


School Talk

SUMMER 2022

Public perceptions



What do
residents
think of our
schools?

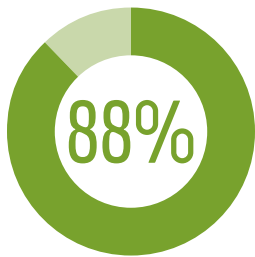
Also inside: Commencement 2022 • Student honors

How do **residents** feel about

Last spring, a national survey research firm spoke to hundreds of randomly selected residents about issues facing the District and the job performance of its staff. Here's what residents said.

**Insights provided by the Morris Leatherman Company, survey research firm.*

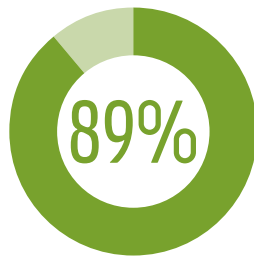
Quality



88% rate the quality of education as “excellent” or “good.”

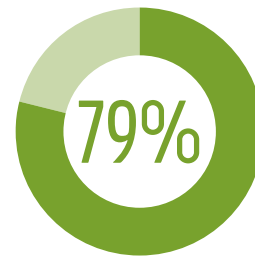
- * *Mounds View is among the top three districts to receive this level of enthusiasm for quality of education.*
- * *More than 50% responded “excellent.” The state norm for the excellent rating is 12%.*

Value



89% believe the community receives a good value from its investment in our schools.

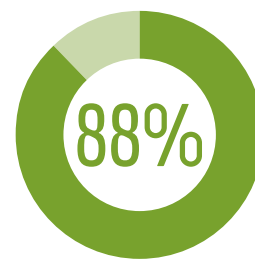
Trust



79% trust the School Board and administration to do what is best for children.

- * *In fall 2020, the state norm was 50%.*
- * *Today, the state norm for trust is 70%.*

Pride



88% are proud of our schools and would recommend them to friends.



On the cover:

Fifth-graders Shirine Abdillahi, Hadassah Alarcon Olivar and Sophia Hammond collaborate on a project in Mrs. Harsch's class at Sunnyside Elementary School last May.

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School Talk is published by Mounds View Public Schools, Independent School District 621. Send correspondence to School Talk editor, 4570 Victoria St. N., Shoreview, MN 55126 or email schooltalk@moundsvIEWSchools.org.

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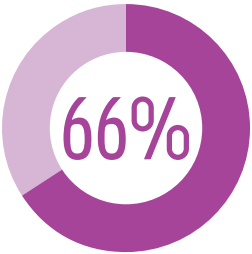
Visit us:



MVPschools.org

Mounds View Public Schools?

Approval



School Board
66% rate the School Board's job performance as "excellent" or "good."

* This represents 4-to-1 approval, compared to the 2-to-1 approval state norm.

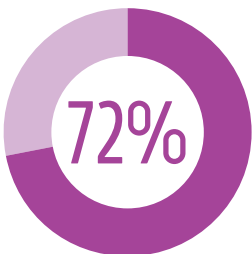


Administration
63% rate the administration's job performance as "excellent" or "good."

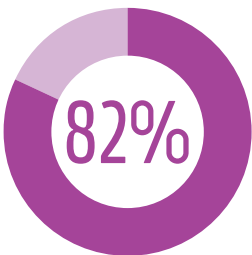
* This represents 6-to-1 approval, compared to the 3-to-1 approval state norm.



"Good communication" was the top reason residents provided for their rating.



Principals
72% rate the principals' job performance as "excellent" or "good."



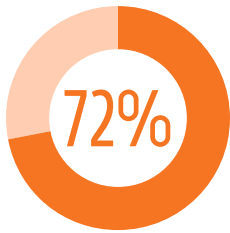
Teachers
82% rate the teachers' job performance as "excellent" or "good."

*These job performance ratings are within the top 10% in the metro area.



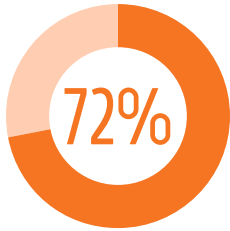
How do **parents** feel about

Approval



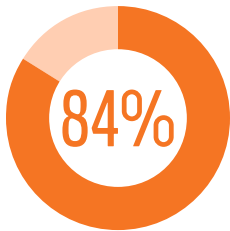
School Board

72% rate the School Board's job performance as "excellent" or "good."



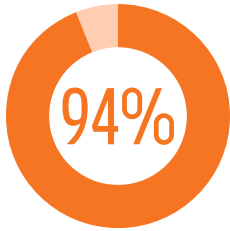
Administration

72% rate the administration's job performance as "excellent" or "good."



Principals

84% rate the principals' job performance as "excellent" or "good."



Teachers

94% rate the teachers' job performance as "excellent" or "good."



The closer people are to direct interaction with staff, the higher the approval rating.

"Whatever has happened during the pandemic years, Mounds View's residents are right back to feeling as enthusiastic about the District as they were before. The public opinion in most school districts has not rebounded this well."

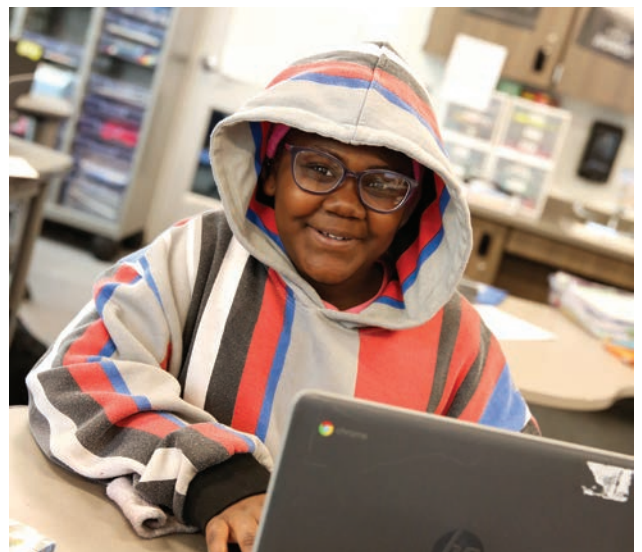
— Peter Leatherman, CEO of the Morris-Leatherman Company, survey research firm

What are the main reasons you send your child to Mounds View Public Schools?

- 1** Dedicated/talented teachers
- 2** First-class education at affordable costs
- 3** Tradition of high academic achievement

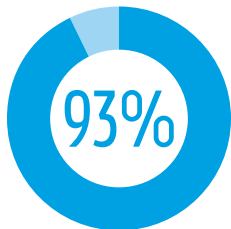
About the survey

Telephone interviews conducted by Morris Leatherman Company, survey research firm, March 28 – April 8, 2022. 400 random sample of residents (+/- 5%). 300 random sample of parents (+/- 5.8%).



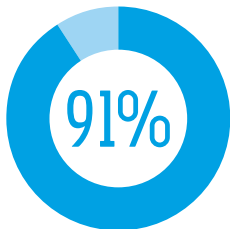
Mounds View Public Schools?

