



# Sun Prairie Area School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

## *A Report to Our Community*

**2021-2022**



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## Dear Sun Prairie Area Community,

This document is published annually at the request of the Board of Education so that our community can quickly access a “year in review.” Yes, this is a showcase of progress in our endeavor to realize the District’s vision and mission, but it is also a transparent report of areas of continued improvement for the District. While no school district is perfect, during the 2021–2022 school year, we made substantial progress coming out of a historic pandemic, which had set so many of our goals behind. We completed tremendous work on our facilities. We collaboratively finished our strategic plan from 2014 and engaged our community to look toward the future with a refreshed strategic framework. We are so very grateful for the engagement of our staff in the secondary reconfiguration process, in the design and construction of our new and renovated buildings, and in the Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force. We are grateful for our community and the input from our parents, caregivers, and students. Although the purpose of this document is to review the 2021–2022 school year, it also launches us into the future. Indeed, the best days of our District are ahead of us.



***With gratitude and appreciation to our community, our parents and caregivers, our staff, and our students,***

Dr. Brad Saron  
*Superintendent*



Sun Prairie Area  
School District

## OUR VISION

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Recognized as a high performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

## OUR MISSION

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Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

FUTURES DEPEND ON US...  
*every child, every day.*

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## AT THE SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, WE STAND BY OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILIES.

The Mission of the Sun Prairie Area School District is to inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

The SPASD celebrates and values our diverse community. We support and are inclusive of all students, staff, families, and community members of all races, ethnicities, faiths, national origins, home language(s), socio-economic status, immigration status, political viewpoints, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

In order to realize our Mission, we are committed to changing the foundational inequities that we acknowledge exist in our system and unequivocally state as follows:



**We stand** by our Black and Brown students, staff, and families of color.

We will continue to speak and swiftly act against statements of bigotry, social injustice, discrimination, racism, and hate that may plague members of our community. We are committed to the development and implementation of strategies and best practices that dismantle racism, bigotry, and ethnic oppression within all aspects of our schools and school district.



**We stand** by our immigrant students and families. All are welcome and safe in our schools regardless of immigration status.



**We stand** by our students with disabilities and their families. We will continue to staunchly protect the rights of people of all abilities and to create educational environments where all educators collaborate for high educational outcomes for all students.



**We stand** by our LGBTQIA+ students and staff. We take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive environments for people of all orientations and identities as they reflect our diverse community around us.



**We stand** by our lower socio-economic status students and their families. We will do all we can to meet the nutritional, physical, and emotional needs of all students regardless of their economic status.

**ALL CHILDREN WILL BE SAFE AND LOVED IN OUR SCHOOLS...  
*EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY***

Adopted 2/14/22

**The Board of Education** is the governing board of the Sun Prairie Area School District.

The Board leads, directs, and supervises the affairs of the District through policy development and accountability. The Board serves and is accountable to the community, primarily by ensuring that the District achieves the results described in the Board's Student Results Policies and that it operates according to the values expressed in the Board's Operational Expectations Policies.



**Dr. Steve Schroeder** *President*



**Bryn Horton** *Vice President*



**Carol Sue Albright** *Clerk*



**Latoya Holiday** *Treasurer*



**Tom Weber** *Governance Officer*



**Diana McFarland** *Deputy Clerk*



**Alwyn Foster** *School Board Member*

#### **STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Carson Schmoldt | Embree Way | Deneaja Donegan  
Mrinank Panda | Eli Gillitzer | Ciara Hill

## **THE BOARD WILL GOVERN LAWFULLY AND ETHICALLY WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS ON:**

- Vision and direction rather than internal preoccupation
- Strategic leadership more than management detail
- Future rather than past or present
- A clear distinction between Board and Superintendent roles
- Ensuring that all voices are heard, especially the community whom we serve and represent
- Building trusting and respectful relationships
- And, most important, student achievement

With gratitude from  
**DR. STEVE SCHROEDER,**  
*School Board President*

**Caren Diedrich** completed 23 years of service on the SPASD Board of Education. She was here for the building of Sun Prairie (East) High School, Creekside, Horizon, Meadow View, and Token Springs; the renovation of Ashley Field; and, of course, our current projects of Sun Prairie West, Central Heights, and Prairie Phoenix Academy. While this School District has grown tremendously in the past two decades, Caren's dedication, preparation, and love of all children have not changed. She is one of a kind, and her legacy will always be alive in the SPASD.

**Dave Hoekstra** retired from the SPASD Board of Education after eight years of extraordinary servant leadership and pursuit to make us a better School District. Dave offered a commitment to board governance, an ability to analyze situations, and a passion for seeing our students succeed. Thank you, Dave!

**Sarah Rhoads** served as a student School Board representative for the past two years. Sarah's commitment to her Board role was evident, as she always came prepared and continually spoke on behalf of her fellow students. She will be missed, but her contributions to the SPASD will be with us for a long time. Thank you, Sarah!

