

School Talk

FALL 2022

Helping high school
students answer
the question,

“What’s next?”

Also inside: Irondale Marching Knights win back-to-back state championships

Making career conn

“How do we create more Irondales across the state?”

That was the question posed by commissioner Steve Grove from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) when he and other state officials visited Irondale High School this fall. Grove and his colleagues met with students, staff and community employers to learn how Irondale, Mounds View High School and the Area Learning Center (ALC) were helping students prepare for careers in manufacturing, the trades and other sectors of the economy.

“There’s a totally different and unique job market out there today, and the idea that every student has to go off and get a four-year degree is not necessarily something we’d push forward anymore,” he said. “There are extraordinary career paths with high wage possibilities that require training that starts now in high school.”

In Mounds View Public Schools, that preparation is often provided through Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. CTE classes offer students an opportunity to explore careers, earn college credit and in some cases, complete a career and technical program before graduating from high school. Courses range from accounting to automotive to fashion design to engineering design. A partnership with 916 Career and Technical Center also allows students to leave campus and take additional courses not offered at the high schools.

More than 1,000 Irondale and Mounds View students are participating in CTE classes this fall, many of them in manufacturing and the trades.

Community partnerships also play a key role in offering students hands-on experience and exposure to career paths for high-wage, high-demand jobs. Internships are available

to students through work-based learning opportunities, which include engineering/manufacturing, business, construction trades and welding opportunities at a variety of local companies. Today, 40 community organizations are participating in partnerships bringing real-world experience to students. (See list on page 4.)



“We’ve seen what you’ve been doing to create options for students that pull the veil off of what’s available in our economy today,” said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. L-R: Mounds View High School principal Rob Reetz, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Deputy Commissioner Dr. Stephanie Burrage, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Temporary Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach, Grove and Mounds View community partnerships coordinator Mindy Handberg.

“Students bring us instant value,” says Dewey Josephson, operations manager at Johnson Screens, where there are four Irondale students currently welding at the company’s plant in New Brighton. “Within a couple of weeks to a month they’ve passed all the training and certifications for the welding, and they are able to do production welding.”

Superintendent Chris Lennox says the District’s work with community partners is designed to ensure students are having experiences that are going to prepare them for their future.

“Graduating seniors are often asked ‘What college are you going to go to?’” he says. “We’re shifting that narrative to, ‘What is it you want to be, and how can we help you on the pathway to whatever that is?’”



On the cover:

Ryan Larson, an Area Learning Center senior, takes Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes and is a welder intern at Johnson Screens in New Brighton.

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actions

You're hired!

Local businesses often give Mounds View Public Schools students their first hands-on opportunity to explore a career and discover a passion.



A custom machining and manufacturing company.

Walter Patterson, Irondale senior

At work: Metal-fab intern, inspecting and manufacturing metal fabricated parts.

In high school:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses: Students in grades 10-12 participate in CTE courses and earn credit that will be honored at some Minnesota Community Colleges.
- 916 Career & Technical Center: A partnership allows students to leave campus and take additional courses not offered at the high schools.
- Internship: Gen Z — a paid, hands-on, experiential internship program for students at four local manufacturers during the summer of 2021.



"First class when I come in, I go to welding, and I learn how to weld. There are a lot of opportunities that don't involve a four-year college. You don't have to go to a four-year college or a two-year college to get a good-paying job."



A brand of
Aqseptence Group

A manufacturer of stainless steel and PVC well screens.

Ryan Larson, Area Learning Center senior

At work:

- Welder intern, certified by Johnson Screens to cut, grind and weld on product.

In high school:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses: Students in grades 10-12 participate in CTE courses and earn credit that will be honored at some Minnesota Community Colleges.

"I really like CTE classes. They help us get an OSHA 10 certification very soon in life, so going into the trades I have a little bit more knowledge than other kids coming in. It really opens up doors for better job opportunities."



A corporation that designs, manufactures and distributes engines, filtration and power generation products.

Rachel Deno, Mounds View '18

At work: Senior human resources generalist in the Phoenix office, leading human resources business processes.

