



# ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

# KNIGHT VIEW

## DISTRICT NEWS

### STATE OF THE DISTRICT

We remain STMA strong! I am very proud of our resilient students, extraordinary staff, supportive families, and generous community. Your teamwork and support has enabled STMA to stay focused on what is best for students and families while our longstanding tradition of excellence remains alive and well!

### ENROLLMENT IS DRIVING CHANGES

The most important source of revenue for STMA is student enrollment. After nearly a decade of record enrollment growth, district enrollment has leveled out in the last two years, while actual enrollment numbers temporarily decreased by 146 students this year due to the pandemic.

### STMA PREPARING TO WEATHER A PERFECT STORM

The pandemic has produced a perfect storm of unpredictable budget events that require careful planning this spring to help minimize any impacts on students. 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.

However, looking forward, the District now faces multiple short-term and long-term impacts largely outside of its control.

### SHORT-TERM BUDGET IMPACTS

- 1. Declining enrollment. For example, the loss of 146 students this year will result in a loss of almost \$1M in revenue.
- 2. Unexpected expenses. A significant increase in costs related to the pandemic such as PPE, cleaning supplies, substitute staff, unemployment costs, technology, and more.
- 3. Revenue impacts. The pandemic has wreaked havoc on our healthy fund balances as reliable revenue streams have temporarily halted including student activity fees, facility rentals, Community Education class revenue, gate receipts, food service meals, and more.

### LONG-TERM BUDGET IMPACTS

- 1. State funding formula is unfair to STMA students. We remain the lowest funded district in per pupil revenue (330 out of 330) in the state.

- 2. State budget challenges likely means less overall state revenue. We are anticipating little or no increase in state aid for the next biennium.
- 3. Long-term enrollment will stabilize. Per our fall 2020 demographic study, we project steady but little enrollment growth through 2024.

As you can see, the COVID-19-related budget impacts on the District’s bottom line are quite significant. This unexpected event combined with leveling enrollment requires the district to strategically plan for the future.

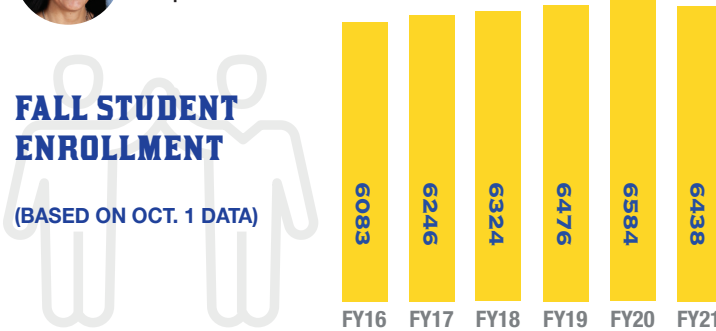
As we look ahead, STMA will work collaboratively with all of our stakeholders to examine various options for creating a sustainable and balanced budget that aligns with our core values and retains our commitment to excellence. These values include putting students first, maintaining a world-class staff, and minimizing impacts on taxpayers.



**ANN-MARIE FOUCAULT**  
Superintendent

### FALL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

(BASED ON OCT. 1 DATA)



### SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- 10.96%** Special Education
- 8.42%** Free & Reduced lunch
- 1.68%** English Language Learner

- 77%** Elementary students met the reading benchmark this fall
- 73%** Elementary students met the math benchmark this fall
- 20.5** Average composite score for the Pre-ACT (19.9 in 2019)
- 70.4%** Students who took the PSAT met both the math and reading benchmarks

# SCHOOL NEWS

## ALBERTVILLE PRIMARY

At Albertville Primary we believe that students need a well-rounded educational experience. While Reading and Math are fundamental, we also include weekly opportunities for students to extend their capabilities and knowledge-base by participating in physical education, music, art, and computer. Excellence Starts Here!



A view of kindergarten students participating in phy-ed and art.

## BIG WOODS ELEMENTARY

Our 4th grade students have continued to represent quality leadership around the school. Each morning, student leaders coordinate and lead the BUZZ, our live announcements. Our student leaders show a tremendous amount of independence and trust. This year, our 4th grade classes participated in a giving service project. It brought deep joy for 4th grade families to buy, wrap, and give gifts to families in our community.



Mrs. Westom was a team leader in the 4th Grade Service Project.

## FIELDSTONE ELEMENTARY Cozy Up Winter Collection

Our students and families partnered with our High School National Honor Society to support the Hanover Food Shelf with a winter clothing collection. Our families donated hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets.

Thank you, Fieldstone families, for supporting our community!