Serving all students



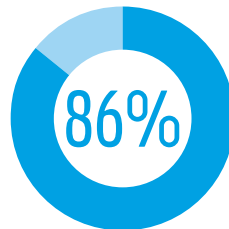
93% believe the District is meeting the learning needs of all the students.

Communication



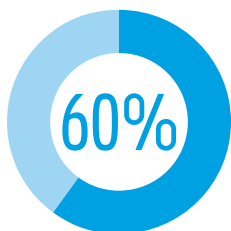
91% believe the District does a good job communicating issues and decisions to families.

Decision-making



86% are satisfied with the District's decision-making.

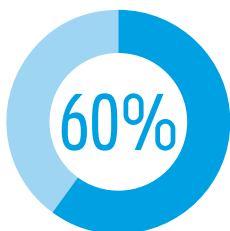
Equity Promise



60% believe the District is achieving its Equity Promise.

* 30% uncertainty indicates an area for improvement.

Student support



60% believe the District's student wellness efforts are adequate.

* 30% uncertainty indicates an area for improvement.



It's a Rockin' Celebration!

ROCK the SCHOOLHOUSE

Sept. 24, 2022

Earle Brown Center | 6 to 11 pm

SCAN ME



**A fundraiser that benefits
the students of Mounds
View Public Schools.**

Gather your friends and join us for
this special 10-Year celebration!



MOUNDS VIEW SCHOOLS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2022 School Board



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

2022-23 and 2023-24 school calendars

The Board revised the 2022-23 school year calendar previously approved in February 2021. The new calendar does not contain any additional non-school days. However, the revised calendar now reflects non-school days for the following observances:

- Monday, September 26:
Rosh Hashanah
- Monday, October 10:
Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Friday, April 21: Eid

The revised calendar contains no other significant changes to traditional breaks including MEA break, Thanksgiving break, winter break and spring break. The Board also approved the 2023-24 school year calendar. Calendars are available at mvpschools.org/calendars.

Comments to the Board

In January, the Board created a new opportunity for the public to address the Board prior to meetings. Comments to the Board begins at 6:30 p.m. before every regular School Board meeting at the District Center, 4570 Victoria Street N., Shoreview. Learn more at mvpschools.org/board.

Budget approved

In June, the Board approved the 2022-23 District budget. Complete details can be found on the Budgets and Finance page at mvpschools.org. The adopted budget will maintain stable class sizes and current programming, and it will allow the District to continue its commitment to the Pre K-14 plan for all students.

Operational Plan

Each year, the School Board approves a series of goals and related activities on which the Superintendent and Cabinet will focus their work. This is known as the District Operational Plan (DOP). Priority goals for 2022-23 include:

- Review, update and refresh the District's Health, Safety and Security Plans. This will focus on the four phases of emergency management.
 - Mitigation
 - Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recovery
- Complete a comprehensive housing and enrollment study.



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

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES & MOVES

Associate principal at Pinewood

Cory Wade joined the Pinewood Elementary School team as an associate principal in July. As a teacher and dean in Bloomington Public Schools for 14 years, Cory has experience teaching first, second and third grade. In 2019, he was a finalist for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year award.



Coordinator at REACH Academy and CLT-Twin Lakes

Megan Ness Legrand has been named the new coordinator of REACH/ REACH Transition and the Career and Life Transition program-Twin Lakes. Megan previously served as the dean of students at REACH—a special education program that provides educational and social/emotional services for students in grades 8 - 11 from Mounds View Public Schools. CLT provides transition services to students with special needs between 18-21 years of age.



Associate principal at Sunnyside

Andrea Johnson joined the Sunnyside Elementary School team as an associate principal in July. Andrea has served Mounds View Public Schools for 16 years as a curriculum and instruction coordinator, classroom teacher, intervention teacher, instructional support facilitator and as a middle school literacy coach.



Early childhood coordinator

Barb Schochenmaier has been named the new coordinator for the early childhood program after serving as the interim coordinator for the 2021-22 school year. She has more than seven years of experience in the District, having served as a literacy coach at multiple elementary buildings for four years and as a dean at Pike Lake Education Center for two years. Prior to joining the District, she taught intervention and several grades in kindergarten through eighth grade.



Irondale principal

Carol Kampa announced her retirement after a 36-year career in education.



Vichai Saefong succeeds Kampa as principal at Irondale High School. Most recently serving as an associate principal at Irondale, he has prior experience in the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school district,

where he served as an assistant principal, and in Saint Paul Public Schools.



Associate principal at Valentine Hills

La Tonya Cruthird joined the Valentine Hills Elementary School team as an associate principal in July. With more than 20 years of experience in education, La Tonya has worked as a principal, assistant principal and a teacher in California and Elk River, Minn.



District Art Show

Students from across the District had the opportunity to show off their artwork this spring at the District Art Show. The event showcased art from artists ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade, with 15 works of art included from each school. Sketches, paintings and sculptures were among the types of art on display throughout one week in May in Irondale High School's newly renovated common area.



Third-grader Geordi Weinand poses with his artwork at the District art show in May.



Fourth-grader Kiana Fondevilla with her art teacher, Michaela Maupin.

Mounds View celebrates diversity during Spirit Week

While planning for this spring's Spirit Week at Mounds View High School, students decided to add a new themed day this year to coincide with Black History Month. On the newly added Culture and Heritage Day, students were encouraged to wear traditional garments that represented their unique backgrounds. More than 60 students participated in the event.



Students display their traditional cultural garments during Spirit Week at Mounds View High School.

Arbor Day celebration

The City of New Brighton partnered with Bel Air Elementary School to celebrate Arbor Day this spring. Fifth-grade students in Ms. Parnell's class walked to Hansen Park in New Brighton and learned about the importance of trees in the ecosystem before working together to plant 10 trees.



Bel Air students move West

This spring, fifth-graders at Bel Air Elementary School participated in a simulation of the 19th century westward expansion of the United States. Students used role-playing to learn how events such as the gold rush and the Trail of Tears affected groups such as Native Americans, African Americans, women and settlers. In this unique unit, students "moved West" in a covered wagon. They learned to work in teams, plan ahead, consider their supply chain and manage a budget while also learning about important events in U.S. history.



Bel Air Elementary School fifth-graders Saveena Azad and Paige Simones manage a bank during their unit on the 19th century western expansion in the United States.

Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Edgewood Middle School and Irondale High School students teamed up in April for a Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. A portable pool was set up in the Edgewood parking lot and about 80 students and staff took a dive into the chilly water. In all, the participants raised more than \$10,000 for Special Olympics with some of the money going back to the Unified Club at Edgewood. The Unified Club includes students with and without



Students from Edgewood Middle School and Irondale High School teamed up to raise money for the Special Olympics through a Polar Plunge event in April.

disabilities working on after-school projects together with the goal of increasing empathy and inclusion. The event was organized by Stephanie Hurtado, a life skills teacher at Edgewood. Watch KARE 11's news story about this event at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

Target Field performance

In April, fourth- and fifth-graders from Pinewood Elementary School continued a long-held tradition when they traveled to Target Field and sang the National Anthem at a Twins game. More than 35 students from Pinewood's Performing Arts Club participated in this event, which was Pinewood's first Target Field performance since 2019.



Pinewood Elementary students wait to enter the field area to sing the National Anthem at a Twins Game in April.