In high school:

- SkillsUSA: A career and technical student organization focused on developing students' soft skills and technical competencies in partnership with teachers and industry professionals to create a skilled workforce.
- Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO): Students participate in college/university courses at the college/university campus.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses: Students in grades 10-12 participate in CTE courses and earn credit that will be honored at some Minnesota Community Colleges.
- Internship: Human resources talent management internship with Cummins

"SkillsUSA and CTE courses helped me develop a strong sense of direction for my future. My SkillsUSA advisor and teachers helped guide me into a career in Human Resources. During my internship with Cummins, I developed a love for the work, and I ultimately went on to pursue my bachelor's degree in HR. Without that push from my advisors and teachers, I never would have considered a career in HR."



An independent community bank serving Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

Zach Ford, Irondale '18

At work:

- BSA/Fraud Associate in the Minneapolis office, working with advanced software to identify inconsistencies leading to the early detection of fraud.

In high school:

- Early College program: Students have the opportunity to earn college credits taking classes at Irondale and Mounds View.
- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA): Students learn valuable business skills that help give them an edge when entering the business field. Additionally, students are encouraged to compete putting their skills and ideas to the test simulating real world practices.

"Irondale DECA was one of the driving factors in my decision to pursue a career in the business world. Through DECA, an opportunity arose for me to apply for a teller position at Northeast Bank in New Brighton. I have been with Northeast Bank ever since, and I continue to use my skills that I have learned to get me to the position I am in today."



Making career connections

40 community organizations are participating in partnerships with Mounds View Public Schools to bring real-world experience to students.

ACR Homes	City of Vadnais Heights	Hired	Presbyterian Homes & Services
Blaine Brothers	Construction Careers Foundation	Howmet Aerospace	Quanex
Bokers	Cummins	Johnson Screens	Ramsey County Workforce Solutions
Brausen Family Repair Centers & Arden Hills Holiday	Dalco	Kowalski's Markets	Schoonover Bodyworks & Glass
City of Arden Hills	Delkor Systems	Kraus Anderson	St. Paul Building Trades
City of Fridley	Design Ready Controls	Land O'Lakes	Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative
City of Mounds View	Empirehouse	Maplewood Toyota	Sundance Family Foundation
City of New Brighton	FedTech	Medtronic	
City of Roseville	Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest	Minnesota Building Trades Academy	
City of Shoreview		Northeast Bank	
		Parsons Electric	



Jobs & Internships

Trades Hub
Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce



What's new?

Staff: This fall, the District welcomed two new career and college coordinators: Fritz Rock at Irondale and Madison Hendrickson at Mounds View. In partnership with post-secondary planning coordinator Michael Werner and community partnerships coordinator Mindy Handberg, both are dedicated to helping students discover their post-secondary goals.

Space: Mounds View's old "paddock" space has been transformed into a dedicated location for its Career & College Center. Renovations will begin this summer at Irondale to create a modernized space for its Career & College Center.

Support: This fall, both high schools launched revamped websites that offer an easier way to navigate a variety of career and college resources and services. Check out mvpschools.org/irondalecareercollege and mvpschools.org/moundsvviewcareercollege.

The high schools' Career & College Centers are hubs where students can get help with tasks like exploring careers, completing college searches and applications, conducting job searches, finding internships, learning about financial aid and discovering how to earn college credits in high school.



Career and college coordinator Madison Hendrickson helps students write college application essays in the newly remodeled Career & College Center at Mounds View. Irondale's Career & College Center renovations will begin this summer.

2022 School Board



Diane Glasheen, Yolanda Magee, Shauna Bock, Sandra Westerman, Jonathan Weinhagen, Heidi Danielson and Jim DeMay.

Operational Plan updates

Each year, the School Board approves a series of goals and related activities on which the Superintendent and Executive Team will focus their work. This is known as the District Operational Plan (DOP). At public meetings this fall, the Board heard reports from the administration regarding the progress of the following DOP goals:

- **Expand Career and College programming**

With the opening of the Career and College Centers at both high schools, our focus continues to shift to the identification of students' personal and professional goals and interests that they wish to pursue following graduation. This shift gives students and families opportunities to utilize career and college planning tools and grade-specific exploration to answer the question, "What's next?"

- **Expand access to Early Childhood programming**

Community Education will expand the number of Preschool 3s and 4s classes and ECFE classes for 2023-24. Registration will open in February 2023. The District has converted the Early Childhood office at Pike Lake Education Center into a classroom. Community Education is also assessing parent interest in classes through advisory council meetings, community outreach events and newsletters.

