

The Path to Kindergarten

Important Nights for Parents/Guardians and Incoming Kindergarten Students

Transitioning to kindergarten is an exciting time, and it is time to prepare for the big day when your preschooler heads off to kindergarten. Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools provides all-day every day kindergarten to our students entering elementary school at Mississippi Heights, Pleasantview and Rice. To help you prepare, the district is excited to offer options for registration and support.

Families are invited to visit

www.isd47.org/academics/kindergarten to view the Kindergarten Registration

Resources. Information includes registration requirements, an overview of what happens at Kindergarten Open House, frequently asked questions, and information on preparing your child for kindergarten in 2023–2024.

Support is available at each elementary building for assistance with online registration and getting copies of needed documents. Paper copies of the registration documents are also available. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the following office managers in your student(s) building with any questions you have:

Mississippi Heights Elementary School: Jessica Hoffman, 320-252-0122

Pleasantview Elementary School: Julie Kosloske, 320-253-0506

Rice Elementary School: Jen Maier, 320-393-2177



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Education



See page 9 for Kindergarten Open House information.

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Community Education
901 First Street South
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379





**Bradley D.
Bergstrom**

Superintendent

A Message from Superintendent Bradley D. Bergstrom **A path for every student**

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public School's Mission is to provide a path for every student.

Mission statements define what an organization does, who they are, who they serve and why, and vision statements succinctly summarize where an organization is headed. A mission statement supports and complements the vision statement, details future goals to achieve, and explains how the organization is managed.

An organization's strategic plan describes what it wants to accomplish - its goals- while its strategic commitments detail how the organization intends to achieve those goals. An organization's vision, strategic plan and commitments can and should evolve over time. Changes are typically in response to changes in the industry or the organization itself.

A strategic plan is a written document that provides a path forward - it details an organization's goals and explains why they are important. This deliberate and purposeful planning provides direction and outlines measurable goals.

Strategic commitments are public, accessible, identifiable, and achievable. A strategic plan establishes a system and structure to attain goals which have built-in checkpoints designed to track and evaluate progress. Each team member throughout the organization understands the organization's strategy and knows their work within the plan directly impacts its success. Plan, Do, Study, Act for continuous improvement.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public School's Mission - the reason it exists - is to provide a well-rounded education to students in our care: academically, socially and emotionally. *It is what we do, who we serve, and how we serve them.* **A path for every student.** *Our district's vision and strategic plan promotes growth, focus, and purpose.*

Over the last 18 months district administration and staff have worked diligently to redefine Sauk Rapids-Rice Public School's Strategic Plan and Commitments. This strategic plan consists of six strategic commitments which, together with the district's Portrait of a Graduate and World's Best Workforce (WBWF) initiative, will guide the district's decisions. Our strategic plan articulates the district's values and provides a roadmap for the distribution of resources.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools Six Strategic Commitments are:

Culture of High Quality and Effective Instruction

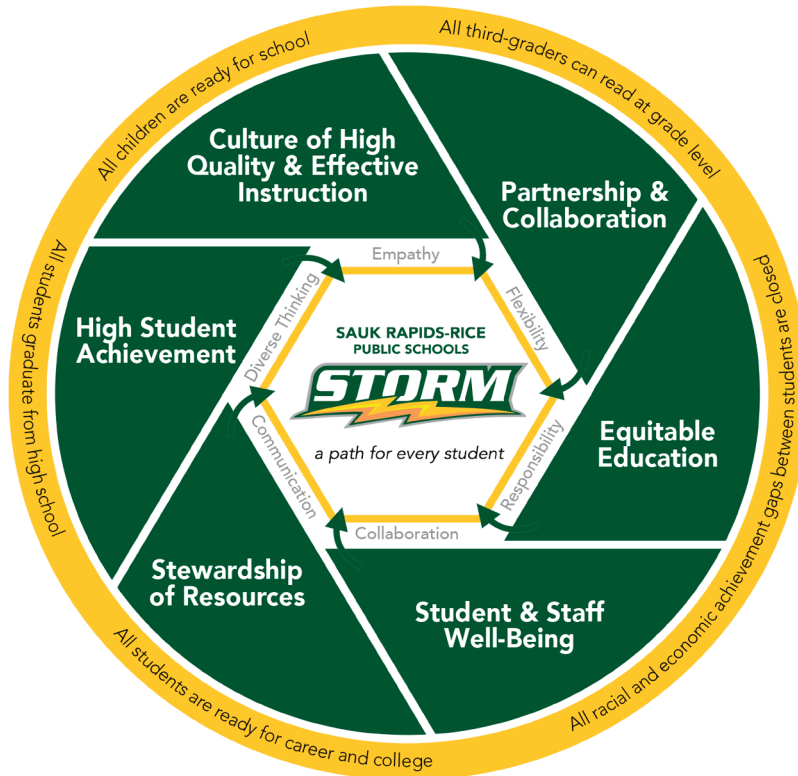
Creating a culture where all staff are supported to creatively grow and develop in order to build their own capacity to meet the needs of students.

