



ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

KNIGHT VIEW

DISTRICT NEWS

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

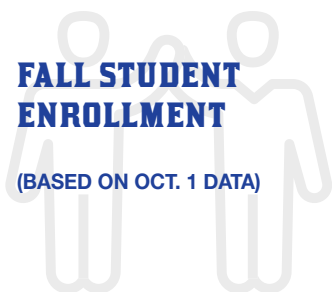
Despite challenges and uncertainty over the past 20 months, we remain STMA Strong! I couldn't be prouder of our resilient students, extraordinary staff, supportive families, and dedicated school board. They continuously put students first and help us live our mission and achieve our vision.

Our mission is to provide a safe educational environment where students develop lifelong learning skills that nurture positive attitudes and self-worth. We focus our efforts on ensuring each student is a self-directed learner, effective communicator, and responsible and respectful community member.

Our vision statement reflects our commitment to a balanced and high quality education: STMA Schools will be the pride of our community, educating the whole student, with excellence in academics, arts, activities, and athletics through the empowerment of a world-class staff.

ENROLLMENT IS STABILIZING

After nearly a decade of strong enrollment growth, district enrollment has stabilized over the last couple of years. Per our fall 2020 demographic study, we project steady but little enrollment growth through 2026. The most important source of revenue for STMA is student enrollment. Enrollment drives the funding formula. This means less revenue for STMA as 85.9% of our funding is from the state and is largely based on student enrollment.



FALL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

(BASED ON OCT. 1 DATA)



SPECIAL POPULATION

8.2% Free & Reduced Lunch **11.65%** Special Education
2.01% English Language Learner

STMA FACES BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

STMA ranks 325 out of 327 in per pupil revenue in the state. When the district was rapidly growing in student enrollment, we were able to make do and not ask taxpayers to supplement state revenue via an operating levy. In the last three years, enrollment has slowed down significantly and, based on demographic studies, we know we will encounter budget shortfalls in the near future. The pandemic exacerbated and accelerated our budget outlook as we lost \$7 million in revenue loss and extra expenses.

In response to stabilizing enrollment and pandemic-related revenue loss, we cut \$6 million over the last 20 months. This is over 70 staff in total—the largest in STMA history. This has resulted in very large class sizes (27-35 in grades K-4 and 35-40 in grades 5-12).

Fortunately, the district started the pandemic in solid financial condition and recently received an “unmodified opinion” in its most recent independent audit. This is the best opinion an auditor can issue.

Looking forward, we will continue to strongly advocate with legislators and the Governor for equitable and fair funding. Please consider joining our advocacy group by visiting the Legislative Action webpage on the district website to see how you can help.

Lastly, our district Finance Advisory Committee will analyze data including the independent audit, current and forecasted budgets, student enrollment, and the recent demographic study, to make recommendations to the school board that align with our core values and retain our commitment to excellence. These values include putting students first, maintaining a world-class staff, and minimizing impacts on taxpayers. #knightspride



ANN-MARIE FOUCAULT
 Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

ALBERTVILLE PRIMARY

Thank You for Showing Your Appreciation!

The week of December 20 was set aside for families to show their gratitude and appreciation for the hard work, great care, and deep commitment staff give to students day in and day out. Our Bright Beginnings and kindergarten families rose to the occasion with an outpouring of generosity. Thank you, families!



Bright Beginnings and Kindergarten families donated money for conference meals and staff appreciation gifts.

BIG WOODS ELEMENTARY

Our 4th grade students have continued to represent quality leadership by serving families in our community. Together, Big Woods students raised money and gifts through our Parent Teacher Organization. So many great people helped in making our annual holiday garage sale a huge success. These events represent a tremendous outpouring of support to our community.



FIELDSTONE ELEMENTARY

Fieldstone is excited to announce a new 4th grade student council! Our goal is to inspire others to better our student body, school, and community. We will build better connections and work together to solve issues with determination and hard work. We will create projects that will contribute to our school community. Amy Nelson, planning room para, is the advisor.



ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY

During the winter months, our students enjoy recess in the snow by making forts, playing on the snow hill, making snowmen, and other fun snow activities. Last year, we added sledding as another option for students to have fun in the snow. Each class gets to sled on a rotating basis during recess. Thank you to the STME PTO for donating the sleds to our school!



Here is a 2nd grade class enjoying the sleds during recess.