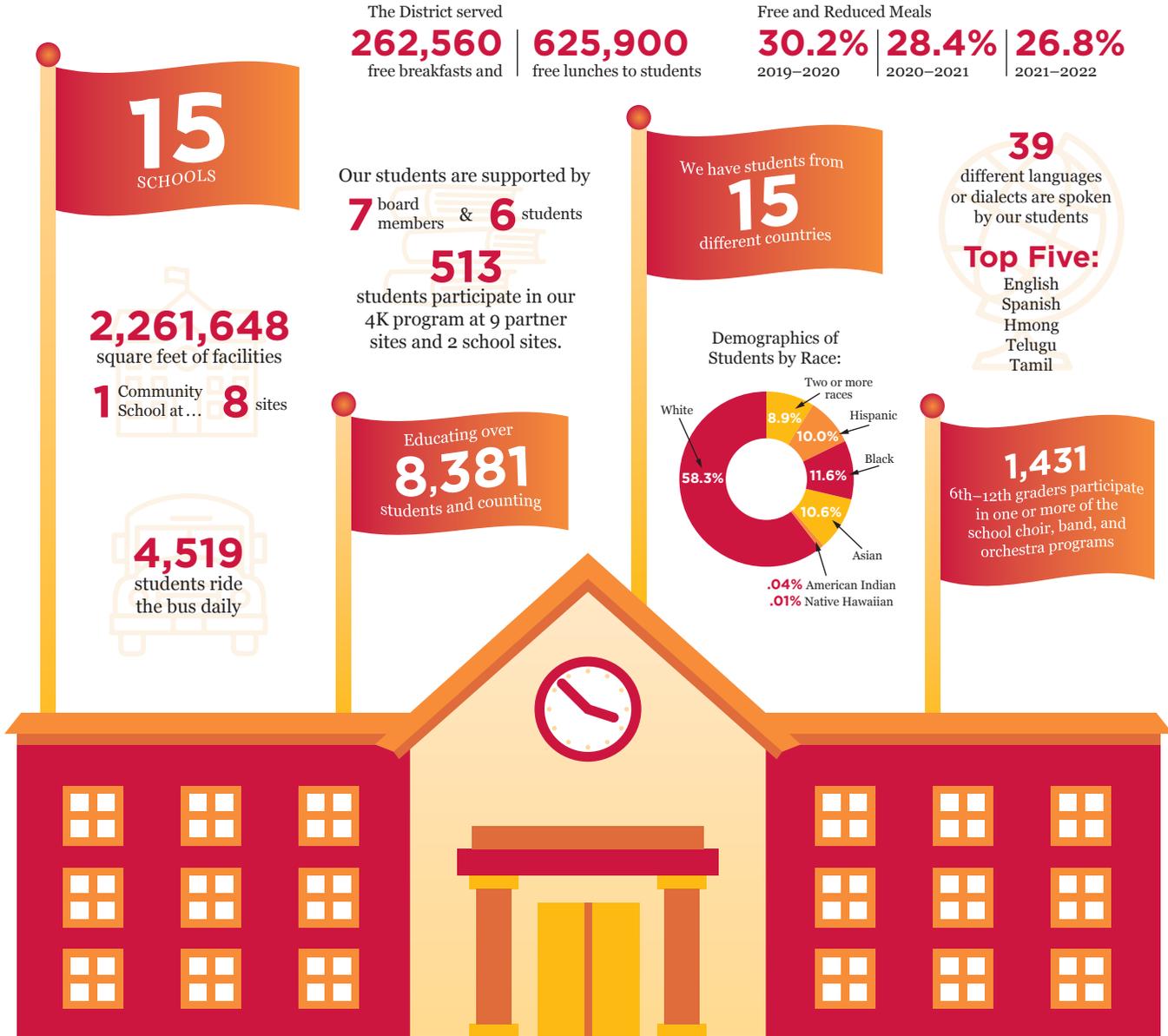
**On behalf of my Board colleagues, the administration and staff, this community, and, most important, the students of the SPASD, thank you for your service. We are better because of you all.**



# Sun Prairie Area School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

## 2021-2022 BY THE NUMBERS



The SPASD has an explicit focus on student achievement, student personal development, academic growth, gap closing, and post-secondary readiness for **Every Child, Every Day**.

## Developing Our Instructional Framework

A design team met throughout the 2021–2022 school year to design our District’s instructional framework, which is an interrelated set of systems and expectations that guide curriculum, instruction, assessment, and learning climate. It combines the distinct expectations for student learning with specific strategies and practices to guide teaching and assessment. It includes equitable multi-level systems of support (EMLSS), data-driven instruction, instructional expectations, professional development, lesson design, and teacher collaboration in professional learning communities. Each system is influenced by the other systems.



### Prairie Phoenix Academy (PPA) Students Partner with CEOs of Tomorrow to Begin Their Entrepreneurial Pursuits

Twelve PPA scholars used cooking, marketing, and financial skills to develop Phoenix Bangin’ Sauces. Fuego Verde, their signature hot sauce, is handmade by our students and gets your tastebuds bangin’ from Thai chili peppers. It was a huge hit and sold out online in less than 48 hours. Profits were donated to Briarpatch Youth Services, a local nonprofit organization providing services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. Thank you to CEOs of Tomorrow for their support of this project and our students.

# OUR YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Thirty students participated in our Youth Apprenticeship program this year. Students gained hands-on experience in a field they are interested in, while earning credit and getting paid!

CAREER FIELDS OUR STUDENTS WORKED IN INCLUDE:

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN | BANKING | CONSTRUCTION  
 ENGINEERING | FINANCE | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | INSURANCE  
 NURSING ASSISTANT | MANUFACTURING | MARKETING | VET TECHNICIAN



Two students who participated in the program, Andrew and Braedon, were hired by J. H. Findorff as full-time carpenter apprentices! They had a signing day ceremony, where they celebrated with members of the J.H. Findorff team, family, and friends.



Sara Bedner & Reagan Zimmerman, health apprentices at Oak Park Place



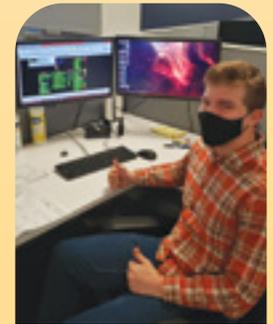
Evan Malcore, finance apprentice at Summit Credit Union



Emma Kleinfelt, youth apprentice at Camp K9



Ally Olson, veterinary science apprentice at the Sun Prairie Pet Clinic



Alex Wagner, engineering apprentice at Trachte Building Systems

## Sun Prairie Students represent Wisconsin at the **International Envirothon Competition**

Congrats to Krist Kvalheim and his amazing group of students. They represented Wisconsin at the International Envirothon Competition at Miami University. At the competition, over 25,000 high school students across the United States, Canada, and China embarked on a journey to offer solutions to the question, How do we balance quality of life and the quality of the environment?



