

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



DISTRICT196[®]
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Fall 2022 | Volume 63 • Number 1

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- District 196 is still growing p.2
- Connect with board members p.4
- Back-to-school basics p.8-9



Everything's coming up roses!

The Rosemount High School marching band performed parts of their 2022 field show during a community celebration at Irish Stadium July 29. The celebration included representatives from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, who officially presented the band with an invitation to participate in the 2023 Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on Monday, Jan. 2 (the parade is never held on a Sunday). This will be Rosemount's second Rose Parade. Their first was in 2014. Read more on page 7.



Survey will measure public support for facilities needs

In mid-September, representatives of the Morris Leatherman Company, working on behalf of the district, will be calling randomly selected District 196 residents to provide information about the district's current and future facilities needs and measure their support for possible solutions and the tax impact of meeting those needs.

The scientific community survey will be conducted the last two weeks of September and will include a minimum of 400 responses from randomly selected District 196 residents who are representative of the district's key demographics.

Results of the survey will help guide recommendations of the district Facilities and Equipment Steering Committee, which has been meeting since June 2021. School principals and district administrators serving on the committee have met nearly 20 times in the last 15 months, reviewing information, and have begun drafting a Facilities Master Plan proposal that will address needs in the following three areas: 1) planning for projected growth; 2) providing a consistent experience across the district, and 3) supporting the district's "triple-A" philosophy of academics, arts and athletics.

Enrollment projections prepared by former state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt** in 2020 and updated again earlier this year show that District 196 is expected to

<< continued on page 5 >>

Campaign to focus on digital citizenship and well-being

With parent concerns rising around students' screen time and social media use, Superintendent **Mary Kreger** asked leaders of the district's Community Education, Teaching and Learning, and Communications departments to develop a yearlong campaign of opportunities for students and families to get information and have discussions about digital citizenship and well-being.

More than ever, said Teaching and Learning Specialist **Mark Aronson**, families are searching for ways to best support their students. "They are asking questions about screen time, social media, and digital safety," he added. "And while there may not be a one-size-fits-all solution, the Digital Citizenship and Well-Being campaign is designed to offer students, teachers and families opportunities to engage in conversation and share helpful strategies to approach the topic."

Director of Teaching and Learning **Steve Troen** said it's an ongoing goal of the district's one-to-one iPad environment to develop critical consumers of information and positive contributors in the digital world. He said this year's campaign will provide a renewed focus and give schools and families ideas on ways to integrate common expectations and behaviors around the use of digital tools.

"These expectations and protocols were in place prior to COVID, but the challenges presented by the pandemic forced schools to shift focus quickly to ensure all students had digital devices and access to the internet," Troen said. All students in kindergarten through high school now have personal iPads and access to Chromebooks, laptops and computer labs as supplemental educational tools during the school day.

<< continued on page 5 >>

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.



Development taking shape on former UMore Park land

Crews are building roads and installing infrastructure for the first phase of development on 435 acres of land formerly known as the UMore Park property owned by the University of Minnesota. The site is east of Highway 3, south of County Road 42, adjacent to Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) in Rosemount. The photo looks west from above DCTC. Twin Cities-based Maplewood Development is handling initial development of the land. Plans are for other builders to construct up to 2,000 houses and apartments that are expected to be home to 500 District 196 students when completed.

District 196 population has more than tripled in the last 40 years

The population of District 196 is estimated at 163,960 residents, according to recent projections by the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

The School Board approved the district's 2022 certified census in June. The 2022 total represents an increase of 4,570 residents, or 2.8%, over the demographer's estimate of 159,390 residents two years ago in June 2020. The annual census figure is used to determine the district's Community Education tax levy for the following year.

A review of the annual census back to 1982 shows that the population of District 196 has more than tripled in the last 40 years. It doubled from 49,783 to 102,035 residents during a 10-year period from 1982 to 1992, then grew by another 51,000 residents (50%) between 1992 and 2012, reaching 153,051 residents. During the last 10 years, District 196 population has grown another 7% to the current estimate of 163,960 residents.

District 196 is the fourth largest school district in Minnesota, with total enrollment of more than 29,000 students. The district covers approximately 110 square miles and includes all or parts of the cities of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights and Lakeville, and Empire and Vermillion townships.

Nearly 90% of school-age children who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools. Anything over 80% is considered high for a school district in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and is a reflection on the quality of the local public schools and the availability of educational alternatives in the area, according to former Minnesota state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt**.



New school year offers chance to start anew and Connect, Collaborate and Celebrate!

By **Mary M. Kreger**, superintendent

The beginning of every school year brings a range of emotions, fresh starts and many things “new.” There’s new supply lists, new bus stops, new schools, new teachers, new classes, new friends, new challenges, and new experiences for each child to learn, grow and “reach their full potential,” as our mission states.

This year, more than anything, is the opportunity for everyone to start anew after two very challenging years of disruption and change in almost every aspect of our lives. Our students need normalcy, routine and expectations for behavior now more than ever. Our schools are the best and safest places in the community for them to get the stability and support they need. Our kind and caring staff in District 196 is excited to have our students back and is ready to serve the unique social-emotional and academic needs of each child.

For the last two years, we focused on safety, equity and achievement (SEA) change to keep kids safe and educate them as best we could under difficult circumstances and divided public opinion that took a toll on students, families and school district staff. To move beyond the difficulties of the past and continue our important work on SEA change and social-emotional well-being in this pivotal 2022-23 school year, we will:

- Connect with each other to reestablish strong relationships and build new ones with students and colleagues;
- Collaborate more and learn with each other to achieve our goals, and

- Celebrate the achievements of students and staff pursuing infinite possibilities in academics, the arts and athletics that is the core of our whole child, “Triple-A” philosophy that sets District 196 apart.

CONNECT

A core tenant of our mission is our belief that students come first.

Always. As educators, we got into the profession because we love children and want to provide the best possible education for each child. For children to feel safe and empowered, we know how important strong connections are for children to feel safe and empowered. Following two difficult school years, our students need support and



opportunity to develop relationships and discover their passions more than ever. We designed our back-to-school activities with this in mind. Kindergarten students began the year with transition days, two half-days to help them get to know each other and their teachers, and learn routines and procedures to help them start the year strong. Across the district at all levels, students have opportunities in August and early September to connect with one another and their teachers, review and understand behavior expectations, practice social skills and prepare for a productive school year.

