were elected Nov. 2. Coulson was reelected to a fourth term on the board and Mohamed and Virnig started their first term. **Joel Albright** is the other member of the seven-member School Board.



Jackie Magnuson



Sakawdin Mohamed



Art Coulson



Bianca Virnig

School Board meetings gain more traction

The district has various methods of communication to share information with its parents. School Board meetings are an important part of communication, and they are becoming more heavily attended in recent months. Board meetings are a great opportunity to learn more about the district, and are comprised of various components, such as student and employee recognition, business requiring board action, opportunities for the public to address the board and informative reports to update the board and members of the community.

There are 14 regularly scheduled School Board meetings, most of which are scheduled on the second Monday of the month. The superintendent confers with other administrators, the chairperson and district staff to prepare an agenda that allows the board to conduct business in a thorough yet efficient manner. Special School Board meetings are scheduled as needed to act on time-sensitive items and to review information in greater depth. Special meetings may be called by the superintendent or designee, chairperson, vice chairperson, clerk or any three board members, with a three-day notice.

School Board exhibits are developed by district administrators and presented to the board for consideration, review or approval. In addition to board exhibits requiring School Board action, the Reports portion of the meetings provides invaluable information to the public.

Remaining regular board meetings for the 2021-22 school year are as follows: April 11, May 9, June 13 and June 27. Materials for agenda items for regular board meetings are available on the School Board webpage located under About; click School Board Meetings and Agendas. Recordings and minutes of past meetings are also available on School Board webpage.

Members of the community are encouraged to attend or live stream School Board meetings for the latest information on the school district. 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. The board allows up to 10 special communication requests 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.

Regular board meeting are streamed live on the District 196 YouTube page and are available to stream the next day.

Exemplifying everyday excellence

By Mary M. Kreger, superintendent



Each change of the season gives us another opportunity to reflect on the past, learn from our experiences and look forward to what's ahead. As we begin to shift into the warmer months of spring, so too are we shifting toward a more typical educational experience as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to show signs of improvement.



The challenges faced by our students, families, employees and community over the last two years cannot be understated. As I shared in my previous *Spotlight* column, among the hardships, the pandemic also highlighted the incredibly important role public education plays in our society. COVID-19 fundamentally changed how we deliver education, but our values and mission of helping students explore their vast potential remain strong.

The public health and safety of our students is paramount, and the commitment from our families and employees has allowed them to learn in person all year. And our 196Online students are trailblazers who are helping us write a new chapter of education. In spite of the global pandemic, robust learning experiences are happening each and every day in District 196. We are living in the reality of a district that excels in academics, arts and athletics, and this is due to our students and employees who continue to do amazing and inspiring things. These photos capture just a few of the ways our community has shown a profound resiliency in pursuit of infinite possibilities.

Mary M. Kreger

Attendance area

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other three high schools during the four-year phase in.

The four middle school changes move parts of the Rosemount Middle attendance area to Dakota Hills and Scott Highlands, and parts of the Scott Highlands attendance area to Falcon Ridge and Valley middle schools. Assuming similar enrollment patterns continue, approximately 380 students will be shifted to a different middle school as a result of these changes.

There is also one small change to elementary that moves a small portion of the Shannon Park Elementary School attendance area located in the city of Apple Valley to Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies. If this change was not made, this would be the only part of Shannon Park attending Falcon Ridge Middle and Eastview High. There are no current Shannon Park students living in this area.

Long-term facilities master plan

A committee of district and school leaders and representatives from Wold Architects and Engineers have been meeting since last summer reviewing needs for additional school space to keep pace with district enrollment that is projected to grow by as many as 2,500 students by 2030.

The charge of the Facilities Equipment Steering Committee is to develop recommendations and a course of action to the School Board to meet the facility and equipment needs to:

- Best serve the district's educational goals in providing the "desired daily

experience" to students, families and employees;

- Be financially attainable and sustainable;
- Reflect the values and priorities of the communities of District 196;
- Accommodate the district's preK-12 enrollment and other programs;
- Cover anticipated needs for the next 10 years, as well as recognize major issues beyond 10 years;
- Be consistent with the district's strategic vision of the desired daily experience;
- Provide rationale and recommendations for optimal use of facilities, meeting the capacity needs of projected enrollment, and
- Support educational delivery.

In order to accomplish its charge, during the first eight meetings members of the Facilities and Equipment Steering Committee:

- Reviewed projected enrollment and the factors that influence enrollment change, including new development and net migration into the district;
- Reviewed the capacities, capabilities and expansion potential of existing district facilities, and
- Reviewed needs in the areas of safety and security, elementary and secondary instructional space, early learning, special education, equity and integration, privacy, career and technical education pathways, district standards for space (e.g. science labs), and co-curricular programming.

Since December, the committee spent much of its time discussing numerous options for meeting the need for as

many as 1,300 additional high school students by 2030, according to high-end projections from a 2020 enrollment study conducted by former state demographer Hazel Reinhardt.

In February, Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts** presented the School Board with an update on the committee's progress thus far, as well as a look ahead. The answers are not easy or intuitive, Stotts said, but the process continues and the team is making good progress toward developing a new facilities master plan.

Next steps include detailed review of the "desired daily experiences" students, families and employees shared with the district in an online survey and focus groups conducted this winter; district standards; conceptual study of potential attendance-area impacts of new buildings, and further study of the potential rate of growth in the southeast part of the district, including the UMore Park land that has started to be developed. Students, families and other members of the public will get involved in the process later this year through a community survey and focus group meetings to get input for and reaction to possible solutions before the committee finalizes recommendations to present to the School Board. Any recommendations to construct new schools or make facility improvements would require voter approval of a bond referendum for funding.