## Thank You **WEA Member Benefits Foundation!**

The WEA Member Benefits Foundation donated \$30,000 to the District to help fund our efforts for student mental health. The funds are slated to support efforts at our secondary schools through restorative practices training.



## Cardinal Heights Students Create Mural to **Welcome Central Heights Students!**

Cardinal Heights art students created a mural to welcome students to Central Heights Middle School in the next academic year! Central Heights' mascot



is the Husky. Using paper, marker, and watercolor, the students each designed a husky with their individual interests and activities represented in the background. This suggests that while we are each unique in our interests and talents, we are also part of our larger school community.

## Sun Prairie High School Receives **\$5,000 Culinary Grant**

Sun Prairie High School was one of 38 schools in the country to receive a \$5,000 Rachael Ray Foundation ProStart Grow Grant. Funding will support the school's ProStart programming, which teaches students culinary techniques and restaurant management skills. ProStart courses provide students with hands-on experience in the food and hospitality industries and encourage them to consider future careers in these fields.



## Our STEM Graduates

15 students graduated from STEM Academy, our dual enrollment program that allows students to earn both college credits and credits towards high school graduation.

High school students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math (i.e., STEM) took a part- or full-time schedule of college classes at Madison College in 11th and 12th grade. Students still participated in extracurricular activities and school events at Sun Prairie High School.



## Adapted Sports League Kick-Off

We celebrated the launch of our Adapted Sports League in May! The Adapted Sports League will increase accessibility and equity in high school athletics. Students in grades 9–12 with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 who otherwise have been unable to access competitive athletics, can now participate in soccer, hockey, and wiffle ball. The kick-off event was a great success, filled with laughs and smiles.

## SUN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNA KYLA SMITH INSPIRING FUTURE WOMEN LEADERS IN STEM

Kyla Smith graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater and is now attending Rutgers University to pursue a doctoral degree in toxicology.

### What are your current or future career goals?

I want to influence policy regarding contaminant exposures, particularly for communities that don't have a voice within the government. My goal is to ensure there is not a disproportionate amount of contaminant exposure in communities of color and low-income communities by educating policymakers on the negative effects contaminants have on the human body.

### What is it like being a woman in STEM?

I have faced microaggressions as a woman in STEM, particularly as a Black woman in STEM. I have had to prove my intelligence multiple times in groups of mainly white males. There were times I felt like I did not belong just because of the lack of representation of people that look and identify the same as I do in my classes.

### What advice would you give women thinking about pursuing a career in STEM?

I want all girls pursuing a degree in STEM to know they belong. You deserve to be where you are.



## Reducing Food Waste at Patrick Marsh Middle School

Social studies and science teacher Angela Rivera Rautmann and her 7th-grade students worked on a community action project focused on reducing food waste. They completed a food waste audit in the Patrick Marsh cafeteria. They then thought critically about ways they can encourage their peers to reduce food waste and tried to figure out ways they can redirect wasted food to people in the Sun Prairie community who need it. Students presented their findings to community members and were interviewed by members of the District's Communications Team.



### Lieutenant Governor Barnes and Representative Hebl Visit Sun Prairie High School

Our students loved getting to hear from some of our local government leaders. Thank you to Lieutenant Governor Barnes and Representative Hebl for supporting our schools and students.



### Carson Schmoldt Participates in the State Senate Scholars Program

Carson Schmoldt, a Sun Prairie High School student and student School Board representative, was selected to represent the 26th Senate District in the State Senate Scholars program. He spent all week in Madison learning, participating in state government, and even serving as a Senate page.



**SENATE SCHOLARS**  
WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## EMILY DUFFEK

Emily is a part of our Safety Ambassadors program and National Honor Society. She was formerly involved in Board Game Club, Crew Club, and Art Club. Outside of school, she is involved in charity activities and art communities. **In April of 2021, Emily helped organize the first-ever Sexual Assault Awareness Month for high school students.**

### What was it like organizing a Sexual Assault Awareness month?

I helped create and design posters, buttons, and student-made and voice-acted videos. I also handed out merch and answered questions during my lunch, organized social media posts for the District's Facebook account, met with the Police Chief and School Attorney to understand the legal procedures of handling sexual assault cases, and helped write a resolution, which was presented to and passed by our School Board. The Rape Crisis Center came and held a training for our Student Services staff members.

Listing out our accomplishments makes me recognize just how much effort went into this campaign. In our busiest week, we devoted over 10 hours to organizing the campaign and writing our resolution. It was a very long and time-oriented process, but in the end, we achieved more than I ever could have imagined possible.

### What is your favorite thing about attending Sun Prairie schools?

I love the variety of classes, activities, and technology we have access to. I am very thankful to have such amazing opportunities and am excited to see what I can do with them.



We  
are not alone.  
We support you.



## Inside Our 4K Program

Our District offers a free and robust 4K program to Sun Prairie families. This voluntary early learning program is available to all four-year-olds in Sun Prairie. The SP4K program is guided by curriculum and early learning standards and provides a play-based environment that supports student growth in a variety of age-appropriate and developmental skill areas. In addition, 4K students practice routines and learning behaviors that will support their transition to kindergarten.