- **Expand and enhance communications**

The District has created self-guided, interactive 360-degree photo tours of Irondale High School (mvpschools.org/tourirondale) and Mounds View High School (mvpschools.org/tourmoundsview). The public relations department will expand these to include the kindergarten centers, elementary schools and middle schools later this year. These features will be available online and accessible in person at the District's new Welcome Center.

Property tax decrease

Ramsey County has mailed Truth in Taxation notices in mid November. Mounds View Public Schools will discuss the budget and the final property tax levy for 2023 at a 6 p.m. focused forum scheduled before its regularly scheduled 7 p.m. Board meeting on December 6, when it will certify final property taxes. The proposed taxes for 2023 total \$60,814,628.26, which is a decrease of \$2,741,205.60, or about 4.31% decrease over the final taxes payable 2022. For more information, please visit the Budgets and Finance page at mvpschools.org.



Watch a brief video illustrating the role of the School Board in Mounds View Public Schools. Visit mvpschools.org/board.



Mounds View Schools
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Mounds View Schools Education Foundation works in collaboration with Mounds View Schools District leadership to identify programs that require funding to advance opportunities for students throughout the Mounds View District.

For more information on the Foundation visit mvsef.org.

MVSEF celebrates 10 years of Rock the School House

On Saturday, September 24, the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation hosted its annual flagship event Rock the School House — a fundraiser supporting the students in the Mounds View School District.



This year's event, our 10th, was a wonderful celebration and a testament to the MVSEF's legacy and our impact on our school community. Examples of the programs we have funded over the years include the following: Our innovative funding of the ACT exam for juniors at no cost, increasing access to school-owned music instruments, improving access to materials in STEAM labs, providing initial inventory of books and materials for the two Kindergarten Center libraries and supporting the Equity Promise Scholarship Program.

While we are still confirming the final results, we can confirm our total is commensurate with results from our most successful past Rock the School House events.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and those who participated in the evening's activities — our live and silent auctions, fund-our-mission and the beloved wine and spirits toss — MVSEF will continue to support a variety of programs enhancing opportunities for the students in our district. A special note of appreciation to all those who volunteered to ensure this milestone event ran smoothly.



MVSEF staff and volunteers cap off the evening with a group photo.

MVSEF welcomes a new director

Over the past three decades, the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation's staff and board members have worked to ensure its long term viability, while also strengthening its partnership with the District. We are appreciative of all those who have supported our efforts and would like to take this opportunity to announce new leadership for the foundation.



Jon Ruzek

Having helped build a solid foundation for the MVSEF's future, **Heather Meyer**, the current executive director, has decided to move on from her position. "Nearly 10 years ago, **Mindy Handberg** (the former MVSEF executive director) offered me the chance to promote philanthropy on

behalf of the students in our district. I have had the good fortune of working with committed board members, district and foundation staff and notably our donors to support the foundation's efforts."

The MVSEF is pleased to announce that **Jon Ruzek** assumed the leadership role of the foundation beginning in mid-October. Jon, having spent nearly 20 years in higher education administration, brings a wealth of experience that will benefit the foundation's efforts. **Erik Rasmussen**, MVSEF board president, said, "Jon's long professional history within the educational nonprofit sector is a testament to his commitment to the value of education. We are excited to welcome him to lead the MVSEF in its next chapter." Jon and his wife are residents of Shoreview and have two children who attend Mounds View Public Schools.

TEAM MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mounds View principal

In July, former Edgewood Middle School principal **Rob Reetz** succeeded Stephanie Bruggers as principal of Mounds View High School. Rob has served the District's secondary schools for the past 15 years. Prior to serving Edgewood for three years, Rob was principal of Chippewa Middle School for four years, and he led all District professional development as a professional learning specialist for two years. Rob previously spent five years as an instructional strategies facilitator and special education teacher at Irondale High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in communication from University of Minnesota – Duluth, a master's degree in special education from Augsburg College and an education specialist degree in leadership, policy and administration from University of St. Thomas.



Edgewood principal

As Rob Reetz transitioned to Mounds View High School, Edgewood Middle School associate principal **Richmond Tweh** was named principal of Edgewood. Rich began his career in business and sales. While coaching basketball in North Minneapolis, he quickly realized he wanted to have an impact on kids and his community. He began working for Minneapolis Public Schools as a teacher's assistant, which led him to complete a master's degree in educational leadership at Saint Mary's University where he also earned his K-12 principal licensure. Rich then gained experience in the St. Cloud Area School District and served as Edgewood's associate principal for two years.