Kindergarten Transition Days will continue in 2022-23 school year

The School Board approved a change to the 2022-23 district calendar to add Kindergarten Transition Days (half days) on Aug. 29 and 30, 2022, with the first day of full-day classes for kindergarten on Sept. 7, 2022. The board added Kindergarten Transition Days this year in order to provide the benefits of the program to all incoming kindergarten students. Input from parents and teachers provided broad support to continue to offer these half-day experiences to all kindergarten

students next year and in future calendars.

The revised 2022-23 district calendar also clarifies that Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2022, will be the first two days of school for students in grades 6-12. These were identified as Student Success Days in the first version of the 2022-23 calendar. Elementary assessment days will also be held Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2022, and the first day school for grades 1-5 will be Sept. 6, 2022.

There will be no school for all students Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, and Labor Day Monday, Sept. 5, 2022.

Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, was also changed to a day of no school for all students and employees, and in exchange the last day of school for all students was moved back one day to Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Both revised calendars are available on the district website at District196.org/about/calendar.

District addressing mental health through collaborative, multidisciplinary approach

Increasing mental health needs among students is a rapidly-growing issue facing school districts across the country. And in District 196, critical work is happening through a collaborative approach that brings together school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists and school nurses. This joint effort to provide care, said **Dr. Stephanie Ochocki**, the district's student support and social-emotional learning coordinator, helps the district better address the many complex factors of student mental health.

"We believe building a comprehensive school mental health system that supports teamwork," Ochocki explained. "Our multidisciplinary team approach to supporting student mental health in District 196 is united around the goal of supporting students' social and emotional well-being. It will be achieved in partnership with our educators, families and our community."

The mental health challenges of students were prevalent before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. One in five children had already been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, with the most common

diagnoses being anxiety and depression. In 2019, survey results from employees, community members and students affirmed the need for additional mental health resources. Later that year, voters passed a \$19 million levy referendum, providing the necessary funding to increase mental health support across the district.

As a result, the district hired more than 20 professionals. More school counselors meant increased opportunities for academic and college and career counseling for secondary students. School social worker positions became full-time, increasing access for students to receive evidence-based, social-emotional interventions and support. Additional school psychologists help staff and students create and implement proactive strategies. And school nurses provide a critical bridge between public health and education.

"We believe that students thrive when they have consistent access to equitable environments, relationships, culturally responsive teaching and learning, and opportunities for empowerment," Ochocki said.

Throughout the last several years, this funding has allowed Ochocki and

her team to offer employees ongoing professional development centered around mental health. Schools also have access to a full continuum of supports, including co-located services for students who have more complex needs. And currently, the district is working with four mental health agencies who partner with school staff to provide students access to therapy they would not have otherwise received.

This investment in mental health resources and support was timely, Ochocki said, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when requests for mental health and social-emotional support were at an all-time high.

"The additional staff has allowed our team to move forward in our efforts to build a comprehensive and proactive school mental health program," Ochocki said. "As we build on the community's investment in school mental health, we will continue to assess and evaluate our practices to ensure that we are providing these experiences. Doing so will help us create healthy school communities where the academic and social emotional well-being of our students can flourish."

Mask mandate lifted as local COVID-19 levels decrease and CDC guidance updated

At a special meeting March 1, the School Board voted 6-1 to change the district's COVID-19 Operational Plan for the 2021-22 school year to reflect new guidance on use of face masks from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released on Feb. 25. **Bianca Virnig** cast the lone dissenting vote.

The new CDC guidance factors in data on local COVID-19 hospitalizations, in addition to new cases, to determine the severity of the disease in the community measured as low, medium or high. Under this new guidance, masks are optional indoors when the level is low and medium, and masks are

recommended indoors when the level is high. The Community Level for Dakota County started and has remained at low, where masks are optional indoors.

The revised guidance also eliminated the requirement to wear masks on public transportation, including school buses.

Health Services Coordinator **Deb Mehr** said masks will continue to be available for students and employees and the district will support everyone who chooses to wear a mask. Other mitigation strategies also continue, including having HEPA air filters in every classroom, office and meeting

space, regular cleaning and disinfecting, and promoting good hygiene habits.

The district also continues to strongly encourage everyone to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and booster when eligible, continue regular screening for COVID-19 and stay home when sick.

Vaccinations for 5 and older

Pfizer BioNTech has been approved for emergency use to vaccinate children ages 5-11. Only the Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for children younger than 18. The vaccine for ages 5-11 is administered as a two-dose primary series, three weeks apart, and is a lower dose than that used for those 12

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District's legislative priorities focus on funding, local control and workforce diversity

(Note: These legislative priorities for the 2022 session of the Minnesota Legislature were drafted with input from citizen and staff members of the district's legislative and budget advisory councils and approved by the School Board on Jan. 10.)