## MEET ELIZABETH KNUDTEN, 4K PROGRAM COORDINATOR



### What makes our 4K program stand apart from others?

Our 4K program is a wonderful collaboration between our community partner sites, our elementary schools, and our School District. We have eleven locations throughout our community, including daycare sites, preschools, and three elementary schools. This collaboration enables families to choose the location that best meets their unique needs.

### Is the curriculum the same at different locations?

All teachers follow the same play-based philosophy and use teaching methods that are appropriate for our youngest scholars to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

### What is your favorite part of your job?

I love getting to work with families, parents and caregivers, and young children as they begin their educational journey. As we welcome families, parents and caregivers, and students into the school system, our job is to begin building the bridge between home and school. This relationship is vital to the success of every student. The stronger we make this connection, the more successful these young scholars will be.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The average SPASD student's ACT score was **20.2**.

**835** students are engaged in advanced coursework.

**2,492** of our students took at least one language course.

**120** students took one or more AP classes.



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## OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

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All aspects of District operations, from the Board to the Strategic Plan, from our site excellence to our community partnerships, represent our plan to support students who struggle to reach their full potential, students who deserve the very best from all of us because they are leaders for our future, and students who have been marginalized and lack access and opportunities to fully thrive as scholars in our public school system. Simply stated, our SPASD Equity Framework helps us to get to “Every” in our endeavor to achieve **Every Child, Every Day.**

## The District Hires Its **First Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion**

Michael Morgan began his work leading the Department of Systemic Equity and Inclusion (DSEI) in the 2021–2022 school year. In October of 2021, Michael presented an equity and inclusion update that lifted five important priorities to the SPASD Board of Education:

1

Building relational trust among community members with a focus on historically marginalized populations.



Increasing the presence of culturally responsive teaching and learning through the Ready for Rigor Adult Learning Framework (R4R ALF), the SPASD Instructional Framework, and the SPASD Curriculum Renewal and Design Process.

2

3

Collaborating with the Human Resources Department to recruit and retain diverse staff.



Facilitating and coaching Race and Equity teams as they address identified problems of practice related to race and equity.

4

5

Focusing on the celebration of Black excellence through Black History Month, Black Student Unions, and beyond.



Learn more about the strategically planned next steps by visiting our equity framework web page at: [sunprairieschools.org/district/equity](https://sunprairieschools.org/district/equity)  
*This is a non-exhaustive list of important priorities that focuses on all marginalized populations, including our Latinx, Asian, and LGBTQ+ communities.*

### WHAT DOES THE DIRECTOR OF SYSTEMIC EQUITY AND INCLUSION DO?

- Co-creates and assists in the execution of short- and long-range equity goals and strategies supporting the District’s strategic plan, mission, vision, and equity framework while specifically promoting a climate of equity and inclusion for all.
- Co-creates and revises institutional policies, practices, structures, and programs, fostering a climate of equity and acceptance that respects, values, and responds to the diversity of students, staff, parents and caregivers, and the community.
- Collaboratively facilitates the District’s efforts in sustaining a culture of equity, inclusion, and anti-racism for students, staff, and families with a specific focus on the academic and social outcomes of systemically underserved populations.



Michael Morgan

## Department of Systemic Equity and Inclusion Community Cabinet

The DSEI Community Cabinet was created as a diverse caregiver group charged with helping to improve communication, transparency, and relational trust between the District and the community. The community cabinet meets monthly to learn, share, grow, and connect on important topics they have requested more in-depth information on.

### 4TH ANNUAL BLACK EXCELLENCE ACHIEVEMENT MAKERS (BEAM)

B.E.A.M. Awards “shine a beaming light” on the positive examples of Black excellence and achievement in the community. Over 2,000 community members and leaders gathered at the Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field to celebrate our amazing staff and students of color.

**665 STUDENT NOMINATIONS | 52 STAFF NOMINATIONS | 50+ STUDENTS RECEIVED MORE THAN ONE AWARD**



### Juneteenth Event

The 2022 Sun Prairie Juneteenth Celebration was a beautiful afternoon of celebrating freedom, liberation, and community. Thank you to Sun Prairie Community Schools, the Boys and Girls Club, event sponsors, and volunteers for helping to make this day so special.



## Read Your Heart Out Events at Creekside, Westside & Northside Elementary Schools

To celebrate Black Parent Involvement Day and Black History Month, three elementary schools hosted “Read Your Heart Out” events. Community members, District staff, and high school students read books featuring Black main characters and authors and/or illustrators to students. Some of this year’s special guests included Mayor Paul Esser, members of the Sun Prairie Fire Department, William Greer from 100 Black Men of Madison, and Prairie Phoenix Academy students.



## Annual BSU Soul Food Night

Sun Prairie High School’s Black Student Union’s annual Soul Food night was a sold-out event! Thank you to everyone who came to support the Sun Prairie Black Student Union.



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF AVID

AVID is a college readiness system designed to increase school-wide learning and performances for students. Currently, AVID is offered to our students in grades 7–12. The program targets students in the academic middle who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard.



OVER **\$4 MILLION** IN SCHOLARSHIPS HAS BEEN AWARDED TO OUR AVID SCHOLARS  
**100%** OF AVID GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE



**The 1,300+ employees of the SPASD** serve our District in dozens of job categories, from teachers to custodians, from instructional aides to school nutrition servers, and from administrative assistants to groundskeepers.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**3,269** staff members attended **229** professional learning workshops that were offered by the District.

**14%** of our staff members are people of color.

Our claims avoidance total from the **Employee Wellness Clinic** last year was **\$431,826**. This is more than our total cost of running the clinic, allowing us to lower our overall medical loss ratio.

