



ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

KNIGHT VIEW

DISTRICT NEWS

Possible Operating Referendum November 2021

STMA is facing a perfect financial storm, but not one of its own making. The pandemic has produced an unforeseeable combination of multiple short-term and long-term budget impacts that lie outside of the District's control.

Fortunately, the District started the pandemic in solid financial condition, but even the most prudent of fiscal planning could not have anticipated these impacts and its effects on students, families, and school staff.

Why is an Operating Referendum being Considered?

Enrollment drives our funding formula. There has been a significant decrease in student enrollment in FY2021 largely due to the pandemic resulting in a revenue loss of \$2.5 million. Further, stabilizing long-term student enrollment results in less revenue than previous years. Per a recent demographic study, the District projects steady but minimal enrollment growth through 2026. Enrollment is the central driver in revenue for the District.

The pandemic created significant and unforeseen expenses. These expenses include, but are not limited to, PPE, cleaning supplies, substitute staff, unemployment costs, technology, and more.

COVID-19 created unexpected disruptions in school revenue. Loss of reliable revenue streams have temporarily halted including student activity fees, facility rentals, Community Education class revenue, gate receipts, food services meals, and more.

The state funding formula continues to work against STMA students and families. We know you have heard us repeat the fact that we are ranked last in the state in per pupil revenue (330/330). However, we can't stress enough how the state funding formula adversely impacts our students, staff, and families.

STMA will be evaluating an operating levy for November 2021. STMA does more with less every day. We have one of the strongest statewide track records of minimizing

overall taxes and maximizing opportunities and experiences we offer to our students, but the pandemic has created the need for more certainty about future local revenue.

STMA is one of the few districts that does not have a voter approved operating referendum. Districts we compare ourselves to all have an additional per pupil voter approved operating referendum. For example, PER PUPIL, Hopkins has \$1,824, Wayzata and Minnetonka \$1,780, Eden Prairie \$1,592, Elk River \$1,217, Buffalo \$750, and Monticello \$523. STMA has \$0.

What is the Bottom Line?

Looking forward, there are hard choices in front of us that none of us predicted or wanted. We need to act now to sustain excellence and set the pathway to a promising future for all STMA students and families.

For 2021-2022, the district will be taking necessary steps to reduce expenses while making every possible effort to minimize disruptions to students, activities, and programming. These cuts will be painful and result in some increased class sizes. However, these are cuts that we must make until we have more certainty about future revenue and know whether taxpayers will approve a projected operating levy in the fall if approved by the school board.

In making recent budget reductions, we have purposely chosen to put students first and not to reduce activity programming or extracurricular opportunities for students during this budget cycle.

As we move forward and emerge out of this pandemic, we remain confident as a school district that we will be able to continue our strong tradition of excellence, remain a great investment for taxpayers, and continue to be one of the best school districts in Minnesota. Together, we will get through this as a community rooted in our strong tradition of excellence. We are STMA strong.



ANN-MARIE FOUCAULT
Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

ALBERTVILLE PRIMARY

Fundraiser is a Huge Success!

This year's APEX fundraiser raised approximately \$25,000 for our school. This money goes directly to classrooms and students during the current school year. Items include an ADA playground swing, a yearbook for every student, last 26 Days of School activities, and much more. Thank you, families, for your generous support!



A second ADA student-accessible swing will be purchased for the Albertville Primary playground.

FIELDSTONE ELEMENTARY

Battle of the Books

Fieldstone 3rd grade students recently completed a "Battle of the Books" competition. The students read 12 books. The competition consists of teams of four students answering rounds of questions and testing their knowledge of the books they have read. Congratulations to the 1st place winners, The Knights, from Mrs. Hackett's class!



Students at Middle School East enjoying Spring Week.

BIG WOODS ELEMENTARY

Community Outreach

We are so proud of our students at Big Woods. Our students collected a grand total of 4,220 items for the Hanover Food Shelf. These items will support many families in our community. This is the largest number ever raised!

ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY

During the month of February, STME celebrated "I Love To Read Month". There were a number of fun activities students had the opportunity to participate in including: Mystery Books, Sweet 16 Book Challenge, Reading Give You Wings, Dress Up Days, and One School-One Book. This year's book was *Ranger In Time* and was read at the three elementary schools across the district.

Each day students had the opportunity to answer a *Ranger In Time* trivia question.