The District 196 School Board, administration and Legislative Advisory Council members thank the Legislature and Governor for providing general education funding increases of 2.45% this year and 2% next year. Although not considered a funding session, the biggest legislative issue facing education continues to be the lack of adequate and predictable funding needed for planning and stability to support the quality of education Minnesota families want and each student deserves. During the 2022 session, we believe the Legislature should take the following actions to prioritize investment in E-12 education and equip schools with the resources and flexibility to help children and families through the lasting challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Provide ample, predictable and equalized funding for E-12 education

	The Situation:	Our Ask:
Index basic education funding to inflation	The general education formula allowance is the single biggest source of funding school districts receive from the state, accounting for approximately 70% of general fund revenues in District 196. Since 2003, general education funding has lagged the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate of inflation by \$798 per pupil or 11.6%.	Index the general education formula allowance to the annual rate of inflation (CPI) to ensure school districts would receive at least inflationary funding increases each year.
Increase equalization aid and index the equalization formulas for growth	Equalization aid was created to equalize the impact of school taxes on homeowners in districts with lower percentages of commercial/industrial property value. However, the equalization aid formulas are not indexed for growth, so they provide less equalization over time as total property value grows.	Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional and debt service levies, and index the formulas for growth in property value.
Address unfunded special education costs	All students have unique needs and some require additional services to get the best education each child deserves. The state and federal governments mandate special education services by law, but funded just two-thirds of what it cost District 196 to provide those services last year. The other 33%, totaling \$25.4 million last year, was subsidized by the district's general fund.	Provide funding in 2022-23 to hold the special education cross-subsidy steady at the 2021-22 level and approve a plan to phase in full funding of the state's share of special education costs.
Provide targeted funding for disparate impact of COVID-19 on students of color	Minnesota continues to be last in the nation in achievement gaps for students of color and American Indian students, and the ongoing challenges of the pandemic have exacerbated these unacceptable gaps. Rates of chronic absenteeism and students receiving a "no grade" for a class increased significantly in District 196 during the pandemic-disrupted 2020-21 school year and students of color represented a disproportionately large percentage of the increases.	Provide new targeted funding to address the needs of students and families disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and continue to support and increase funding for Achievement and Integration and other programs that provide targeted support to students of color and American Indian students and families.

2. Reduce mandates and increase local control

The Situation:	Our Ask:
Many existing state mandates are unfunded or under-funded, and have unnecessary paperwork and reporting requirements that take time away from teaching students.	<p>Reduce unnecessary mandates, oppose any new unfunded mandates, and increase local control and flexibility to respond to changing conditions. Examples include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow school districts to establish school calendars that best meet the needs of their community. • Authorize school boards to renew existing operating levies at the same or lesser amount. • Allow school districts to charge for all costs associated with locating, compiling, redacting and copying data in response to requests to inspect or receive copies of government data.

3. Support a diverse and sustainable workforce of teachers and school staff

The Situation:	Our Ask:
The ability of our schools to educate kids and keep them safe each day relies on the teachers and other caring adults who work in our schools. The pandemic has created workforce issues in almost every industry, but education has been hit particularly hard with a shortage of bus drivers, teachers, paraprofessionals and other support staff needed to provide mission-critical services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicate additional funding for programs designed to increase the number of teachers of color in Minnesota schools and entering teacher preparation programs in Minnesota. • Maintain multiple pathways to teacher licensure and establish licensure reciprocity with other states. • Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals and other school staff.



Let your state legislators know what you think

You can participate in the legislative process by contacting your Senator and Representative to share your thoughts on the district's priorities for education and other issues that may be important to you. Refer to the contact information for the 14 Senators and Representatives from five legislative districts who represent citizens in District 196.

Name:	Email:	Phone:
Sen. Jim Carlson, District 51	sen.jim.carlson@senate.mn	651-297-8073
Rep. Sandra Masin, District 51A	rep.sandra.masin@house.mn	651-296-3533
Rep. Liz Reyer, District 51B	rep.liz.reyer@house.mn	651-296-4128
Sen. Matt Klein, District 52	sen.matt.klein@senate.mn	651-296-4370
Rep. Ruth Richardson, District 52B	rep.ruth.richardson@house.mn	651-296-4192
Sen. Lindsey Port, District 56	sen.lindsey.port@senate.mn	651-296-5975
Rep. Jessica Hanson, District 56A	rep.jessica.hanson@house.mn	651-296-4212
Rep. Kaela Berg, District 56B	rep.kaela.berg@house.mn	651-296-5387
Sen. Greg Clausen, District 57	sen.greg.clausen@senate.mn	651-296-4120
Rep. Robert Bierman, District 57A	rep.robert.bierman@house.mn	651-296-5506
Rep. John Huot, District 57B	rep.john.huot@house.mn	651-296-4306
Sen. Zach Duckworth, District 58	sen.zach.duckworth@senate.mn	651-296-7633
Rep. Jon Koznick, District 58A	rep.jon.koznick@house.mn	651-296-6926
Rep. Patrick Garofalo, District 58B	rep.pat.garofalo@house.mn	651-296-1069

Minnesota redraws political district maps

States redraw congressional and legislative district maps every 10 years in response to population changes reported by the census. And in February, a special five-judge panel released the new political district maps for Minnesota, which changes who will represent some District 196 residents. These maps will be in used for the election this fall when all 201 legislative seats will be on the November ballot. To see how the redistricting process impacts your address, visit the state's geographic information mapping system (GIS) at <https://bit.ly/3tkGxiq>.



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. There are immediate openings for substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses and custodians, as well as bus drivers and food service associates. 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 attend a substitute teacher orientation.

Substitute paraprofessionals are paid \$16 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 \$27 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 \$20.16 per hour (\$15.50 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. Previous custodial experience is preferred.

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 (\$14.50 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. Responsibilities include food preparation, meal sales and service, cashing and clean-up.

Eagan's Peterson sisters curl their way to Beijing and finish sixth overall at Olympics



Sisters **Tabitha** and **Tara Peterson** pose for a photo before joining Team USA at the Parade of Nations during the Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, looked different than it did four years ago due to the pandemic, but it was still the opportunity of a lifetime for Eagan High School graduates **Tabitha** and **Tara Peterson**. The sisters competed as the U.S. Women's Curling Team under their own moniker, Team Peterson.