#### EDUCATOR RETENTION RATE

2017-2018 **89.7%** → 2018-2019 **92.1%** → 2019-2020 **93.8%** → 2020-2021 **90.0%** → 2021-2022 **86.1%**

#### 13 Staff Members Complete Welcoming Schools Training

Welcoming Schools is a comprehensive bias-based bullying prevention program that provides LGBTQ+ and gender-inclusive professional development training. This work was prioritized based on a recommendation from the Bullying and Behavior Task Force, which indicated a need to provide more proactive support of our LGBTQ+ students.



#### Staff Members Attend AVID Summer Institute Training in Minneapolis

A team of our middle and high school AVID teachers attended the AVID Summer Institute in Minneapolis. They are excited to put their new skills to use as they continue to support our students' journeys to college and career readiness!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAFF!

## **Angela Rivera Rautmann** Receives Prestigious Fellowship

Patrick Marsh Middle School teacher Angela Rivera Rautmann was one of 30 educators and community leaders in the nation to be selected to receive a fellowship from the North American Association for Environmental Education. She created and executed a community action project focused on the sustainability issue of food waste with her classes.



## **Janet Rosseter** Recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to Assistant Superintendent Janet Rosseter, who was recognized as the Wally Zastrow Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient by the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials.



## **Joel Block** Named USA Track & Field Pole Vault Coach of the Year

Coach Block was one of three coaches in the country to be named Coach of the Year by the USA Track and Field Pole Vault Development! He also received the Robert E. Fraley Chairman's Award for his unheralded support of pole vaulting.



**Patrick Bencher** is the 2022 Wisconsin Energy Educator of the Year

Patrick Bencher received this award from the Wisconsin K–12 Energy Education Program, which recognizes leaders across the state with a strong commitment to helping members of their community understand energy concepts and adopt energy-saving attitudes and behaviors.



**Mark Bussian** Among Finalists for the 2022 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching

Mark Bussian was one of four Wisconsin educators who were named finalists for this prestigious national award.



**Jordan Espedal** was Named the Custodian & Maintenance Professional of the Year

The Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials named Jordan Espedal the 2022 Custodian & Maintenance Professional of the Year. He was recognized by Creekside’s staff, students, and the Board of Education for all he does to support our schools.

**Sadie Brown** Named Midwest District Teacher of the Year for Adapted Physical Education by SHAPE America



SHAPE America is a Society of Health and Physical Educators serving over 200,000 health and physical education professionals across the United States. The organization has defined excellence in physical education nationally and has affiliates in every state throughout the country. As an Adapted Physical Education teacher, Sadie supports kids with special needs by adapting or modifying activities so they can be active.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GROW YOUR OWN GRADUATES!

Our **Grow Your Own** program is a workforce development initiative helping us recruit and retain diverse teacher talent and address especially hard-to-fill teacher certification areas. It provides the great people already working in our District the opportunity and support to become licensed teachers. Our District offers financial aid and tuition to encourage support-staff employees to complete degrees in education while providing them opportunities for career and professional growth.

THIS YEAR, WE HAD **SEVEN** STAFF MEMBERS GRADUATE FROM THE PROGRAM



**CARLY**  
ALLARD



**OLIVER**  
KAO



**NATHAN**  
MORTER



**TAHIYA**  
NAZISH



**LARON**  
RAGSDALE



**DANIELLE**  
SEIM



**KATHERINE**  
WISZ

**“THROUGH THE GROW YOUR OWN PROGRAM, I FEEL THAT I’VE MADE GREAT STRIDES AS AN EDUCATOR, GIVING ME THE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY. I’M INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THE SPASD HAS GIVEN ME, AND I AM VERY EXCITED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AS A SPECIAL EDUCATION CROSS-CATEGORICAL TEACHER.” —OLIVER KAO**

# The operations of the School District include our Human Resources, School Nutrition, Athletics and Activities, Business and Finance, and Facilities and Grounds Departments.

**This team is integral in the support of our mission of *Every Child, Every Day* in areas like school nutrition, safety, cleanliness, materials, budgeting and ordering, teacher retention, etc.**

## Patrick Marsh Middle School Earns Recognition from Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin for its Sustainability Efforts

Patrick Marsh Middle School was recognized by Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin for its focus on increasing the health and wellness of staff and students, commitment to reducing environmental impacts and costs, and efforts to improve students' environmental and sustainability literacy.



When selecting schools to recognize, Green and Healthy Schools looks at state laws and regulations the District follows, School Board policies and proclamations, energy and waste audits of each school, conservation practices utilized, and curriculum. Patrick Marsh Middle School ranked high, enabling them to receive this prestigious honor.

## Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium Lit Up in Blue and Yellow to Show Support for Ukraine

Junior Kazzie Saron organized a weeklong school fundraiser for war refugees of the war in Ukraine, collecting and donating almost \$1,000 to GlobalGiving. To show support, the Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field was lit up blue and yellow.



## Prairie Phoenix Academy Building Celebration

160 South Street, the former home of Prairie Phoenix Academy, is a historic Sun Prairie building that will close permanently in the fall of 2022. We invited community members, current and former staff members, and current and



former students to come and celebrate the legacy of this iconic building. The celebration was filled with people sharing memories of their time going to school in the building.

## Sun Prairie Area School District Named One of the **HEALTHIEST WORKPLACES IN AMERICA!**

The Sun Prairie Area School District was recognized with a Platinum Award by the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) for prioritizing the health and wellness of its employees and their families.

This year, the Wellness Department worked on increasing engagement and utilization of the District’s **Employee Wellness Clinic**, an SSM Health clinic that offers free or low-cost appointments and over 20 services to employees and their families. It also expanded its “Weekly Wellness Opportunities,” which include activities such as workout classes, discussions focusing on mental health and healthy living, mindfulness and meditation sessions, guest speaker presentations, clubs, and special events for staff.