Rationale:

- Positive and healthy school cultures and school climates are the foundations of high-quality learning environments and create the conditions for effective teaching and learning.
 - Culture: Deeper belief systems and values of our organization.
 - Climate: The day to day thoughts and feelings of people in the organization.

Strategic Plan

The System



- Portrait of a Graduate
- Professional Development
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports
- Professional Learning Communities

By achieving the goals established with our Strategic Plan and Portrait of a Graduate, we will prepare our students to be successful in the 21st Century as defined by the World's Best Workforce

Cont. Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools Six Strategic Commitments

Partnership and Collaboration

Commitment to lead through partnership and collaboration at all levels of the district.

Rationale:

- In order for Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools to be highly effective and continuously improve, perspectives from all stakeholders (i.e. educators, support staff, students, families, community members and partners) should be leveraged.
- When stakeholders are involved in student learning and well-being, student success is promoted.
- Mutually beneficial partnerships provide opportunities for students and staff to gain different experiences, and additional resources, that will support academic and professional growth.

DISTRICT NEWS

Cont. Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools Six Strategic Commitments

Student and Staff Well-Being

Provide a healthy, safe, and secure learning environment for all students and staff.

Rationale:

- Physical, social, and emotional health in schools is necessary to support the academic success of each student.
- It also supports the professional growth and well-being of staff.
- Keeping staff and students physically, socially, and emotionally healthy allows them to thrive in an encouraging environment.

High Student Achievement

High achievement for all students through the development of a personalized learning experience.

Rationale:

- When Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools provides the framework to empower students to own their learning, it allows for students to explore strengths and interests while building skills needed to find success.

Stewardship of Resources

Strategic use of our financial resources, physical assets, and staff to support the vision and mission of the district.

Rationale:

- When resources are used in a responsible way, it strategically maximizes the investment in the decisions that are made.
- Maximizing resources effectively promotes greater overall transparency and accountability with staff and the public as well as fostering a culture of responsibility.

Equitable Education

Student success will be based upon individual achievement not predicted by a student's socio-economic status, race, and/or if they have been identified as having a disability, and/or other protected class.

Rationale:

- Serving all students means all students. Each and every student deserves an outstanding experience.

February is I Love to Read Month!

At Sauk Rapids-Rice, we recognize the importance of reading and being read to and celebrate the opportunity to read year-round! February is recognized as "I love to read month" and we want to take a moment to remind you to continue to engage in literacy activities at home this month and every month!



Portrait of a Graduate

As many know, the district started on the journey of a Portrait of a Graduate in the fall of 2019. Input was gathered from students, staff, businesses, and community members to create this shared vision. Over the course of the past couple of years, district stakeholders have worked together to create a common definition and elements for each of the attributes which have resulted in a collective vision that articulates the community's shared dreams and aspirations for our students. The portrait of a graduate team has worked diligently to develop common elements and definitions for each of the attributes that represent the community's vision. The attributes include:

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Diverse Thinking
- Empathy
- Flexibility
- Responsibility

This past spring and summer, the portrait of a graduate team met multiple times to review and respond to all of the amazing feedback provided by multiple stakeholders. Two significant changes resulted from this feedback.