HIGH SCHOOL

The second trimester is underway and we value the relationships that we are able to develop with our students being in school. Our staff continues to diligently provide engaging content that prepares our students as scholars while encouraging their growth as individuals of character and perspective. We are proud of our students and staff as they continue to navigate the challenges this school year with commitment and appreciation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

West 7th grader Frankie E. outspelled 22 students from East and West to win the STMA District Spelling Bee on January 13. West 5th grader Thomas A. finished second. East 7th grader Ayah L. and 8th grader Ethan J. finished third and fourth, respectively. All four spellers will continue to the Regional Spelling Bee on February 8! We are so proud of all our spellers for carrying on the STMA tradition of excellence!



KNIGHTS ACADEMY

Before Winter Break, the Knights Academy Student Council had an advisory competition (we also included the Wings Program) to collect canned goods for the Hanover Food Shelf. We collected over 300 items for the food shelf. We couldn't be prouder of our school!



MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

Our 7th grade students got the opportunity to participate in our annual Courage Retreat, where they worked with Youth Frontiers to put into practice lessons about integrity, acts of courage, and how their actions impact those around them. Through large and small groups, fun activities, and leader interviews, they learned what it means to live courageously!



STMA IS HIRING!

Our employees make a difference in the lives of students every day!

We have open positions in multiple departments including paraprofessionals, food service, substitutes, and maintenance. Open Positions to Spotlight:

Float Substitute Teacher

- \$165/day
- 8 hours/day, 5 days/week
- Positions open across buildings and grade levels

Float Substitute Paraprofessional

- Working with students with individualized education programs to make an impact everyday
- 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
- Positions open across buildings and grade levels

Check out all of our open positions on our website at www.stma.k12.mn.us under the Employment tab.

Need help completing an application?

Call **763-497-6532** for assistance or to set up an in-person appointment to walk through the application process.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Ali Weimer Hannah Kvant Owen VanDeRiet



STMA Football finishes fourth in 6A State Semifinals.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country team for winning the Section 8AAA Championship. The girls went on to finish 4th at the State Meet at St. Olaf. Great job, girls and coaches!

FALL MUSICAL

The fall musical, *Matilda*, was performed November 18-21 at the STMA PAC. The Spotlight Education program honored STMA's production with an Achievement in Musical Theater. The directors, cast, and crew will perform a medley at the Orpheum in June.

FOOTBALL

The STMA Football team finished an outstanding season with a loss in the 6A State Semifinals at US Bank Stadium. Congratulations to

the players and coaches on the great season.

HOMECOMING

Homecoming was held the week of October 4-9. The Student Council and NHS did an outstanding job planning events for the week including the dance Saturday night that saw well over 1100 students in attendance. Homecoming 2022 will be the week of September 26.

EXCEL AWARD

Juniors **Hannah Kvant** and **Owen VanDeRiet** recently were chosen as this year's ExCEL award winners from STMA. The ExCEL award is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, show leadership qualities, and work voluntarily in their community.

ACADEMICS, ARTS, AND ATHLETICS (AAA) AWARD

Seniors **Ellie Breuer** and **Kazmer Beaudry** were this year's AAA Award winners for STMA High School. These students were chosen for being involved in both the arts and athletics in high school while displaying excellence in the classroom.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Current schedules as well as streaming and ticketing information can be found at: <https://www.lakeconference.org/>. Streaming is primarily through the NFHS Network. There is a fee of \$10.99 per month or \$69.99 per year.

ONLINE TICKETING

STMA will continue with online ticketing for our home activities this year. Tickets for all events can be found at the

following link:

<https://bit.ly/3fUDMgk>

or scanning this QR Code. We will still have a cash option for the winter.



SENIOR CITIZENS

Any St. Michael or Albertville residents who are age 65 and over can pick up a free yearly activity pass by stopping in the Activities Office or the District Office at Middle School West during school hours. Please bring proof of residency.

APPAREL

The STMA Community has many great local options for STMA Apparel, including the STMA High School Store. Another option is the 24/7 online store through BSN. Visit stmaknights.com for more information.



Don's Bus Service - Driver Positions Available

STMA partners with Don's Bus Service to provide exceptional transportation services for our students. Don's Bus is currently looking for drivers! Please contact **Bob Loeffler**, Manager of Operations, at **763-497-2585** or bobloeffler@embarqmail.com for more information.