**DID YOU KNOW? 100% OF PATIENTS STATED THEY WOULD LIKELY RETURN TO THE DISTRICT EMPLOYEE WELLNESS CLINIC**

### District Recognized with **Business “Change of the Year” Award**

The Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce presented the District with the Business “Change of the Year” Award for our efforts to respond to the pandemic. Our staff put the needs of kids first and adapted quickly and as best as we could to a rapidly changing situation. It wasn’t easy, and we didn’t always get it right the first time, but we worked our hardest to support the needs of every child, every day, through unprecedented times.



### Nutrition Services Team Receives the **“Breakfast Hero Award”**

The Department of Public Instruction recognized our Nutrition Services Team for serving meals to students and community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the community partners and our staff who helped us prioritize our student’s health and wellness.

## Secondary Schools | Getting Ready for Learning in 2022-2023

Construction crews and District staff have been busy getting ready for the shift to two comprehensive high schools, three middle schools, and a new location for Prairie Phoenix Academy, a Professional Learning Center, and the Employee Wellness Clinic. Thanks to our community support with a successful 2019 Referendum, these projects were possible. Not only did we have to have the buildings physically ready to open in the fall of 2022, we also had to align staff, materials, and class offerings.

### THE BIG MOVE

The Big Move was the moving of all instructional materials in preparation for the realigned grade levels. The project was very detailed and included an inventory of all textbooks and learning materials.



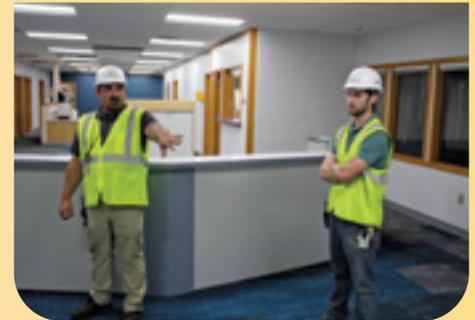
### THE BIG TRANSITION

Teachers and staff were reassigned from 6th–8th grade to our three 6th–8th-grade middle schools. Similarly, our 9th–12th-grade staff were equitably distributed and reassigned across our two comprehensive 9th–12th-grade high schools, and in some cases, shifted to teach middle school.



### THE BIG SHIFT

The Big Shift ensures that all students will have relevant, innovative, and engaging learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom and will be taught transferable skills. A key component was making sure that staff had input about what professional development and training they needed prior to the start of the school year.



### FUN FACTS

2/3 of 8th-Grader's materials have been moved from Central Heights to Prairie View and Patrick Marsh.

1/3 of 6th- and 7th-Grader's materials have been moved from Prairie View and Patrick Marsh to Central Heights.

All of Prairie Phoenix Academy's materials have been moved to their new site.

Half of the textbooks and instructional materials have been moved from Sun Prairie East to Sun Prairie West.

**Community Engagement** is one of the strategic priorities for the SPASD. In fact, our new Strategic Plan, Communications Plan, and Boundary & Bell Time Task Force were developed with input from our community.



**Strategic Plan Committee**

After receiving community input, a committee of administrators, staff, and community members helped the District create a new Strategic Plan. The new framework centers on Educational Excellence, Engagement and Inclusion, and Operational Excellence.



**Communications Committee**

A Communications Committee, consisting of staff, students, administrators, School Board members, and parents and caregivers, helped the District develop a two-year Communications Plan. The new plan incorporates best practices in communication.



**Ajamu Olaniyan Named Wall of Success Honoree**

The Wall of Success program aims to honor outstanding graduates of Sun Prairie High School for current students to admire and emulate. Ajamu Olaniyan, formerly known as Dean Cash, was named this year's honoree. He graduated from Sun Prairie High School in 1988 and even still holds the school's triple jump record.



**Boundary & Bell Time Task Force**

The Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force worked diligently on behalf of all kids to recommend new boundaries for our secondary schools and bell times for all schools.



**Sun Prairie Masonic Lodge 143 Donates to the **Hunger Heroes Program****

Thank you to Sun Prairie Masonic Lodge 143 for donating \$3,000 to our Hunger Heroes program, a program that helps pay down student lunch account balances.

**District Communications Team Wins Four National Awards**

The National School Public Relations Association recognized our Communications Team’s work on the 2020–2021 Annual Report, 2020–2021 School Event Calendar, the Six Years of Continuous Improvement Report, and the Strategic Plan Refresh.



**C. H. Bird Students Find a Special Way to Honor Former Teacher **Julie Schwellenbach****

Students at C. H. Bird Elementary installed a butterfly garden in honor of Julie Schwellenbach, a former teacher who passed away in spring 2021 after a battle with cancer.

C. H. Bird Elementary students were involved in planting native flowering plants to provide nectar needed by butterflies, bees, and other pollinators native to the area. This helps pollinate flowers, vegetables, and other plants our community needs and enjoys, which is vital as populations of bees and other pollinators are declining around the world.

“STUDENTS WILL GET GREAT HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH NATIVE PLANTS AND LEARN ABOUT WAYS WE CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL REPRESENT JULIE AND SERVE AS A LASTING LEGACY FOR HER LOVE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY. I AM THANKFUL FOR THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS THAT HELPED US BRING THIS BEAUTIFUL GARDEN TO OUR SCHOOL AND KNOW THAT JULIE WOULD HAVE LOVED IT.” —NICOLE TOEPFER, C. H. BIRD ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL





**Volleyball Team  
Raises Money for UW-  
Madison's Carbone  
Cancer Center**

Our volleyball team raised over \$500 at its Pink Out game for UW-Madison's Carbone Cancer Center. The event was in honor of Kim McNabb, mom of former Sun Prairie volleyball standout K. J. McNabb. Kim is battling gallbladder cancer, and the funds raised will support research in this area.



