

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW LEADERSHIP



Connie Hytjan will support the Personalized Learning and Human Resources departments.



Dr. Robb Virgin will become Executive Director of Personalized Learning.



Joel Knorr will become the Principal of Forest Hills Elementary.



Valora Unowsky will become the Principal of Cedar Ridge Elementary.



Dr. Chris Rogers will become the Principal of Oak Point Elementary.

We look forward to having all of these leaders serve Eden Prairie Schools' students, families and staff!



SHOW YOUR WINGS

Name: Zuheb Ibrahim **Grade:** 12
School: Eden Prairie High School

My Wings: All the opportunities at EPHS are what inspires me to come to school every day. I joined Connect 9 last summer, which allows current EPHS students to meet incoming ninth grade students. It was encouraging to see 80 upperclassmen spend part of their summer break to take advantage of this opportunity.

I love the EPHS staff, whether it's teachers, counselors, or hall monitors. They have shown me what it means to be an Eagle. Being an Eagle looks different for everyone, but for me being an Eagle means being a part of an incredible community that's encouraging and supportive of everyone's goals.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 10: Eden Prairie High School graduation ceremony – Mariucci Arena at the University of Minnesota

August 15-18: KinderCamp – This is a free opportunity for incoming kindergarten students to help build their confidence before the start of the school year. Dates and times vary by school location. Please visit edenpr.org/kindergarten for more details

Back to School & Open House Events: Dates and times for each school will be posted soon at edenpr.org/calendar.

September 6: First day of school

EXCERPT **Ep** EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



01 Debut performance in the CMS Performing Arts Center

The cover photo features Central Middle School students posing in costume for the spring musical, "High School Musical":

“Our students were beyond excited and extremely proud to be the first show ever put on in our new space. They put on a phenomenal show – they put their heart and souls into creating a show they should be very proud of.”

– Lauren Scherer, director

Roxann Roushar, Director of Child Nutrition, set to retire 02

During Roushar's tenure, Eden Prairie Schools opened up a bakery that provides fresh-baked, whole-grain goods to all schools each day and a production kitchen that prepares homemade sauces and soups free from many preservatives.



"High School Musical" debuted at the new Central Middle School Performing Arts Center in April



INSPIRING NEWS

EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS
Inspiring each student every day™

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EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS



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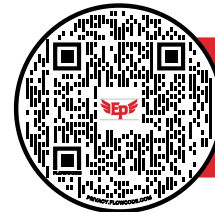
EAGLE EXCELLENCE



Eden Prairie Schools gives in-demand skills to students

In the TASSEL Transition program, students ages 18 to 21 who receive special education services are supported as they achieve independence and employment and participate in their communities. Follow TASSEL student Hanad Mohamed as he discusses his journey to discovering a passion for autobody work.

T.A.S.S.E.L.
Teaching All Students Skills for
Employment & Life



Watch
Hanad's
journey!



Amazing Academic Achievements

Four perfect ACTs

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

- Morgan Cook
- Kira Hoffman
- Hinano Kazama
- Shruthi Kundoor

Congratulations to EPHS students Sreya Patri and Samir Sarma, who received National Merit Scholarships!



SUPERINTENDENT: ENDING THE YEAR ON A STRONG NOTE

After two years of education during a pandemic, the 2021-22 school year brought us well-needed consistency and routines. There is so much gratitude to share for our staff who have worked tirelessly to inspire each student this school year.

Eden Prairie Schools continues to have exceptional graduation rates and the high school staff knows exactly what each student needs to graduate. This year, elementary schools introduced an emotional intelligence component to their daily classroom routines. Students are learning to understand how their emotions affect their behaviors, to think about how others might be feeling and to practice communicating effectively with their peers. This is a perfect fit for the 21st-century skills that are embedded in Eden Prairie Schools's curriculum: critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration.

This was the inaugural year of a renovated Central Middle School, which received its first major update in nearly 30 years. It is all because our Eden Prairie community approved a bond referendum (bond for building) that gave our students world-class experiences and learning opportunities.



Dr. Josh Swanson
Superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools

We are fortunate in Eden Prairie Schools that we have not had to reduce programs and services for students to balance our budget for eight (8) years.

As you look around the Twin Cities metro area, this is not the case everywhere. The reason for our financial stability is because of the support of the community.

A 2014 levy for learning provided funding that supposed to provide financial stability for five y



Because of good fiscal management and leadership of the board we have far exceeded that expectation and it has allowed the district to work on the community's academic vision that has been coming to life in each of our schools. This levy expires after the 2024-25 school year, unless it is renewed by voters before then.

The School Board is working through options for this levy and you may hear more about it later this year.

I wish you a happy and restful summer, and thank you for being a part of Eagle Nation!

Do you have an inspiring story that you want to tell about a student, staff or Eden Prairie community member? **Contact the Communications team!**

✉ communications@edenpr.org

📞 952-975-7150

EP BY THE NUMBERS



Eden Prairie Schools' property tax on an average-priced home is **\$716 less** compared to the average of SW metro districts.



If state aid for school districts kept pace with inflation since 2003, **EP would've received an additional \$798 per pupil this school year.**



All district financial data is publicly available. Snap a picture of this QR code and take a look!

