

Developing a Plan for Our Future

Roseville Area Schools is developing a plan for our future. As students' needs change, state standards evolve, and factors such as funding, technology, and staffing impact how we deliver education to our students, we must align our goals and objectives with our practices.

The last time we engaged in strategic planning was 2016. Much has happened since that time and we are ready to get down to the hard work of defining who we are, where we want to be, how we are going to get there, and how we are going to measure our progress.

The best way to determine our path forward is to engage with the people who are directly impacted – students, staff, families, and community members. We hope you will join us! We will post information about ways you can be involved in this very important process on our district website (www.isd623.org) and our district social media (@isd623 on Facebook/@rosevilleareaschools on Instagram).



In April, Harambee Elementary School hosted a series of theme days to celebrate school unity, class pride, and creativity. On Sunshine Day, students were encouraged to wear yellow, orange, or white and teachers incorporated “sunshine” into their teaching. In one 2nd grade classroom, students learned about earth revolutions and orbits.

A Truly Unique School District



I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to experience Roseville Area Schools from multiple perspectives – as a staff member, a parent, and a community member. I know firsthand that this is a supportive community that loves our students, honors our staff, and values what our schools and programs provide for our collective quality of life.

That support shines bright when we ask our community for financial support on Election Day. We certainly don't take that support for granted and understand it's important that we remain open and transparent about how we are using voter-approved funds.

We are also fortunate to be *that* community where generations of graduates stay in the school district, raise their children, and build their lives in our neighborhoods. We benefit from the strong support of and partnerships with the seven municipalities that comprise our school district. We are in a geographically ideal location with a strong tax base and amenities such as parks, transit, and retail that make for an appealing place to call “home”.

But what makes us most special is all of you – our community members. You see the diversity of our student body as something to celebrate – and so do we! Our students represent 82 home languages, which adds to the cultural richness of our community. Whether it's through your time, talent, or treasure, you are supporting the work we do and the students we love. We thank you!

Jenny Loeck, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Central Park Student Council Hosts Read Around the Park Event

The Central Park Student Council planned and led the school's annual Read Around the Park event. According to staff member Berri Reiser, who serves as the student council advisor, council members met with the school's media specialist to winnow down the books to be featured during the event. The student council members then read each book, seeking three books that best represented the student body and were appropriate for all grade levels.

This year's selections were *A Place Inside of Me* by Zetta Elliott, *Where Three Oceans Meet* by Rajani LaRocca, and *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho. Three guest readers – Superintendent Jenny Loeck, Principal Becky Berkas, and Student Success Coordinator Levy Jones – recorded a reading of one of the selected books, which were then played for classrooms during Read Around the Park.



Springo Bingo Helps Build Community at Central Park

Just before spring break, the Central Park Student Council hosted a schoolwide bingo game, dubbed Springo Bingo. Using funds they earned through fundraising, council members purchased prizes – pinwheels, poppers, key chains, small stuffed animals – so every student would win. “Now more than ever, community is important and we have to dig deep to figure out how to make it happen,” say Student Council Advisor Berri Reiser.



Emmet D. Williams Students Celebrate Read-a-Thon Success

In March, students at Emmet D. Williams Elementary School celebrated the end of the school's Read-a-Thon by dunking Principal Jen Wilson into some cold, cold water! Collectively, the students read 658,220 minutes and raised more than \$19,000 to support PTA-funded initiatives such as field trips, books, technology, staff appreciation, and curriculum materials. “Our EDW community

came together to support both our school community and literacy,” says Wilson. “It was the first time in two years that our whole school community got together in one place. The community building was absolutely a highlight of our school year!”



Schools



It's Maple Syrup Time!

First grade students from Emmet D. Williams Elementary School went on a walking field trip to learn about the craft of making maple syrup. According to Mandy Amundsen, a teacher at EDW, students visited three stations: 1) Tasting sap and testing it for sugar level, 2) boiling sap and tasting

maple syrup, and 3) feeding and holding chickens. "It was a blast!" Amundsen said.

District Band & Orchestra Staff Demo Instruments for Elementary Students



"Tis the season to help our younger students select their band and orchestra instruments! Recently, district band and orchestra staff traveled to district elementary schools, demonstrating all of the instruments, solo and together in ensembles. The goal? To give students in grades 3 and 4 an idea

of how all of the instruments sound. According to Dan Gaisford, a band teacher at Falcon Heights, Little Canada, Emmet D. Williams, and Roseville Area Middle School, the next step is to give 4th grade students a chance to rank their top three choices of band instruments and give them an opportunity to play instruments. It's an exciting time for the students and the band and orchestra programs!