Spring performances

The Mounds View High School Theater Department performed its spring musical, "Shrek," in April.

Irondale Drama performed its spring musical, "She Kills Monsters," in April. The cast and crew received the Outstanding Overall Production award presented by the Hennepin Theatre Trust. See more photos at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Chamber orchestra at the Capitol

Highview Middle School chamber orchestra students performed at the State Capitol building and had the opportunity to meet Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan and state Senator Mary Kunesch.



ALUMNI UPDATE

Mounds View alum receives Fulbright

Mounds View High School alumna Fisher Chu (class of 2018) was awarded a Fulbright grant to study and teach abroad for the next school year. Chu graduated from the University of Minnesota in December with a degree in elementary education. She plans to teach elementary school in South Korea. Her prior teaching experience includes teaching English in France and Taiwan, as well as adult education in Minneapolis Public Schools. The Fulbright Program was created and funded by Congress in 1946 to promote international goodwill through the exchange of students and scholars in all areas of education, culture and science.



Fourth annual PowWow

The District hosted its fourth annual PowWow in April at Highview Middle School after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The event was free and open to the public, and featured music, dance, an honoring of students and seniors, as well as a feast. Connect with the American Indian Education program at facebook.com/AmericanIndianEducationMVPS.



Mindfulness through drumming

Career and Life Transition (CLT) students learned about mindful awareness through African hand drumming thanks to a grant from the Twin Cities Opera Guild. Throughout an eight-session course presented by the M2 Foundation, students learned to play traditional African rhythms on authentic instruments while practicing patience, focus and the collaborative skills of listening and accommodating others. They were also introduced to specific practices and techniques for calming the body and mind.



CLT-Twin Lakes students learn the techniques of African drumming from an instructor with the M2 Foundation, a nonprofit organization that teaches mindful arts in schools.

Elementary band students perform honors concert

First and second year band students from Island Lake, Pinewood, and Turtle Lake Elementary Schools were invited to attend a special Honor Band Festival presented by the Minnesota Band Directors Association at Mora High School in May. More than 200 students from 25 schools in Central Minnesota participated in the event. The participants spent the day rehearsing with a guest conductor and concluded the event with a concert for family and other attendees.



From left to right: Mrs. Brenda Sorem, Amelia Walker, Abirami Sivakumar, Elyssa Joly, Nicholas Heller-Lopez, Declan Turco, Talo Stevens, Lexi McKelvey, Andrew Liebsch, Zeke Menning and Charlie O'Brien.

Raising awareness for mental health

In May, Mounds View High School students organized a mental health walk for the community. Nearly 50 students and adults gathered for a benefit walk at Long Lake Park in New Brighton. The event featured art, music, food and speakers who shared stories about their journeys with depression and anxiety. “The more people that talk about (mental



Irondale High School students gathered for a mental health walk in May. The event included a raffle and a group walk to raise awareness for mental health in the community.



Mounds View senior Marion Sterk-Ciresi talks to WCCO News about the Mental Health Walk this spring.

health)...the better it gets,” said event co-chair and senior **Maddie Terwilliger**. Irondale High School students also hosted a Mental Health Walk on May 12. Watch the organizers talk about the event to a WCCO reporter at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

High schools host job fairs

Irondale and Mounds View High Schools each hosted summer job fairs for students who were looking for local work this summer. About 30 employers were present, ranging from McDonald's to Village Green Landscapes, all looking to hire students for the summer. Participants had the opportunity to meet with prospective employers and play “Job Fair Bingo” for the chance to win prizes. Later in the spring, Irondale hosted a “What's Next?” job fair for seniors who were still in the process of making post-graduation plans. Marathon Petroleum donated \$4,000 to assist with equipment, food and prizes.



Students meet with prospective employers at the summer job fair at Mounds View High School this spring.

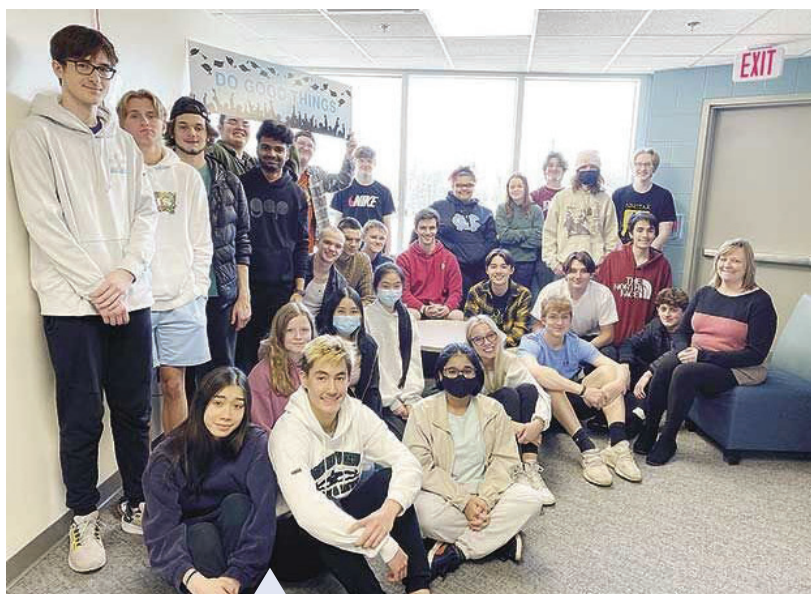
New StarLab

A brand new StarLab was introduced to students this year after a Mounds View Schools Education Foundation fundraising campaign to replace the District's aging inflatable planetarium in 2019. The original StarLab, which served generations of students, was being held together by duct tape and the ingenuity of staff. Mounds View High School students were able to use the StarLab this spring before being introduced to elementary and middle schools next school year.



Students take action for service dogs and disabled veterans

As part of a service learning project, students in the Mounds View High School Business Management class set out to raise money for Pawsitivity Service Dogs, a nonprofit organization dedicated to removing dogs from shelters to train them as service dogs for veterans and children with disabilities. This unique project allowed students to not only learn business management and public relations skills, but also engage with the community to raise money for a worthy cause. The project culminated in a fundraising dinner event in May with the goal to raise \$7,500 for the organization. In all, students raised more than \$17,000 from online fundraising, ticket sales, donations and the event.



Mrs. Anderson's Mounds View High School business management class.
Photo courtesy of the Shoreview Press.

Translation assistance

To learn more about District programs and events featured in this issue of *School Talk* in Spanish, Hmong or Somali, please call Angel Toro (Spanish) at 651-724-2854, Mee Yang (Hmong) at 651-724-0396 or Basima Mohamed (Somali) at 651-724-7482.

Haddii aad dooneysid faahfaahin dheeraad ah oo ku saabsan barnaamijyada lugu soo qoro *School Talk*, ee ka baxa Iskuulada Moundsview, fadlan la soo xiriis Basima Mohamed: 651-724-7482.

Para aprender mas sobre los programas del Distrito Escolar y de los eventos en esta edicion de *School Talk*, llame a Angel Toro al 651-724-2854.