The first change involved making minor modifications to the definitions and elements associated with the attributes. Feedback showed the group that what seemed to be clear language at the moment was confusing and needed clarification. The district team made changes to this much needed clarification. The second, and perhaps more significant adjustment, came in changing the attribute from "adaptability" to "flexibility". Based on the feedback, flexibility better captured the essence of what the broader community was looking for.

At a building level: grade levels and/or departments will be working on determining what these six attributes look like in student-friendly language from early childhood through grade 1, grades 6 through 8, grades 9 through 10, etc., and thinking about where and how we can provide students opportunities to develop and demonstrate these attributes throughout all areas of the school and beyond. The district portrait of a graduate team will continue to review and determine the best way for students to "house" their work.



Weather-Related School Closures, Late Starts, and Early Dismissals

In any weather emergency, the main objective is to provide protection and a safe environment for students, staff, and families.

Three Area Districts will Make Weather Related Schedule Changes Together

- Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, St. Cloud Area Schools and Sartell-St. Stephen Public Schools will collectively determine weather-related school closures and/or schedule changes.
- It is important that the three districts coordinate closures or schedule changes due to their close proximity to one another.
- Community members, families and district staff may live and/or work in surrounding communities, which are different districts than their children may attend school.

It is our hope that collaborating about weather-related school closures or delays will alleviate some scheduling issues for families.

How Are The Decisions Made?

- The districts will use forecast details and weather information from the Weather Channel app and the National Weather Service (NWS)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- The districts also rely on information provided by city and county road services and transportation partners to determine if weather conditions may cause a late start, full day cancellation or an early dismissal from school.
- The cold weather threshold is 35-below zero windchill or air temperature as forecasted by NWS for the St. Cloud area.

What is Your Family's Plan B?

Minnesota weather can be difficult to predict; it is essential that parents/guardians anticipate and prepare in advance for the potential of school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals.

Families, please begin to make plans for child care in the event there is a weather-related delay, closure, or early release.

How Will You Know?

- In the event there is a weather-related emergency, district leadership will make every effort when possible to communicate school closure or delay information by
 - 9:00 p.m. the evening before, or
 - 5:30 a.m. in the event a decision must be made in the morning.
- Communication will be sent in email, text and/or voice format via the district's notification system to district families and staff. (See how to receive district notifications on page 7)
- District website: www.isd47.org
- Weather related schedule change information may also be found on the following stations (as well as online).
 - Radio Stations:
 - 88.1 FM, 91.5 FM, 92.9 FM, 98.1 FM, 98.9 FM, 99.9 FM, 101.7 FM, 104.7 FM, 105.5 FM
 - 830 AM, 660 AM, 1150 AM, 1240 AM, 1450 AM
 - Television Stations:
 - KMSP (Channel 9); KARE (Channel 11), KTSP (Channel 5), WCCO (Channel 4)
 - Other: St. Cloud Times Online

In the event of an early dismissal or a school closing, student activities/practices, Community Education classes, facility rentals, Adult Education, Early Childhood classes, and Area Learning Center classes will typically be canceled.

A Note from the School Nurse:

Should Your Child go to School?

We care about the health and wellbeing of all students. If your child is not feeling well at home or school, we follow guidance from the MN Department of Health. If your student is experiencing a fever of 100.4 F or higher, please keep them home from school until they are 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, please keep them home 24 hours after the last episode.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Facts:

- Your child may have a cough, watery eyes, runny nose or stuffiness, or sneezing.
- Symptoms may last for 7 days.
- People with severe RSV may wheeze and/or have lung congestion.
- If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 8 days for symptoms to start.
- People are contagious for 3 to 8 days after symptoms start.
- Some infants can spread RSV for up to 4 weeks.

Call your healthcare provider:

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor may test for the virus.
- Antibiotics do not work for illnesses caused by viruses, including RSV.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with the secretions from the mouth or nose
- Do not share anything that goes into the mouth, such as drinking cups, straws, and water bottles.
- Clean and disinfect anything that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth.

As cold and flu season continues to be present, please make sure you have a plan for if your child gets ill during the school day. Prompt pick up is required to help prevent the spread of illness to others. Stay healthy and well!