Falcon Heights Family Event Supports Community

In April, Falcon Families for Equity and Justice and the Falcon Heights PTA hosted a Family Service Fair, which was designed to help "remind kids that it's fun to give to others." Students and families participated in fun, simple projects to benefit community organization including compiling snack packs for MATTERbox, compiling personal care kits for People Serving People, decorating bookmarks for Literacy Minnesota and We WIN Institute, and making snuffle mats for Pet Haven



AVID Elementary is Coming to Roseville Area Schools!

AVID has been THE instructional model at Roseville Area Middle School, Fairview Alternative High School, and Roseville Area High School since 2008. According to AVID, "AVID equips teachers and schools with what they need to help students succeed on a path to college and career success." Our district's secondary students are benefiting from the structure and alignment that AVID provides. Now it's time to expand this opportunity to our elementary students. Within all elementary schools and classrooms, AVID Elementary will teach and reinforce academic behaviors and higher-level thinking at a young age, thereby creating a ripple effect in later grades. AVID Elementary students develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in middle school, high school, college, career, and life.





Falcon Heights Teacher Named KS95 Teacher of the Week

Congratulations to Laurie Schlossmacher, a kindergarten teacher at Falcon Heights Elementary School, who was named KS95 Teacher of the Week for April 18-22. "I am so honored that a parent would take the time out of their day to reach out to KS95 to recognize their child's teacher," says Schlossmacher. "The students, the families, and the amazing staff that I work with everyday make me feel so fortunate to have a job I truly love!" The segment featuring Schlossmacher, who was nominated by a parent of one of her students, aired on April 22.

Visiting Artist Works with Harambee Students on Percussive Math

During her visit to Harambee, artist Karla Nweje from the Cowles Center for Dance worked with students in 1st and 2nd grade on the art of "percussive math" – dance centered on an eight-beat rhythm. According to 1st grade teacher Michael Deppe, Nweje's lessons were connected to the street dancing Nweje did in New York City, the culture of the Gullah people in South Carolina (with the body percussion and voice replacing some of the uses of drums that plantation owners did not allow), as well as stepping. "The kids were excited to be there and Nweje was in constant motion," explained Deppe. "We talked a lot about breathing and focus, and made connections between being still and watching carefully, and then moving and trying a sequence out."



Girls on the Run Teams Begin Spring Practice

Like their peers across Roseville Area Schools, Parkview Center School's Girls on the Run team began spring practices and the participants are so excited to be together as a team! With teams at a number of district schools, Girls on the Run is a life-changing program for 8- to 13-year-old girls that promotes girl empowerment by teaching life skills through lessons and running. The program culminates in a celebratory 5K for the team and their adult running buddies.



Parkview Peace Buddies Initiative Builds Supportive Relationships

For more than 10 years, Parkview Center School has nurtured cross-grade relationships by pairing older students with younger students across all grade levels for activities during the school year. According to Eli Eschenbauch, a 4th grade teacher at Parkview, the goal is to create a supportive school community. "The younger

students get to know the older students and even develop a secret signal or handshake they give to their buddy when they see them in the hallway," Eschenbauch explains. Eschenbauch's students are paired with students from 1st grade teacher Jenny Eckman's class and enjoy activities such as regular reading opportunities as well as a creative exercise during which the students draw portraits of each other.



Schools



Parkview “Engineering for Inclusion” Project Focuses on Equity for People with Disabilities

Parkview 1st graders are learning about physical and cognitive/developmental differences with a focus on inclusion and the history of how our country became a more equitable place for people with disabilities. As part of the Engineering for Inclusion project, students learned about the Americans with Disabilities Act and about ways that adaptive technologies can provide access for people. Visitors from Winkley Orthotics and Prosthetics Company shared about how prosthetic and orthotic technology has changed over time and has made life easier and better for people with limb differences.



New Little Canada Program Promotes School Safety & Good Behavior



Staff and students at Little Canada Elementary School are in the first year of the school's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) implementation. PBIS promotes school safety and good behavior through school-wide behavior expectations (called “Bear Pride”) and strategies. The school's PBIS implementation is guided by a PBIS Leadership Team. Among the many strategies implemented this year were the introduction of the school's new bear mascot (“LC”), a positive behavior acknowledgement system using Bear Boletos (Bear Pride Tickets), and fun student rewards such as the Golden Tray Award, Principal Chair for the Day, Fine Dining, and Positive Phone Calls home.