Here Jase was the day's trivia winner.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Students at Middle School East have recently enjoyed celebrating Spring Week by dressing up on school spirit day and participating in a variety of activities. 7th grade students and science teachers enjoyed learning the art of making maple syrup by tapping our school forest trees in the Big Woods Forest. Such a wonderful asset to our school community!



4th Grade Student Leaders at Big Woods Elementary loading all 4,220 items for the Hanover Food Shelf.



An example of Project Based Learning (PBL) in a Knights Academy Food Chemistry class.

KNIGHTS' ACADEMY

Project Based Learning

PBL has been a staple part of the curriculum at the ALP. Students work on a project over an extended period of time. This engages them in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question. Students develop critical thinking skills, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills. PBL unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.

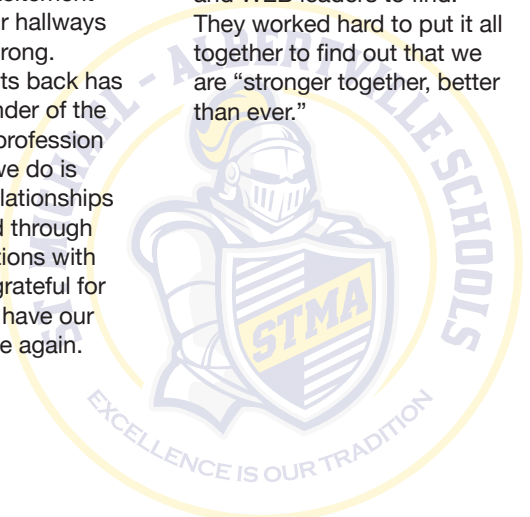
HIGH SCHOOL

The energy and excitement has returned to our hallways and optimism is strong. Having our students back has been a great reminder of the privilege that this profession is. The work that we do is grounded in the relationships that are developed through intentional interactions with students. We are grateful for the opportunity to have our hallways filled once again.



MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

Linda & Larry the leprechauns had a message for Middle School West that appeared one letter at a time on shamrocks around the building for the WEB students and WEB leaders to find. They worked hard to put it all together to find out that we are "stronger together, better than ever."



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Wrestling Team State Runner-up



MSHSL AA Diving Champion, Tyler Barrett



ONE-ACT PLAY

The One-Act Play, *Back Cover*, was one of only two shows to be awarded a starred performance at the MSHSL State One-Act Play Festival. Outstanding “virtual” show put together by our students and directors.

SPEECH

The STMA Speech Team finished 2nd overall in Section 5AA. STMA had seven individuals qualify for the MSHSL State Speech Tournament which was held virtually on April 23. Congrats to all!

AAA AWARD

Senior **Abbylee Maeder** was selected as the Region 5AA Female recipient for the AAA (Athletics, Arts, and Academics) Award. She was recognized with 15 other students in Class AA on March 22 by the MSHSL. Great work, Abbylee.

SPRING ACTIVITIES

All spring sports started in either late March or early April. Students were excited to get started after missing the entire 2020 Spring Season.

WRESTLING STATE CHAMP

Junior **Cole Becker** won the AAA State Championship at 138 pounds on March 25 at STMA High School. Cole finished a great season with a record of 41-1! Congrats, Cole.

WRESTLING

The Wrestling team completed an outstanding 2020-2021 season finishing 2nd in the State. The Knights qualified seven individuals resulting in seven wrestlers being named All-State. Great work, coaches and wrestlers.

STMA HOSTS STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

STMA High School was host to the MSHSL State Wrestling Tournament March 25-27. The STMA Wrestling community volunteered many hours to help this event happen as well as work from many school employees. Many compliments from all those in attendance.

MINNESOTA SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

STMA students again performed



DIVING STATE CHAMP

Senior **Tyler Barrett** won the MSHSL AA Diving Championship on March 18 at the University of Minnesota Aquatics Center. Tyler had a score of 399.1 to become State Champ. Congrats, Tyler!

CROSS COUNTRY

Congrats to Boys Cross Country coach **Gregg Greeno** who is stepping down after 16 years as head coach. The program saw tremendous growth under his leadership. Congrats, Coach Greeno!

STAFF NEWS

“Thank you all teachers for teaching all the kids because it is important!”

- Oscar Rodriguez Lozano
Fieldstone Elementary

“My teachers make school fun by thinking of fun ways to learn. I love art and music too. I love making new friends at school. Thank you, teachers, for everything you do that is kind.”

- Nadine Johnson
Albertville Primary

“I appreciate all of the staff because they are loving and supportive to all students. Also, I am happy we are in school because distance learning is hard and we can't get the help we get in school.”