How to Receive District Notification

Each building sends out weekly newsletters to parents/guardians of currently enrolled students. The district also uses a notification system to communicate with parents/guardians about emergency situations, weather-related delays/cancellations, low lunch account balances, student attendance, changes to scheduled events, and other student-specific communication. The following contact methods are used for school communications:

- Emails
- Text messages
- Telephone calls with electronically recorded messages


It is recommended that parents/guardians verify that their contact information within their Skyward Family Access account is up-to-date as this is the information used by the district to send out communications.

Please log into your Skyward Family Access account and click on "Account" at the top of the screen. Any contact information that is changed within your account will be updated in the communication system overnight.

If you are not receiving school and district communications and think you may have unsubscribed, please use the "Re-Subscribe to School Communications" form to start receiving them again.

If you have further questions about district and school email communication, please call Amy Dierkes at 320-258-1806.

Provided by: Benton County Human Service



**LET'S PLAY
CATCH-UP
ON ROUTINE VACCINES**

As a parent, you want to keep your children safe. Routine childhood vaccinations are an important way to ensure that your child and community remain healthy and protected against serious diseases, like measles and whooping cough.

Benton County Public Health encourages parents to make sure children are up to date on routinely recommended vaccines. Well-child visits and check-ups are essential for routine vaccination.

Healthy News from Food Service

Mel Wiese, Director of Dining Services

Allergan Updates

If your student needs accommodations for any of the top 9 Allergen Foods; milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, shellfish, and/or sesame please see the updated information on the district's website under Food Service. Look for the tab labeled "Special Dietary Requests". In the coming weeks, you may be contacted by food service for updated information for students with special dietary requests on file.

It is the district's goal to provide healthy and nutritious meals for all students. If you have any concerns regarding allergens and meals for your student, please reach out to the food service office.

Parents/Guardians do have the option to select no seconds or a la carte items for their children. To do so, please visit www.isd47.org/services/food-service, and once on the web page scroll down halfway and select the opt-out of A la carte/ Second Servings. Fill out the short form and submit it to food service.

Low Balance Notifications

Notifications will be sent by:

- phone call,
- email, or
- text through the district notification system

Parents/Guardians will be contacted daily if their family balance is negative and low lunch balances will be contacted weekly until the balance is above the \$20.00 threshold.

Parents/Guardians can adjust or update how this information is received through Skyward Family Access. Please contact the business office 320-258-1806 if you need help customizing your preferences.

Payments to a student/family food service account can be made online, 24 hours a day, through Skyward Family Access. Payments are processed through RevTrak to provide a secure site for making payments. If a child's food service balance is low, parents/guardians can add money using a Discover, VISA, or MasterCard credit or debit card.

Online payments through Skyward Family Access are immediately posted to the student's food service account. All credit card statements will show the payment has been made to the Sauk Rapids-Rice Public School District. Parents/Guardians will not be charged a fee for this service.

To Make Online Payments Parents/Guardians Will Need:

- Discover, Visa, or MasterCard (debit or credit card), including card number and expiration date.
- Skyward Parent Access Login ID and Password. For assistance, please call 320-253-3628.
- Visit Skyward Parent Access/Online Lunch Payment and process your payment.

Menus

Menus are subject to change without notice based on product availability. In the event of a substitution, the school nurse will be notified and will review student dietary restrictions to insure all students enjoy a hot nutritious meal.

Contact Information

You may direct food service questions to foodservice@isd47.org or call

Tiffney Groess, Food Service Administrator
320-258-1520, or

Mel Wiese, Director of Dining Services
320-258-1522



Kindergarten Open House

February 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. at each Elementary Building



We are so excited to welcome our incoming kindergarten class of 2023. As hard as it is to believe, that makes their graduation year 2036!

To help manage the number of people in attendance at one time, please attend at the designated times based on the staggered schedule at right.

During your visit, you will be able to take a brief tour of the school, see a kindergarten classroom and meet our kindergarten teachers. This is also a good time to drop off any required documents to the office to complete your child's registration. We are excited for your child to be joining the Storm family and starting their learning journey with us!