Yog xa paub ntau tshaj nov txog peb lub District cov program thiab kev sib sau ua ke ntawm peb cov tsev kawm ntawv thiab niam txiv nrog rau me nyuam kawm ntawv uas muaj nyob rau hauv tsab ntawv *School Talk* no, thov hu rau Mee Yang ntawm 651-724-0396.



**Ralph Reeder
Food Shelf**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Mounds View Public Schools

Do you need a little extra help with food for your family?

Call the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf today to schedule an in-person shopping appointment or curbside food pick-up that includes meat, milk, eggs, cheese, bakery, fresh produce, boxed and canned items, child-friendly snacks and meals, diapers, hygiene and cleaning supplies at no charge to you. Home delivery available for qualified individuals and families. For more information, visit ralphreederfoodshelf.org or call **651-621-6280** to schedule an appointment to pick up food.

Want to help?

Most needed items include kid-friendly, easy-to-open foods for our Schooltrition programs for the 2022-23 school year — granola bars (peanut-free), fruit snacks, fruit cups, pudding cups, microwaveable meals, single-serve hot and cold cereal, crackers, etc. Donation drop-off hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon at the back entrance of 2544 Mounds View Blvd., Mounds View.

**COMMUNITY
RESOURCE FAIR
& FAMILY FUN DAY**

SAT, SEPT 24, 10AM-1PM
MOUNDS VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER
5394 Edgewood Drive, Mounds View MN 55112

www.mvcommunityfair.com **FREE EVENT!**



Teacher of the Week

Pike Lake kindergarten teacher **Kelly Sokolowski** was recognized as KS95's Teacher of the Week in May. KS95 celebrates and recognizes teachers' work in helping make students successful in school and for the future.



Junior receives associates degree



This spring, Irondale High School junior **Brooklyn Oliver** received her Associate of Arts degree from Anoka-Ramsey Community College. She is the first junior in the District to earn this degree. She

received the two-year degree at no cost due to a partnership that allows high school students to take college-level courses for free.

Mounds View High School All-State musicians

- Brooke Baumeister**, junior
- Sonali Bhaska**, junior
- Jace Blood** (alternate), junior
- Ellen Guo**, sophomore
- Sophia Huang**, junior
- Isabel Li**, freshman
- Anouk Shin**, freshman
- Molly Strike**, sophomore
- Skylar Weirens**, junior
- Audrey Zhao**, sophomore
- Emily Zhao**, junior
- Ethan Zhao**, sophomore

Edgewood Quiz Bowl

The Edgewood Quiz Bowl team attended the National Championship Tournament in Chicago. They placed highest of the six attending Minnesota teams. Eighth-grader **Rosa Menning** placed 58th out of 670 individual participants.



Back row, left to right: Rosa Menning, Jhumpa Ekka, Amira Youssef, Gavin Kasper, Fisher Killins. In front: Coach Dan Perucco.

Business and Marketing Award

53 students earned the Mounds View High School Business and Marketing Award this spring. These students successfully completed and earned articulated college credit in four or more courses in the Business Department's program of study, which means they can apply these credits at a community or technical college. In addition, students have participated in experiential learning, job shadows, internships, work-based learning, leadership and co-curricular activities.



Mounds View High School business management students were awarded for taking four or more department classes, making them eligible to receive college credit.

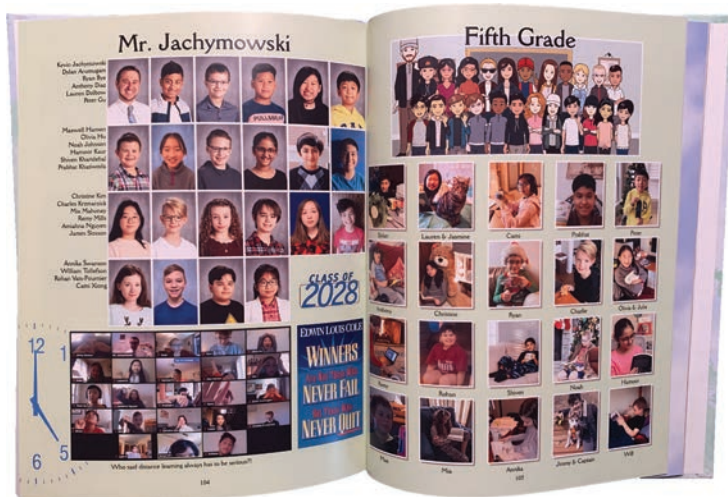
Irondale High School All-State musicians



Left to right: Mahay Hsiung (junior), Phi Cu (junior), Ada Vanderbilt (junior), Lydia Nau (junior), Zofia Gutierrez (sophomore), Hannah Young (sophomore), Ava O'Rourke (junior), Miles Collins and Emily Fatkhiyev (junior). Center: Jimena Sichiqui (sophomore), Peter Markham (junior).

Turtle Lake wins yearbook contest

The Turtle Lake Elementary School yearbook staff received a first-place award in the 2021 Lifetouch Yearbook Showcase, a national yearbook contest. Yearbooks were evaluated on criteria such as theme, design, continuity, photography, writing and creativity. Turtle Lake school staff and PTA members spent many weeks working to include distance and in-person learning students in this yearbook, as well as Snail Lake Kindergarten Center content.



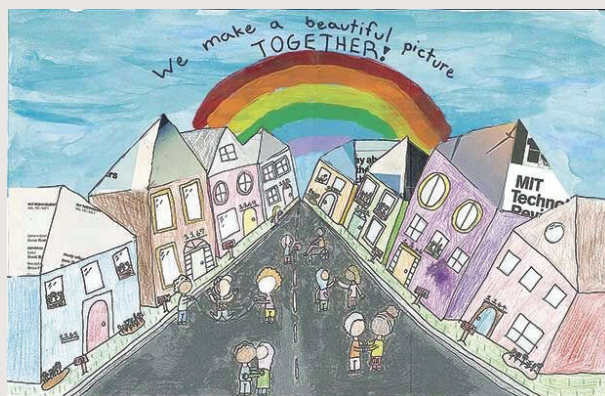
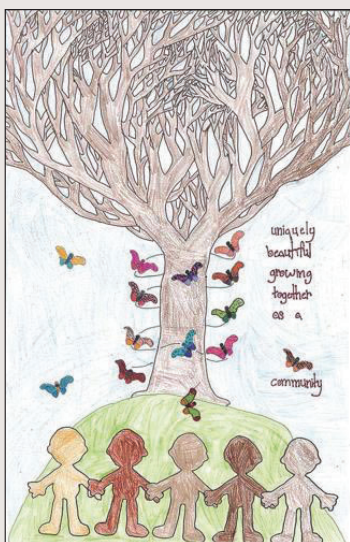
Promoting diversity through art

Students from Turtle Lake Elementary School won first, second and third place in Shoreview's annual One Community of Many Colors art contest. Fourth-grade students are invited to submit a poster that includes people of different races and cultures engaged in positive activity. The purpose of the contest is to encourage young people to interact more freely and comfortably with those whom they view as different from themselves, and to experience the value of diversity. More than 255 posters from five area schools were submitted.