"We love the lifetime sport quality of the game as well as the social aspect," Tabitha said in an interview prior to the Olympics.

Tabitha, who graduated from Eagan High in 2007, returned for her second Olympic appearance and took on the lead role of "skip." Four years ago, she was successful at the Olympic trials and went on to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea as "vice-skip." The team finished in eighth place.

Beijing was the debut Olympic appearance for Tara, a 2009 graduate of Eagan High. However, she is no stranger to stiff competition. Since 2009, Tara has competed in three World Junior Championships and three Women's

World Championships. Last spring, she earned a bronze medal at the 2021 World Championship, proving that she was ready for Olympic competition.

Since their competitive curling careers began in 2005, collectively the sisters have won multiple state championships and national junior championships, participated on gold-medal teams and competed against some of the top curlers in the world.

Training continued during the beginning of the pandemic, albeit a bit different than usual, and many of their scheduled competitions were canceled along the way.

"We have tried to remain flexible and creative to keep our edge," Tabitha said.

And in November 2021, the training paid off when Team Peterson swept the competition at the U.S. Olympic Trials to secure their spot in Beijing.

Over six days of competition, they defeated teams from the Russian Olympic Committee, Denmark, China and the Republic of Korea, and finished sixth overall. Team Peterson was comprised of Tabitha and Tara Peterson, **Aileen Geving**, **Becca Hamilton**, **Nina Roth** and coach **Laine Peters**.



Tabitha Peterson, skip of the U.S. Women's Curling Team, throws a rock to teammate and sister, **Tara Peterson**, during a match at the 2022 Winter Olympics. (Photo: Jeff McIntosh/The Canadian Press via AP)

Services available to homeschool students

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

For families who registered for textbook reimbursement for the 2021-22 school year, the deadline to submit requests is April 30. Students who wish to participate in shared-time courses must register at their attendance-area school by June 1. Students who wish to participate in cocurricular activities at their attendance-area school must register annually.

For more information on these services, call Community Education at 651-423-7722.

District earns Meritorious Budget Award again

For the seventh year in a row, the District 196 Finance Department has received the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International.



The MBA program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation. The award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program criteria following a rigorous review by professional auditors. This year's award is for the 2021-22 fiscal year budget.

"This award reflects your district's commitment to sound fiscal management and budgetary policies," said ASBO International Executive Director **David Lewis**.

District 196 Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts** credits the entire Finance Department staff for the work they did to earn this prestigious recognition.

The preliminary and final budgets for 2021-22, along with budgets and finance documents for the previous nine years, are available on the Finance Department page at District196.org.

Online form streamlines student absence reporting

In November, the district launched a new online form that all District 196 families should be using to report students absent from school. The system allows families to report an illness or other absence, sign a student out of school and alert staff if a student is going to be late. Once submitted, the system will notify staff at the school

and send confirmation to the user.

The link to the form is located on the Attendance page of all school websites, under Families, and on the Contact page. It is also available on the Español and Soomaali language pages, which can be accessed in the black utility bar on the top of all District 196 websites.

Bus-tracking app keeps families informed and on schedule

Parents and students can download the free Here Comes the Bus tracking app to let them know when the bus is getting close to their stop in the morning and when it is dropping off in the afternoon.

Parents can set a perimeter around their child's bus stop and receive an alert when the bus enters that perimeter. Here Comes The Bus also sends notification messages 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.

Here Comes The Bus is available to download free on the Google Play Store for Android phones and the App Store for iPhones. To set up an account, parents will need the district identification number (73500) and their

child's lunch PIN. Parents are able to monitor buses for multiple children from a single account.

April 21 changed to day of no school for all students

In February, the School Board voted to make Thursday, April 21 a day of no school for all students in the district to give employees time to complete regular duties that have been deferred while responding to significant staffing challenges caused by COVID-19 this school year.

In the Transportation Department, for example, office and shop employees have been driving buses almost every day this year to fill routes that are open due to driver and chaperone illness and absences. As a result, they have had to delay work they would normally be doing during this time, such as routine bus maintenance by the vehicle technicians. The same is true for custodians, food services and clerical staff, and teachers needing time to plan lessons, meet as instructional teams and prepare for the final six weeks of the school year.

There will be no YMCA School-Age Care (SAC) on April 21, the same as all other days when there is no school for all students.

Superintendent **Mary Kreger** said the administration understands the significance of changing the calendar and the difficulties it can create for families who need to find alternate care for young children. The exceptional circumstances of the pandemic have made it necessary to change the calendar several times during the district's two-year response to the pandemic. This change was proposed in February to give families two months to make alternate arrangements for a day of no school on April 21.

Friday, April 22 is already a scheduled data analysis day for staff, with no school for all students. Employees will be allowed to use personal days on April 21 and 22, if they choose.

New CDC guidelines

<< continued from page 5 >>

and older. All children younger than 18 must have parent/guardian consent to receive the vaccine. Appointments are readily available through the Minnesota Department of Health and can be scheduled at mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaxforkids.

Testing and screening from state

Students and employees who are sick should stay home and get tested. Due to the decrease in case rates, the district has discontinued its drive-up testing site that was offered in partnership with Dakota Child and Family Clinic. Testing continues to be available to all Minnesotans at no charge through community testing sites across the state.

Find a local testing site by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health website at www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus. Families are required to report all positive cases to their child's school, as well as self-quarantines if a student has been exposed and the family decides to keep the child home.