Associate principal at Irondale

Kathryn (Kate) Bennett, former associate principal at Chippewa Middle School, transitioned to the associate principal position at Irondale in August. She came to Mounds View from Wayzata Public Schools, where she was a dean of students, as well as the district's summer school coordinator and a special education teacher. Kate has a bachelor's degree from Concordia University - St. Paul and a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.



Associate principal at Irondale

Lee Vang joined Irondale High School as an associate principal in July. For the last 20 years, Lee has worked in various capacities from teaching English in middle and high schools to leading staff, students and families around equity, mental health and cultural celebrations. Most recently, Lee served as the 12th-grade assistant principal at North High School in ISD622.



Associate principal at Chippewa

April Berthiaume was named interim associate principal at Chippewa Middle School in August. She has been with the District since 2001 and has served the Chippewa community for 15 years in various teaching and administrative roles. She holds a bachelor's degree in social studies education from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a master's in education from Augsburg University.



Associate principal at Edgewood

Stacey Haas joined Edgewood Middle School this summer, replacing Richmond Tweh as associate principal. Stacey started her education career as a math teacher at Park Center Senior High in Osseo, and has been in administrative roles in District 197 and St. Cloud. She has a bachelor's degree in math from Metropolitan State University, a master's degree in educational leadership from Concordia University-Saint Paul and a K-12 Principal License from Minnesota State University.



Associate principal at Highview

Nathan Johnson was recently named the associate principal at Highview Middle School after serving as an administrative intern for the last two years. Nathan began his career teaching chemistry at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, then moved to Mounds View 15 years ago as a science teacher at Edgewood. Nathan has a bachelor's of science degree in biology from North Park University, a master's of arts in teaching and an administrative degree from Hamline University.



MAKING THE GRADE

Mounds View Public Schools uses a number of assessments to measure student performance and progress.

Whether the results come from state-mandated testing, District measurement systems or national rankings, Mounds View continues to hold a place among the highest-performing school districts in the state and in the nation.



The District's Equity Promise requires that programs and services are in place to ensure that race, gender, class and disability are not predictors of students' success. The Equity Promise serves as the framework for the World's Best Workforce strategic plan which focuses on five goals for continued student improvement.

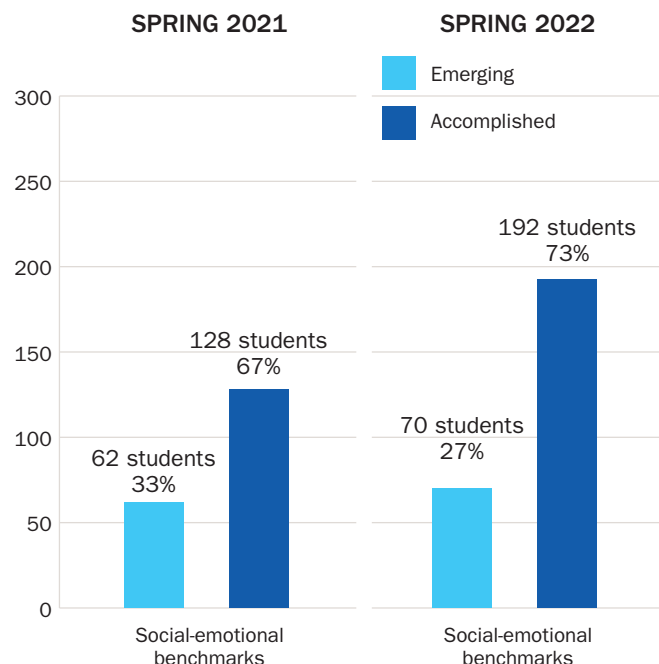
1. All students meet school-readiness goals.
2. All third-grade students achieve grade-level literacy.
3. Close achievement gaps for all student groups.
4. All students graduate from high school.
5. All students attain college and career readiness.

STUDENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRESS INDICATORS

1 All students meet school-readiness goals.

The District is in its ninth year of providing a comprehensive all-day kindergarten literacy and numeracy program. To ensure that all students are ready for school, the District focuses on outreach to families to provide programming to children as early as possible and facilitates transitions for families and students from Early Childhood programs to kindergarten. Key social-emotional benchmarks for school readiness include students' abilities to regulate emotions and behaviors, establish and sustain positive relationships and participate cooperatively and constructively in group settings.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS RESULTS



These kindergarten readiness results represent pre-kindergarten students, age four, enrolled in Mounds View Early Childhood programs.

2 All third-grade students achieve grade-level literacy.

Student performance of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment for reading provides an annual check of third-grade literacy progress. At Mounds View, 53.4% of students are proficient (meet or exceed the standards) on this exam,

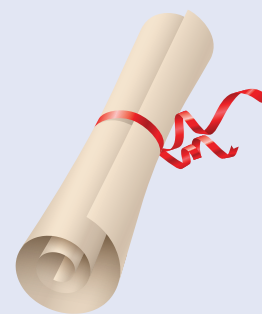


Class of 2021 summary

97% participated in college credit-earning courses.

86% earned college credits.

60% earned 1 semester or more of college credit (12 or more credits).



14 students earned an **Associate of Arts Degree** upon high school graduation.

To see data for each high school, visit mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

which is indicative of students who are on track with their development of literacy skills. During the 2021-22 school year, 98.2% of students participated in this assessment. The District's Read Well by Third Grade plan demonstrates our commitment to monitoring students' progress in the area of literacy beginning in kindergarten. The plan can be viewed at moundviewschools.org/readingwell.

3 Close achievement gaps for all student groups.

To address achievement gaps, Mounds View Public Schools believes schools must first address the gaps that exist in the aspirations students have for their future, the opportunities available to them and the expectations every family has for their school.

Aspirations gap – We support the hopes and ambitions of **each** student.

Expectations gap – We meet the expectations of **each** student and their families as they pursue college and career readiness.

Opportunity gap – We provide **each** student with access to rigorous coursework that prepares them for opportunities of their choice after high school. These are measured through student support before and during the course, student participation and student success in earning college credit.

Early College

AT IRONDALE & MOUNDS VIEW

\$4,131,750

in tuition savings (calculated based on \$250 per credit)



Cost savings for students of color:

\$1,168,000

Cost savings for students who qualify for educational benefits:

\$379,000

4 All students graduate from high school.

Students graduating from Mounds View Public Schools will be prepared to pursue higher education or to enter the workforce. The rigorous course offerings prepare students for their next step in life. While many students (72%) choose careers that require additional education, those who elect to join the workforce directly out of high school (19%) are more likely to find greater opportunities and higher earnings with a high school diploma, which is one of the foundations for success.

Progress on Graduation Rates	Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
ALL Students	97.7	96.7	97.8
White Students	98.3	97.6	98.1
Students of Color	95.2	95.4	97.7
Students receiving educational benefits	92.0	93.7	94.5
Students receiving EL services	93.2	86.0	92.3
Students receiving SE services	93.7	90.8	92.5

Reported rates are based on percentage of students who graduate in exactly 4 years + the percent of students who continue according to their Personalized Plan.

5 All students attain college and career readiness.

Thanks to a grant from the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation, Mounds View Public Schools was the first school district in the state to make sure every high school junior has a free opportunity to take the ACT on-site during the school day. This began in 2011 and ensures equal opportunity and access to the test.



To date, close to 98% of students participate in the exam, and Mounds View Public Schools students continue to exceed both the national and state test score average.

GRADUATING CLASS ACT SCORES

Class of	District	Minnesota	Nation
2020	22.8	21.3	20.6
2021	23.6	21.6	20.3
2022	21.9	21.0	19.8

Scores represent tests taken during District and national testing.

Walk for Water benefits school in Ghana

In May, Mounds View High School's H2O for Life club raised more than \$1,500 at its third annual Walk for Water. The event included a two-mile walk, yard games and Henna art. The length of the walk represents the average distance many people in Africa must travel for clean water. All proceeds went to the Tsiyinu Community School in Ghana. See additional photos at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



30th annual Music of the Knight

Irondale High School hosted its 30th annual Music of the Knight event in September. The Irondale Marching Knights hosted 11 bands from around the region, as well as an Irondale Marching Knights alumni band.



Summer band and orchestra

Students from summer band and orchestra performed finale concerts for the community in August, including a performance at Valleyfair in Shakopee. A record number of students participated in summer music programming this year, with more than 600 students participating at the elementary, middle and high school level.