At the district level, we will be connecting with stakeholders throughout the year on our focus areas of equity, social-emotional learning, achievement, facilities needs and public engagement.

COLLABORATE

Children and adults are creative and productive when we approach problems as a team. And together, great things can be accomplished when we collaborate. It is as important as ever to seek out and create opportunities to share ideas, sharpen critical thinking skills and create conditions for shared success. Both social-emotional learning and academic learning are enhanced by teamwork. District 196 is recognized for the incredible teams who excel in academics, athletics and the arts. As we look ahead, we know collaboration will continue to serve us well in both curricular and cocurricular learning.

CELEBRATE

During this school year, it is important to remember to celebrate the achievements, big and small, and reconnect with the joy of learning and growing. Our students bring energy, positivity and happiness to us every day. Through our connections and collaborative efforts, we will ignite that spark and create cultures of care and support throughout our district. Returning our focus to the joys of public education helps us respond proactively to the challenges we may face and it grounds us in our work of helping students explore their infinite possibilities. We look forward to a joyful 2022-23 school year because we have 30,000 unique reasons to celebrate in District 196!

I invite the entire District 196 community to join us in connecting, collaborating and celebrating throughout the school year to ensure we all find success. We are fortunate to share this journey with amazing students and staff. I am confident that together we will make this year one of tremendous growth, achievement and joy.

Mary M. Kreger

Connect with School Board members at a community listening session this year

District 196 stakeholders can share their experiences, comments and concerns directly with up to three School Board members at community listening sessions held monthly during the school year at different schools throughout the district.

Community listening sessions are open to the public. Up to three board members (less than a quorum of the board) attend each community listening session, along with the superintendent and other invited staff. Each district stakeholder has up to five minutes to speak and any remaining time may be used by board members or administrators to ask clarifying questions.

Stakeholders are limited to district residents, district property or business owners, district employees, current students and their parents/guardians, district contractors, bidders on district contracts that are open for bidding or awarded but not completed, and authorized representatives of these stakeholders.

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

If speaking spots remain at the time the community listening session is scheduled to begin, stakeholders may sign up for the remaining spots on a first-come, first-served basis at the beginning of the community listening session and must complete 801.7P, Request to Speak at Community Listening Session. The community listening session will adjourn if no one has signed up to speak within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

Community listening sessions in 2022-23 are scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., on the following dates and locations:



School Board members are (back row, from left): **Sakawdin Mohamed**, director; **Bianca Virnig**, director; **Art Coulson**, treasurer, and **Joel Albright**, director; (front row) **Sachin Isaacs**, clerk; **Jackie Magnuson**, chairperson, and **Cory Johnson**, vice chairperson.

- Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022 - Cedar Park Elementary STEM School
- Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022 - Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies
- Monday, Nov. 21, 2022 - Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering, and Technology
- Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022 - Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences
- Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023 - Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science
- Monday, Feb. 27, 2023 - East Lake Elementary School
- Tuesday, March 21, 2023 - Westview Elementary School
- Monday, April 24, 2023 - Thomas Lake Elementary School
- Monday, May 22, 2023 - Red Pine Elementary School

School Board meetings streamed live on YouTube

The School Board holds regular meetings on Mondays at least once each month according to a schedule approved by the board. Regular School Board meetings begin at 6 p.m. at Dakota Ridge School, 4629 144th St. W. in Apple Valley.

The remaining regular board meetings for the 2022-23 school year are scheduled on the following Mondays: Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12 and June 26.

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

The board also occasionally holds special board meetings. Notice of all School Board meetings are posted in

district buildings and on the website. Special board meetings are not videotaped.

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. Special communication requests are limited to 10 district stakeholders per meeting, for up to four minutes per speaker. If more than 10 special communication requests are submitted for one meeting, the 10 will be selected by lottery.

For more information about school board meetings or special communication requests, visit the School Board webpage at District196.org/about/school-board/.

District 196 recognized for excellence in financial reporting for 20th consecutive year

For the 20th consecutive year, District 196 has earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).

The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest recognition of school district financial operations offered by ASBO, a professional organization with more than 6,000 members. The program reviews and critiques district accounting practices as represented in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and recognizes school districts that meet or exceed the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability.

"The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report informs stakeholders about



the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community," ASBO Executive Director **David Lewis** said in a release announcing Certificate of Excellence recipients.

This year's award recognizes the preparation and issuance of the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2021. The report is available on the Finance Department page of the district website

at District196.org, along with financial reports and annual budgets for the current year and previous nine years.

"Every member of our Finance Department played a part in receiving this recognition," said Director of Finance and Operations **Mark Stotts**. "I especially want to recognize the leadership of Coordinator of Finance **Christopher Onyango-Robshaw**, Controller **Adam Lloyd** and Manager of Financial Systems and Reporting Compliance **Danny DuChene**."

District 196 has also received ASBO's Meritorious Budget Award the past six years for excellence in preparing and communicating the annual district budget, which totals more than \$550 million this year.

Facilities survey

<< continued from front page >>

grow by 2,500 to 3,000 students by 2030, with most of the new residential development happening in the southeastern part of the district in Rosemount. Most schools in the district are already at or near capacity, and additional space will be needed at all levels to accommodate the projected growth.

To maximize use of existing space and address overcrowding, last year the board approved attendance-area changes that will provide near-term relief for Rosemount Middle School and Rosemount High School and better balance enrollments at the district's six middle schools and four comprehensive high schools.

In June, members of the committee and representatives of Wold Architects updated the School Board on what they had learned about future development in meetings with the city of Rosemount. **Scott McQueen** of Wold said key takeaways are that land will be slow to develop for new housing after the current residential boom, that the development focus is moving to non-residential uses, and that enrollment growth in the district is likely to slow after the next 10 years.

