



# ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

# KNIGHT VIEW

## STMA Levy Vote Scheduled for November 2

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

### WHY NOW?

Due to the pandemic, STMA is facing a perfect financial storm. Fortunately, STMA started the pandemic in solid financial condition, but even the most prudent of fiscal planning could not have anticipated these impacts and their effects on students, families, and staff.

- **The state funding formula continues to work against STMA students and families.** STMA remains the lowest funded district in per pupil revenue due to an unfair funding formula and is ranked 330 out of 330 school districts in the state.
- **Enrollment drives the funding formula.** There was a significant decrease in student enrollment in FY2021 due to the pandemic. Further, stabilizing long-term student enrollment results in less revenue than previous years.
- **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 revenue.** Loss of reliable revenue streams were temporarily halted including student activity fees, facility rentals, food service meals, and more.
- **STMA made significant budget reductions.** In response to the sharp decrease in enrollment and loss of revenue streams, STMA cut \$6 million--over 70 staff in total--all in one year. This means class sizes this year will be 27-36 in grades K-4 and 33-42 in grades 5-12.
- **Looking forward, future budget projections are bleak.** With past massive multi-year budget cuts and additional projected budget deficits, additional cuts will mean fewer opportunities for students.

We need local taxpayer help to get beyond the pandemic and maintain essential programming. 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 a sustainable source of local revenue.

### WHAT ABOUT PRIOR VOTES?

STMA has only brought forward two voting issues in the last 10 years. In 2017, the bond vote was for buildings and facilities and could not be used for operating costs. The last levy vote was in 2011. It is helpful to remember that bond referenda are for buildings and levy referenda are for learning or paying for operating costs such as staff salaries.

### WHAT WOULD THE TAX IMPACT BE?

\$1195 per student = \$59/month\*

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

### WHAT WOULD THE MONEY BE USED FOR?

This levy would fund essential functions throughout the district such as maintaining our teachers and support staff. Approval of a levy would allow us to return class sizes to previous levels and maintain our course and activity offerings in academics, arts, and activities.

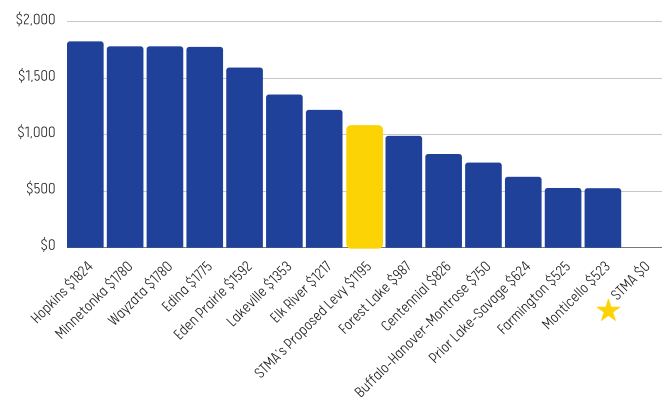
### WHAT MAY HAPPEN WITHOUT A LEVY?

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

\*These are potential reductions. The school board has not made a decision at this time.

### WHAT ABOUT OTHER DISTRICTS?

STMA does not currently have a voter approved levy. The proposed amount would only place us in the middle of comparable and neighboring districts in levy revenue.



### HOW WOULD A LEVY BENEFIT TAXPAYERS?



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

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

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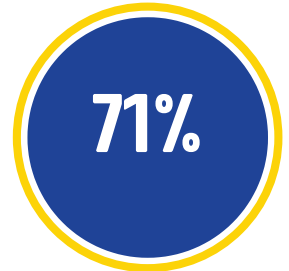


# LEVY 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

SCAN FOR  
MORE LEVY  
INFORMATION



Revenue loss and extra costs due to the pandemic.



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



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



STMA ranks lowest in the state in per-pupil funding



Photo: Tim Bykowski Photography



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

LEARN MORE!



[STMAlevy@mystma.org](mailto:STMAlevy@mystma.org)

## PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

September 21 7:00 PM  
MW Auditorium

October 13 7:00 AM  
MW Auditorium

October 14 7:00 PM  
HS PAC



[stma.k12.mn.us/levy](http://stma.k12.mn.us/levy)

# SCHOOL NEWS

## ALBERTVILLE PRIMARY

### A New Year!

Welcome to kindergarten and preschool at Albertville Primary. This fall we welcomed a near record number of kindergarten students. Higher class sizes this year means finding new ways to deliver a high quality education for all students. Our preschool classes are a “buzz” with new students. Welcome!



A view of a kindergarten classroom before the students arrive.

## FIELDSTONE ELEMENTARY

### Awesome Community Support

Our fabulous Fieldstone Elementary PTO purchased a new swing for our playground last spring. The students were so excited to have a new swing! It's going to be used a lot by many, many children in the years to come. Thanks PTO for supporting our school and community!



## BIG WOODS ELEMENTARY

We want to celebrate all the years of transforming young Big Woods students into STMA Knight graduates. Even with our challenges of having high class sizes this coming year, we want to continue with excellence.

## ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY

The 2021-2022 school year has started with excitement and optimism. St. Michael Elementary welcomed 546 students through the doors on the first day of school, up 58 students from last year. Despite having classrooms

with more students than in previous years, our staff and students are settling in and working hard to establish routines and create an atmosphere conducive to learning.



Here is one of our 1st grade classrooms with flexible seating options for students to allow for movement.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Middle School East will be welcoming 68 new students and nine district teachers from the elementary and high school buildings. It was great to have so many of the new students participate in the new student orientation! With fewer sections at each grade level class sizes will be larger than what we have experienced.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

We're so proud of how our staff and students continue to adapt and creatively approach adversity when faced with the unique challenges presented to them. We're preparing this year to adjust to larger class sizes, fewer staff, and an enrollment count that's working its way back up. Together, we know we will make it a great year despite the difficulties we're working with.

## HIGH SCHOOL

The start to the new school year is drawing near and our theme is **reuknight**. We are excited to **reuknight** with our students and families as we continue our commitment to providing an excellent education and excellent opportunities. We look forward to our continued partnership in your student's education as we all **reuknight** with what makes STMA High School a special place.



2021 High school graduates visit their gradeschool, Big Woods Elementary.



High School Graduation 2021.



Back in action at Middle School East.



## KNIGHTS' ACADEMY

Thank you, ALP families, for the support shown this past school year. We had successes and some challenges but continued to work together to ensure the safety and educational needs of students. This year the ALP celebrates 20 years of being a program and I would like to thank our current and former students and staff who have made a huge difference to this program's success.



**WE ARE HIRING!**

Visit the  
Employment tab  
at [stma.k12.mn.us](http://stma.k12.mn.us)

**NEW!**

## STMA ONLINE

We are excited to introduce a new school to our district called STMA Online. This is a flexible learning solution that offers interactive courses to students in grades K-12. As our distance learning option, courses are delivered using online platforms available to students 24/7. No matter where you attend school - all students in MN can take advantage of STMA Online.

**REGISTER FOR  
STMA ONLINE**

For more information or to register, check out our website:  
[www.stma.k12.mn.us](http://www.stma.k12.mn.us)

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

All of the staff at STMA Community Education welcome you back to school! For our full listing of our fall offerings, go to [www.stma.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.stma.ce.eleyo.com) or look for our brochure coming to your mailboxes.

## YOUTH OFFERINGS

Our youth programming is expanding even more this fall! We are introducing our all new Bowling League for kids in grades 1-6. This Saturday league will teach you the skills and techniques of bowling and will end with a tournament involving other metro area schools for a day of friendly competition. If you are looking for a fun place to learn a new skill, this league is for you! We are also offering a variety of online and virtual classes again for those who enjoyed and utilized this format over the past year. We have a wide range of technology-based classes that will keep your child asking for more.

## ADULT OFFERINGS

Did this past year leave you feeling exhausted or mentally worn out? We are introducing a variety of new classes centered around mindfulness and self-exploration this year. Instructor **Sarah Nelson** will be leading classes to help you connect to your life and slow down to appreciate everything around you. Check out page 19 of our brochure! Yoga with Nicole is back! We are offering many options to attend her in-person classes this fall, including a session right after work.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS HIRING!

Have you always wanted to work in your own community? Now is your chance! Kids Play is hiring for our before/after school childcare program and the Activity Center is hiring for weekend supervisors. If you are interested, please visit the school district website ([www.stma.k12.mn.us](http://www.stma.k12.mn.us)) to apply under the employment tab.

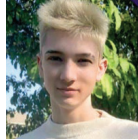


## FOLLOW US!



## NATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

2021 STMA Graduate **Cobin Szymanski** was named the 2021 National Speech and Debate Student of the Year this past June. Congrats to Cobin and good luck as an STMA Alumni!



## FALL ACTIVITIES

Fall Sports began on August 16 with over 600 students registered to participate. Students in the Fall Musical, Debate, and Adaptive Activities began early in September. It is great to have so many students in activities!

## 3 STATE CHAMPIONS IN TRACK & FIELD

STMA hosted the MSHSL State Track & Field meet in June and crowned 3 state champions in the process. Junior **Ali Weimer** in 1600, Junior **Olivia Peal** in the Long Jump and the relay team of **Aaliyah Heine, Olivia Peal, Raina Simat, and Gabby Keefer** in the 4 X 100 relay.



Girls' Track State Champions.



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Adaptive Bowling State Champions.

## ADAPTIVE BOWLING STATE CHAMPS

Juniors **Brock Apold** and **Nick Hoefener** were the Adaptive Bowling State Champions in the CI Doubles portion of the State Adaptive Bowling Tournament. Congrats Brock and Nick and we are excited to have you back this year!

## ONLINE TICKETING

STMA will continue with online ticketing for our home activities this year. Tickets for all events can be found at <https://bit.ly/3Bv689E> or by scanning the QR Code. We will still have a cash option for the fall and maybe throughout the year.



## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

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

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