Target Field performance

More than 240 fifth- and sixth-grade students from the District's summer orchestra program performed the National Anthem at a Minnesota Twins game in September. See additional photos at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Gonzalez, Star Tribune.



CEO for a day

Edgewood Middle School sixth-grader Will Bock recently had an opportunity to be CEO for the day thanks to a partnership with Junior Achievement and local construction company Mortenson, led by CEO Dan Johnson. Will was named CEO at Mortenson during a class trip to Junior Achievement's BizTown, an experiential learning lab where students become adults for a day, running a business, managing money and working as a team in a simulated economy. Read the full interview at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

Senior Sunrise

During the first week of school, Mounds View High School seniors gathered to watch the sunrise from Mustang Stadium before school. In June, they will gather again at dusk to watch the sunset on their high school experience. This annual event is organized and run by Mounds View Student Council. See more photos at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Seniors Alana Schmitzer, Sophia Mwangi, Jessie Gale, Natalie Goenner and Hope Iverson gather on the Mustang football field for the annual Senior Sunrise event.

Bands to perform at statewide convention

The Highview Middle School eighth-grade band and Mounds View High School band auditioned for and were selected to perform for the MMEA Midwinter Convention in February at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Schools from across the state audition to perform at this event, and only a select few are chosen each year. The selected groups will perform for the state's largest gathering of music educators during their annual professional development convention.



Mounds View High School band.



Highview Middle School eighth-grade band.

Canoe trip promotes interest in the outdoors

In August, 35 middle school students participated in a Community Education field trip on the Mississippi River with Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile program. The group paddled in custom 10-person canoes from Hidden Falls Regional Park and ended at Harriet Island in St. Paul. Students were able to experience the urban outdoors, working together in teams and learning about Minnesota history and wildlife along the river. Canoemobile is a program aimed at engaging thousands of underserved urban youth to foster interest in the outdoors and connect youth to educational and career opportunities in the industry.



Area Learning Center gets new library

Earlier this summer, staff at the Area Learning Center applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from We Need Diverse Books to help improve their library at the ALC. To begin the process, they asked students to submit feedback on the books they wanted to see in their library. Staff then worked with local bookstores Storied Owl Books and Black Garnet Books, minority- and woman-owned shops in the Twin Cities, to purchase shelving and dozens of books by diverse authors across multiple genres, including dystopian fiction, graphic novels and science fiction. The library features rotating student and staff recommendations, as well as student art.



Left to right: Aurora Wang, Jerry Floeder, advisor/teacher Martha Rush, Michael Wang and Matteo Meyer present at the international YES! Competition in Germany.

Econ Team competes in Germany

Four Econ Team students from Mounds View High School traveled to Germany over the summer to compete in the Young Economic Summit (YES!) competition with student teams from Britain, Germany and other countries. The international competition brings together economists, students and government officials to tackle pressing economic issues worldwide. Mounds View's team presented on workplace discrimination against migrant women, and proposed a jobs portal that would collect applicants' resume data while hiding information that could induce bias. Read economics teacher and advisor Martha Rush's blog post about the trip at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

Awareness for safe driving

After a series of recent driving accidents involving District students, high school athletes from both Irondale and Mounds View teamed up in September to bring awareness to safe driving. Players from both girls soccer teams wore special jerseys with a message on the back that read, "Drive Safe, Someone Loves You." Desiree Cremeen, head coach of the Irondale girls soccer team said, "This is a community, and we need to support each other and help each other through tragedy." To watch a WCCO news story about the initiative, visit mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Island Lake fourth-graders show their Mustang pride during homecoming spirit week.

Chalkboard Capers returns

It's back! Chalkboard Capers Variety Shows will take place from March 29–April 1, 2023. Chalkboard Capers is an annual variety show put on by the Mounds View Education Association. The show includes teachers and other educators singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and acting in skits! Join us for a fun-filled show that raises money for scholarships for our District seniors. Chalkboard Capers has raised more than \$300,000 for scholarships since its inception in 1984. More information will be shared in the spring, but add it to your calendar now!



Read important annual notices at mvpschools.org/annualnotices.