After results of the survey are presented in early October, the committee will finalize its recommendation and present it to Superintendent **Mary Kreger** and cabinet directors, who will determine what is recommended to the board. Options the committee is considering to address growth include as many as two new elementary schools to ease overcrowding and provide space for

Digital well-being

<< continued from front page >>

"With the return to full in-person learning last school year, teachers and administrators saw the need to reset and refocus students on how to use technology appropriately," Troen added.

To develop the campaign, teams of teachers, administrators, media specialists, and school counselors from each level came together to create a proactive plan that refines common expectations around the use of digital tools. Best practices in digital citizenship and technology expectations will be integrated into students' regular classroom instruction at every grade. Each school will also host a family tech night this fall

additional preschool; a new, slightly larger Rosemount Middle School and repurposing the current school for non-student uses; finishing upgrades throughout Rosemount High School that were started with the last successful bond referendum in 2015, and possible additions to Rosemount High, Scott Highlands Middle School and Eastview High School, if needed.

and will periodically share digital well-being tips and information.

Later this school year, Community Education will host three district-wide events:

- "What Science Tells Us About Parenting in the Digital Age" workshop with **Erin Walsh** of Spark and Stitch Institute, Saturday, Nov. 12, 9:30-11 a.m., Eastview High School.
- Screening of movie, "Like," followed by panel discussion, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 6 p.m., Rosemount High School.
- Braver Angels workshop, "Skills for Social Media," spring 2023.

Join the district and make a difference in students' lives

District 196 has employment opportunities for the 2022-23 school year for individuals who enjoy working with children. There are immediate openings for paraprofessionals, custodians, bus drivers and food service associates, as detailed below. For more information and to apply online, go to District196.org and click on "Employment" on the top right.

Paraprofessionals earn \$19.65 per hour (\$16 per hour for substitutes). Work 6.25 to 6.75 hours per day. Must; pass a pre-employment physical and background check; complete online Personal Care Assistant training, two years of college or passing score on para test (not required for substitutes).

Custodians earn \$20.41 per hour (\$15.50 per hour for substitutes). Typical hours are 3 to 11:30 p.m.; be 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 \$22.62 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, cashiering and clean-up.

Did You Know

District 196 was among the 1,430 U.S. employers included on Forbes' inaugural list of Best-in-State Employers in 2019, ranking 12th out of 51 Minnesota employers that made the list. Selection was based on an independent survey of 80,000 Americans working for employers with at least 500 employees. They were asked to rate how likely they would be to recommend their employer to others.

New school safety coordinator is former police officer

Former police officer **Reshard Saulter** was hired this summer to take over as the district's next school safety and climate coordinator.

Saulter was most recently the dean of students at Faribault Middle School. Prior to that, he has 20 years of experience as a police officer in Florida and Texas, and also worked for the Rosemount Police Department for one year in 2021 before making a career change to education last December. Saulter also served as a paralegal in the U.S. Army Reserves for 10 years while working for the police department in Temple, Texas from 2005 to 2018.



Saulter will fill the position previously held by **Mary Thompson**, a former Rosemount Middle School principal who served as the district's first school safety and climate coordinator until she retired earlier this year. The position was added in 2018 in response to growing concerns about school safety and added responsibilities for overseeing security equipment and systems that were added to all schools in the district as part of the last bond referendum in 2015.

In addition, Saulter will be responsible for regularly reviewing and updating the district's emergency procedures, coordinating school safety drills with local police departments, training staff on bullying response and prevention, and assisting schools with student social/emotional support models. He will also advise and help lead the district's emergency team, which includes district and school administrators, and members of local police departments who serve as school resource officers in the district's middle schools and high schools.

"My whole career has been about protecting and serving by building relationships with people," said Saulter, who lives in Rosemount and has children attending District 196 schools. "I look forward to this opportunity to build on strong partnerships with police, health and other local organizations to keep our schools among the best and safest places for our children to be."

Saulter has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and earned his master's degree in education leadership from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

New special education coordinator brings experience

The district hired **Sarah Otte-Phillips** this summer as a special education coordinator working with early childhood.

Otte-Phillips has more than 16 years of experience as a special educator. She spent much of her career in California as a special education teacher, facilitator and specialist. Most recently, she was the interim early childhood special education (ECSE) coordinator for Rochester Public Schools. She was instrumental in creating a standards-based curriculum for ECSE students to allow for more personalized and rigorous learning.



While working for the Cajon Valley Union School District in El Cajon, Calif., Otte-Phillips worked with students from elementary and middle schools who needed support with individualized education plans. She leveraged the expertise of her colleagues to create innovative professional development opportunities and a more universal approaches to serving students, and was named the district's Administrator of the Year in 2016.

"I am excited to join the District 196 team," Otte-Phillips said. "The district has an excellent reputation for serving students with disabilities and supporting their unique needs. I look forward to engaging with staff, supporting students, and collaborating with our families."

Otte-Phillips has a bachelor's degree in human development and a master's degree in education from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif. She is currently enrolled in Bethel University's education doctoral degree in K-12 administration and director of special education licensure program.

Rosemont marching band receives official invite to perform in second Rose Parade

The Rosemont High School marching band rolled out the gold and green carpet July 29 to enthusiastically accept an invitation to participate in the 2023 Rose Parade from Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association 2023 President **Amy Wainscott**. Marching band fans and local dignitaries packed the high school stadium to be part of the communitywide celebration.

This will be Rosemont's second Rose Parade. The first was in 2014 and the band was also selected to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2017.

The Rose Parade brings together marching bands from around the world each January to usher in the new year and show off their musical talents. More than 70 marching bands from across the country submitted applications for the 2023 parade.

"Rosemont's application was stellar," Wainscott said. "Their style and their sound is huge. And they have the experience of being at the Rose Parade. We just knew they would be a great band to be marching in the parade."

As part of her visit, Wainscott and her team toured the community by trolley, stopped by several Rosemont schools and attended a number of events in the area. The visit serves as community



Rosemont High School marching band drum majors, from left, **Adam Polanski, Grace Brandt, Jaxon Jones** and **Julia Grayson**, accepted the Rose Bowl Parade flag from **Amy Wainscott**, president of the 2023 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, during the July 29 celebration.

building, fundraising and promotional opportunities for the band and the organization. During the celebration, the marching band gave the audience a sneak peek at its 2022 field show, which will be shown in its entirety during a number of local and national events this upcoming school year.