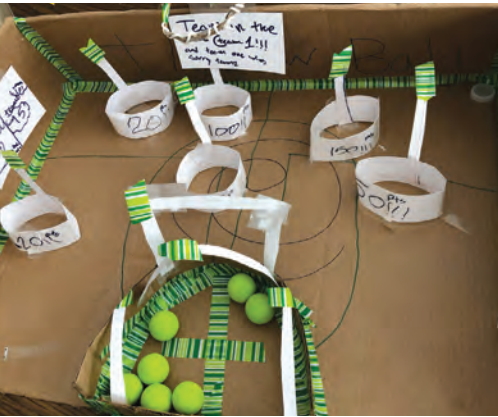
In late March, kindergarteners from Little Canada Elementary School visited Dodge Nature Center to learn about maple syrup, tap trees, and taste maple syrup and maple sugar.



Our Schools

Brimhall Students Create Podcasts about People Who Changed History

With help from their classroom teachers and Library Media Specialist Anna Zbacnik, third grade students at Brimhall Elementary School researched people who changed history and then created podcasts about their research subjects. Before creating their podcasts, students listened to a variety of podcasts and learned about structure, how to write a script, and how important it is to pay attention to the details such as the rate of their voices, their expression, and volume. To listen in on their final podcasts, visit <https://anchor.fm/ms-zbacnik>.



Little Canada Cardboard Arcade Showcases Sculptures in Action

Little Canada Elementary students in grades 5 and 6 created “cardboard arcades” and opened their arcades for 1st and 2nd grade students to use. According to Sarah Wolfe, who is Little Canada’s art teacher, the lesson focused on creating “found object sculpture” as well as on creative problem solving, teamwork, entrepreneurship/business running, and engineering. “The teamwork and problem solving required with this project is such a valuable life skill,” Wolfe explained. Wolfe says the most remarkable part of the lesson was when the students designed the actual arcade as they allocated jobs, decided on a “payment” system, sorted prizes, and more. “My oldest students are at their absolute best when leading, encouraging, and supporting younger students,” Wolfe says. “It nearly brought me to tears to watch my big tough kids teaching, cheering on, and celebrating success with younger students. It was also so gratifying for my students to see their functional sculptures in action.”



Grace Church Volunteers Support Little Canada Students & Staff

For years, Grace Church in Roseville has been partnering with Little Canada Elementary. Church volunteers have supported staff with surprise breakfasts, snack carts, Caribou treats, volunteer hours, and much more. They supported students and families with basic needs, household items, winter gear, and snacks. “This partnership has certainly made a positive difference in the lives of our students and their families” says Tina Hogberg, a Little Canada social worker. “The volunteers are ready to step in and help with any request!”





RAMS Students Launch African Culture Leadership Club

In November 2021, a group of students approached Roseville Area Middle School African American Cultural Liaison Shvonne Johnson about the possibility of starting an African Cultural Leadership Club that would educate the RAMS community about the African diaspora. “Adults can start groups all of the time but it’s really important when students are passionate about it,” Johnson explained. Since that time, Johnson and Somali Cultural Liaison Kowthar Ismail, who serve as co-advisors, have supported the group’s efforts to schedule speakers (a recent speaker addressed women in leadership) and opportunities to discuss topics such as ethnic clothing and how to speak to people of African descent about their hair. “The group participants want to take topics that may be hurtful and turn them into opportunities to educate their classmates,” says Johnson.



RAMS Students Win Annual Essay Contest

Two Roseville Area Middle School students—Jackson Arlt and Vanya Romero—participated in the Roseville Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission’s annual essay contest...and won! According to Thomas Brooks, who coordinated the contest for the City of Roseville, “The commission promotes this contest as an opportunity to allow middle school students to become more engaged in their community and provide insights into how they feel concerning current topics affecting their lives at the present time.” The students were honored at the April 11 Roseville City Council meeting.



RAMS Teacher Named Schmitt Music’s Educator of the Year

Katie Hauser, a music teacher at Roseville Area Middle School, was named Schmitt Music’s Educator of the Year Award. With educators honored at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels, Hauser was one of three band and/or orchestra educators named as Educator of the Year. Hauser teaches students who are in their third or fourth year of playing an instrument, and her teaching goals with each class include building strong relationships with her incoming students, making sure her students’ foundational knowledge on their band instruments is solid, getting students excited about making music, helping them see the beauty involved in ensemble music-making, and preparing them to high school band.



