



ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

KNIGHT VIEW

DISTRICT NEWS

Engaging Families and the Community in the Decision Making Process

The mission of STMA Schools 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 citizen. 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.

To live our mission and achieve our vision, STMA Schools strives to cultivate family and community connections and engage stakeholders in the decision making process. Family and community engagement is essential to the success of our students and is a key component of our deep tradition of excellence.

We welcome and encourage parents and community members to be involved, informed, and exercise an active voice in the education of our students and the operations of the school district. We believe in a collaborative approach and value transparency and stakeholder feedback.

Below are the many advisory teams stakeholders can join to get involved in the decision making process.

- American Indian Parent Advisory Committee
- Parent Calendar Advisory Team
- Community Education Advisory Council
- Activities Advisory Committee
- District Advisory Committee Curriculum
- Facilities Advisory Team
- Finance Advisory Committee
- Legislative Action Team
- Parent Advisory Council [each building has one]
- Superintendent Engagement and Advisory Team
- Policy Review Committee
- Special Education Advisory Council

Please visit the Opportunities for Engagement page on the district website for additional information including advisory focus, meeting frequency, facilitator name and contact information, and more.

We invite and encourage families and community members to engage in the decision making process by serving on our school and district advisory councils. To express interest in serving on any of our 19 councils, complete the STMA Interest Indicator by scanning the QR code.



We remain committed to our strong tradition of excellence in academics, activities, arts, and athletics. Parent and community feedback, input, and ideas will guide us in making sound and informed decisions that put students first. Be part of the conversation by sharing your knowledge and skills with us. Together, our collective wisdom creates a better tomorrow for our students, our community, and all humankind.

STMA Operating Levy

We would like to thank the community for taking the time to learn about our district and most importantly for voting in the recent election. While the operating levy did not pass, we want to reassure you that we remain deeply committed to our students, staff, families, and community. In the coming days and months, we will work collaboratively with staff and community partners to recommend budget adjustments to our school board. We are grateful for the continued support of our stakeholders and look forward to strengthening our partnership.

School Board Election

Congratulations to Tim Lewis, Carol Steffens, and Travis Weber for being elected to the STMA School Board. We look forward to partnering with them as we work to educate the whole student, with excellence in academics, arts, activities, and athletics through the empowerment of a world-class staff.

Thank you to School Board Member Larry Sorensen for his service to STMA School Board! Mr. Sorensen served on the board from 2018-2022 and did not run in this recent election. We commend him for his deep dedication to students and his strong commitment to staff. We are grateful for his hard work, advocacy, and most of all, for always putting students first.

#knightspride



ANN-MARIE FOUCAULT
Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

ALBERTVILLE PRIMARY

Albertville Primary-Parents of Primaries (POPS) Meeting: A place for your voice to be heard!

Albertville Primary hosts 4 P.O.P.S. meetings a year. While phone calls and emails are always welcome, this is an opportunity for the principal to connect directly with families. At these meetings, families hear about upcoming events, but more importantly give valuable feedback and input directly to the principal. Please consider attending one of our upcoming meetings.



BIG WOODS ELEMENTARY

Big Woods has an incredible group of parents who support our events and activities throughout the school year. Our October Harvest Parties could not take place without our PTO members and our dozens of selfless parents. Thank you for putting students first.



FIELDSTONE ELEMENTARY

Fieldstone is Growing "Little Knights"

Fieldstone students and staff focused on creating a kind, positive, and respectful school this fall. The students individually created a picture of being kind and together we created a large mural! "The Knight Way is the Right Way" is our daily motto!



ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY

St. Michael Elementary Giving Tree

Each year, St. Michael Elementary collects items to be donated to our Giving Tree, which then are taken to the Hanover Food Shelf. These items included new, unwrapped children's clothing of any kind and toys. This year, St. Michael Elementary families donated 191 items for local children and families in need. Thank you to our families who donated!



MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Middle School East students, families, and staff participated in an activity inspired by ME student Anni S! She has been an incredibly positive leader who has actively worked to create a more positive attitude by all! We are incredibly grateful for the many amazing student leaders at our school!



STMA ONLINE

STMA Online, a K-12 state approved online program, started its second full year of operations this year. This year is highlighted by recently getting NCAA Approval.

For more information or to register go to: www.stma.k12.mn.us/Domain/4668

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

Middle School West students and staff attended a presentation called #ICANHELP with **Kim Carr** to explore what it looks like to implement digital responsibility. Students made commitments to get off their phones earlier at night, post kind things, and encourage their friends as a result. It was an inspiring look at the power of technology to work for us and how it can be used in healthy, positive ways.



KNIGHTS ACADEMY

Knights Academy Student Council recently organized a food drive for the month of November. KA students and staff donated over 260 items that will be given to the Hanover Area Food Shelf. Way to go, Knights Academy!



HIGH SCHOOL

Our second trimester has started and 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 the way our students have responded to our reset of expectations in promoting a positive learning environment.



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.



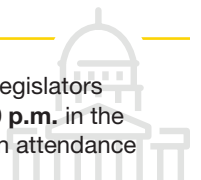
SENIOR CITIZENS

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.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

JANUARY 24 • 7:00 P.M.

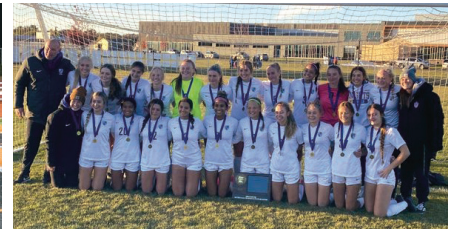
Join us on **January 24** to advocate directly with legislators for equitable school funding! The forum is at **7:00 p.m.** in the **High School PAC**. Numerous legislators will be in attendance to listen to **school funding concerns**.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Section 8AAA Boys Soccer Champions



Section 8AAA Girls Soccer Champions

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country team for coming in 2nd in Section 8AAA. The girls went on to finish 6th at the State Meet at St. Olaf. Great job girls and coaches!