"This is a unique and special accomplishment, and a source of tremendous pride for Rosemont High School, the Rosemont community, District 196 and the state of Minnesota," said Principal **Pete Roback**.

"Our students and directors have worked extremely hard to make the Rose Parade invitation a reality. It did not happen by accident."

The 2023 Rose Parade will take place Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 (the parade is never held on a Sunday). The parade draws nearly 700,000 spectators and is viewed by more than 300 million people in 200 countries.

"As band directors, we are extremely proud and excited about this incredible opportunity for the students in the Rosemont Marching Band," said Director **Leon Sieve**. "We know this exciting endeavor holds the potential to be a positively life changing event for every member of our band. This will certainly prove to be an experience we will all cherish for the rest of our lives."



The trumpets sounded during the band's march through Rosemont in the Leprechaun Days Parade July 30.

District transports 22,000 students with state's largest school bus fleet

District 196 provides transportation to and from school at no charge to elementary school students who live one mile or more from their school, and middle school and high school students who live 1.5 or more miles from their school. Students living within those distances to school who would have to cross railroad tracks or a road defined as a hazardous crossing by the Transportation Department also receive transportation from the district.

With more than 200 buses, District 196 operates the largest district-owned school bus fleet in Minnesota, transporting more than 22,000 students to and from school each day. District 196 bus drivers earn a starting hourly wage of \$22.62 and are eligible for benefits at 23 hours per week. Training is provided. To become a bus driver or chaperone, apply online at District196.org (click on "Employment" in the black bar at top) or call 651-423-7685 if you have questions.

Bus stop info mailed

Postcards were mailed Aug. 15 to families of students eligible to receive transportation to and from school during the 2022-23 school year.

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

Bus service for a fee

Optional transportation service for a fee is available to families whose children are not eligible for transportation at no charge based on current service distances. The annual cost is \$300 per student, with a \$600 family maximum. Families whose



District 196 operates the largest district-owned bus fleet in Minnesota and consistently spends less per pupil on transportation costs compared to averages for school districts in the metro area and statewide.

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

Bus tracking app

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



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

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

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

Parents asked to review information and update

Each year, District 196 asks parents and guardians to review and update information currently on record with the district, including contact information, emergency contacts, student health records and more. It is important for the district to have current information in order to be notified in case of emergency, changes in the school schedule and to receive regular communication from the schools and district.

Parents complete this annual review online through the Infinite Campus parent portal known as Campus Parent. The first time parents and guardians log into an existing account this year, they will be prompted to complete the online review process before proceeding. (Note: This process is not supported via the Campus Parent App and should be completed via an internet browser. For the best user experience, a desktop or laptop computer is recommended.)

The review includes a question on "preferred communication language" that all parents and guardians must answer. The data from this question is used by staff to make decisions about which families should be offered interpreter services and written translations of certain materials.

This is the one time each year the district asks parents to complete the review to ensure schools have the most up-to-date information at the start of the year. Parents can also make updates any time during the year through Campus Parent or by contacting their child's school.

All District 196 parents and guardians are encouraged to have a Campus Parent account of their own to stay involved in their child's education, to access end-of-term report cards, transcripts, attendance and other important information. Parents who do not have their own Campus Parent account can request an activation key from the office at their child's school.

Directions for setting up a Campus Parent account and completing the annual online review process is available at www.district196.org/community/families.

Reporting absences online requires student ID number

Parents and guardians now need to know their child's student ID number in order to report them absent using the district's online absence reporting system.

The addition of a student ID, along with other required details, will ensure accurate absence information is captured with proper authentication. An email receipt of the submitted absence will also be sent to the parent/guardian listed in the student's Infinite Campus account.

On Aug. 22, families received one email per student with that student's specific identification number. The email should be kept as a reference. Student ID numbers can also be found on the back of your child's iPad; on a printed report card, and on a printed student transcript. To report an absence, visit the Contact or Attendance page on each school's website.

Parents must decide on optional iPad Protection Plan

After waiving fees the last two years, District 196 is once again offering an optional iPad Protection Plan for the 2022-23 school year to help protect against unexpected costs for accidental damage to or loss of a district-issued iPad. Prior to 2020-21 and again this upcoming school year, families may opt into the protection plan for \$20 per iPad for the entire school year. There is a reduced fee for students eligible for the Educational Benefits Program.

All families are asked to accept or decline the optional iPad Protection Plan by Sept. 19, at which time a non-response will be considered declining the offer. To make their choice, parents and guardians log into their MyPaymentsPlus account, do a search for "iPad" and select one of only two options presented: to accept the protection plan or to decline it. Both options include the Student User Agreement for review and acknowledgement. For directions on using MyPaymentsPlus or creating an account, go to District196.org and select Community/Family Resources. For assistance, families should contact their child's school.

School meals are not free this year, families should apply for Ed Benefits

School meals will not be free this school year as they were the past two years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture made this announcement earlier this year, saying COVID-19 funding was no longer available to support the free meals program.

To ensure eligible students continue to receive school meals for free, all families are encouraged to complete an Educational Benefits Application, formerly the free and reduced-price meals application, for the 2022-23 school year. In addition to free meals, an approved Educational Benefits Application allows eligible families to receive discounted or free activity participation and Community Education fees.

In addition to assisting eligible students, the Educational Benefits Program directly supports schools with compensatory aid, which increases the more families that apply. Compensatory aid provides funding for additional teachers, math and reading support, paraprofessionals, social workers and instructional materials.

Apply online at District196.org/edbenefits; the process is safe, secure and private. Only one application is needed per household, but a new application must be submitted each year. Paper applications are also available in the office at every District 196 school. If you have questions about the application, call 651-683-6958 or email nutrition@district196.org.

School meal prices

School meal prices in 2022-23 will be the same as they were before the pandemic three years ago:

- Elementary school lunch is \$2.50 and breakfast is \$1.55 (breakfast is still free for all kindergarteners);
- Middle school lunch is \$2.55 and breakfast is \$1.60;
- High school lunch is \$2.65 and breakfast is \$1.60;
- Adult lunch is \$3.85 and adult breakfast is \$2.05, and
- Second entrees are \$3, additional milk is 40 cents and a la carte items vary by price,

Five elementary schools and 196Online have new, experienced leaders in 2022-23

Five District 196 elementary schools and the 196Online virtual school have new, experienced leaders to start this year due to retirements at the end of this school year and two openings were filled by internal candidates that created additional openings.