First place (top right): **Jasmine Gibson**

Second place (bottom right): **Charlotte Cambronne**

Third place (above): **Zinnia Naberhaus**



Knight Robotics

Irondale High School's KnightKrawler Robotics competed in the Lake Superior Regional Competition and ranked second of 58 teams in the first qualifying round. After combining with teams from Milwaukee and Chaska, they won first place overall. The team also received the Autonomous Award, and advisor **Dahsol Lee** was recognized with the Woodie Flowers Finalist Award for effective communication in the art and science of engineering and design. The team went on to win second place at the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) state tournament in May.



The KnightKrawler robotics team came in second place overall in the MSHSL state tournament in May.

State DECA competition

Fourteen Mounds View High School students competed in the state DECA competition. **Gillian Anderson**, **Owen Arndt** and **Garima Khatiwada** took first and second place in their events and moved on to compete at the national competition in Atlanta.

Gillian Anderson

Owen Arndt

Yunru Chen

Ava Frey

Anna Grace

Sam Handelsman

Ella Herbert

Bhuvi Jain

Garima Khatiwada

Liana Magaling

Ian Mulheron

Yewon Park

Riley Stern

Camille Tran



International DECA conference

Eight Irondale High School students traveled to Atlanta for the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in April to compete with 20,000 other DECA competitors. Senior **Bella Woo** placed in the top 20 with her presentation on Professional Selling.



DECA students Nick Martin, Bella Woo, Willow Hosmer, Saylor Gallagher, Gabby Caldwell, Alex Woodbury, Julia Clark and Max Woodbury.

SkillsUSA Champions and Leadership Conference

The Mounds View High School SkillsUSA students below earned recognition at the Minnesota SkillsUSA Champions and Leadership Conference. In June, **Allison Brodin** competed at the national competition in Atlanta. SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students through the development of leadership, workplace and technical skills to prepare young students for the world of work.

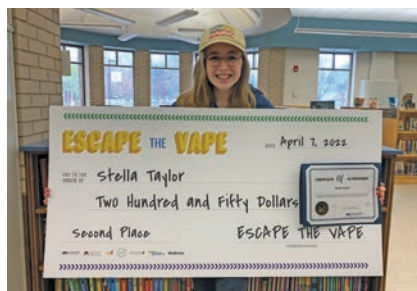
- **Allison Brodin** (senior)
- **Gloria Liu** (freshman)
- **Emily Luo** (freshman)



Mounds View High School SkillsUSA team members compete at the SkillsUSA Champions and Leadership Conference. From left to right, starting in the back row: Omar Rahman, DaNae Klimek, Ally Brodin, Jaqueline Pennington, Ashleigh Pennington, Gloria Liu and Emily Luo.

Escape the Vape contest

Highview eighth-grader **Stella Taylor** won second place in the State of Minnesota's Escape the Vape video contest. The contest asked Minnesota students to create and submit a 30-second public service announcement video to educate their peers on the dangers of vaping. More than 260 students from 70 schools submitted videos, which were then voted on in a public contest this spring. Stella and Highview each received a \$250 prize. Watch Stella's winning video at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Young Writers contest

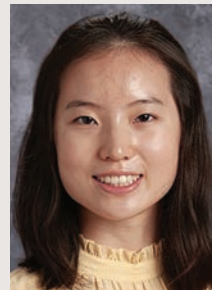
Irondale High School sophomore **Shania Isaacs** won first place in the annual Young Writers, Young Artists Competition, organized by Detroit Lakes Indian Education. It is open to all American Indian students in the state. Shania was honored for her award in the creative writing and poetry category at the awards banquet at Minnesota State College in Detroit Lakes this spring.



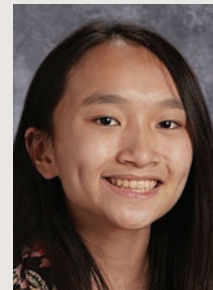
Aspirations in Computing award

Six Mounds View High School students were honored during the 10th annual Aspirations in Computing award ceremony. The award honors students at the high school level who identify as women, genderqueer or non-binary for their computing-related achievements and interests.

Elisa Guo (senior), State Winner; **Claire Stellmack** (senior), State Winner; **Zoke Sackih** (sophomore), Honorable Mention; **Leigha Wood** (junior), Honorable Mention; **Jacqueline Lee** (junior), Rising Star; **Riley Maurer** (sophomore), Rising Star.



Elisa Guo



Jacqueline Lee



Riley Maurer



Zoke Sackih



Claire Stellmack



Leigha Wood

Gold medal for hockey

Irondale High School hockey player **Jahde Ortiz** represented Puerto Rico in the Amerigol Latam Cup, an international tournament, in Florida last fall. Her team won the championship gold medal after a series of games. The tournament has a total of 22 teams representing various Latin American countries.



Among the best in the nation

Irondale and Mounds View high schools have again been ranked among the best high schools in the country, according to a new ranking by U.S. News and World Report. This year's list ranks more than 17,800 public high schools throughout the country, with Irondale and Mounds View being listed in the top 10 percent. Additionally, both high schools landed in the top 20 Minnesota high schools in the same ranking. Mounds View Public Schools is the only district in the state with more than one high school to have all of its high schools among the top 20. The methodology used for this year's ranking focused on six factors: college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates.



Student military honors

This spring, the following high school seniors were awarded various military honors.

- Irondale senior **Calvin Marcellus** will be attending West Point Military Academy.
- Mounds View senior **Joseph Hong** has accepted the Naval Academy appointment.
- Mounds View senior **Joe Kinsgriter** (not pictured) accepted a United States Marine four-year NROTC Scholarship.



Joseph Hong

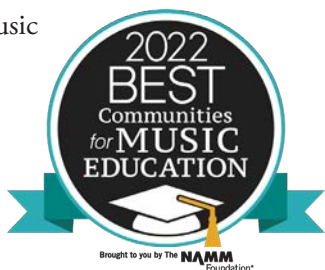


Calvin Marcellus



Best communities for music education

For the 10th consecutive year, Mounds View Public Schools has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. Mounds View was one of only seven Minnesota school districts to receive the designation for 2022. This year, more than 3,300 students in grades 4-12 chose to participate in band, choir and orchestra. Schmitt Music presented the awards to District music instructors at a band concert at Irondale High School in June.



Music teachers **CJ Longabough, Eric Johnson, Brenda Sorem and Paul Gronert** accept the Best Communities in Music Education award at an Irondale band concert in June.

Caring Youth Award

Mounds View High School senior **Johnny Yue** received the City of Shoreview's Caring Youth Award. Johnny was chosen for this award based on his volunteer work in the Twin Cities. Johnny started NeuroForHeroes, a neuroscience nonprofit that provides enrichment opportunities to students to address the achievement gap and bring communities together. The organization teaches topics like memory, vision and brain development and how our brains are essential for everyday functions. Johnny has brought his nonprofit to Turtle Lake Elementary School and Lucy Craft Laney Elementary in Minneapolis.



Science Olympiad takes second at state

The Mounds View High School Science Olympiad team won second place at its state tournament. The following students won first place in their events.

Anatomy – **Johnny Yue** (senior) and **Sarah Zhang** (senior)

Chemistry Lab and Forensics – **Cynthia Dong** (senior) and **Elisa Guo** (senior)

Disease Detectives – **Johnny Yue** and **Michael Wang** (senior)

Dynamic Planet – **Johnny Yue** and **Bria Farmer** (junior)

Remote Sensing – **Bria Farmer** and **Julia Gronert** (freshman)



The Mounds View Science Olympiad team took second place overall in the state tournament this spring.