- 5:30 p.m.–5:45 p.m.: Student last name beginning with A–D
- 5:45 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Student last name beginning with E–J
- 6:00 p.m.–6:15 p.m.: Student last name beginning with K–Md
- 6:15 p.m.–6:30 p.m.: Student last name beginning with Me–P
- 6:30 p.m.–6:45 p.m.: Student last name beginning with Q–S
- 6:45 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Student last name beginning with T–Z

SRRMS Parent Information Night (PIN)

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School (SRRMS) will be hosting a middle school orientation night for parents on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. This night is intended to inform parents about SRRMS programs and answer questions. The night will begin with a brief presentation in the Community Arts Center (CAC) that will outline middle school experience. The presentation will be followed by a building tour and an activities information session for parents/guardians to learn about extracurricular opportunities available to students. In addition, staff will be available to answer questions related to enrollment and registration.

WHO: Parents/Guardians of any current fifth grade student attending a Sauk Rapids-Rice elementary school who plans to attend SRRMS next year. Parents/Guardians of resident students who attended a different school but plan to attend SRRMS are also welcome.

Fifth grade students who are attending a Sauk Rapids-Rice elementary school (PVES, MHES, RES) will have a separate orientation day in the spring and will not need to attend this event.

WHERE: Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School. Please enter door #1 (main entrance) and report to the Community Arts Center (CAC).

Students Preparing for 2023–2024 Classes

Class Registration for High School Students taking place after Winter Break

Students in grades 8–11 will begin the course registration process for the 2023–2024 school year in mid-January. This annual process is an important part of the high school experience as it sets the stage for students to explore interest areas as well as to develop and grow in course areas, both required and elective. Choices made by students not only have implications on their particular path as a high school student, but also may impact the route taken toward post-secondary goals. In Connections (advisory) and during freshmen team classes, our SRRHS staff will help guide and support students as they plan for the future.

As students select classes, they are encouraged to look for the right amount of challenge as they focus on meeting all requirements and exploring areas of interest. SRRHS offers Advanced Placement classes, Huskies in the High School courses (St Cloud State University courses taught at the high school), and several different honors-level courses. German and Spanish are also offered as part of the World Languages Department. Students have the opportunity to explore numerous elective areas including band, choir, business & marketing, family & consumer science, culinary, agriculture, photography, robotics, two and three dimensional art, woods, and metals. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of options and take advantage of the great opportunities available.



The registration guide will be available on Schoology for grades 9–11 as well as on the high school website. Families are encouraged to discuss with their students the different options available to them. Another great opportunity to learn more about registration will be at Parent/Teacher Conferences in mid-January. Our counseling team will be available to answer questions about courses and registration. Families can expect to see initial registration information coming home with students in January. In early February, students will enter their final registration selections online.

Looking for a way to be involved in the High School?



Join the Celebrate and Graduate Committee!

We are planning the Graduation/Lock-In Event following graduation on May 30, 2023.

Our remaining meeting dates for this school year are: January 9, February 13, March 20, April 17 and May 15. Meetings are at the high school at 6:45 p.m. in room E239. Bring yourself (and a friend or two), your ideas and your enthusiasm as we plan throughout the year.

Questions? Please email stormcelebrate@gmail.com

Senior Class Planning Guide

Counseling Office

ASAP - Need Help with FAFSA?

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now open. Families are able to complete the application using last year's tax information. The earlier you complete the application process the earlier colleges and universities of your choice can prepare a financial aid package for your child. More information and step-by-step videos are available in Schoology.

Scholarships (February/March)

Springtime is for scholarships! Students should explore the scholarships that are offered by colleges to which they plan to or have already applied. Additional scholarship opportunities are displayed in Schoology and many others are available by visiting the Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS) and performing a financial aid sort. Local scholarship opportunities will be posted in Schoology in March.

College Fair during Parent/Teacher Conferences on January 18, 2023

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School will be hosting more than 30 colleges and universities during conferences! Students and families are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to talk with college representatives from regional, technical, community, and four-year post-secondary institutions as well as several military recruiters.



Registration Information Nights:

For Parents/Guardians of 2023–2024 SRRHS Students

All meetings will be held in the SRRHS Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Watch for a district communication alerting parents/guardians to these informational nights relating to your child's registration plans for the 2023–2024 school year. We encourage families to attend these meetings so they have an opportunity to learn more and ask questions.

- **Eighth Grade Parent/Guardian Meeting:** An eighth grade registration meeting will be scheduled after winter break to help students and families with the registration process. Detailed information will be sent to eighth grade families in January.

