



SCHOOL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Lisa Sayles-Adams

The start of the school year always brings a sense of new beginnings and excitement. This year, especially, the energy in the district around the return to school was palpable. For the first time in three years, the first day of school felt normal. The anticipation - and relief - was real.

In late August, I had the opportunity to welcome all our staff back for the first time in person since I began my tenure at ECCS. I wish I could have bottled up what it felt like to be together in community, preparing ourselves for the work of this school year. All of our educators and support staff were fired up to see our students again, and their care and joy for their work was contagious.

At that staff meeting, we launched our district's new strategic plan. In July, our School Board approved the district's roadmap: our mission, vision, core values, and strategic directions.

I am proud of the work we did over the past two years, the long hours, the intentional engagement and time spent listening to feedback from our students, staff, families, and community. As a result, we have a clear direction, plans for each building and department, and metrics that will hold us accountable to the work.

OUR STAFF IS EXCITED AND I KNOW THAT THE WORK WE WILL DO OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS WILL BE TRANSFORMATIVE FOR OUR DISTRICT AND THE STUDENTS WE SERVE.

Walking the halls this September, I am filled with hope and optimism about our shared future. We have a tremendous staff lifting up our students, challenging them and supporting them. I see students who are connecting with each other and their teachers, engaged in their learning. There is so much to be proud of and I hope you share in that feeling as a member of our community.

When I started as your superintendent, in the midst of some very real challenges, I talked about how as a community we are stronger together. Now, with a strategic plan guiding us, and a shared commitment to what's best for every child, I am excited about how we are moving forward together.



NEW TRADITIONS

The 88 students who formerly attended East Union Elementary brought their school tradition of ringing in kindergartners with them to the first school assembly of the year at Clover Ridge Elementary. Five fifth graders rang the bell for each kindergarten class. The 125-year-old school bell from East Union is now housed at Clover Ridge to carry on the traditional beginning and end of year ringing to welcome in new students and celebrate fifth graders at the end of the year moving on to middle school.

STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO PERSONALIZED LEARNING

The commitment to personalized learning has remained steadfast in Eastern Carver County Schools for many years. Personalized learning is a student-centered framework that drives teaching and learning to prioritize what helps each student achieve their personal best. Our teachers prioritize what students need and make adjustments for students in how they plan, prepare, and interact with students.

The new district strategic plan highlights the importance of personalized learning as one of the four strategic directions: Improving teaching and personalized learning for the development of each learner.

The focused efforts of past years include defining learning targets, power standards, and creating collaborative spaces- these all continue now as standard practices in ECCS. This year our staff is focused on increased student engagement, active learning, and collaboration. In our classrooms that means students are talking more, working with others, using multiple resources to find information, and asking questions. In the shared areas of our schools this means student groups of all sizes will be collaborating, practicing, researching, and learning in the places that best support their needs.