Mustang spirit at Island Lake

Island Lake Elementary School students showed their Mustang pride during Mounds View High School's homecoming week. The school had theme days each week to show their school spirit, including Decades Day and Sports Day. The week ended with a pep fest on Friday that featured visiting Mounds View football players and performance team dancers.

Walk and Roll to School Day

Island Lake Elementary School students and families participated in the annual Walk and Roll to School Day on October 12, an event that promotes walking or biking to school. Shoreview Mayor Sandy Martin, along with two City Council members, joined the festivities. "Walking is good for the kids because it calms their little bodies down and wakes their brains up," parent Ann Gentry said. "By the time they get to school, they've got some of their energy out and are ready to sit and learn for awhile."



United Nations award

Mounds View High School received the Sapphire Award from the United Nations Association for the 2021-22 school year. The award recognizes student commitment and activities in support of the United Nations' global goals. Sixty three students served more than 3,800 volunteer hours in the areas of hunger relief, sustainability, education and health.



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Master Orchestra Teacher

Recently retired orchestra teacher Jim Bartsch was awarded the Master Teacher: School Orchestra Award by the Minnesota String and Orchestra Teacher Association. The award is intended to honor educators who have made a significant contribution to string music in Minnesota. Jim served the District for 13 years at both Bel Air Elementary School and Highview Middle School. He retired after the 2021-22 school year.



Highest ACT Score

The following Mounds View High School students received a composite score of 36 during last school year's ACT administration, the highest score that can be achieved on the exam.



Sophia Huang



Linden Lee
(Class of 2022)



Mateo Nacusi



Colette Whalen



Leigha Wood

2022-23 Irondale High School All-State musicians

BAND

Emily Fatkhiyev
(senior)



CHOIR



Left to right: Seniors Miles Collins, Ada Vanderbilt, Peter Markham and Ava O'Rourke.

ORCHESTRA



Left to right: Mahay Hsiung (senior), Lydia Nau (senior), Zofia Gutierrez (junior), Phi Cu (senior) and Hannah Young (junior).

2023 National Merit Scholarship Program

14 students named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program

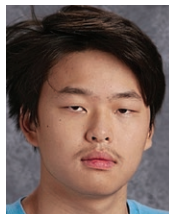
Mounds View Public Schools is proud to announce 14 semifinalists for the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. They join about 16,000 students nationally competing for scholarships in this highly competitive program. Semifinalists were selected based on their PSAT scores and other indicators of high achievement. Finalists will be announced in February.



Gillian Anderson
Mounds View



Gwendolyn Brandt
Mounds View



Anlei Chen
Mounds View



Bria Farmer
Mounds View



Taylor Isabel
Mounds View



Linden Lee
Mounds View
(class of 2022)



Claire Li
Mounds View



Iris Ren
Mounds View



Aurora Wang
Mounds View



Henry Wang
Mounds View



Justin Wang
Mounds View



Colette Whalen
Mounds View



Emily Zhao
Mounds View



Steven Zhou
Mounds View

Commended students

Ian Buerge, Mounds View

Henry Cahoon, Mounds View

Barbara Danku, Irondale

Puna Ekka, Irondale

Monica Gadela, Mounds View

Sophia Huang, Mounds View

Tara Martin, Mounds View

Mateo Nacusi, Mounds View

Lucia Nitti, Mounds View

Samuel Notch, Mounds View

Jack Ohmann, Mounds View

Shaurya Sehgal, Mounds View

Emma Sun, Mounds View

Lily Thai, Irondale

Arnou Thammarak, Irondale

Skylar Weirens, Mounds View

Leigha Wood, Mounds View

Band director inducted into Hall of Fame

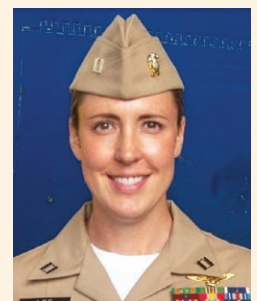
Mounds View High School band director **Bill Sucha** was inducted into the Youth In Music Hall of Fame in October during the 18th annual Youth In Music state marching band championships. Sucha has served the District's music programs for more than 25 years at both Irondale and Mounds View high schools.



ALUMNI UPDATE

First female Blue Angels pilot

Lieutenant **Amanda Lee**, an Irondale High School alumna, has been named the first female demonstration pilot in the 76-year history of the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, better known as the Blue Angels. LT Amanda Lee will serve as a demonstration pilot for the 2023 air show season.