## KNIGHTS ACADEMY

Each We have a tradition at Knights Academy of giving a weekly award to students called Student of the Week. The staff pick a student for this award based on our Six for Success. A student must display a positive attitude, show responsibility, respect and effort, and have good attendance and behavior, in order to qualify to receive this award.

## ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY

St. Michael Elementary collected food shelf items during the month of December. Overall, 3,062 items were donated to the Hanover Food Shelf. Thank you to all the families who donated. We never imagined we would have received so many items. Each grade level achieved over 500 items, so students received a hat day and two students from each grade pied Mr. Lahr in the face!



This is load 1 of 2 to the Hanover Food Shelf. We appreciate the generosity of our families.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

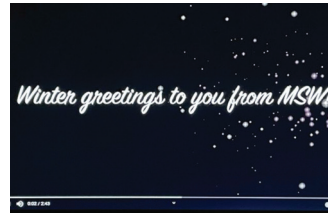
Winter Greetings from STMA Middle School West. We hope you are enjoying the snow! Thank you for your support from home as we teach and learn in several different models this school year. Check out this link for an example of how our co-curricular choirs, Bella Musica and the Troubadours,



We have had seven Students of the Week at Knights Academy, six are pictured above: Damaris Egan, Weldon DeRocher, Mac McCalister, Bella Muhammad, Ashlee Grotberg, Austin Nelson.

are singing and sharing a message of hope virtually:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ydggluv>



Our select choir programs, led by Mrs. Grafstrom and Mrs. Penserga at STMA Middle School West, share a message to all.

## HIGH SCHOOL

The second trimester is underway and we miss the energy of students in our building. Our staff continues to be innovative in their approach to engaging our learners in the distance learning model. We are fortunate to have an incredible student body that is willing to adapt to new conditions and move forward with patience and understanding. Thanks, students - we miss you.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Middle School East enjoyed reaching out during a 46 vehicle drive by parade recently to greet students and families, spread holiday cheer, and celebrate a successful first trimester of school! We are extremely appreciative of the amazing support and high level of engagement our students and families consistently demonstrate with our school!



# STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Luke Johnson Abbylee Maeder Caden Nordberg Sydney Rogers



Girls Cross Country Team Section 5AA Champions

## ACADEMICS, ARTS, AND ATHLETICS (AAA) AWARD

Seniors **Abbylee Maeder** and **Luke Johnson** were this year's AAA Award winners for STMA High School. These two students were chosen for being involved in both the Arts and Athletics in high school while displaying excellence in the classroom.

## 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](http://stmaknights.com) for more information.

## NATIONAL DEBATE

Congratulations to STMA Senior **Cobin Szymanski** who qualified for the National Debate Tournament this summer. **Raelyn Hastings** and **Alexander Boltz** were selected as alternates as STMA took 2nd as a team. At the time of this writing, Cobin was ranked 16th in the Nation in Lincoln Debate.

## STATE DEBATE

STMA junior **Trinity Hanif** competed in the State Debate Tournament January 15 and 16. The entire debate season took place virtually this year. Congratulations, Trinity, on an outstanding season!

## ELIGIBILITY MEETINGS

The fall and winter eligibility meetings were done virtually through slides and information sent via email and posted online. Look for future emails from the STMA Activities Department with information regarding Spring Activities in the coming weeks.

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We continue to work towards offering all of our activities for the 2020-2021 school year. This means some activities will compete virtually, some in person, and some having both as an option. We still encourage our students to get involved! #knightspride

## EXCEL AWARD

Juniors **Sydney Rogers** and **Caden Nordberg** recently were this year's ExCEL award winners for STMA. The ExCEL award is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, who show leadership qualities, and who work voluntarily in their community.

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country team for winning the Section 5AA Championship. There was no state tournament this year so this was the last meet of the season. Great job, girls and coaches!

# STAFF NEWS

## STMA STAFF AND SUBSTITUTES COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN 2020

Congratulations to our 2020 Educational Support Staff Award recipients! These individuals were nominated by their peers and named recipients in conjunction with Resource Training and Solutions, a service cooperative that STMA is a part of.

Schools across Resource's central Minnesota region named award candidates based on multiple criteria that includes being a positive role model for students, staff, and the community. Each award recipient is an exemplary staff member who demonstrates genuine respect for others, seeks to improve personally and professionally, and makes a difference in the lives of students, staff, and their community.

This year's STMA award recipients were honored at a

virtual ceremony on November 18! Congratulations to Niki Hunter [CE], Jody Johanson [FE], and Jackie Stellmach [BW].

Thank you for all you do to make STMA an excellent school district!