11 Peavey Road
Chaska, MN 55318
952-556-6100
district112.org

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WELCOME NEW LEADERS



Karen DeVet
Director of Finance & Operations



Khrisslyn Goodman
Director of Research, Evaluation & Assessment



Givonna Koné
Director of Human Resources



Arika Mareck
Director of Equity & Inclusion



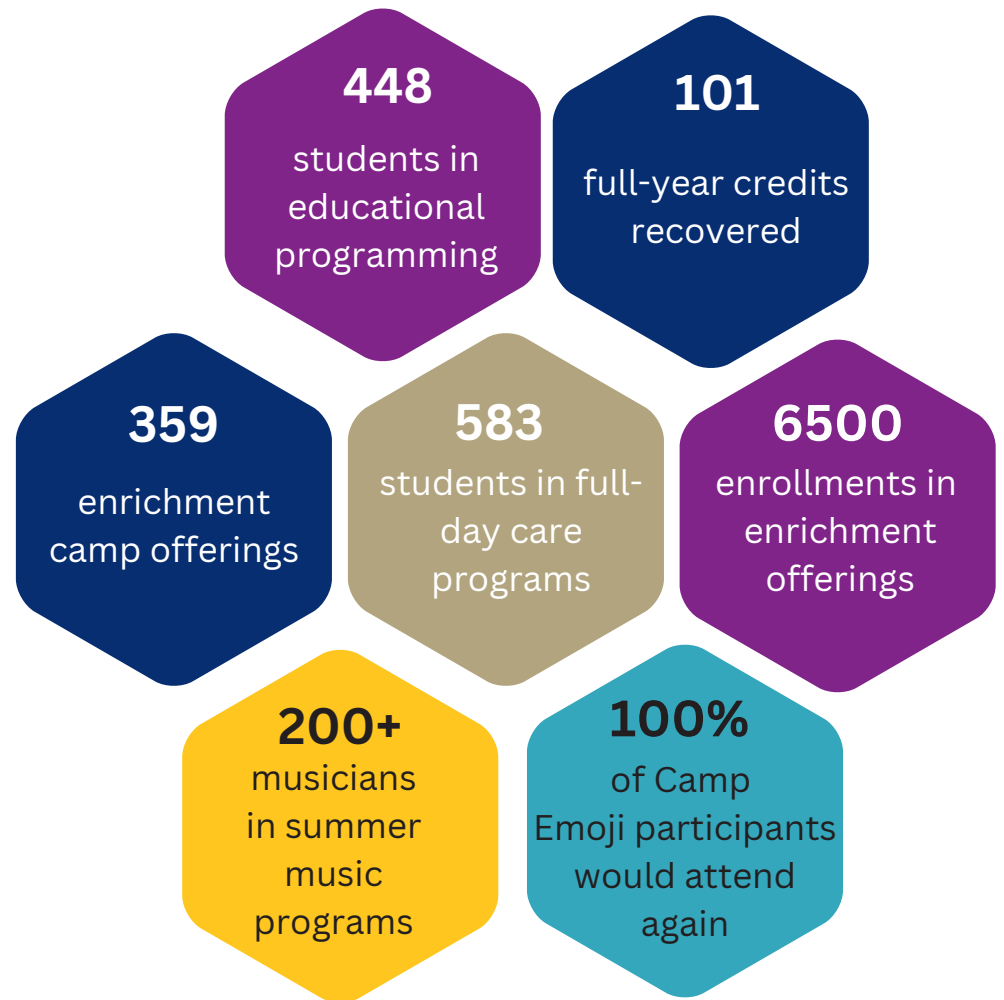
Angela Charboneau-Folch
Principal of Integrated Arts Academy



Alicia Fischer
Principal of Chaska Middle School West

SUMMER LOOK BACK

The learning inside ECCS does not stop when the school year is complete. Knowing now more than ever the importance of what additional instruction and continued skill building can do for a student, we stepped up our game in 2022.



Summer educational programming

The six-week Summer Learning program was a way to provide enriching opportunities to support student learning beyond the school year in core academic areas and prepared students for the school year ahead. In addition to learning, social emotional and leadership development and high school credit attainment were part of the programming.

“We really wanted to take a proactive approach to summer learning,” said Chris Hentges, leader of personalized learning, digital services. He added that by using hands-on learning experiences that were both engaging and fun, strong student connections, relationships and classroom communities were built.

Camp Emoji, an interactive camp designed to help students learn about, manage, and identify emotions, was well received by both parents and students. Parents all responded “yes” that their child felt connected and included during the program.

“They had waiting lists, long waiting lists, for all sessions. It was very popular,” Laura Pingry-Kile, director of specialized services, said.



Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2023?

If so, it's time to get ready for kindergarten.

Countdown to

KINDERGARTEN

2023-2024

- 1 Register your child for the 2023-24 school year at eccs.mn/kindergarten, enrollment opens on November 14.
- 2 Gather important documents you will need for enrollment including a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization record.
- 3 All students need to complete an early childhood screening. Schedule an appointment as soon as possible at eccs.mn/screening if your child has not yet been screened.
- 4 Learn more about the kindergarten program options at eccs.mn/kindergarten.
- 5 Make sure we know you have a soon-to-be kindergartener by updating your ECCS census info at eccs.mn/census.



9,120 students enrolled | 61 home languages spoken

ECCS STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH

Eastern Carver County Schools has completed a comprehensive strategic planning process that identified what was working well, what needed improvement, and the desired experiences of students, families, and staff. The strategic plan is the roadmap the district will follow to continuously improve personalized instruction, climate, and experience to achieve high levels of success for all students.