**Men's Lacrosse Team Raises Money for  
St. Jude's Children Research Center**

The men's lacrosse team held a jamboree to raise money for St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. The event raised \$2,082.52 from concessions, a bake sale, and donations. The day included youth lacrosse games, face painting, and high school games!

**Women's Soccer  
Volunteers at  
Sunshine Place**

Members of our varsity women's soccer team served a Memorial Day meal to community members.



**Sun Prairie High School Students Host Golf  
Tournament to Support Local Autism Organizations**

Sun Prairie High School golfers Aidan Ogara and Tyler Schick organized the 2nd Annual FORE Autism Awareness Open to support Aidan's younger sister, Alexa.

They raised awareness about autism and \$28,121.77, which they donated to the Penguin Project of the Sun Prairie Civic Theater. The Penguin Project of SPCT gives artists with special needs in the greater Madison area the experience of performing and the opportunity to soar on stage.

**A Community School** is a strategy that coordinates relationships and resources through a public school to accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education, and employment. We partner with stakeholders to create the conditions students, families, and neighborhoods need to thrive.

## FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

INTEGRATED  
STUDENT  
SUPPORTS



EXPANDED  
AND ENRICHED  
LEARNING TIME AND  
OPPORTUNITIES



ACTIVE  
FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT



COLLABORATIVE  
LEADERSHIP AND  
PRACTICES



## SUN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL SITES

Westside Elementary School (2012) | Prairie Phoenix Academy (2012) | Patrick Marsh Middle School (2018)  
C. H. Bird Elementary School (2019) | Northside Elementary School (2020)

**Creekside Elementary School will join as Sun Prairie's sixth Community School site in the 2022-2023 school year!**

INFOGRAPHIC ALTERED FROM ITS ORIGINAL SOURCE - LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE

## Westside Elementary Named as a Top Ten School for Community Collaboration in **International World's Best School Competition**

Westside Elementary has been selected as one of the top ten finalists in the international World's Best School grant competition in the category of Community Collaboration, which recognizes schools that have collaborated and developed partnerships with their communities to have a whole-child approach based on equity and inclusivity.

As one of Sun Prairie's first Community School sites, Westside has been growing and deepening collaborations with community partners over the past ten years. The Community School strategy works to establish the school as the hub of its neighborhood, uniting educators, community partners, and families to provide all students top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to learn and thrive.

"The heart of Westside Elementary is collaboration," said Nikki Marcus, principal of Westside. "Our strong relationships with community partners allow us to provide robust support and resources to families. At Westside Elementary, we say, 'We Are One Family,' and we live that each and every day."

The World's Best School prizes celebrate schools with an opportunity to recognize and share their achievements around the world. The prizes are awarded to schools that have developed expertise in five key areas that can prove and demonstrate outstanding systems, practices, and performance that impact the lives of their students and of the whole community. The five key areas are Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives.

The top three finalists for the competition will be announced in October 2022, and the winner for each category will be announced in November 2022.





### 100 Scholars Saturday School

In partnership with 100 Black Men of Madison, we piloted the 100 Scholars Saturday School program. The purpose of the 100 Scholars program at Northside Elementary Community School is to identify the basic skill needs of participating students and to implement a curriculum to meet those needs. Families took part in a six-week program focused on reading and math in the spring and a six-week program in the summer.



### School-Based Food Pantries

All Community School sites run school-based food pantries in partnership with the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry and Second Harvest. During the 2021–2022 school year, these pantries served 971 people. They also partnered to provide weekend meal boxes, serving 2,374 students between February and June.



### Northside Students Visit Residents at the Sun Prairie Health Care Center

Ms. Weisensel’s 1st-grade class went on a field trip to Sun Prairie Health Care Center. The kids and residents loved our visit.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Sun Prairie Community Schools has been working with the Literacy Network since the fall of 2016 to offer adult English language courses. We now offer online courses and are seeing a record number of regular attendees. Attendees learn how to talk about their family, communicate at work, converse in casual conversation, and use a library. **The courses are funded by the United Way of Dane County and the Steve Stricker Foundation, making them free for adult learners.**

Our strategic organizational capacity for the School District is **“Our Commitment to Equity and Excellence through Continuous Improvement.”** While we’ve made progress in many instructional areas, there are still areas we’re committed to improving.

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS AS THEY COME OUT OF THE PANDEMIC

1

**Student Survey Question:** “I am able to get through challenging times.”

**Results:** 3.06 of 5 students responded “Yes.” | **Goal:** 3.2 of 5 students

### CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION FOR OUR WORKFORCE

2

**Employee Survey Question:** “All things considered, this is a good place to work.”

**Results:** 52% of employees said “Yes.” | **Goal:** 80% or higher

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE

3

**Student Aggregate Attendance:** 91% attendance | **Goal:** 94% attendance

### GENERAL PARENT & CAREGIVER SATISFACTION

4

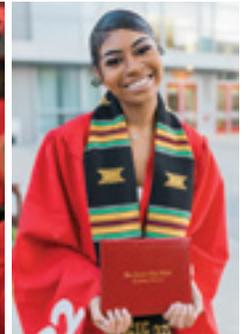
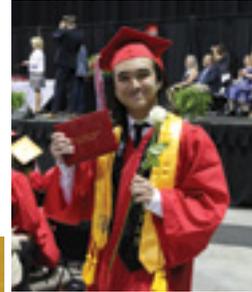
**Parent and Caregiver Satisfaction Survey:** 70.1% satisfied | **Goal:** 81.6% satisfied

By Board Resolution, the District is focusing on more local & meaningful assessments and moving away from an over-reliance on standardized testing.

# GRADUATION

**551 Sun Prairie High School and Prairie Phoenix Academy Seniors graduated together at the Kohl Center.** It was a special day, celebrating and recognizing our graduating seniors for completing their high school careers.