Left to right: Isabella Passaro (7), Savina Pipitone (8).

Chippewa students win poster contest

Chippewa Middle School students **Isabella Passaro** (7) and **Savina Pipitone** (8) won first and second place in the annual Lions Club Peace Poster competition. The students attended the Shoreview City Council meeting, where the mayor honored them for their excellent work in expressing peace through art.



IRONDALE

AAA Award

The "Triple A" award, presented by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), honors students who excel in academics, arts and athletics.

Ethan Favre – Hockey, choir, track

Narindwa Semakula – Orchestra, speech, dance, track



Athletes of the Year

Connor Kvaal – Football, hockey, lacrosse

Elizabeth VanLoon – Cross country, Nordic skiing, track

Wrestling

Brandon Lee (freshman) placed sixth at the state wrestling tournament in March. Brandon is the fourth freshman to qualify for state in the school's history and the first freshman to make the podium at the state tournament.



New school record

Junior **Emmett Botten** set a new school record for the 100 yard fly at the 5AA Sections finals. He completed it in 51.77 seconds, compared to the 51.87 seconds record set in 2017. He also qualified for the state competition in March.



Athena Award

The Athena Award honors outstanding female high school senior student athletes. This year's recipient, **Elizabeth VanLoon**, participated in cross country, Nordic skiing and track for Irondale. She also participated in National Honor Society and volunteered for the Minnesota Youth Ski League and the Grace Church Children's Ministry. She plans to run cross country and track at the University of Minnesota – Duluth in the fall.



College commitments

See the spring 2022 issue of *School Talk* for additional athletes who signed college commitments.

Destiny Casey, basketball, Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Sam Diebold, soccer, Wofford College

Takari Johnson, lacrosse, American International College

Jo Mahlum, hockey, St. Norbert College

Madi Urfer, softball, Luther College



Track co-curricular activities on your mobile devices Search **MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS** in the app store.



Irondale Knights on Twitter @Golrondale



facebook.com/IrondaleHighSchool



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



MOUNDS VIEW

College commitments

During College Signing Day in May, Mounds View had 20 senior athletes sign commitments to pursue athletics in college the following year. See the spring 2022 issue of *School Talk* for additional athletes who signed college commitments.

Jaylyn Ahlberg, track, Merrimack College

Christo Alex, tennis, Tennessee State University

Molly Austin, tennis, Gustavus Adolphus College

Lindsay Berggren, hockey, Gustavus Adolphus College

Rachael Bond, lacrosse, University of Northwestern – St. Paul

Ava Bullert, hockey, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Connor Chervany, baseball, St. Olaf College

Lauren Dolton, volleyball, Crown College

Leo Fleischhacker, baseball, Hamline University

Brendan Goldman, baseball, St. Olaf College

Elizabeth Gregory, cross country and track, University of St. Thomas

Kobe Kirk, basketball, St. Olaf College

Andrew Molenaar, football, Saint John's University

Josephine Napierala, softball, Wartburg College

Abby Norlinger, lacrosse, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Darah Ostrom, diving, University of Connecticut

Eric Pfenning-Wendt, football and track, Hamline University

Ava Tomas, soccer, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Ava Westlund, soccer, California Baptist University

Dylan Wheeler, football and basketball, Saint John's University

Athletes of the Year

Aveline Bullert – Tennis, hockey and track

Madison Hanson – Basketball, track and volleyball

William Skelly – Track and cross country

Dylan Wheeler – Basketball, football and track



Athena Award

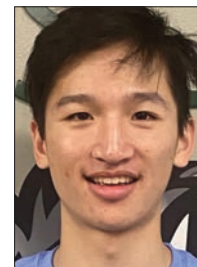
The Athena Award honors outstanding female high school senior student-athletes. This year's recipient, **Hadley Streit**, participated in track and field and volleyball for Mounds View. She achieved a 3.96 GPA and also volunteered for the Youth Volleyball Camp and Feed My Starving Children. She plans to participate in track and field at the University of Minnesota in the fall.

AAA Award

The "Triple A" award, presented by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), honors students who excel in academics, arts and athletics.



Zoey Brownlee
Tennis, hockey,
softball and track



Ian Tsai
Alpine ski

Track and field

Seniors **Maximus Gregory** and **William Skelly** and juniors **Victor Lelinga** and **Elliott McArthur** broke both school and state records in the 4 × 800 race in May. "All four of us completely trusted each other and knew if we could do our part, we could achieve the record. I'm so thankful to have such great teammates to run with," said Gregory.



Four runners broke both the state and school records at the Suburban East Conference meet in May. From left to right: Coach Ross Fleming, Max Gregory, Will Skelly, coach Bill Spratt, Victor Lelinga and Elliott McArthur. Photo courtesy of the Shoreview Press.



Find the Mounds View Mustangs on Twitter @GoMVMustangs



Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/MoundsViewHighSchool



For the most up-to-date news, visit the Activities and Athletics website at www.mvpschools.org/moundsview.

Track co-curricular activities on your mobile devices. Search MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS in the app store.





Mounds View Public Schools has a goal of preparing all students for opportunities of their choice after high school. Ensuring that all students have an opportunity to

pursue post-secondary success involves a promise the District calls the Equity Promise. The Equity Promise aims to disrupt systematic patterns associated with race, socio-economic status, gender and disabilities to provide equal opportunities for success for every Mounds View Public Schools student.

This spring, seniors from Irondale High School, Mounds View High School, REACH Academy and the Area Learning Center (ALC) received Equity Promise Scholarships acknowledging their achievements during high school and

supporting their educational goals post-high school. Funded in part by the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation, this unique award recognizes a broad range of students who have demonstrated success in their high school journey through a variety of ways. Recipients have demonstrated academic growth and sustained participation in activities throughout high school. Some may aspire to be the first in their families to attend a technical college, two-year college or four-year university. All have overcome challenges, displayed perseverance and exhibited grit along the way.

Mounds View Public Schools would like to thank the donors who contribute to Equity Promise Scholarships. These donors and their contributions reinforce the Equity Promise and give deserving students a chance to pursue post-secondary continued education.