SCHOOL BOARD: EP'S CONTINUED FINANCIAL STABILITY

A primary responsibility of the School Board is to ensure that the District achieves results for students through effective use of the resources available. The continued financial stability of Eden Prairie Schools provides a foundation for an outstanding education, a collaborative work environment, world-class facilities, and consistency and value for taxpayers.

As has been the case for many years, school taxes paid by Eden Prairie residents are among the lowest of our neighboring cities. Recent School Board communications (Measuring What Matters, March 2) highlighted these results including Figure 1, which shows comparative local levy revenue from Eden Prairie residents compared to surrounding school districts.



Source: Pay 2021 School Tax Report, Minnesota Department of Education

Figure 1. Local Levy Per Pupil

As you can see in Figure 2, educational funding allocated by the state legislature to school districts has consistently fallen 2-3% short of inflation. In 2022, this shortfall resulted in schools receiving \$798 less per student/per year in funding compared to 2003. However, in 2014, Eden Prairie taxpayers approved the current 10-year local operating tax referendum. The district promised to use these funds to close the funding gap, reduce class sizes, target improved elementary reading achievement, and provide more growth opportunities for secondary students. The district committed that referendum funds would support these initiatives for five years. After eight years, our district has kept these academic promises while maintaining financial stability and consistency.



The school board wants to hear from you! Email schoolboard@edenpr.org or visit edenpr.org/school-board to connect with a board member.

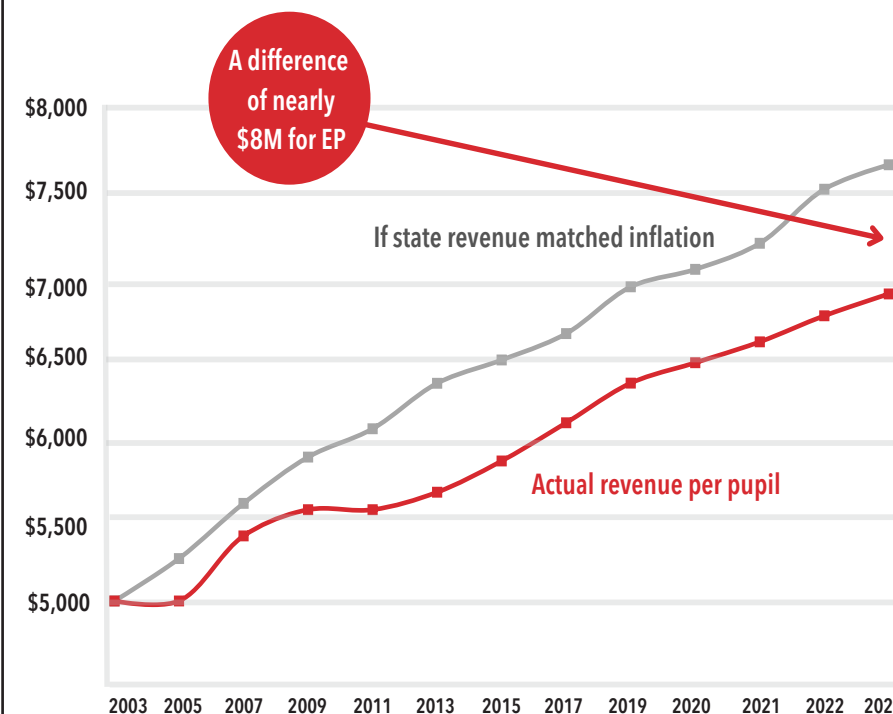


Figure 2. Impact of inflation on State Aid to K-12 Education

Our district has been able to extend this financial stability through annual efforts to identify costs savings and efficiencies (in some years \$500,000-\$1,000,000). Additionally, the district has implemented strategic initiatives to reduce the cost of post-retirement benefits, energy use, and operational costs. These actions have allowed the district to absorb funding shortfalls, direct maximum resources to the classroom, and maintain fiscal responsibility. During the last eight years, these classroom resources have delivered rising graduation rates across demographics, improved learning spaces, maintained a highly qualified workforce, and created a welcoming environment for all students.

Over the last year, we have been reminded how important responsible leadership, operational stability, and fiscal stewardship are to maintaining consistency for students, parents, teachers, and taxpayers. We know COVID and inflation have had

an impact on everyone's lives, and while we cannot control all the factors that impact school finances, we continue to plan for potential risks and opportunities. Although there is no single solution to our challenges, we continue to be champions for student success and good stewards of your tax dollars.

Finally, the School Board has been working to improve communication and visibility in the community. You may have seen us at local school events, participated in our March Listen & Learn session, reviewed our **Measuring What Matters** series, or read periodic Inspiring News articles. We are at our best when we have input from all of our stakeholders; and we hope you will share your perspective so that we can fly higher together. Go Eagles!

Find out more about how the School Board measures what matters!



Have you loved your experience in the Eden Prairie Schools community? Consider leaving a review of your school on Niche.com, an online tool for families searching for K-12 schools, colleges and universities.



The Eden Prairie School Board: (starting left) Dr. Josh Swanson – Superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools, Aaron Casper – vice chair, Debjyoti Dwivedy – clerk, Francesca Pagan-Umar – director, Adam Seidel – chair, Kim Ross – director, C.J. Strehl – director, Steve Bartz – treasurer.