MISSION

We prepare every student to achieve their personal best, engage in lifelong learning, and be a thoughtful and responsible citizen.

VISION We are committed to providing educational excellence for all by:

- ★ Offering personalized, rigorous academic and extensive extracurricular programming delivered by highly-trained staff
- ★ Promoting a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable culture where everyone has the opportunities and supports needed to be successful
- ★ Engaging with community partners to support student learning and career exploration
- ★ Investing our resources wisely to best meet the needs of our learners and communities

CORE VALUES

STUDENT-CENTERED: Student needs and growth drive our words, actions, and choices

EXCELLENCE: Committed to high standards and striving for our best

RESPECT: Everyone is seen, heard, valued, and included

COLLABORATION: Engaging, listening, and partnering with others to learn, develop, and innovate

ACOUNTABILITY: Fostering a culture of integrity and responsibility

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- ★ Improving **TEACHING AND PERSONALIZED LEARNING** for the development of each learner
- ★ Fostering a **SAFE, WELCOMING, AND INCLUSIVE** environment
- ★ Developing **STRONG PARTNERSHIPS** within the communities we serve
- ★ Optimizing our management of **RESOURCES** to support student learning

Metrics

Identified metrics are an integral component of the strategic plan. The Vision Card details the key quantitative and qualitative measures and metrics for the successful implementation of the district's mission and vision. This allows the community to monitor district progress toward goals.

At the district level we will initially measure:

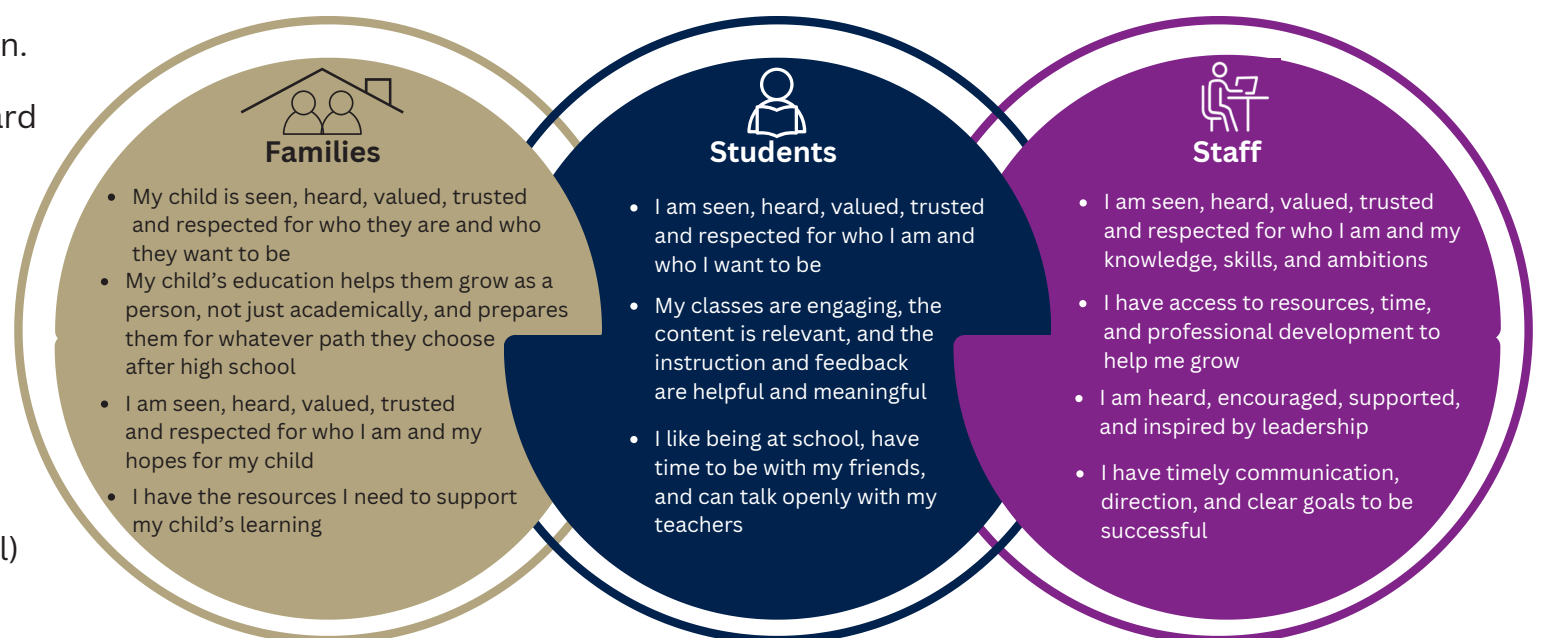
- Student achievement
- Student attendance
- Classroom instruction
- Student Desired Daily Experience
- Student advancement opportunities
- Management of resources (Human, Financial, Physical)