Washington steps up at Red Pine

Red Pine Assistant Administrator **Tony Washington** was hired in June to become the school's new principal, a role he began July 1. He replaced **Drew Goeldner**



who was hired for the principal position at Greenleaf Elementary.

"I am honored and excited to be chosen as the next leader at Red Pine Elementary," Washington said. "Red Pine is a special place with great students, supportive families and an incredibly talented and caring staff."

Washington was the assistant administrator at Red Pine this past school year, and was responsible for overseeing scheduling, testing, special education, academic interventions and behavior management, among other things.

This will be Washington's second principalship. He was a principal of an elementary school in Edina from 2015 to 2017, then worked as an assistant at elementary schools in Inver Grove Heights and St. Cloud Area Schools before starting at Red Pine in June 2021. Washington got his start in education in 1998, as a sixth-grade teacher for Hopkins Public Schools. In 2011, he took his first administrative position, as associate principal of an elementary school in Eden Prairie.

Washington has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse, and earned his specialist and master's degrees in education from the University of St. Thomas.

"I look forward to continuing our work together as a strong school community within District 196," he said.

Nelson joins Diamond Path

Diamond Path School of International Studies welcomed **Rob Nelson** to their school community July 1. Nelson was hired to replace **Leah Hack**, who was hired to be the new principal at Pinewood Community Elementary School.



"I am excited to join District 196 as the new principal at Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies," Nelson said. "Diamond Path has a proud reputation as a magnet school of choice because of innovative programming and instruction, and strong relationships with students, families and staff."

Nelson was a teacher for the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 from 1993 to 2007, when he was hired to his first principalship at Harriet Bishop Elementary in Savage. Nelson was principal there for six years before leaving to pursue an opportunity with a company serving the K-12 education market. He returned to public education in 2018 when he started as principal at Woodland Elementary School in Brooklyn Park.

Nelson has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Moorhead State University and earned his administrative licensure and master's in education from Hamline University.

Familiar faces at Greenleaf, Pinewood and Northview

In addition to Goeldner at Greenleaf and Hack at Pinewood, Northview Elementary School has a new principal who is very connected to the school. **Melissa Griffin**, the previous assistant administrator at Northview,

was hired in May to be the school's next principal. She replaced **Kerri Town**, who retired at the end of last school year with more than 20 years of service in the district. Goeldner, Hack and Griffin were all featured in the summer issue of Spotlight, which can be viewed online at District196.org/community/spotlight/.

Hernandez returns to lead 196Online

Longtime District 196 leader **Lynn Hernandez** was hired to be the second coordinator of the district's fully virtual school, 196Online.



Hernandez assumed her role as coordinator July 1, replacing Teaching and Learning Coordinator Jenny Huling, who helped develop the program and served as coordinator in the school's inaugural year in 2021.

"I'm excited to join the staff of 196Online and the opportunity to work with them to continue shaping District 196's online school presence," Hernandez said. "The staff has worked hard to meet students' needs in a meaningful way. It's an honor to be able to collaborate with them and our families to provide opportunities for student success."

196Online was created last year in response to parent demand for an online option during the COVID-19 pandemic. 196Online offers a comprehensive curriculum that allows for flexible, personalized learning experiences and access to academic support similar to what is available in District 196 school buildings.

Hernandez was principal at Diamond Path for 14 years before retiring in 2018 after a 22-year career in District 196. In 2020, she returned to fill a one-year vacancy as assistant administrator at Rosemount Elementary School and recently completed a one-year position as assistant administrator at Greenleaf.

District 196 students and schools excel at national speech and debate tournament

Two District 196 students finished first and second in the nation in humorous interpretation and Apple Valley, Eagan and Eastview high schools all earned top team honors at this year's National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in June in Louisville, Ky.

Apple Valley's **Mfaz Mohamed Ali**, a sophomore last year, was named national champion in humorous interpretation and **James Eiden** of Eagan was runner-up. Other speech finalists (top six in their category) from District 196 were **Audrey Schwartz** of Eagan, who took fourth place in dramatic interpretation, and **Emily Melville** of Apple Valley, who also finished fourth in oral interpretation. In debate, **Eric Li** and **Archan Sen** of Eagan took third place in policy debate and **Alharith Dameh** of Apple Valley finished eighth in Lincoln-Douglas.

Other top finishers from District 196 were **Sophie Todaro** of Apple Valley, seventh place, humorous interpretation; **Wayne Southwell** and **Lydia Voss** of Apple Valley, seventh place, duo interpretation; **Ilham Yasin** of Apple Valley, seventh place, original oratory; **Sophie Green** of Apple Valley, eighth place, informative speaking; **Ellery Bartels** of Eagan, ninth place, storytelling; **Alice Hovendon** and **Evelyn Gore** of Eagan, 10th place in duo interpretation; **Lucinda Standafer** of Apple Valley, 13th place, dramatic interpretation; **Zoe Champ** of Eastview, 13th place, storytelling, and **Flynn Gray** of Eagan, 14th place, expository speaking.

Quarterfinalists (top 30) in speech include **Hibaq Hassan** of Apple Valley in dramatic interpretation; **Morgan Oksendahl** and **Nathaniel Krekeler** of Eastview in duo interpretation; **Godwin Agbara** of Eastview in humorous interpretation; **Allison Nathan** of Eastview in international extemporaneous speaking, and **Faye Zhang** and **Rhea Rajvansh** of Eastview in U.S. extemporaneous speaking. Quarterfinalists in Congressional debate were **Abiha Kashif** and

Avika Mathur of Eagan, and **Tirsit Enbackom** of Eastview.

Others who advanced to the elimination rounds in speech (top 60) include **Lane Dehnel** of Apple Valley and **Cailin Mayotte** of Eastview in dramatic interpretation; **Jihan Abdi** of Apple Valley in original oratory, and Champ of Eastview in oral interpretation.