The district's COVID-19 Dashboard includes data on student and employee case positivity rates updated daily on student-contact days, and county vaccination and case rate data updated weekly. The case rates are determined by the CDC's new Community Levels tool. For more information about vaccinations, testing and the district's COVID-19 Operational Plan for the 2021-22 school year, visit District196.org/COVID19.

Wrestling champions

<< continued from front page >>

"I've been honing my skills and not letting my ego get the best of me," Grace said, "... there will always be things to improve on."

Riley's interest in wrestling began at a young age, alongside her brother **Jordan**, who also wrestles for Eastview. Riley's father, **Loren**, was also a high school wrestler. As her skills and confidence grew, Riley started going to wrestling camps, spent summers training and is a familiar face at the Minnesota (Storm) Training Center for USA wrestlers in Eagan.

"This whole experience has been a mix of emotions, but mostly just exciting and happy," Riley said. "I think this is going to be a turning point for me to grow even more."

Grace and Riley were among the 46 wrestlers who entered the inaugural girls' individual state tournament. They were also joined at state by teammates **Hannah Schuster**, a freshman at Apple Valley, and **Elsie Olson**, a freshman at Eastview.

During its annual meeting in May 2021, the MSHSL Board of Directors voted to approve a girls' wrestling postseason. The amendment opened the door for girls to train and compete with boys' teams during the regular season and have the option of competing in girls-only individual section and state tournaments.



Apple Valley High School sophomore **Grace Alagbo** finished the first-ever girls wrestling state tournament as champion in the 145-pound weight class. (Photo: David Peterson, Minnesota/USA Wrestling)



Eastview High School sophomore **Riley Myers** won the first-ever girls' wrestling state title at the 138-pound class during the inaugural girls' wrestling state tournament March 5. (Photo: David Peterson, Minnesota/USA Wrestling)

"The more I think about all of this, the more exciting it gets," Riley said. "Knowing that we are part of history and part of when girls wrestling was starting to grow is really cool. And hopefully more girls become interested."

According to the MSHSL, more than 150 girls participated in Minnesota during the 2019-20 season, and nationally there are more than 21,000 female wrestlers competing. The MSHSL is the 32nd high school association in the country to offer a girls' wrestling program.

"I know that this is only the beginning for our girls' wrestling programs and I'm excited to see the many more that will come after me," Grace said.

Glacier Hills named a 2022 magnet School of Excellence

Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science in Eagan has been selected a School of Excellence in Magnet Schools of America's 2022 Merit Awards program.



Magnet Schools of America advocates for high-quality instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity and academic excellence for all students. The School of Excellence Award is given to magnet schools that have demonstrated the highest level of excellence in all facets of the merit award application. Glacier Hills is one of only three schools in Minnesota and 132 in the nation selected for the award this year.

"We are proud of the continued dedication to our magnet themes of arts and science at Glacier Hills Elementary," said Assistant Administrator and Magnet TOSA **Alyssa Bartosh**. "This last school year required additional creativity, hard work and commitment from our entire staff and school community to successfully integrate our magnet theme during the disruptions of changing learning models. It is a great honor to be recognized as a School of Excellence for our work in such an extraordinary year under difficult circumstances."

The Merit Awards of Excellence and Distinction recognize magnet schools that show a commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs, and parent and community involvement. To be considered for an award, schools must submit an application that is scored by a panel of educators based on their demonstrated ability to raise student academic achievement, promote racial and socioeconomic diversity, provide integrated curriculum and instruction, and create strong family and



community partnerships that enhance the school's magnet theme.

Glacier Hills has received merit awards several times since becoming a magnet school in 2007, as have the other four elementary magnet schools in District 196. They are Cedar Park Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) School in Apple Valley; Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies in Apple Valley; Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology in Burnsville, and Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences in Eagan.

Valley Middle School of STEM offers the district's magnet school option for students in grades 6-8 and is part of the STEM pathway of schools that also includes Cedar Park and Echo Park elementary schools, and Apple Valley High School, which has a fabrication lab and STEM focus. The School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley is also a magnet school option for high school juniors and seniors.

District 196 magnet schools are open to all students in District 196 and those who open enroll from another district. Enrollment is determined through an application and lottery process held each January. Transportation is provided for District 196 students who are selected for enrollment in a magnet school. For more information, go to District196.org/MagnetSchools.



New video shorts show #InfinitePossibilities

Every day, students in District 196 are challenged to explore their infinite possibilities. Our global learners are innovative, curious and creative scholars who continue the tradition of academic, arts and athletics excellence in District 196 schools.

To see some of the incredible things happening in our schools every day, watch the district's new #InfinitePossibilities videos at District196.org/infinitepossibilities.

These one-minute videos take viewers into the classroom for short stories about how our teachers are bringing learning to life for students as they tackle real-life problems, collaborate to find new solutions, expand their critical-thinking skills and learn how to become global citizens.

ActionNOW! series brings community together in celebration of Black culture

Families, students and employees from around District 196 gathered together in celebration of Black culture Feb. 17 during the latest installment of the ActionNOW! High School Series. The event was hosted by the District 196 African-American Cultural Family Advocates and the Equity and Inclusion Department, in partnership with Rosemount High School.

More than 200 people attended the celebration, which featured student performances of spoken word and dances, and an opportunity to participate in discussion circles.

"This event was particularly special because it was held during Black

History Month," said **Virgil Jones**, director of equity and inclusion. "This event continues to evolve into a beacon of hope within our local and school communities."

Attendees were also treated to soul food, and Dakota County Library provided children with free books written by Black and African-American authors.

"Our goal is that community engagement events like these continue to symbolize the collaboration, unity and collective pride needed to create a beloved community that truly represents our aspirations in District 196," Jones said.