Class of 2022 Equity Promise Scholarship recipients

Anderson Family

Koharu Ferguson
Jahde Ortiz Serrano
Yael Soto-Adolfo
Jasmine Williams

Bailiff Scholarship

Jeremia Bernard
Vienna Chang
Iman Deriche
Asiya Hashi
Israa Ibrahim
Jocelyn Ingbertson
Ferguson Koharu
Zakaria Mohamed
Michael Nguyen
Diana Abarca Palma
Hamza Rahmoune
Jahde Ortiz Serrano
Jasmine Williams
Julie Zheng

Beisswenger Scholarship Fund

Diana Abarca Palma

Chalkboard Capers Scholarship

Kyle Jensen
Graham Kyhl
Zachary Montero
Amira Osman
Emilio Vargas

Fridley American Legion Auxiliary

Grace Wynia

Hoverman Family Scholarship

Michael Nguyen

Irondale Girls Volleyball Booster Club

Kelsey Lammi

Jakob Ernst Memorial

Megan Lawrence

Jodi Maurer-Knudson Memorial Fund

Nathan Hansen

Jonathan Hogan Memorial

Brooke Aulizia
Riya Chattopadhyay
Kendra Fehrman
Blake Helland
Jocelyn Ingbertson
Elly Jacob
Uyen Nguyen
Edward Trombley
Elizabeth Vanloon

Kopp Family Foundation

Lola Ehrenberg
Anthony Krystofiak
Alexander Tong

Laura Harris Memorial

Tenzin Gendun

Marie Greenwald Memorial Scholarship

Mujtaba Jaffery

Mounds View Lions Waste Witte

Colin Lemmons-Reuther
Idil Mohamed
Edwin Morales-Garcia
Biruk Oro
Tenzing Wangpo

Mounds View Schools Education Foundation Scholarship

Miah Pearson

MVCT Fine Arts Scholarship

Zakaria Mohamed

New Brighton Eagle Aeries

Abel Piper

New Brighton Eagles Auxiliary

Robina Rose Ortega
Claude Ritchie

New Brighton Lions Club

Benjamin Edwards
Parker Hennessey
Joshua Johnson
Lauren Key
Isabelle Lee

Hamdi Mohamed
Josalynn Sherman
Kjerstin Vasel

New Brighton Mounds View Rotary Club

Isaac Paetznick

Shardlow Family Trade School Scholarship

Anthony Hernandez Maciel

Tallman Math/Science Scholarship

Kaitlyn Davies
Hamza Rahmoune



Michael Nguyen accepts his diploma at Irondale High School's commencement at the 3M Arena at Mariucci in June.



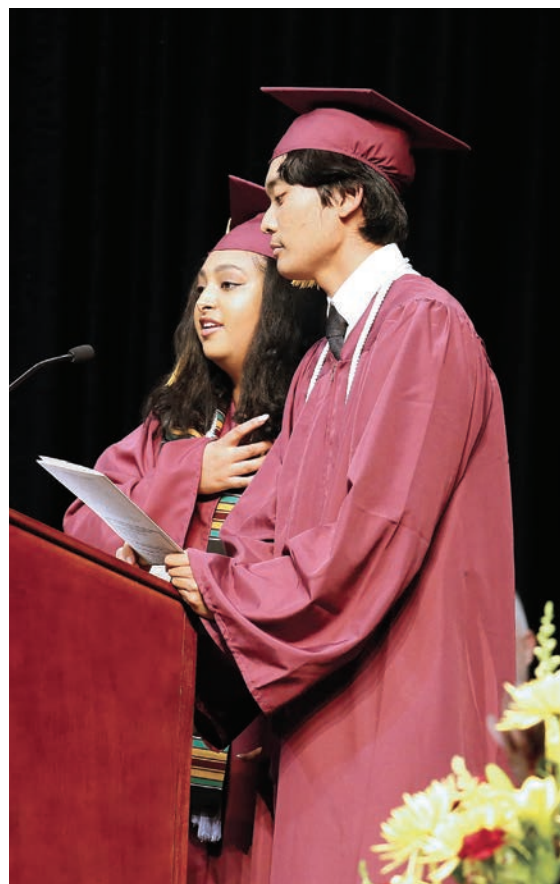
Irondale High School's graduating class of 2022.

Class of 2022 senior department and activities awards

Art Aeris Rice	Mathematics Elizabeth VanLoon	Speech Koharu Ferguson
Business Education Bolivar Panchi-Arcila	Music – Band Justine Morris	Spirit of Learning Duncan Erickson
DECA Nicholas Martin	Music – Choir Tomas Sepulveda	Student Council Christiane Bemnet Tenzin Shayan
Drama Sophia Haugen	Music – Orchestra Victor Ogwehi	Technology Education Jahde Ortiz Serrano
Family and Consumer Science Jonae Carlson	National Honor Society Amina Ahmed	World Language – ASL Riya Chattopadhyay
Honor Athlete (Boys) Connor Kvaal	Physical Education and Health Destiny Casey Kyle Jensen	World Language – Chinese Theodore Martin
Honor Athlete (Girls) Elizabeth VanLoon	Quiz Bowl Alexander Pichner	World Language – French Justine Morris
Jazz Band Joshua Dickinson	Robotics Graham Kyhl	World Language – German Sibley Boyum
Language Arts Sophie Ulaszek	Science Samuel Zupfer	World Language – Spanish Zoey Ponnice
Marching Band Danne Harvey		



View more photos at
mvpschools.org/irondalegraduation



Christiane Bemnet and Tenzin Shayan address their classmates during Irondale High School's commencement ceremony in June.

ARCC Associate of Arts degree

Jazmyn Bravo
Bodey Cartier
Madeline Dahm
Nicholas Dobbins
Ella Harris
Weston Herrick
Jocelyn Ingbreton
Owen Lau
Brooklyn Oliver (junior)
Kyan Reisewitz
Kevin Salaya-Molina
Yael Soto-Adolfo
Winona Vue

Virtual ceremonies

In addition to in-person ceremonies, all commencements were also live-streamed for viewing at home. Watch the ceremonies at ninenorth.org/schools/mounds-view.

Class of 2022 Equity Promise Scholarship recipients

Ashbach Family Fund Scholarship

Olivia Johnson
Elizabeth Schneider

Bailliff Scholarship

Grasiela Hernandez
Celine Sackih
Jorannie Saryee

Beisswenger Scholarship Fund

Ava Westlund

Bruce Perry Memorial Scholarship

Max Hailer

Carey Crimmins Memorial Scholarship

John Rasmussen

Class of 1986 Scholarship

Branson Gillette

Fridley American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship

Cameron Dolbow

Hannah Hoiland Memorial Scholarship

Julia Wong

Hoverman Family Scholarship

Lucy Zhao

Joseph F. Kunze Memorial Scholarship

John Nelson

Josh Lavalle Memorial Scholarship

Grasiela Hernandez
Luna Towle

Kopp Family Foundation Scholarship

Omar Rahman
Chandan Sankar
Eunice Tong
Margaret Xiao

Marit Mary Swenson Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Knoll

Mounds View Community Award Scholarship

Cynthia Dong

Mounds View Irondale Hockey Foundation Scholarship

Ava Bullert
Taylor Koepl
Ivar Westerman

Mounds View Schools Education Foundation Scholarship

Corrina Schell

Mustang Volleyball Senior Leadership Award Scholarship

Lauren Dolton
Ella Hammerbeck
Genna Lowene

MVCT Fine Arts Scholarship

Olivia Wenner

MVEA Chalkboard Capers Scholarship

Kaylee Bateman
Cole Kath
Charlotte Lee
Lindsay Nelson
Sarah Solfest

New Brighton Eagle Aeries Scholarship

Liam Hall

New Brighton Eagles Auxiliary Scholarship

Anna Grace
Olivia Hoyhtya

New Brighton Lions Club Scholarship

Henry Boyer
Austin Gin
Jackson Janes
Quinn Muller
Katelyn Plautz

Aayush Sharma
Benjamin Winters

Sherry Lou Engebretsen Memorial Scholarship

Abbey Roufs

Susan C. Carlson Memorial Scholarship

Kira McCallum

The Gulli Family Scholarship

Gina Song

The Riggs DeMay Family Scholarship

Jake Valley

Thomas Narigon Memorial Scholarship

Josie Mackenthun

Vadnais Heights Area Community Partners

Maeve Sokolowski



Nina Roufs, Carly Bazille, Adelaide Nord and Abbey Roufs gather before the class of 2022 commencement at the 3M Arena at Mariucci in June.