Others who advanced to the elimination rounds in debate are **Malaya Galindez** and **Caden Hubbs** of Eastview in public forum, **Aerin Engelstad** of Eagan in Lincoln-Douglas and **Kaycee Wells** of Apple Valley in big questions debate. Rosemount High School had one student qualify for the national tournament but they did not advance.

For team honors, Apple Valley and Eagan were two of the 10 Schools of Outstanding Distinction in Speech and Debate based on the number of rounds of competition their students completed during the year tournament. Eastview was one of 20 Speech Schools of Excellence based on rounds of speech competition completed.

The head speech and debate coaches in District 196 are **Daniel Hodges**, **Scott Voss** and **Tzitel Voss** (speech) and **Nick Smith** (debate) at Apple Valley High; **Ross Eichele** (speech) and **Chris McDonald** (debate) at Eagan High; **Ryan Roseen** (speech) and **Todd Hering**, **Zach Prax**, and **Greta Thomas** (debate) at Eastview High, and **Carol Sylvester** (speech) and **Cort Sylvester** (debate) at Rosemount High.



Mfaz Mohamed Ali of Apple Valley High School posed with her trophies on stage at the national tournament in Louisville, Ky. in June. She won first place in the category of humorous interpretation.

Get information by text

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.

Multilingual students can earn recognition and college credits

High school seniors who can demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English can earn recognition on their transcript and credits at a Minnesota state college or university as part of the state's Bilingual/Multilingual Seals and World Language Proficiency Certificate program.

The program was established to recognize the unique advantages of being a bilingual or multilingual speaker. Students who are bilingual are more culturally and linguistically competent and better prepared for a college or career experience with a global perspective.

To earn this recognition, seniors must be assessed in reading, writing, listening and speaking in a language other than English. Students take a bilingual assessment and are scored in all four areas based on proficiency guidelines established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

- **World Language Proficiency Certificate** is awarded for students who score at the intermediate low/mid-level in a language other than English. Students can receive up to two semesters of college credit.
- **Gold Bilingual or Multilingual Seal** is awarded for students who score at the intermediate high level in a language other than English and earn English language arts credits. Students can receive up to the three semesters of college credit.
- **Platinum Bilingual or Multilingual Seal** is awarded for students who score at the advanced low level in a language other than English and earn English language arts credit or proficiency. Students can receive up to four semesters of college credit.

High school seniors interested in participating in the program in 2022-23 should speak with their counselor, world languages teacher, English Learner teacher or cultural family advocate for more information on how to register for the bilingual assessments.



Title IX trailblazer

Fifty years after receiving the first medal awarded in the first Minnesota State High School League-sanctioned girls' state tournament in 1972, **Sue Alstrom** posed with members of Eagan High School's state champion 4 x 800-meter relay team in June. 2022 is the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or education program that receives federal funding. Members of Eagan's state champion 4 x 800 relay team are **Rina Aschemann, Kyra Kusnierek, Ava Ligtenberg** and **Norah Sjerven**.

Apple Valley and Eastview win eight video awards

Students representing the journalism and video production programs at Apple Valley and Eastview high schools won eight of 21 Student Production Awards presented by the Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation this spring.

Student Production Awards are awarded in college and high school divisions. Award winners in the high school division from Apple Valley and Eastview are listed below by category.

- Newscast – Eastview High for The Flash, Oct. 9, 2020 show; **Madeline Sundheim** and **Saia D'Silva**, talent; **Godwin Agbara**, director, and **Sofia Hernandez**, videographer.
- News Report: Light News – Apple Valley High for "One of Ours: Maddie Mortison;" **Reice Revier**, talent/writer; **Alex Selikoff**, camera/editor, and **Morgan Robinson**, production.
- Multimedia Journalist – **Godwin Agbara** of Eastview High for "Systemic Change."
- Fiction: Short Form – Eastview High for "Freeway Horror;" **Brayden LeLoup**, videographer.
- Public Affairs/Community Service – Eastview High for "Representation;" **Godwin Agbara**, reporter.
- Magazine Program – Apple Valley High for EaglEye, Show #192; **Gabe Pena** and **Sara Abourjeily**, anchors/producers.
- Sports Story or Segment – Eastview High for "Swimming Sensation;" **Madeline Sundheim**, reporter, and videographers **Cole Frost**, **Georgia Paul** and **Jordan Sundheim**.
- Writer – **Madeline Sundheim** of Eastview High.



2022 Apple Valley High School graduates **Carter Ehlers** (left) and **Daniel Knipe** showed off two Student Production Awards won by the school's EaglEye show.

Pursuing Infinite Possibilities: David Besonen, Eastview High School Class of 2018

While in high school, 2018 Eastview High School graduate **David Besonen** took full advantage of opportunities to hone his skills as a musician. He spent much of his time growing his creative repertoire and socializing with friends and faculty in Eastview's instrumental music department. Along with his peers, David showed off his chops on the piano and saxophone during concerts at schools across the state and around the world.

"The sheer number of opportunities I had to be a part of a variety of different ensembles with some of the coolest kids and the best teachers I've ever had is something I'll never forget," David shared. "These were very formative years of my life with a lot of awesome adults pouring into me."

After graduating from Eastview, David attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he graduated in May 2021 with a degree in computer science. He landed an internship with a software development company, but also continued to focus on his music. So when he got a call from a popular Nashville recording artist earlier this year, it didn't take David long to switch gears. This summer, he toured the country with singer, songwriter and producer **Ben Rector** on the "The Joy of Music: Live" tour.

"The opportunity to tour with an artist I've looked up to for years has been one of the greatest blessings of my life so far," he said. "We played in about 20 different cities. I had the time of my life."



"These were very formative years of my life with a lot of awesome adults pouring into me."

- David Besonen

Stats

2018 graduate of Eastview High School; bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; saxophonist and pianist.

Which District 196 teachers made the biggest difference in your education?

Throughout high school, David pursued his passion for music, and guiding his way were educators **Matt Gullickson**, **Rich Berggren** and **Frank Pasquerella**. "Each of them recognized how much I loved making music and fed into that beautifully," he also took time to connect personally. "We all sat and talked some days, and those are conversations I cherish, especially the ones with Frank. He pushed me in so many ways, not just musically. Part of the reason I'm on stage touring the country is because of him."