- Nadia Ross
St. Michael Elementary

“I am thankful this year for my teachers because they help me a lot when they teach me math and when I'm doing my homework. They are really nice and make it easy to ask for help.”

- Ryan Enga
Middle School West

“Thank you for teaching us. Thank you for letting us stay in school. At school I get to see my friends and teachers.”

- Rose Meehan
Big Woods Elementary

“Thank you to the staff at STMA who take time everyday to inspire and educate the students and community around them. This school wouldn't be the same without you.”

- Sydney Rogers
High School



“I personally would like to thank all of the amazing staff here at Knights' Academy for the splendid work they have done. The staff at Knights' Academy have done an amazing job in creating an efficient learning environment and being a welcome place to be at, with much more one on one learning. From the bottom of my heart I would like to say thank you to the Knights' Academy staff.”

- Justice Vollmer
Knights' Academy

“Hello, teachers! We are so thankful for all you've done for us this year. This year hasn't been easy on any of us and we would just like to say thank you for all you've done to help us learn and stay in school. I think I can speak for everybody when I say online learning is much harder than being in person with you all. Thank you so much for all the hard work you have done to keep us in school!”

- Becca Odland
Middle School East

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

WE ARE PLANNING FOR A FULL SUMMER OF FUN!

We have been hard at work in Community Education getting ready for a full summer of enrichment classes, swimming lessons, and sports. Be sure to check out our brochure that arrived in your mailboxes or go to our website at www.stma.ce.eleyo.com to see all of our class offerings. We will continue to follow all COVID-19 guidance and adjust as the summer progresses. Come join us and take advantage of a classic summer in STMA Community Education!

SWIMMING LESSONS

We have our full array of swimming lessons on the schedule for this summer! We have specialized Parent/Tot and Dolphins classes for kids 5 and under and our Red Cross Level 1-6 classes with many different options to meet your busy family's needs. Get your kids back into the pool this summer! If you have any questions, please call our Aquatics Coordinator, Tom, at 763-497-2655 ext 3554.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT CLASSES

From paint labs, battle drones, babysitting, to clay camp, we have something for everyone! Help them develop a new interest or meet some new friends, all while having a blast. We expanded our STEM offerings, added a new youth Generation Pound class, and are introducing our new Chinese classes! Check out our Youth Enrichment section of the brochure, pages 22-31, for our full class listings.



Congratulations to our winter Adult Volleyball league Power division champs, the Ridiculous Six!

YOUTH SPORTS

Stay active this summer! We have basketball, volleyball, football, tennis, and much more to offer. We also have our full Golden Knight Gymnastics season that will begin in May. We are also introducing the Summer Running Club for middle school athletes! If you have a little one, we have our evening t-ball program and a daytime outdoor games class to keep them active and engaged.

ECFE OFFERINGS

ECFE doesn't stop in the summertime! We have a variety of fun classes for your littlest ones this season. For example, our Monday Funday series in June has a class each Monday with a fun new theme, like Princesses and Pirates, Diggin' Dinos, and more. Join us for one at \$10 a class, or all four for \$35. ECFE is also hosting a June Jamboree! Each Tuesday morning, we will be traveling to a new park in the city to do some crafts, play some music, and read books. If you are new to the area, this is a great opportunity to learn your way around to all the parks and learn about your new city. Go to pages 19-20 of our brochure for more information or online at www.stma.ce.eleyo.com.

ADULT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Did 2020 leave you feeling dull or uninspired in your workout routine? This is a perfect opportunity to try something new. We have our popular Pound class on the schedule for the summer on Tuesday nights, our much beloved Aqua Aerobics classes Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings, or our family friendly Activity Center memberships at the high school to choose from!

PARENT/CHILD CLASSES

Are you looking for some quality one on one time with your child this summer? Sign up for a parent/child class to have some fun and make great memories together. Highlighted this summer are our ever-popular Cake Decorating Wars class, a create your own Garden Stepping Stones class, and Rock Painting. These classes usually fill quickly, so don't delay!

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION CLASSES (ABE)

ABE helps adult learners who want to acquire or improve their math, reading, or writing skills. Some learners might need to brush up on their skills before taking the GED test. Others are learning information for the first time in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program. No need to register.

Basic Skills & GED:

Thursdays 6:30-9:00pm
Community Ed Room 305

ESL:

Classes are online until the fall.
Call 763-497-6550 ext 1 for information



Parachute time during ECFE makes class so colorful!



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