As the district strategic plan moves forward, additional measures may be added to the Vision Card.

Each school will also have public-facing reporting that reflects building report cards which monitor progress aligned to the district vision card. The progress reflects the work of building action cards that support school improvement.

Desired Daily Experience

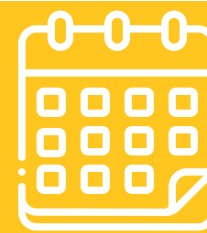
Success toward achieving our vision will also be measured through our commitment to actualizing the desired daily experiences of our students, families, and staff. The common themes from our stakeholders identified the importance of being seen, heard, valued, and trusted as a member of our district community.



The three-year district operational plan, using the district's strategic directions as the framework, identifies the initiatives and projects under study or being implemented to improve and innovate within our schools. Data-driven and measurable Action Cards will be used by schools and departments to support the identified projects and initiatives. The Annual School Improvement Plan, Annual Department Improvement Plan, and 3-Year Governance Work Plan are aligned with the district operational plan. These plans work together to create greater levels of coherence and alignment throughout the district through proactive planning, collaboration, and decision-making.

Learn more about the Strategic Plan: district112.org/district/strategic-plan

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING



The early childhood years from birth to the start of kindergarten are an important time of rapid learning and growth. Early Childhood Screening is a simple check of how your child is growing and developing.



Between the ages of 3 and 4, screening can detect possible health or learning concerns so that children can get help before they start school. Early Childhood Screening is not a “test.” Your child will not pass/fail. It is a tool to identify concerns, if any exist, to provide help before kindergarten. Screening is required before entering kindergarten in a MN public school. Early childhood developmental screening helps identify children who may benefit from district and community resources available to help in their development.

Schedule an appointment for your child(ren) online at eccs.mn/screening. If you have questions, please contact Sue Forster at forsters@district112.org or 952-556-6420.

NOW HIRING

Bus Drivers
Club Care
Teachers
Paraprofessionals
Custodial
Nutrition Services
Substitutes
and more!

Apply today at eccs.mn/careers

SCHOOL REPORT

Published by the Eastern Carver County Schools' Community Relations Department.

We welcome questions or comments:

Celi Haga, Director of Communications and Community Relations
952-556-6121 / hagac@district112.org

Lisa Sayles-Adams, Superintendent
952-556-6110

2022 District School Board

Lisa Anderson, Chair / 952-361-4267
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Tim Klein, Director / 952-513-8767
Jeff Ross, Ph. D, Director / 763-458-8801

- Oct. 20-21: No school-MEA
- Oct. 24: No school - Conference/Workshop
- Nov. 4: No school - Conference/Workshop
- Nov. 23-25: No school - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28: No school - Conference/Workshop
- Dec. 22- Jan. 2: No school - Winter Break
- Jan. 16: No school - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 23: No school - Conference/Workshop
- Mar. 3: No school - Conference/Workshop
- Mar. 27-31: No school - Spring Break
- Apr. 7: No school - Late Spring Break
- May 29: No school - Memorial Day
- June 6: Last day of School K-5
- June 8: Last day of School 6-12
- June 9: Graduation



In the event of an emergency at a school or in our district you'll find accurate and up-to-date information at district112.org or on Twitter or Facebook @ISD112. If a school is involved in an urgent event, school staff may not have time to answer phones or get information out to parents.

In order to provide the same information to parents, the media, and our community, district staff will post updates to the district home page at district112.org. Keep in mind that you may not be able to trust social media posts from non-district sources.



In the case of a weather-related school closing or late start/early release, we will contact parents/guardians with phone calls, emails, or text messages.



www.district112.org



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