ARCC Associate of Arts degree

Ali Abu-Atieh
Kirnesh Kaushik
Arumugam Balamurugan
Adam Bihi
Cameron Dolbow
Henry Elias
Griffin O'Connor
Nicholas Stenlund
Rishita Tiwari

Virtual ceremonies

In addition to in-person ceremonies, all commencements were also live-streamed for viewing at home. Watch the ceremonies at ninenorth.org/schools/mounds-view.

Activities department awards

3x4 recipients participate in three sports each year of their four high school years.

- Brady Alquist – Football, Wrestling, Track
- Eva Barsness – Cross Country, Nordic Ski, Track
- Aveline Bullert – Tennis, Hockey, Track
- Ryan Edelman – Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track
- Ivar Westerman – Football, Hockey, Lacrosse

Mounds View senior awards

Business & Marketing

Duncan Loegering

Career Education

Riley Schubert

English

Ali Abu-Atieh

Family & Consumer Science

Miranda Nagel

Fine Arts – Art

Emma Draegert

Fine Arts – Band

Jacob Praml

Fine Arts – Choir

Charlotte Lee

Fine Arts – Orchestra

Gina Song

Fine Arts Student of the Year

Elizabeth Schneider

Math

Cynthia Dong

Outstanding Senior Achievement

Joseph Page

Phy. Ed. & Health

Samuel Saybe

Science

Gavin Chang

Self-Advocacy & Academic Achievement Award

Brayden Entner

Social Studies

Cameron Dolbow

World Language – American Sign Language

Kieran Connolly

World Language – Chinese

Isabella Zumbolo

World Language – French

Caroline Cavanagh

World Language – Spanish

Lauren Dolton

Green & White award

Green and white medals are presented to a select group of students who exemplify the Mounds View High School mission of building an inclusive community of responsible, respectful and resourceful citizens who value learning. These students not only maintain high academic standards, but they have also made valuable contributions to the Mounds View High School community through volunteering and/or participation in co-curricular activities.

Ayan Abdulkader

Emily Bellis

Anthony Fox

Upendo Gimbi

Rose Hanna

Kayle Herreid

Maggie Herreid

Rachel Kluz

Claire Landberg

Aaliyah Mosher

Ian Mulheron

Mason Schierts

Harrison Smith

Oliver Smith

Rishita Tiwari

William Zumbolo



View more photos at
mvpschools.org/moundsviewgraduation

Below: Phillip Greene Jr. waves to the crowd during the commencement ceremony.

Top right: Nika Kemp and Carys Quesnell pose for a photo after the class of 2022 commencement.

Bottom right: Mounds View High School's graduating class of 2022.



Area Learning Center

The Area Learning Center's in-person graduation ceremony recognized 86 graduating students on June 2 at Bethel University's Great Hall. The ceremony was also live streamed for those viewing from home. Watch the ceremony at ninenorth.org/schools/mounds-view/.

Equity Promise scholarship recipients

New Brighton Lions Club

Keari Watts

Bailiff Scholarship

Rachael Bond
Marcia Marquez Garcia
Mark Hitti
Keari Watts

Marjorie and Ray Cox

David Alarcon
Isaac Milton
Marcia Marquez Garcia
Anthony Rey

REACH Class of 2022 Equity Promise scholarships

New Brighton Lions Club

Zachary Vega

Bailiff Scholarship

Lavonte Jenkins
Zachary Vega

Mounds View Lions Waste Witte

Lavonte Jenkins



Marcia Marquez Garcia and Elsa Weiss graduated from the Area Learning Center in June.



Dylan Gruening and Lily Weaver graduated from the Area Learning Center in June.



Adult Education

Adult Education students who earned their GED and adult diploma in the last year were invited to participate in the graduation ceremony hosted by Mounds View Adult Education. The event was held at the Mounds View Community Center and recognized 14 high school diploma students, 30 GED students and 44 Career Pathway students (including paraprofessional, certified nursing assistant and information technology students).



KINDERGARTEN CENTERS

Pike Lake Education Center



FAMILY CONNECTION MEETINGS

September 1

Scheduled with teachers individually
(information coming soon)

Snail Lake Education Center



EARLY CONNECTION MEETINGS

September 1

Scheduled with teachers individually
(information coming soon)

Need help with school supplies?

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf and Community Resource Center can help families who are in need of school supplies. The Good Neighbor Back-to-School project takes place in August. Last year, the annual program provided school supplies to more than 900 low-income students throughout the District. For more information, call 651-621-6280. **Want to help?** Most needed items include new, larger-sized backpacks, spiral wide-lined notebooks, thick washable markers and pencil boxes. Donation drop-off hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the back entrance of 2544 Mounds View Blvd., Mounds View.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Bel Air

INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEETINGS

August 31 3–6 p.m.

September 1 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
and 2–7 p.m.



Island Lake

EARLY GOAL-SETTING/ MEET YOUR TEACHER

August 31 3–6:40 p.m.

September 1 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

PTA FAMILY SOCIAL NIGHT

September 13 4:15–6:15 p.m.

Island Lake County Park



Pinewood

FIRST GRADE WELCOME NIGHT

August 30 4–6 p.m.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

August 31 4–6 p.m.



Sunnyside

FIRST-GRADE PLAYGROUND NIGHT

August 18 5–6 p.m.

MEET YOUR TEACHER

First grade:

August 31 9–11 a.m., 1–4 p.m.

Grades 2-5:

September 1 9–10 a.m., 4–5 p.m.



Turtle Lake

EARLY CONNECTION MEETINGS

August 31 3:30–6:30 p.m.

September 1 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Scheduled with teachers individually,
information coming soon)



Valentine Hills

MEET YOUR TEACHER

August 31 3:30–6:15 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Chippewa

OPEN HOUSE

August 30 2–7 p.m.

MEET YOUR TEACHER

August 30 4–7 p.m.

IN THE MIDDLE DAY

September 6 (for students in grade 6)



Edgewood

OPEN HOUSE

August 30 2:30–7:30 p.m.



Highview

BACK-TO-SCHOOL DAY AND MEET YOUR TEACHER

August 31 2–7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOLS



Area Learning Center

BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

August 31 3–7 p.m.



Irondale

OPEN HOUSE

August 25 12–6 p.m.



Mounds View

OPEN HOUSE

August 23 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

9TH GRADE PARENT MEETING

August 30 6–7 p.m.

****All events are subject to change. Parents will be notified if changes are required.**

More information and school supply lists will be posted at mvpschools.org/backtoschool and on each school's website.



**Watch your mailbox for the fall
Community Education catalog.**

**Registration for fall programs
opens August 15 at 9 a.m.**

**View the catalog at:
mvpschools.org/communityed**



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ages**