RAHS Orchestra Performs at Statewide Convention

In February, the Roseville Area High School Symphonic Band performed at the Minnesota Music Educators Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center. According to Matt Dehnel, the high school's band director, a few high school bands are selected to perform at the conference each year. "It is a big honor because these groups are considered some of the finest examples of school music in Minnesota," says Dehnel. "Our band was selected because we play high-level repertoire and do it well, but also because our program is one of the Minnesota programs leading the charge for a more diverse band repertoire."

The RAHS Symphonic Band's program consisted of six pieces, from Julie Giroux's 5th Symphony to Arturo Márquez's Conga del Fuego Nuevo. The band also performed "Incandescence" by Adrian B. Sims, which is "one of the works commissioned by the consortium started by RAHS band directors with the purpose of bringing more works into the band repertoire that were written by Black American composers," explained Dehnel. In reflecting on the experience, Dehnel says the "students took away from this a huge sense of accomplishment, but also a awareness of their leadership with the music they play, the way they connect to it, and the passionate and heartfelt way in which they perform."

RAHS Students Place at State Speech Tournament

On April 22, six Roseville Area High School Speech team members competed at the Minnesota State High School League AA State Speech Tournament. Two students placed in their respective categories – Alexander Bailey earned 7th place in Dramatic Interpretation (Coach Bret Hemmerlin) and Elanor Nymoen earned 5th place in Serious Prose (Coach Megan Soosai). "Congratulations to Alex and Elanor for this impressive achievement in student communication and telling their story!" says RAHS Speech Head Coach Jodi Kyllonen.



Work in Roseville Area Schools

Do you enjoy working with kids?
Are you interested in flexible work
days and hours?
Join us and work as a substitute
teacher in our schools!

Go to www.teachersoncall.com > Job Seekers > Apply Now





DECA Members Earn High Marks at State Conference

Nineteen Roseville DECA students competed in the annual Minnesota DECA State Career Development Conference in Minneapolis. According to DECA Advisor Travis Birkliid, all competing students earned high marks with five student competing in the finals: Joey Heiple, Tom Park, Andrew Barnes, Ash Koncar, and Mina Dang. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

RAHS Teacher Named Semifinalist for 2022 Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Ira Sanders, a social studies teacher at Roseville Area High School, was among 25 semifinalists for the honor of 2022 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Sanders is the subject of a short film, "Ira," that premiered in New York last October, with recent screenings in Portland, Ore., Minneapolis, and Los Angeles. The film documents Sanders' experience as commodities trader at the World Trade Center for 15 years before September 11, 2001, and his path to becoming an educator, which he described as a lifelong goal.



High School Awarded Grant to Support Manufacturing Education

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has awarded Roseville Area High School a \$65,000 Youth Skills Training (YST) grant to support the school's effort to provide students with hands-on work experiences in high-wage, high-demand manufacturing fields. Bryn McConnell, Roseville Area High School's career navigator, says the grant will fund a number of initiatives including equipment, outreach, summer experiences, and field trips. "The equipment will enable students to have practice on equipment they would use in their career," McConnell explains.



The student image is from a 2021 internship at MME Group, a Vadnais Heights-based full-service manufacturer.



Two RAHS Students Named Abbott Summer Interns

RAHS junior Jennifer Garcia Flores and sophomore Amy Dang will be participating in a nine-week, paid summer internship program through Abbott Laboratories, which has a location in Little Canada. According to Abbott, the internship "is designed to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technology professionals." The RAHS students will be working with Abbott leaders on a wide range of hands-on experiences in areas such as quality assurance, research and development, engineering, laboratory, product development, information technology, and global security.

District

Moody's Investor Services Upgrades District Bond Rating

After a credit review, Moody's Investor Services has upgraded Roseville Area Schools' bond rating due to a number of factors including the district's strong financial management, a strong local economy, and the district's increased financial stability. Moody's provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities, and is considered one of the big credit rating agencies. The company ranks the creditworthiness of borrowers using a standardized ratings scale, which measures expected investor loss in the event of default.



District Receives State Grant to Increase Healthy Local Foods

Roseville Area Schools is one of 46 school districts across the state that received a Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) grant to increase the amount of healthy local foods in school meals through its Farm to School programs. Roseville Area Schools received a \$60,000 grant. The MDA is investing more than \$1.3 million in purchasing Minnesota-grown and Minnesota-raised foods to be used in school meal programs.



Safety and Security Team Coordinates District & School Safety Efforts

In Roseville Area Schools, we know that each student who walks into our schools is somebody's somebody. It's our job to keep our schools as safe as possible. That is why in the Roseville Area Schools we have the District Safety and Security Team for the purpose of creating safe and secure schools, ensuring alignment across our schools, and supporting site-based school safety.