FALL MUSICAL

The fall musical, *Tuck Everlasting*, was performed November 10-13 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.

BOYS SOCCER

The STMA Boys Soccer team defeated Moorhead 1-0 in the Section 8AAA Championship. The boys advanced to the state tournament for the 1st time in program history. Congratulations players and coaches!

GIRLS SOCCER

The STMA Girls Soccer team defeated Sartell 2-0 in the Section 8AAA Championship. The girls lost 2-1 to Rosemount, the eventual State Champion. Outstanding work players and coaches!

SWIM & DIVE STATE CHAMPION

STMA Sophomore **Lily VanHeel** was the State Champion in the 100 Backstroke for Class AA. She finished the race in an impressive 53.9 seconds which is the 6th fastest time all-time in Minnesota. Congrats Lily!



HOMECOMING

Homecoming was held the week of September 26 - October 1. The Student Council and NHS did an outstanding job planning events for the week including the dance Saturday night that saw well over 1200 students in attendance.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Current schedules as well as streaming and ticketing information can be found at: www.lakeconference.org. Streaming is primarily through the NFHS Network. There is a fee of \$11.99 per month or \$79.99 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 the QR Code to the right. We will still have a cash option.



STAFF NEWS

STMA Staff Members Recognized with Excellence Awards

Each year, Resource Training & Solutions, a service cooperative that STMA is a part of, hosts two awards nights for their member districts. These awards are especially meaningful as all recipients are nominated and chosen by their peers. This provides an amazing opportunity for STMA staff to acknowledge excellence in our schools. Criteria for consideration includes positive leadership, thorough knowledge of job responsibilities and a desire to improve personally and professionally, respect and concern shown for others, and striving to make a difference every day in the lives of students, staff, and their community.

Four deserving certified staff members were honored at the 31st Annual Leadership and Educational Excellence Awards (LEEA) in St. Cloud on November 2, 2022 for their dedication and passion for STMA schools. The recipients include **Jodee Butkowski**, Language Arts Teacher at the High School; **Melissa Miller**, Special Education Teacher at Middle School East; **Marsha Rhodes**, Dean of Students at Fieldstone Elementary; and **Nicole Miller**, Dean of Students at Big Woods Elementary. These staff members recognize students as individuals and motivate them to reach their maximum potential by showing genuine respect and concern for all. They continuously seek to improve personal and instructional effectiveness through continuing education



LEEA Award Winners

and staff development activities.

At the Educational Support Staff Recognition Event in St. Cloud on November 16, 2022 four exceptional support staff members were recognized for their commitment to STMA schools. The recipients include **Lori Saltamachio**, Special Education Paraprofessional at Big Woods Elementary; **Stacey Patyk**, Special Education Paraprofessional at Fieldstone Elementary; **Joan Ege**, Special Education Paraprofessional at Middle School East; and **Jeff Blake**,



ESS Award Winners

Lead District-Wide Groundskeeper. Together, these fantastic staff members have more than 50 years of experience helping and supporting our students in and out of the classroom!

All of these award winners live out our mission of providing a safe educational environment where students are encouraged to develop lifelong learning skills that nurture positive attitudes and self-worth. Congratulations to all honorees and thank you for all you do to make St. Michael-Albertville Schools the pride of our community!

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. To try a class for free, contact **Jane Helgestad** at janeh@mystma.org.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

We are looking for community members to join the Community Education Advisory Council. Help us continue to offer quality programming. We meet four times a year. If interested please email **Maryellen Barthel** at maryellenb@mystma.org.

INSTRUCTORS WANTED!

Do you have a passion for technology, cooking, music, or other talents? Community Education is in need of your talents to share with children or adults. Any age or skill level welcome, no prerequisite to teaching needed. We welcome creative ideas and energetic people. Teach a class after school or in the evening. Contact **Brandii Thomas** at Brandii@mystma.org.

STMA DOME

The STMA Dome is up and running at the high school athletic stadium. For rental

information, please contact **Sarah Hansen** at **763-497-6554** or sarahh@mystma.org.

PLAN FOR A BUSY SUMMER

Community Education 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.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Adults over 62 years old can walk for FREE on the upper track at the Activity Center. Individual and family memberships are available for purchase at the High School Activity Center. The Activity Center has 8 courts, baseball/softball cages, a fitness center, and an indoor walking track. Memberships are available online at stmaactivitycenter.recdesk.com or at the Activity Center Office. For information, contact the Activity Center at **763-497-6541**.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Children ages three to five are eligible for early childhood screening through



Dress up fun in ECFE's Baby and Me class!

the STMA school district. Each child is required to participate in screening prior to kindergarten or complete paperwork for an exemption. Appointments consist of hearing and vision checks, health overview, child developmental check and time for parents to ask questions. Appointments are available monthly. For more information email ecscreening@mystma.org.

PEACHJAR, THE ELECTRONIC BACKPACK

Our school district uses the electronic flyer communication tool called PEACHJAR. To view school-approved digital flyers, simply click the Peachjar button on your child's school website homepage. This "green" initiative will save our schools paper and reduce copy costs. If you have any questions please contact us at **763-497-6550 ext 7**.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS HIRING!

Kids Play is hiring for our 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.



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

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