Soul food from Buddy Boy Fine Barbecue is served up during Rosemount High School ActionNOW! Series event Feb. 17.



Students show off their creativity and dance skills for the audience at the Rosemount High School ActionNOW! Series event.



Dakota County Library spreads the love of reading by providing each child with a free book that feature Black and African-American authors.



Two boys spin a wheel for a chance at prizes from Dakota County Library and District 196 Community Education.

Ninth-graders gain political perspective from sitting senator



Apple Valley High School freshmen got an insider's perspective on the inner workings of the federal government when Minnesota **Senator Tina Smith** visited on Feb. 22. The event was part of ninth-grade social studies teacher **Kim Laun's** citizenship and government class. Sen. Smith, who also served as lieutenant governor for three years, shared her experiences as a lawmaker in Washington D.C. She also took questions from student audience members and expressed the importance of collaboration and willingness to listen as key traits for success.

Receive district texts by texting Y to 67587

District 196 uses texting as a communications method to share information with parents and guardians. The texts are delivered via SchoolMessenger, the mass notification service the district uses for phone calls and email messages. Parents must opt-in to receive text messages. Only cell phone numbers listed as guardians in the Infinite Campus student information system can receive texts. Standard message and data rates may apply.

Text Y to 67587 and you will receive a confirmation message stating you are now registered to receive SchoolMessenger notifications via text. (If you do not receive a confirmation message or what appears to be an error message, it most likely means that short code texting is not enabled on your wireless plan.) For help or information, text HELP to 67587. To opt out at any time, text STOP to 67587.

Eagan students continue "Period Poverty" advocacy at the local and state level

Eagan High School students **Tori Robarge** and **Evelyn Gore** brought their message of menstrual hygiene and women's health to lawmakers in February. The seniors testified in front of the Minnesota House Education Policy Committee in support of a proposed bill that, if adopted, would require school districts to make menstrual products available to students at no cost.

They are part of a group of students championing the cause to end period inequities in District 196 schools through their "Period Poverty Project." For many students, Tori said during the hearing, accessing these products can be difficult and a financial burden. In some circumstances, she added, it can keep students from receiving a quality education. According to the National Education Association, one in five U.S. teens reported having struggled to afford tampons or other menstrual hygiene products, and roughly 84% have reported missing class time because they did not have access to these products.

In 2020, Tori and Evelyn partnered with fellow speech students **Katherine Randall** and **Sabriya Siddiqui**, and **Grace Boutouli**, **Heden Abdulahi** and **Olivia Noll** from the school's Women's Empowerment Group to get their "Period Poverty Project" off the ground. They conducted extensive research, surveyed their peers and compiled their findings into a proposal to the district. They were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the District 196 Foundation, which funded supply holders, tampons and sanitary napkins in the bathrooms for all middle schools and high schools in the district, and supply holders and sanitary napkins in the nurse's office for all elementary schools.

"Hundreds of students who weren't able to afford tampons or pads are now given the access that they always deserved," Evelyn shared with the committee. "Students who don't have



Two years after receiving a grant to support access to menstruation products, these Eagan High School students continue to champion the cause. Back row (left to right): **Katherine Randall**, **Tori Robarge**, **Sabriya Siddiqui** and **Grace Boutouli**, and front row (left to right): **Evelyn Gore**, **Heden Abdulahi**, **Claudia Liverseed** and **Olivia Noll**.

products at home can now take as many as they need."

Tori said because of the availability of these items, "students are able to go to the bathroom, grab a product off the wall and return to class." Houses File 2750 has also been presented to the House Education Finance Committee, and Senate File 3052, the companion bill, was heard by the Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee in March.

Eagan High School debaters win state title after runners-up last year



Eric Li



Archan Sen

After finishing runners-up last year, Eagan High School juniors **Eric Li** and **Archan Sen** won the state title in policy debate during the state debate tournament held online in January. Twenty-two District 196 students qualified for this year's state tournament and 15 advanced to the final rounds of their competition.

Li and Sen were the Section 3AA champions and the no. 1 seed heading into the final rounds of the state tournament. In the finals, they defeated teams from St. Paul Como Park, Edina and Minneapolis South high schools. In the championship, they argued the affirmative to this year's policy

resolution that the federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States. Debaters must be able to argue the affirmative and negative sides of a topic. **Flynn Gray** and **Natu Daniel** of Eagan also advanced to the final rounds of competition in policy debate and were defeated in the quarterfinals.

In public forum debate, Eastview High School seniors **Isaiah Dalzell** and **Izhan Qureishy** were also Section 3AA champions and the no. 1 seed in the final rounds. They advanced to the championship match and finished runners-up. **Malaya Galindez** and **Caden Hubbs** of Eastview also advanced to the final rounds of competition in public forum debate and were defeated in the quarterfinals. This year's public forum resolution was, "Resolved: The United States federal government should legalize all illicit drugs."

In Lincoln-Douglas debate, **Nora Bolsoni** of Apple Valley High School and **Aerin Engelstad** and **Daniel Wochnick** of Eagan advanced to the finals and were defeated in quarterfinals. This year's Lincoln-Douglas resolution was, "Resolved: The appropriation of outer space by private entities is unjust."

In Congressional debate, **Abiha Kashif** of Eagan finished in seventh place, **Samrawit Tesfaye** of Eastview took eighth, and **Allison Champ** of Eastview and **Olivia Noll** of Eagan advanced to the finals but did not place. Students simulate the legislative process and debate a wide variety of bills and resolutions for the Congressional debate competition.

