

Principal: Jesse Peterson
jessep@mystma.org



**ST. MICHAEL ALBERTVILLE
SCHOOLS**

Dean of Students: Nicole Miller
nicolem@mystma.org

**Newsletter
November
2021-2022**

Big Woods Elementary School
St. Michael-Albertville #885
Excellence is our Tradition

Principal Message

I am so proud of our Big Woods students. I get the privilege of announcing students that are Caught Being Good each week on the Buzz (live announcements). I experience students each day helping someone in need, opening the doors for others, and playing with new friends. I witness students becoming responsible citizens each day. Thank you for your partnership.

US News ranked Big Woods Elementary School at #29 out of 1,171 in the state of Minnesota as best elementary schools to attend. This is based upon state-required tests and preparing students for high school. This is no mistake. We have incredible support here at STMA. Please read the important information on page 2 and 3 about the upcoming vote. Let's continue our journey of excellence.

General Handbook Information - Water Bottles and Devices

Staying hydrated is so important. At the same time, please double check water bottles/lids/leaks. We have books, notebooks, and more getting ruined each day because of leaky water bottles. Please talk to your child about proper use.

As a reminder, devices deemed disruptive to the learning environment are restricted. Such devices will be taken and returned to a parent/guardian. We have many students coming with watches that can be used as a device and it has become a distraction. Please remind your child of the proper use of such devices.

General Handbook Information - Dress Code/Hair and Face Paint

We have an increased concern with students coming to school with face and hair paint. Over our dress up days, it was approved. On non dress up days, these two items are prohibited at Big Woods. Thank you for your support and cooperation. We desire as few distractions and disruptions as possible. Thank you so much!

Upcoming Events

PTO Meeting - November 1

Election Day - November 2

4th Gr. Concert - November 18

BW Conferences - November 22

BW Conferences - November 23

**No School - November 25-26
(Thanksgiving)**

Big Woods Elementary

www.stma.k12.mn.us

Grades 1-4

Enrollment 656

**School Hours:
7:45-2:15 PM**

13470 Frankfort Parkway NW

St. Michael, MN 55376

Phone: 763.497.8025

Fax: 763.497.6563

Upcoming Events

4th Grade Music Concerts

**Middle School West
Auditorium: November 18th**

**6:00 PM - Mr. Barrett, Mr.
Breuer, and Mrs. Fritz**

**7:00 PM - Mrs. LeFebvre and
Mrs. Neururer**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

On November 2nd, 2021, STMA residents will be asked to consider an operating levy to maintain our tradition of excellence. As your principal, it is my job to provide information to families. It is important for you to be informed with factual information to see how the levy may impact your child. Please read through the following information, as I know student learning, class sizes, activities and the way in which we deliver instruction may be greatly impacted depending upon the outcome of the levy vote.

- **Class Sizes**

In a typical year, class size targets in grades K - 4 = 20-26. THIS YEAR, class sizes range from 26-36 in grades K-4. If an operating levy is not passed, an additional 60-70 staff will need to be cut and class sizes will increase dramatically. Absent additional dollars such as a levy, class sizes are estimated to be 35-45 in grades K-8.

- **Expanded Walk Zone Maps (Affected Students in Grades K-6: 400 Students):**

[Albertville Primary](#)

[Big Woods Elementary](#)

[Fieldstone Elementary](#)

[St. Michael Elementary](#)

- **Programming**

- Eliminate high potential/advanced programming K-12
- Eliminate intervention programming

Please exercise your constitutional right and vote. **Please refer to the STMA website for more information.**



ST. MICHAEL ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS



LEVY 2021

FACT SHEET

www.stma.k12.mn.us



MAINTAIN CLASS SIZES | MAINTAIN K-12 PROGRAMMING | MAINTAIN ACTIVITIES

STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

On **November 2, 2021**, STMA residents will be asked to maintain our tradition of excellence by voting on a modest levy.

Low state funding, pandemic-related costs, and stabilizing enrollment have wreaked havoc on the district's bottom line. Without a sustainable source of local revenue, STMA will likely face a significant decrease in the quality and quantity of student programming, larger class sizes, more staff reductions, and fewer activity opportunities for students.

APPROVAL MAINTAINS ESSENTIALS

This levy would fund essential functions throughout the district such as teachers and support staff. Approval of a levy would allow us to hire staff back and return class sizes to previous levels. We are only asking for what we need to avoid the following:

- Increased class sizes [cuts of 60-70 additional staff]
- Elimination of programs [art, music, high-potential/advanced]
- Elimination of middle school activities and lower-level high school activities
- Increases in walking distances to school

PAST STMA ELECTIONS

STMA has only brought forward 2 voting issues in the last 10 years.