Prairie Phoenix Academy seniors also had a separate graduation ceremony, where they were recognized by their peers, advisors, and teachers. It was a heartfelt day filled with lots of hugs and smiles.



# 2022

## Senior Signs

Teachers, staff, and principals of Sun Prairie High School and Prairie Phoenix Academy took to the town to honor our seniors! They delivered yard signs to all graduating students.



## Royal Oaks Alumni Visit

Former Royal Oaks Rockets visited their alma mater on graduation day. They loved connecting with their former teachers and staff about their future plans.



Our students have access to a variety of sports and clubs. These opportunities outside of the classroom are as important as any of our other strategies to support our students. Our student scholars had great success this year. **Here are just some of the highlights!**

## OUR CONFERENCE CHAMPS!

FIVE OF OUR TEAMS WERE CROWNED BIG 8 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS THIS YEAR!  
CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE TEAMS!



FOOTBALL | BASEBALL | MEN'S TRACK | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | SOFTBALL





### Congrats to Davis Hamilton!

Davis was named the Wisconsin State Journal Baseball Player of the Year and the Big 8 Conference Player of the Year. He also was a first-team choice as pitcher on the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association All-State team.



### Varsity Dance Team Qualifies for State Competition

The varsity dance team earned 2nd Place for their hip-hop routine at the Regional Dance Competition and 5th at State. Jared Cataggatan was also a D1 All-State solo finalist!



### When Your Track Meet Gets Canceled, Host Your Own!

When a track meet was canceled late in the afternoon, Sun Prairie student athletes and coaches took matters into their own hands and hosted their own meet.

### Women's Bowling Team Is National Runner-Up

The Sun Prairie High School women's varsity bowling team placed 2nd in the national competition! They competed against 33 of the country's best teams.





**CHRIS ANDERSON PLACES 6TH AT STATE WRESTLING!**



**GYMNASTICS TEAM PLACES 7TH AT STATE COMPETITION**



**JACOB BALDWIN & NIKKO VILWOCK ARE STATE RUNNER-UPS IN DOUBLES TENNIS!**



**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS PLACED 11TH AND 10TH AT THE STATE MEET**



**MATEO ALVARADO VENEGAS BREAKS SCHOOL RECORD!**



**MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM IS REGIONAL CHAMPS**



**CASSIE SIEGEL PLACES 2ND IN HIGH JUMP AT STATE TRACK MEET!**



DID YOU KNOW?

913

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN ONE OR MORE SPORTS

3.4

WAS THE AVERAGE GPA OF OUR STUDENT ATHLETES

7,402

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AT LEAST ONE CLUB

3.5

WAS THE AVERAGE GPA OF OUR CLUB PARTICIPANTS





**Jazz Ensemble I Performs at the Madison Jazz Festival**

Jazz Ensemble I performed at the Madison Jazz Festival in a special concert featuring the music of Duke Ellington. New York-based clarinetist Victor Goines joined them as a guest soloist.



**Middle School Students Compete at Math Meets**

Students from Cardinal Heights, Patrick Marsh, and Prairie View competed in local math meets. Ten of our students even qualified for the regional competition!

**DECA Competes at ICDC**

Twenty-two of our high school DECA students qualified for the International Career Development Conference. This year, more students were onstage at the competition than ever before! Special congratulations to Martin, Joy, Lauren, and Prisha for scoring in the top ten of their events.



**Sound of Sun Prairie Celebrates 50 Years!**

The Sound of Sun Prairie, a marching band composed of students in grades 8–12, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! The group has fostered an incredible community and has impacted the lives of thousands of our students. As a part of the celebration, students had the opportunity to travel to Florida and perform at Disney’s Magic Kingdom in front of hundreds of people.



**Sun Prairie High School Futures Investors Club Wins State Competition**

Congrats to the Sun Prairie High School Future Investors Club, who took first place in the Finance & Investment Challenge Bowl state competition!



**Sun Prairie Drama**  
Presents *Mama Mia!*

About 100 Sun Prairie High School students put on the Broadway play *Mama Mia!*

**FBLA Students**  
Compete at National Competition

In July, Sun Prairie High School FBLA members traveled to Chicago to participate in the national FBLA competition. Everyone did a great job. Two of our students, Yashneil and Grant, placed in the top ten of the Social Media Strategies event.



**Forensics Team** Places 2nd at State Competition

Congratulations to our SPHS forensics team, who earned second-place honors at both the in-person and virtual state competitions.



**FFA Students**  
Compete at the State Competition

Congratulations to our FFA members on the Milk Quality Products and Veterinary Science teams for advancing to the state competition!



**Sound of Sun Prairie** Cools Off

Thank you to the Sun Prairie Fire Department for hosing down our Sound of Sun Prairie students and helping them stay cool this summer!



# Sun Prairie Area School District

501 S. Bird Street  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590



*Thank you to our community for your support!*

## STAY CONNECTED

-  [sunprairieschools](#)
-  [sunprairiek12](#)
-  [Sun Prairie Schools](#)
-  [sunprairieschooldistrict](#)
-  608.834.6500
-  608.837.9311
-  [sunprairieschools.org](mailto:sunprairieschools.org)

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expression and nonconformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Harassment is a form of discrimination and shall not be tolerated in the District. It is the responsibility of administrators, staff members and all students to ensure that student discrimination or harassment does not occur.

The District's commitment to nondiscrimination under Title IX and under other state and federal laws is further defined in the following policies Policy AC, Nondiscrimination in District Programs, Activities, and Operations, Procedure AC-R(1), District Response to Alleged Sexual Harassment Under Title IX, Procedure AC-R(2), Expectations for Employees to Report Discrimination and Harassment.