This was the 121st annual state debate tournament, the longest-running event sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League. It was the second consecutive tournament held online.

Congratulations!

A sampling of recent student and staff achievements throughout District 196

Eastview dance sweeps Class AAA state titles for record third straight year

The Eastview High School Lightning Dance Team swept the Class AAA state titles in jazz and high kick in February for the third year in a row, becoming the first team in state history to do so.

This is Eastview's 14th state title in high kick and seventh in jazz. Eastview is the only Class AAA school in Minnesota to qualify for state in both events every year since section qualifying tournaments started in 2002. They've also advanced to the state finals in both events all 20 years.

Members of both the state champion jazz and high-kick teams are **Mia Barnes, Elizabeth Dobis, Bennet Espindabanick, Mia Foster, Elizabeth Hallum, Ainslie Hicok, Julia Kincs, Ariana Navarro, Danielle Nelson, Anna Nguyen, Katie Percival, Maya Schmidt, Alexis Stolpa, Mailana Tong, Abby Williams, Ava Wood and Athena Zahn.** Espindabanick and Hallum were named to the Class AAA All-Tournament Jazz Team, and Foster and Percival were named to the All-Tournament High-Kick Team.

Other members of the state champion high kick team are **Genevieve Anderson, Peyton Arntz, Ava Bellows, Meadow Burke, Tori Freeman, Addison Hedrick, Amelia Kappel, Megan Knutson, Zoe Kritsas, Nicollete Kruger, Paige Lorsung, Ava Sartori, Alexis Schulke, Deirdre Turck, Lola Van Dyke and Charlie Whalen.**

Following the state tournament, head coach **Jenny Raiche** was named Minnesota Coach of the Year for the fourth time during her 20-year career at Eastview and she announced that she was retiring. Raiche was also recently selected to receive the 2022 Breaking Barriers Award from the Minnesota Coalition of Women in Athletic Leadership and was inducted into the Minnesota Association of Dance Team Coaches Hall of Fame in 2011.

Assistant dance team coaches are **Ellen Allen, Toni Balliet, Abby Kisch, Molly Muehlbauer, Jessica Padget, Karen Storkamp, Taylor Varghese and Libbie Yung.**



Members of Eastview's jazz team posed after winning the Class AAA competition Feb. 18. It was Eastview's seventh state title in jazz.



Members of the Eastview high-kick team were all smiles on the Target Center floor Feb. 19 after winning the Class AAA state title for the third year in a row.



Apollo Oase

Apollo Oase of Apple Valley High School was selected a 2021-22 Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL)

Award recipient representing Region 3AA. Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, the ExCEL Award recognizes high school juniors who are active in fine arts and athletic activities, who demonstrate leadership qualities and who are model citizens in their community. Each high school in

the state can nominate one junior boy and girl for the ExCEL Awards.

Two recipients are selected from each of the eight competitive regions in the state for both Class A and AA schools.

The other ExCEL Award nominees from District 196 are **Melina Solorzano-Cruz** of Apple Valley High School; **Alysha Onwuneme** and **Archan Sen** of Eagan High School; **Allison Nathan** and **Jack Hanson** of Eastview High School, and **Mya Cinnamo** and **Patrick Grunklee** of Rosemount High School.

The cast and crew of **Eagan High School's one-act play "Sense and Sensibility"** qualified for the state One-Act Play Festival in February for a record 22nd time. In 19 of those appearances, Eagan earned a starred performance rating, the highest award given to a one-act play, based on pace, blocking, costuming and projection of the play's meaning.

Black Hawk students win team and individual medals at Science Olympiad invitational

The Black Hawk Middle School Science Olympiad team placed third at the Gopher Invitational at the University of Minnesota in January. Along with Black Hawk's first-ever team trophy in Science Olympiad, six students took home medals for their individual performances in the 23 events that comprise the competition.

Bhavya Kanchibhotla and **Violet Stowers** won a gold medal in the Dynamic Planet category; **Zach Browning** and **Tyler Haffely** won a gold medal in the Bridge category; Browning and **Mekdelawit Tesfaye** won a silver medal in Ornithology; Tesfaye and **Gavin Yang** won a bronze medal in Anatomy and Physiology, and Yang and Kanchibhotla won a bronze medal in Bio Process Lab.

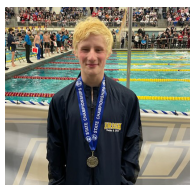
Black Hawk is the only District 196 middle school with a Science Olympiad team. They are coached by **Amanda Schendel**.



Black Hawk Middle School students on the Science Olympiad team show off their various projects made during the Gopher Invitational in January. Back row (left to right): **Mekdelawit Tesfaye**, **Tyler Haffely**, **Zachary Browning**, **Jyotsna Ganesh Babu**, **Everett Virnig**, **Maxwell Chen**, **Gavin Yang** and **Jude Ryan**, and front row (left to right): **Noah Barr**, **Eleanor Kim**, **Xiaohe Zhou**, **Violet Stowers**, **Miles Holter** and **Mason Anderson**.



Jackson Kehler



Lucas Gerten

Eagan High School senior **Jackson Kehler** took first place in the 100-yard butterfly, second place in the 200-yard freestyle and part of Eagan's eighth place 400-yard freestyle relay team at the boys' state swimming and diving state tournament in March. Rosemount High School freshman

Lucas Gerten won the 1-meter diving state title and Eagan's **Owen Kipp** took seventh on the 1-meter board. **Evan Kindseth** of Rosemount took second place in the 500-yard freestyle at the state tournament.