- **Junior Information Night:** Juniors and their families are encouraged to attend an information meeting on January 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Information about senior courses, graduation requirements, Huskies in the High School (HHS) courses, and more will be discussed. Counselors will be available to answer questions.
- **Counselor Registration Stations at Parent/Teacher Conferences:** The Sauk Rapids-Rice High School Counseling Team will be available on January 18, 2023 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. to answer registration and post secondary planning questions.

Commencement will be held on the campus of St. Cloud State University at the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center. Parents and seniors will receive more information in early 2023.

GRADUATION MAY 30, 2023



Adult Education

Students Earn Healthcare Core College Credits

When Sumaya Adan enrolled in the Adult Education program, she didn't know she would graduate with college credits. She only needed a few classes to finish her diploma, and was looking forward to going to college to become a nurse.

"I took the Health Care Core class – which is completely online at your own pace – and the Adult Education teachers helped me with the homework. I earned four college credits – for free – and I'm finishing my high school diploma at the same time!"



Instructors Kali Pelham, ISD47, and Bethany Tollefson, RN, DNP, at Centracare, partner to offer the course that was developed by HealthForce MN, one of MN State Centers of Excellence.

"The course was designed to meet employer needs in healthcare, and helps build a workforce that understands the soft skills needed in the profession," Pelham said.

Students can earn four college credits in this gateway course that covers expected healthcare professional behaviors, effective communication skills, ethics and legal issues that opens the door to many healthcare pathways at community colleges. The course is offered through the Schoology platform and students receive individual attention either in-person or through online meetings. It incorporates reading and videos, and requires many written reflections by the students.



"I really liked the class and it helped me to focus my goal to choose pediatric nursing. The one-on-one help with teacher Kali helped improve my writing skills," Adan said.

The Sauk Rapids-Rice Adult Education Program is one of a select few sites offering statewide online classes through special funding.

"We connected with HealthForce in spring 2020, when everything was going online. Now, we have students from all over Minnesota who are working with us to complete college credits even while they are finishing their adult diploma or GED," said Mag Patridge, program coordinator. "Previous to that, we worked with Brent Bultema and his team at Centracare to identify how adult education could help train adult learners in a healthcare pathway. We developed entry level first aid and CPR courses, CNA prep courses, and now are proud to offer this course for college credit," she said.

The Sauk Rapids-Rice Adult Education Program offers credit recovery, hybrid diploma and GED prep, as well as classes for high beginner to advanced English Language Learners. The program is also the only one in the area to offer childcare free of charge.

To learn more about the Adult Education program contact staff at 320-258-1112 or email hillsideadulthoodeducation@isd47.org

Sauk Rapids-Rice Education Foundation Presents the 8th Annual Event

Volunteers, Sponsors and Donations Welcome for Stars of the Storm



Sauk Rapids-Rice High School

Sauk Rapids-Rice Education Foundation (SRREF) is gearing up for another year of this exciting fundraising event. On March 17, 2023 SRREF will host the 8th annual "Stars of the Storm" fundraiser and talent show highlighting Sauk Rapids-Rice students.

We invite the entire community to experience the talents of Sauk Rapids-Rice students from kindergarten through senior high, bid on items in a silent auction, take in the extensive gallery of visual arts on display, and enjoy the amazing and tasty creations from the high school culinary team. You do not want to miss this event.

Become a Sponsor of This Showcase Event

This event would not be possible without our amazing sponsors and supporters. Become a corporate partner of the Education Foundation.

- Platinum Partner: \$2500+
- Gold Partner: \$1,000
- Silver Partner: \$500
- Green Partner: \$250

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, donating to the silent auction, or volunteering for the Stars of the Storm please contact Community Education at 320-258-1577.

Stars of the Storm is the primary fundraising event for the SRREF, a turn-key partner of the Initiative Foundation, created through a shared commitment to a brighter future for the children of Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools.