STAFF NEWS

We would like to recognize the contributions that our school nurses and health paraprofessionals are making to the health and learning of our district's 6600+ students. We are very proud of our health services team! Each day they go above and beyond to serve the needs of students all across the district.

School nurses serve as a critical health hub for students, ensuring that students are ready for learning by managing complex chronic conditions, identifying and

addressing mental health issues, promoting healthy behaviors, connecting families to healthcare providers, handling medical emergencies... and now, navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic by screening, tracking, and supporting students and school personnel. They work in close partnership with our wonderful health paraprofessionals, who demonstrate each day that they put students first, treating each student with care and respect.

We recognize and honor our school nurses and health

paraprofessionals who put themselves on the front line and make a difference in the lives of our students every day!

They have faced unprecedented challenges and endured them with admirable grace. They've shown up each day,

persevered, and have been there for our students. We are very grateful for their grit, professionalism, great care, compassion, hard work, and deep dedication to our students.

Kudos on a job VERY well done!



Pictured above from L to R are our outstanding school nurses: Andrea Anderson, Lindy Legatt, Andrea Mischke, and Teesha Lindenfelser.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

CHILDREN UNDER FIVE IN YOUR HOME?

Join ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) for classes, events, playtimes, and connections. Whether you are new to the area or new to parenting, ECFE is for you! Child and adult-centered activities daily in our classes specifically designed for parenting young children. Weekly 90 minute classes include purposeful play, engaging social activities, exploration of arts and crafts, gym time, and parent time. Most classes are mixed-age, but we also have specialized infant and preschool classes. Free sibling care is included. Try a class for free! Contact **Jane Helgestad** at janeh@mystma.org

INSTRUCTORS WANTED!

Community Ed is searching for instructors who want to share their skills with children or adults. Any age or skill level welcome, no prerequisite to teaching needed. Do you have a passion for crafts, cooking, music, organization, or more? We welcome creative ideas and energetic people. We'll work with your schedule to develop a class, course, or on-line offering. Contact **Maryellen** at maryellenb@mystma.org to get started.

STMA DOME

The STMA Dome is up and running at the high school athletic stadium! We were excited to welcome everyone back into our spaces to a full rental schedule. The Dome will be open to children ages 6 and under on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15-9:30am for play under the big bubble! This is an open play opportunity and parents are expected to stay with their children. \$2 per child or \$5 family.



ECFE is at the library every Tuesday morning!



We are back in action at the Dome!

PLAN FOR A BUSY SUMMER

Community Ed is dreaming of warmer weather and starting to plan our summer schedule. Look for old favorites like t-ball and swimming lessons, along with new classes for all ages. Watch for arts, music, STEM, and more activities to fill your calendars. The summer brochure will be out in early spring.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Our Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language classes are back in full swing. We have morning and evening opportunities to accommodate all learners, and all of our classes are FREE to attend. No pre-registration required.

Thinking about a GED? Contact **Maryellen** at maryellenb@mystma.org.

PEACHJAR, THE ELECTRONIC BACKPACK

Our district uses the electronic flyer communication tool called PEACHJAR. To view school-approved digital flyers, simply click the Peachjar button on your school's website homepage. This "green" initiative will save our schools paper and reduce copy costs. If you have any issues, please contact us at 763-497-6550.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Individual, family, and student memberships are available for purchase at the High School Activity Center. The Activity Center has basketball courts, baseball/softball cages, a fitness center, and an indoor walking/running track for the public to use.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Children ages three to five are eligible for early childhood screening through the STMA district. Each child is required to participate in screening prior to kindergarten (or have completed paperwork for exemption). Appointments consist of hearing and vision, health overview, child developmental check, and time for parents to ask questions. Appointments are available monthly. Email ecscreening@mystma.org for more information.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS HIRING!

Kids Play is hiring for our before/after school childcare program and the Activity Center is hiring evening and weekend supervisors. If interested, please visit the school district website to apply under the employment tab.



WE ARE HIRING!

Visit the
Employment tab at
stma.k12.mn.us



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #885
11343 50TH STREET NE, ALBERTVILLE MN 55301
763-497-6500

WWW.STMA.K12.MN.US

Carrier Rt. Pre-Sort
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage / PAID
St. Michael, MN
55376
Permit No. 5

FOLLOW US!