How did District 196 prepare you for your future?

"The education I received and the relationships I fostered in District 196 helped prepare me to critically solve problems and interact with new people in a variety of different work and school settings over the past four years."

Notice of digital tools used in District 196

District 196 uses a variety of digital devices and software from technology providers as critical tools to support student learning. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13.32, school districts in Minnesota must annually notify families of the curriculum, testing and assessment providers that have access to educational data. School officials may also access or monitor student use of these tools for instruction, technical support, exam proctoring or as otherwise authorized by law.

The inventory of digital tools District 196 uses will be posted on the 1:1 Parent Resources page at www.district196.org/academics/digital-learning/11-ipad-parent-resources by Monday, Sept. 26, 2022. It gives the name of each digital tool and the educational data elements affected through the use of that tool.

Parents may contact digitaltools@district196.org with questions about specific digital tools used in classrooms or to request to inspect a contract associated with a particular digital tool listed on the inventory.

Student rights handbook mailed to families

The *Overview of Student Rights and Responsibilities* handbook for the 2022-23 school year was mailed in mid-August to parents and guardians of students enrolled in District 196 schools, one per household.

The district publishes an updated version of the handbook prior to the start of each school year to inform students and their parents and guardians about the rights and responsibilities of students, and to ensure compliance with state and federal notification requirements and school district policy. It includes summaries of student regulations and responses for different student behaviors, which vary depending on the severity of the behavior, the student's grade level and previous violations.

Within the Behaviors and Responses grid, the following changes are new this year:

- Category #28, Interference, Disruption or Obstruction, is revised to add language about student behavior that compromises safety;
- Category #38, Sexual Violence, is updated to reference the district's Title IX sexual harassment grievance process, and
- Category #39, Technology Related, is updated to apply more fully to elementary school students.

In addition, a change was made to conform with the law and practice of limiting the availability of student information to the military to students in grades 11-12 (parents and eligible students have the right to opt out).

The rights and responsibilities detailed in the handbook apply to District 196 students in any school or other district building, on district property, in district vehicles, at school bus stops, in off-site parking areas, at school or district activities and events, and during school videoconferencing. Discipline may also apply to behaviors which take place at other locations, but which directly affect school programs or activities.

The full downloadable handbook and translated versions are available at District196.org, under About. Parents and students with questions about the handbook are encouraged to call their school principal.

Parents and adult students may deny release of directory information

Notice is hereby given that District 196, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, declares the following as "directory information" as provided in said Act, and that information relating to students may be made public if said information is in any of the following categories:

- * Student's name;
- Date and place of birth;
- Major field of study;
- Participation and performance in officially recognized activities and sports;
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams;
- Dates of attendance;
- Enrollment status;
- District-issued email address;
- Grade level;
- Degrees, honors, diplomas and awards received;
- Honor roll;
- School of attendance;
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended;
- Photographs and other video and audio representations for school-approved publications, yearbooks, newspapers, public presentations, student ID badges and publication on school-approved Internet pages;
- * Student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems or displayed on a student ID badge;
- Home addresses, telephone numbers, school schedule, daily attendance record and parent or guardian names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers (for release to law enforcement officials);
- Home addresses and telephone numbers (for release to the Dakota County Library), and
- ** 11th or 12th grade student's home address and telephone number (for release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education).

**A parent/guardian may not prevent the disclosure of a student's name, identifier or institutional email address in a class in which the*

student is enrolled or on a student ID badge.

***In accordance with the law, the district must release to military recruiting officers and institutions of higher education the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of students in 11th and 12th grades within 60 days after the date of the request, unless a parent or adult student denies the release of the information.*

Directory information does not include identifying data which references religion, race, color, disability, social position or nationality.

Any parent or guardian of any student in the district, or any student 18 years of age or older, may notify the district that they deny the release of one or more categories of directory

District doesn't provide accident insurance

District 196 does not provide accident insurance for injuries that happen to students at school or during school activities, nor does the district provide insurance protection for student property that is lost, stolen

information by contacting the principal and completing Procedure 505.2.4.3P, Denial of Release of Directory and Yearbook Information. This notification must be given to the district within 30 days of this publication notice or at any time with the approval of district-level administration. If filed, a denial will remain in effect until it is modified or rescinded by the parent, guardian or eligible student.

Please understand that if you choose to deny the release of all directory information, your child (or you, if a student 18 years of age or older) will be excluded from such published lists as honor rolls, news releases regarding sports achievements, honors received, graduation programs, and athletic, theater and fine arts programs.

or damaged at school or at school activities. Families that wish to have accident or property protection are encouraged to contact an insurance company.

Nonresident students may apply to attend District 196

Students living outside the district may apply to enroll in District 196 schools through the Minnesota Enrollment Options Program. Nonresident students are encouraged to apply to the district by Jan. 15 to be considered for enrollment in the following school year.

Nonresident applicants are also encouraged to request the school(s) they wish to attend. The district

assigns transfer students to schools based on their preference and whether that school has space available. Students who are accepted under the Enrollment Options Program can remain in the district through grade 12, but will be assigned to schools that have space available.

For information on how to apply, call the district Student Information Office at 651-423-7644.

District obtains required criminal background checks

Minnesota school districts are required to notify parents annually about compliance with state law requiring school districts to perform criminal history background checks.

District 196 obtains criminal history checks on everyone offered employment in the district, as well as selected volunteers and independent contractors, including volunteer coaches (except enrolled students). In exercising its discretion with

respect to independent contractors and volunteers, the district considers such factors as the amount of student contact and the duration of the contact.

The district does not perform background checks on the staff or volunteers of outside clubs and organizations that offer activities for youth in the community that are not organized or operated by the district.

Parents, guardians and adult students can access educational records

District 196 schools maintain educational records on all students to help plan the student's educational program, communicate with parents/guardians and comply with state regulations. Student records include information such as standardized achievement and ability test data, grades, attendance records, health/medical records and evaluations by professional staff.