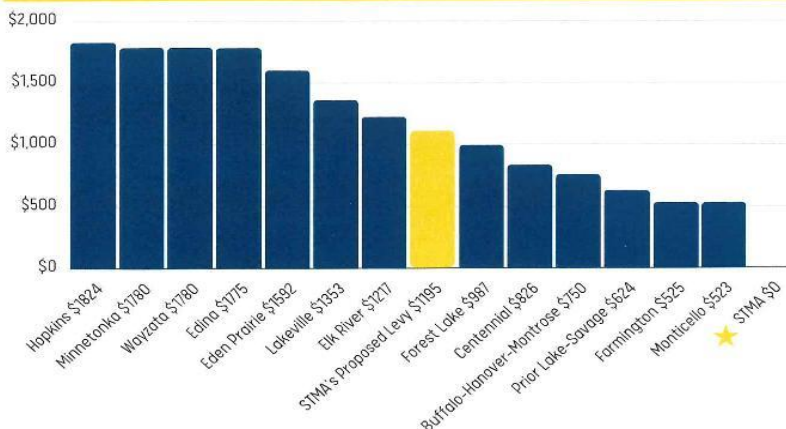
2011: STMA voters approved a levy. However, due to legislation changes in 2015, the levy dollars were rolled into Local Optional Revenue. This essentially eliminated the additional per pupil funding we were receiving.

2017: STMA voters graciously approved a bond. Bond referenda are for buildings and levy referenda are for learning or paying for operating costs such as staff salaries. The 2017 school election was a bond referendum as the dollars were used for buildings, not operations.

TAX IMPACT: \$1195 PER STUDENT = \$59/MONTH*

*on an average home value of \$250,000

RESIDENT FUNDING COMPARED TO SIMILAR DISTRICTS



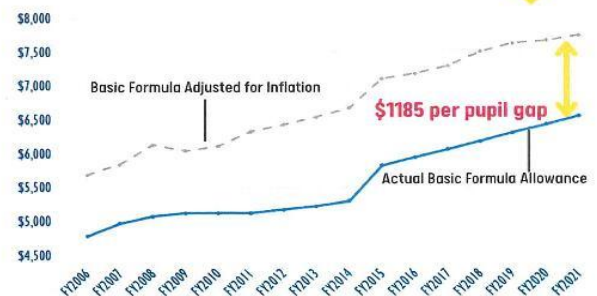
DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2011, STMA has refinanced debt multiple times, saving taxpayers nearly \$20 million.

\$20 MILLION
IN SAVINGS



If state funding had kept up with inflation, STMA would have received over \$7 million more in 2020-2021.



STMA school taxes have not kept pace with rising home values.



The average home value has increased **41.8%** in St. Michael over the last 10 years.*



The average home value has increased **44.1%** in Albertville over the last 10 years.*

*per the Wright County Assessor's Office

Students first
Taxpayer sensitive
Maintain excellence
Academics matter



ST. MICHAEL ALBERTVILLE
SCHOOLS



LEVY 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



MAINTAIN CLASS SIZES | MAINTAIN K-12 PROGRAMMING | MAINTAIN ACTIVITIES

\$7m

Revenue loss and extra costs
due to the pandemic.



71%

of MN districts have voter
approved levies.
STMA is NOT one of them.



3.2%

STMA ranks in the top 3.2% in
reading, math, and science
achievement among Minnesota
schools



**330
330**

STMA ranks lowest in the
state in per-pupil funding



\$6m

cuts made by STMA in the
last 15 months
[-70 staff]

LEARN MORE AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2



763.497.3180



STMAlevy@mystma.org



www.stma.k12.mn.us



Follow us!

Has your contact info changed?

If so, please login to ParentVue and update your info. Pick up login directions for ParentVue in the Big Woods office. This expedites school personnel in contacting you in a quick and efficient manner. Please call the office if you have any questions or need assistance.

Conferences

Monday, November 22nd
Tuesday, November 23rd

Attendance Procedures

Please call Big Woods 24-hour attendance line number 763-497-8025, Ext. 1 if your child will be absent due to an emergency, illness or any other reason. If you know your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time, please call the attendance line in advance. It is extremely important to contact school before 7:45 AM each day your child is absent. If we don't receive a call from you by the end of the school day, the absence will be considered "unexcused". If a student has excessive absences, we will contact you in order to both inform and offer assistance in improving your child's attendance. State law requires all school age children must attend school every day that school is in session and our district attendance policy provides us with truancy guidelines and procedures. Thank you in advance for your diligence regarding your child's school attendance.

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Big Woods PTO



Find PTO on Facebook at Big Woods PTO and "like" them for updates.

Contact PTO at bigwoodspto@gmail.com

Volunteers at bigwoodsptovolunteers@gmail.com

Thank you for all your support Big Woods PTO!

PTO Meetings

November 1st - 6:00 PM @ Big Woods Media Center
December 6th - 6:00 PM @ Big Woods Media Center