## Substitutes make all the difference in 2020-21

We want to thank our substitutes who have played an important role in allowing STMA to provide in-person instruction during this school year. So far, over 50 individuals have served as substitute teachers in our buildings, including over 25 who committed to 60 day or extended substitute teaching assignments since the start of

the year. Substitutes in all job groups enable STMA to follow important safety protocols and continue in-person instruction.

Thank you for making such a positive difference! We want to spotlight just a few of STMA's extraordinary substitutes this year.

### Teachers

**Ryan Pederson** has yet to miss a day this school year. He brings positive energy to each class he teaches, and is always willing to help out at any building, in any position needed. Thank you, Ryan!

### Food Service

**Kathy Iblings** is a remarkable substitute for food service willing to go to any site and help out where needed. Thank you, Kathy!

### Maintenance

This year has required more custodial duties than ever before. **Justine Christopherson, Kevin Lesniak, Danny Reemts,** and **Todd Norton** are exceptional subs who have stepped up when needed and made our

schools more safe. Thank you, Justine, Kevin, Danny, and Todd!

### Support Staff

**Anthony Tindall** has been subbing as a paraprofessional almost everyday this school year providing important support for our students and staff. Thank you, Anthony!

## STMA Is Hiring and Needs Substitutes!

Do you want flexible employment, to earn some extra cash, and to make a difference in the lives of students and our community? We have substitute openings in all job classifications, including teachers. If you have a Bachelor's degree, you may be eligible to apply for a Short-Call Substitute teacher license. You can apply for any of our open positions at <https://stma.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>. We hope to see you in our buildings soon!

Please contact Human Resources for more information at **763-497-6500**, option 5, option 3.

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## WE ARE STILL HERE!

Regardless of the current learning model, STMA Community Education continues to be open. We have developed plans and classes for everyone's comfort level. We have in-person art and ECCE classes, along with virtual cooking and STEM instruction. This winter may be the perfect time to try out that new Instant Pot you got for the holidays and sign up for a virtual pizza making class, or let your child explore the world of 3D printing in an online format. Continue to check our website, as new classes will be added all the time at [www.stma.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.stma.ce.eleyo.com). Also, sign up for our Peachjar flyers to be notified via email of classes you are interested in! Contact Heidi Dehmer to be added to the correct email list: [heidid@mystma.org](mailto:heidid@mystma.org).

We are busy planning for a full summer program as well! We are hopeful to bring back our regularly scheduled programming and to re-introduce all your summer favorites. A new year brings new opportunities, and we are excited to bring back our classic summer STMA Community Education experience.

## ECCE OFFERINGS

ECCE class sizes are smaller but just as much fun this year! We are excited to be back in person sharing our love of learning and play with our area families. Most classes are mixed-age, but we also have some specialized infant and preschool classes.

We are bringing back Dome Days! Beginning January 13, the Dome will be



Gingerbread crafts at Bright Beginnings.

open on Wednesdays from 8:15-9:30am for free play. The inflatables will not be out this year, but there will still be plenty of space for your little ones to burn off energy. The cost will be \$2 per child or \$5 max per family.

## STMA ACTIVITY CENTER

We will continue to monitor and adjust our hours and regulations in the Activity Center to align with the current government and school district guidance. Please check our website for the most current and updated information.

We have youth classes! We will have tennis, kickball, a sports sampler, and munchkin sports classes in the Activity Center. These classes are a great way to introduce new sports and to just have fun playing with other children. Call Nate for more information: 763-497-6541.

## STMA DOME

The STMA Dome is up and running for its third year out at the high school athletic stadium! We were excited to welcome everyone back into our spaces to a full rental schedule. We are renting to our many returning youth and adult athletic organizations again, as well as welcoming a few new teams and groups for the season. The dome will be available to rent through the first week in April.



Our ECCE classes are always a blast.

## HANDS-ON ADULT AND YOUTH CLASSES FOR 2021

Itching to get out of the house? Learn a new skill with us in 2021! We have a variety of beginner crochet classes, welding, and woodworking programs for all skill levels. 2021 can be a year of opportunities for you to develop a new hobby. For the kids, we have a handful of Abakadoodle Art classes, Spanish class, and karate.

## VIRTUAL CLASSES FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

Our virtual offerings have increased greatly this year. We are hosting a myriad of instant pot cooking classes, photography classes, and storytelling classes to suit your entertainment needs. If your child is interested in coding or the computer world, there are a variety of Minecraft and coding classes to sign up for, as well.

## ADULT ESL-BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS

ESL (English as a Second Language) classes are offered for free through Community Education. Classes are Monday/Wednesday mornings VIRTUALLY, or Thursday nights IN-PERSON from 6:30-8:30pm at the Community Education building. Contact us at 763-497-6550 for details and more information. Take the first step with us today!



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