Except in limited circumstances authorized by law, most information from student records will not be released to members of the public without the written permission of the student's parent or guardian, or of the student if he or she is 18 or older. One exception, which permits disclosure of educational records without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff; a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials, including the school district's insurer or an

authorized volunteer. Legitimate educational interests include those directly related to the school official's professional responsibilities for classroom instruction, teaching, assessment and research, student achievement and progress, student discipline, student health or welfare, or other legitimate professional responsibilities.

District 196 forwards educational records (including disciplinary records) of students to other schools and school districts in which a student seeks or intends to enroll upon request of that school or school district. A parent, guardian or student who is age 18 years or older may request and receive a copy of the records which are transferred and may, pursuant to policy, challenge the accuracy of the records. The district does not, however, notify parent(s), guardian(s) or students age 18 or older prior to such transfer.

Parents(s) or guardian(s) of a student, or a student who is age 18 or older, may request to inspect and review any of the student's educational records except those which are, by state or

federal law, made confidential. The district will comply with the request immediately if possible and, if not, within 10 days exclusive of weekends and holidays. Copies of records may be obtained upon written request. A copying and handling fee will be charged.

A parent, guardian or student age 18 or older who believes that specific information in the student's educational records is inaccurate, misleading, incomplete or violates the privacy or other rights of the student, may request that the district amend the record in question. Challenges may be made by requesting and filing Procedure 505.2.11P, Request to Amend Educational Records, with the superintendent.

Parents, guardians and students age 18 or older may submit written complaints of violation of rights accorded them by 20 USC Section 1232(g) to the Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20202-8520.

District tests for lead in drinking water

District 196 tests for the presence of lead in drinking water in schools, as required by state law. All taps used for drinking water and food preparation must be tested at least once every five years. The initial testing in District 196 schools began in July 2018.

The district plan requires that the tests be conducted using "first draw" samples, meaning the samples are collected before the fixture is used or flushed during the day. Taps located closest to where the water enters the building are tested first to avoid the potential of accidentally flushing a tap before it is tested.

The district's Lead in Water Management Plan and test results are available on the Facilities Department page of the district website at District196.org. For more information on the plan, contact Health and Safety Supervisor Lindsay Elwell at 651-423-7735 or lindsay.elwell@district196.org.

Notice of use of pest control materials in buildings

District 196 uses a licensed, professional pest control service for the prevention and control of rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the district's buildings. The program consists of:

- Inspection and monitoring to determine whether pests are present and whether any treatment is needed;
- Recommendations for maintenance and sanitation to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
- Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening, and
- Application of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered pest control materials when needed.

State law requires parents to be informed that the long-term health effects on children from the application of pesticides used by the district

may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per federal law.

To limit the potential pesticide exposure, the district follows safety regulations to ensure pesticides are applied properly. All pesticide products, which are used in and around school buildings, are required to be registered with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the EPA. An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review at each school's main office and the Office of Health and Safety.

Parents may request to receive prior notice of each pesticide application. To be notified about pesticide applications or the management plan, please contact Health and Safety Supervisor, Lindsay Elwell at 651-423-7735 or lindsay.elwell@district196.org.



DISTRICT196
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO 594

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
3455 153rd Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068

School Board

Jackie Magnuson, chairperson
Cory Johnson, vice chairperson
Sachin Isaacs, clerk
Art Coulson, treasurer
Joel Albright, director
Sakawdin Mohamed, director
Bianca Virnig, director

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

Local Postal Customer

Mary M. Kreger, superintendent
Tony Taschner, communications director

Time Value Material
Please Deliver Promptly

Community Education



COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Celebrating 50 years of Infinite Possibilities

Celebrating 50 Years of Engaging, Inspiring and Enriching in District 196

The 2022-23 school year marks the 50th anniversary of Community Education in School District 196.

Throughout the year, Community Ed will be hosting and participating in a variety of events to celebrate. We invite you to join us!

Community Education Fitness Expo

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of Community Education with samples of our popular fitness classes. Zumba, Yoga, Bootcamp, PiYo, Belly Dance will be showcased in 15-minute increments. Class will be outdoors as weather permits. Bring a friend and celebrate 50 years of lifelong learning!

Sat. | Sept. 17 | 10-11:30 a.m. | \$10 | RHS | ACEFE-F1

What Science Tells Us About Parenting in the Digital Age

Kids today experience the world in a state of "digital immersion" where the lines between offline and online experiences continue to blur. At the same time, parents are getting conflicting advice about the impact of screens on health and development.



In this interactive and energizing presentation, Erin Walsh will use brain science, stories, and humor to cut through conflicting messages about screen time and kids. She will walk you through the latest evidence on challenging topics like cyberbullying, and share practical tools and strategies for tackling difficult conversations, building trust, and being the media mentor.

Sat. | Nov. 12 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Pay What You Can | EVHS

Fall Family Fun With ECFE

We invite you to join our ECFE family as we share and learn together this fall. Supporting early childhood development and parenting is our passion. We offer a variety of classes with a focus on your child's development stage and specific parenting topics of interest. We believe everyone deserves guidance through their parenting journey. Register Today: ce.district196.org/ecfe.

Social and Emotional Well-Being: Our Children, Ourselves

Adult well-being is key to exploring how the threads of connection build early emotional and social skills. Join a community of learners as we increase our capacity to teach our children the life-long skills to build interdependence. Some topics will include development, temperament, introvert/extrovert, emotions, gaining independence, empathy and self-awareness. A mental health expert will join us as a guest speaker to share resources. Children will practice separating from you as they build trust with our staff. Our early childhood environment provides ample opportunity for social play guided by our experienced staff.



Tue. | Sept. 13-Dec. 20 | 9:30-11:45 a.m. | Fee A* | DVLC

Parenting Under Pressure

Are you feeling pressure to raise a genius? Or are you just anxious to learn how to help your child learn, grow and be ready for school? This class will share the latest research about how children learn. You will discover how your everyday, purposeful play with your child provides the groundwork for all the academics that will come later. Come away with easy, hands-on activities to lay the foundation for self-regulation, reading, writing, math, and science skills.

Wed. | Sept. 7-Dec. 14 | 1:15-3:30 p.m. | Fee A* | DVLC



DISTRICT 196
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

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