Twelve District 196 middle school students were named to the Minnesota Band Directors Association's (MBDA) Middle Level Honor Band: **Erik Olson** of Black Hawk; **Anna Rezcallah** and **Nate Schauf** of Falcon Ridge; **Preksha Manjunath** of Rosemount, **Tess Douma** and **Ayla Firchow** of Scott Highlands, and **India Rutten**, **Lytic Schowalter**, **William Siebenaler**, **Jacob Zarn**, **Avery Zick** and **Miles Zimmerman** of Valley Middle. Eight District 196 high school students were named to MBDA's 9-10 Honor Band: **Kenza Benlamlih**, **Jacob**

Field, **Sean Litterer** and **Shreyas Pradeep** of Apple Valley; **Drew Novak** and **John Stokesbury** of Eagan, and **Emily Chen** and **Cody Hansen** of Eastview.



Catalina Decker



Leyton Simmering

Catalina Decker of Eagan High School and **Leyton Simmering** of Rosemount High School were selected the Region 3AA finalists for the Academics, Arts and Athletics Award for the 2021-22 school year. The Triple A goes to nominated seniors with a 3.0 or higher grade-point average who participate in athletic and fine arts programs, and exhibit exemplary citizenship and the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct. Each high school in the state can nominate one senior boy and girl for the award. Decker and Simmering were selected as the representatives for Region 3AA. One girl and one boy in Class A and AA are selected from the list of nominees. The other Triple A school nominees from District 196 are **Sarah McDevitt** and **Ryan Cardella** of Apple Valley High School; **Arlan Hegenbarth** of Eagan High School; **Jasmine Haidar** and **Isaiah Dalzell**

of Eastview High School, and **Alexa Ratzlaff** of Rosemount High School.

The **District 196 Icettes figure skating team** placed third in the Ice Sports Industry Winter Classic national competition in San Jose, Calif., in February, and performed their 46th annual ice show, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," in March at the Apple Valley Sports Arena.



District 196 General Counsel **Jill Coyle** is being honored for Lifetime Achievement in Minnesota Lawyer's 2022 In-House Counsel Awards

program in April. Coyle earned her law degree from the University of Minnesota and worked in school law for Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney before accepting a position as the district's general counsel 22 years ago in July 2000.

Apple Valley High School students **Santiago Lala**, **Nate Junker**, **Michael Herron**, **Frida Santos Castillo**, **Henry Le** and **Jack Hansen** won the Minnesota Varsity League (MVL) state championship in December. The team took home the top spot after finishing their season undefeated.



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Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
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Rosemount, MN 55068

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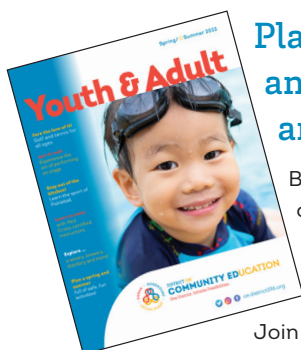
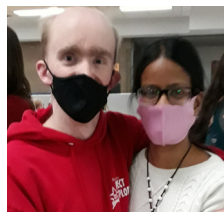
Adult Students Prepare for Employment in Adult Basic Education | ABE

Sixteen adult EL students are enrolled in an ABE class that will prepare them for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course and to pass the Personal Care Assistant (PCA), Community First and Supports (CFSS) certification tests.

ABE is State and Federally funded. All classes are free for adults to improve their skills so they can move ahead in their jobs, prepare for further education, or improve their daily lives. Visit ce.district196.org/abe for more information.



Project Explore Valentine Dance had over 300 people in attendance with a lot of new, younger attendees from local Transition programs! It was a great night filled with dancing, friendships, great music, refreshments and love.



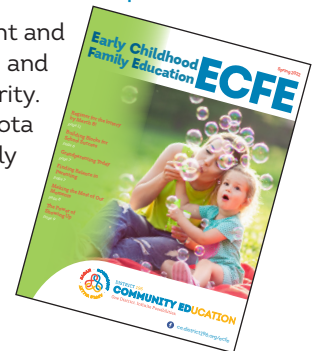
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Browse and register from our interactive online catalog. Page through and see what we have in store for you! Click on a class to learn more and register. You will also receive a print catalog in your mailbox.

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Early Childhood Family Education | ECFE

Supporting early childhood development and parenting is our passion, and the health and safety of your family is still our top priority. We invite you to join our caring, Minnesota State-licensed teachers and ECFE family as we share and learn together this spring. We believe everyone deserves support and guidance through their parenting journey. **Register today at ce.district196.org/ecfe!**



The Power of Showing Up (parents and children ages birth-7 yrs) Separating

Explore the four building blocks of a child's healthy development based on the latest brain and attachment research from the book, "The Power of Showing Up" by Daniel Siegal and Tina Payne Bryson. Focus on your approach to child-rearing and the skills and abilities one needs to build the parent-child relationship.

Mon | March 28-June 6 | 5:45-7:45 p.m. | Fee B* | DVLC | skip May 30

* ECFE class fees are based on annual family income and are determined by a sliding fee scale. District 196 residents are encouraged to attend regardless of their ability to pay.

Surviving in the Suburbs

#thrives

What is it like for young black teens who are growing up in a majority white space? Grow in understanding and gain expanded knowledge and empathy for teens in your community. Offered in partnership with TreeHouse helping teens build relationships and resiliency rooted in living hope since 1979.

Mon | April 11 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Pay What You Can | FRMS

Mon | April 18 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Pay What You Can | FRMS

Mon | April 25 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Pay What You Can | FRMS

Visit ce.district196.org or call 651-423-7920



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