IRONDALE

Back-to-back state champions!

For the second year in a row, the Irondale Marching Knights were named the Minnesota Class AAA Marching Band State Champions at the Youth in Music Grand Championships at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

They also received the YIMMY award for Outstanding Drum Major. The Marching Knights advanced to the open class finals competition that evening, where they placed sixth overall and were the third highest-scoring Minnesota band. The Youth in Music Grand Championships is one of the premier competitions in the upper midwest and features 35 bands from five states.

Irondale's 2022 Program is titled *Overthinker* and features the music of Mozart, INZO, the Pixies and the Beatles. Watch the full performance at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

The marching band is made up of students in grades 7-12 from Irondale High School, Mounds View High School, Chippewa Middle School, Edgewood Middle School, Highview Middle School and St. Anthony High School.



Irondale Knights on
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For the most up-to-date news, visit
the Activities and Athletics website at
www.moundsviewschools.org/irondale.

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Get your tickets online

Ticket sales for all home athletic contests are now online. Purchases can be made on a smartphone, tablet or computer. Learn more and purchase tickets online or download the Hometown Ticket app here: mvpschools.org/tickets.



Football

After a successful regular season, Irondale football defeated Park Center 21-0 in the section quarterfinals. *Photo courtesy of David White Photography.*



ALL UPDATES CURRENT
AT THE TIME OF PRINTING
IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

Irondale baseball names head coach

Irondale is excited to welcome a new head baseball coach for Knights baseball, **Jason Foss**.



Volleyball

The Knights varsity girls volleyball ended the season with a record number of wins, finishing with 21 wins and nine losses overall. They won the section 4AAAA quarterfinals match against North St. Paul in three sets before falling to Roseville 1-3 in the section semifinals. Senior captains **Peyton Howie**, **Raiah Mandell** and **Brooklyn Oliver** led the 2022 team.



Fall dance team

The Irondale fall dance team hosted their second annual showcase earlier this month. The showcase featured fall dance teams from Prior Lake and Apple Valley. All three school teams showcased their season dance and a senior dedication ceremony. The event also included a clinic for children in the community to learn a dance with the team, including new dance skills and a performance at the end of the clinic.



MOUNDS VIEW

ALL UPDATES CURRENT
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Girls soccer

The girls soccer team was named the Section 5AAAA Champions, and won against first-ranked Wayzata in a shoot out during the state quarterfinals. During the state tournament semifinal game at U.S. Bank Stadium in November, they fell to Edina 1-0, going on to take third place overall after a win over Stillwater.



The girls soccer team celebrates on the field after winning against first-ranked Wayzata in a shoot out during the quarterfinals. Photo courtesy of Ann Nash.

Girls tennis

The girls tennis team won the section AAAA title for the fifth time in a row this fall, defeating Roseville 6-1. The team advanced to the state tournament for the 22nd time in school history. Senior **Katerina Smiricinski** (singles) and doubles team **Amanda Diao** (senior) and **Avery Schifsky** (sophomore) went on to compete in the state tournament.



Mountain biking team

The Mounds View – Irondale Mountain Bike Team participated in the state finale race in Chisholm this fall. More than 65 athletes on the team competed with more than 2,500 middle and high school student athletes from more than 100 schools in the state.



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Boys cross country

Boys cross country won their sixth consecutive section title. Senior **Elliott McArthur** was named the conference individual champion, while all seven Mustang runners placed in the top 15 overall. They went on to compete at the state tournament in November.



Baseball awards

Mounds View alumnus **Blake Guerin** (2022) was named a finalist for the 2022 Play Ball! Minnesota Mr. Baseball award in June. He was also named the *Star Tribune's* East Metro Baseball Player of the Year. In his last season at Mounds View, he set school records with nine home runs and 37 RBI's. Guerin now plays baseball at the University of Iowa.



Girls cross country

Girls cross country won the section title, and went on to compete at the state tournament in November. **Linnea Ousdigian** (eighth grade) won an individual section title with a time of 18:29. **Taylor Isabel** (senior) came in a close second with 18:33.



Football

Mounds View won 17-7 against second-seeded Champlin Park in the first playoff game after trailing 7-0 at halftime. As of this printing, they were gearing up to play Shakopee in round two of the section playoffs. Playoffs continue through November.



NO CAPE REQUIRED.



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