Last fall, the District Safety and Security Team partnered with Dr. James Densley and The Violence Project, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center dedicated to reducing violence in society and using data and analysis to improve policy and practice. This year we also created a District Crisis Consultation and Support Team to provide consultation and support district-wide in the event of a crisis. The team is comprised of staff representing each of the student support areas as well as age groups. If you are interested in being on the District Safety and Security Team, please contact Assistant Superintendent Melissa Sonnek at Melissa.Sonnek@isd623.org.



Community Education Offers Lessons, Fitness Classes, Lap Swim & More

Join us at the new pool at Anpétu Téča Education Center! Our aquatics programs offer not only swimming lessons and fitness classes, but also open swim times and lap swim times. The pool is at a nice, warm 86 degrees! Explore our schedule at <https://isd623.ce.eleyo.com/>.

In Search of...Life Guards & Swim Instructors

Are you interested in joining the Roseville Area Community Education aquatics staff? We are hiring lifeguards and swim instructors! Visit www.isd623.org/careers and click on Community Education to learn more about job opportunities.





Registration for Summer Youth Enrichment Now Open!

Roseville Area Community Education is offering a wide range of exciting opportunities for youth including week-long camps, field trips, one-day experiences, and so much more! All youth camps include hands-on learning, a supportive and welcoming environment, and (of course) FUN! Camp themes include STEAM, creative play,

adventure, creative arts, cooking, and literature. For more information, visit www.isd623.org > Community > Community Education Home. Check out Youth Summer Enrichment and find the perfect experience



Special Education Advisory Council Seeks New Members

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is a partnership between Roseville Area Schools and parents/guardians/families of Roseville Area Schools scholars with disabilities. SEAC advises the district on policy and planning through Director of Student Services Niceta Thomas. The council often invites leaders from other district departments in order to be informed and to lend multiple perspectives to decision making. If you are interested in more information about SEAC or about the council's meeting schedule so you can attend a meeting and see what SEAC is all about, please contact Bernae VeraKruse at bernae.verakruse@isd623.org or 651-635-1608.

FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION

**Registration is Open for Summer 2022
& School Year 2022-2023**

Friendship Connection is the district's school-age care program that provides care before and after school, on non-school days, and during the summer.

To register or learn more:

- Visit www.isd623.org/friendship
- Call 651-604-3505
- Visit the Friendship Connection school sites



Community Collaboration Results in New Play Structure for Early Learning Students

Adults in the Roseville Adult Basic Education (ABE) program's Apprentice & Manufacturing Readiness (AMR) pathway worked with ABE Outreach Coordinator Tim O'Brien to assemble a new wooden play structure for the Anpétu Téca Education Center's Early Childhood motor space. AMR students worked on the project over several days and the children love the new structure!





Roseville Area Schools
Independent School District 623
1251 West County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113-3299



Roseville Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations Now Open

Do you know someone who you believe belongs in the Roseville Athletic Hall of Fame? The Roseville Hall of Fame honors Roseville Area Schools' tradition of excellence by recognizing and paying tribute to former athletes, former coaches, and community members who have displayed outstanding

athletic abilities or have made exceptional contributions to our school district's athletic programs. Nominations for the 2022 Class of the Roseville Hall of Fame are now open. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2022.

To submit a
Hall of Fame
nomination, visit
www.isd623.org

Meals on Wheels: Fueled by Volunteer Power

The Roseville Area Senior Program thrives on the support of wonderful community volunteers. In 2021, the program had 447 volunteers who delivered 28,807 meals – 4,360 more meals than in 2020. The Meals on Wheels volunteers do more than deliver the meals – they also help pack them!

A quick story: In 2019, a friend told Sharon about a community volunteering opportunity through Meals on Wheels. Sharon started packing meals for Meals on Wheels and then brought her husband, Mike, on board to pack meals. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the school district minimized the number of people in district buildings, Sharon and Mike, along with Roseville Area Senior Program staff, were responsible for packing all of the meals. Their priority was taking care of the seniors in our community – and it continues today.

Our volunteers will tell you that packing and delivering Meals on Wheels to the seniors in our community is rewarding. They enjoy meeting people and hearing the feedback and appreciation from clients. For Roseville Area Senior Program,

the dedication of the volunteers means the program

can provide hot meals for neighbors in need. If you have any questions regarding the Roseville Area Senior Program or Meals on Wheels, please call 651-604-3520.