Visit www.isd47.org/community/foundation for more information or to make an online contribution, or to learn more about our goals and priorities.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Teachers of the Year Announced

Heidi Lund, Elementary Teacher and Amy Stedje, Secondary Teacher

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools is proud to announce the 2022–2023 Sauk Rapids-Rice Teachers of the Year! Teachers are nominated by their peers and interviewed by a panel of district staff members. Congratulations to Heidi Lund, the district's Elementary Teacher of the Year and Amy Stedje, the district's Secondary Teacher of the Year!

Because ISD 47 is fortunate to have hundreds of amazing staff members, the challenge of choosing a "top teacher" to represent our talented staff is a difficult one. These teachers have been chosen for their amazing work in classrooms, the impact they have on their students, and their involvement with students, staff, families, and community members across the district.



Heidi Lund has been teaching for 16 years and 12 of those years have been at Pleasantview Elementary.

Why do you teach? "I love teaching because I get the opportunity to make a difference each day. I get to be a part of helping students develop skills and knowledge, find their

passions, and help them to grow up to be kind, respectful, and productive adults in the future. I feel very blessed to get to work at Pleasantview Elementary alongside many amazing people and be part of the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District."

Amy Stedje is in her thirteenth year of teaching and teaches at the Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School.

Why do you teach? "I teach because I thoroughly enjoy working with eighth graders. Every day I am honored to have the opportunity to share smiles and help students on their journey through middle school.

I find joy in being a positive role model and helping students grow into confident young adults."



District Spelling Bee

Monday, January 9, 2023



How do you spell E-X-C-I-T-E-M-E-N-T? Join us at the district spelling bee as students compete to spell words that challenge even the best speller. The Sauk Rapids–Rice Spelling Bee will be held Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School Community Arts Center.

Twenty-Four participants in grades five through eight were selected from classroom and grade level bees and will compete. The top four winners will compete in the regional spelling bee with a chance to advance to the state bee and eventually the national spelling bee.

While there may be some T-E-N-S-E moments, the spelling bee is about more than spelling, word origins, and correct pronunciation. It is about inspiring confidence and a love of language that lasts a lifetime. It is sure to be a night of excitement as we celebrate the academic achievement at the district spelling bee!

Rice Kids Club Wants You!

If you are looking for a fun and rewarding job working with children in preschool through fifth grade we would love to learn more about you!

Apply online

**www.isd47.org/start-your-career or
contact Amy Dierks at amy.dierks@isd47.org**

RSVP Group

Volunteering: Happiness and Service to Others

RSVP, a program of AmeriCorps Seniors, has been supporting adults age 55+ in volunteer service in Central Minnesota for nearly Fifty years. The RSVP program has been a long-time partner of Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools with volunteer placements dating back to 1979. In 2022 there are 27 active RSVP volunteers who have shared more than 165 hours while supporting K-12 education.

RSVP supports volunteers by matching their skills, interests, and talents with community needs. Volunteers receive support in the form of transportation reimbursement, supplemental insurance, and volunteer recognition.

Psychologists inform us that happiness is a consequence of positive mental health and stems from a sense of fulfillment and belonging, connections with others, high self-esteem, and the absence of anxiety.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers and service recipients have shared on many occasions that these are the very benefits they receive from serving others. Such is the power of volunteerism: well-being, social connectedness, self-fulfillment and self-esteem while eliminating anxiety, loneliness, and depression. Volunteerism through directed programs can foster happiness in those who volunteer and those who are served.

Learn more about AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP by contacting their office at 320-255-7295 or visiting their website at ci.stcloud.mn.us/rsvp



Foster Grandparents

Foster Grandparents Impacting our Kids

The Central MN Foster Grandparent Program is an AmeriCorps Seniors Program that is sponsored by Catholic Charities.

- Adults age 55+, volunteer with children at a variety of sites tutoring and mentoring.
- Minimum of 260 volunteer hours a year.
- Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement.
- Volunteers who qualify receive a monthly stipend.
- Background checks must be completed prior to any service.
- Training is provided.

For more information contact: Sue Feliciano, Area Supervisor at 320-229-4589.



Grandma Judi has been a Foster Grandparent since 2018. She currently serves at Pleasantview Elementary School in Sauk Rapids and absolutely loves it! Grandma Judi is loved by the students.

"I love helping the students learn the basics and then practice what they've learned."

Her favorite part of the program is seeing the look of amazement on a student's face when they accomplish something that was previously difficult. This is pure JOY for Grandma Judi. She hopes others join the Foster Grandparent Program and volunteer within the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District to help positively impact the learning of many more students.

There are currently five volunteers serving within the schools, one has been a Foster Grandparent for more than 25 years!

A District Moving Forward

A Positive Message for All.

With all of the challenges our community has endured over the last couple of years, our district is committed to overcoming previous challenges with renewed hope, wisdom, undeniable perseverance, and aims to foster a supportive environment that will assist our community in their path of lifelong learning. As a result of this commitment, the message of "Storm Forward" came to life, and defining what it means to be "Storm Forward" is crucial to maintaining a community with shared goals.

To be "Storm Forward" is to embrace relationships, celebrate school achievements, support each other at all levels and departments, and provide a positive foundation that our community of students, staff, and families can be united by and build upon. We aim to look forward: to the opportunities before us, to our collective futures, to cultivating a community that can move the focus back to teaching and learning.

So how can you be "Storm Forward" in your homes, in the community, and in your everyday routine? Learn, engage with, and encourage your students and each other to put their best selves forward, to support one another in times of need, keep striving for educational excellence, and keep moving Storm Forward.



Thank You For Your Service



Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools wishes to thank Lisa J. Braun for her service to the district. Lisa was elected to the Sauk Rapids-Rice Board of Education in November of 2006 and began her 16 year tenure on January 8, 2007. For 16 years Braun has worked diligently for the staff, students, families and community of Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools.

Braun held numerous officer positions on the Board of Education: Board Chairperson from 2010 through 2014, Board Clerk 2017 through 2021, and Board of Education Vice Chair in 2009 and in 2022. Lisa was awarded the MSBA Director's Award at the Minnesota School Boards Association 2018 Winter Conference following 10 years of service to the district.

Braun served on numerous committees throughout her tenure on the Board including contract negotiations, Community Education Advisory Committee, Sauk Rapids-Rice Education Foundation Advisory Board as well as served on the Board for Resource Trainings and Solutions. Thank you, Lisa, for all that you have done to support the staff, students, and families at Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools. You have helped lead Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools to where it is today, and we are most grateful for your service.

Meet the 2023 Sauk Rapids-Rice Board of Education

The Sauk Rapids-Rice Board of Education is committed to ensuring EXCELLENCE in student achievement, preparing all students for postsecondary and career success, and fostering an informed and supportive public.



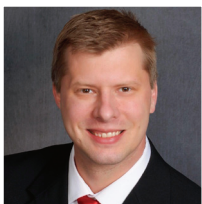
Ryan Butkowski



Mark Hauck



Robyn Holthaus



Dan Johnson



Lisa Loidolt



Tracy Morse



Jan Solarz

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District Directory

District Office320-253-4703

Bradley D. Bergstrom, Superintendent
Jenny Bushman, Dir. of Teaching & Learning
Tracey Fiereck, Dir. of Business Services
Sandra Haller, Special Education Coordinator
Holly Schoenherr, Dir. of Human Resources/Admin Services

High School320-253-4700

Sandy Logrono, Interim Principal
Steve Wagner, Assistant Principal
Adam Johnson, Interim Assistant Principal
Phillip Klaphake, Interim Activities Director

Middle School320-654-9073

Laura Arndt, Principal
Nic Johnson, Assistant Principal
Matt Bueckers, Interim Activities Director

Mississippi Heights Elementary320-252-0122

Tanya Peterson, Principal
Megan Foley, Assistant Principal

Pleasantview Elementary320-253-0506

Aby Froiland, Principal

Rice Elementary320-393-2177

Sue Paasch, Principal

Community Education/Facility Use320-258-1577

Nicole Wilke, Director

Early Childhood320-255-8910

Sue Paasch, Director

Buildings and Grounds.....320-258-1990

Brad Berghuis, Director

Student Assistance320-258-1730

Jennifer Kenning, Coordinator

Food Service.....320-253-3628

KidStop

Pleasantview320-257-5441

Mississippi Heights.....320-257-5437

Kids Club

Rice.....320-267-7768

Transportation Questions/Concerns

For school transportation questions/concerns contact

Transportation320-258-1995

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