

School Talk

SPRING 2022



**Mounds View High School
Boys Soccer**

STATE CHAMPS!



**Irondale High School
Marching Knights**

Also inside: Serving on the School Board: What does it mean?

Did you know?

20 fast facts about Mounds View Public Schools

1

On average, students perform one to three years ahead of their national peers in math and reading.



2

The District completed its \$165 million school expansion construction project on time and on budget.



3

All employee bargaining group contracts have been settled for the next two years.



4



All but one school building have solar panels installed on the roof — saving \$1 million in electricity costs over the next 25 years.

On the cover:

Did you know? This fall the Mounds View boys soccer team won the Minnesota Class 3A state championship, and the Irondale Marching Knights were named the champions of the Minnesota Class AAA Marching Band competition.

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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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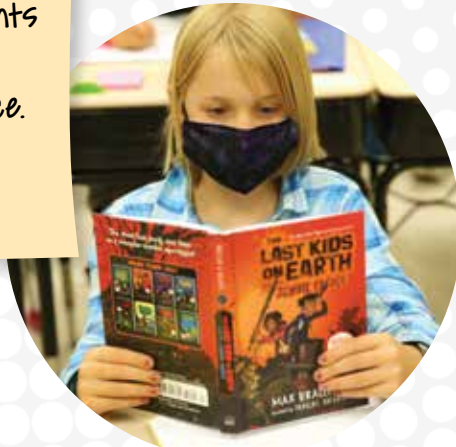


MVPschools.org

5

Students self-select their books for independent reading beginning in kindergarten through high school.

We allow students to personalize their experience. (It's a core philosophy.)



6

Mounds View Public Schools is the third largest employer in its attendance area.

1,617
employees

1 Medtronic

2 Boston Scientific

3  Mounds View
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

4 LAND O' LAKES, INC.

5  WELLS
FARGO

7

High school students can now take an optional year-long African American history course to satisfy part of the social studies standard.



8

Every school has an annual priority goal related to improving student connectedness.



10

More than 8 out of 10 resident students choose to attend Mounds View Public Schools.

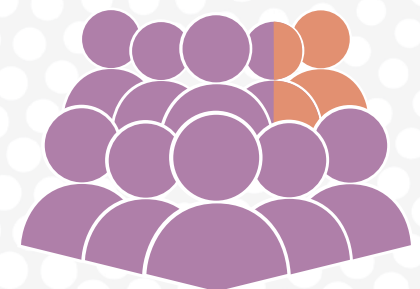
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Year after year, high school students earn an average ACT score that surpasses both the Minnesota and national averages.

GRADUATING CLASS ACT SCORES

Class of	District	Minnesota	Nation
2019	23.4	21.4	20.7
2020	22.8	21.3	20.6
2021	23.6	21.6	20.3

99% of Irondale and Mounds View students take the ACT.

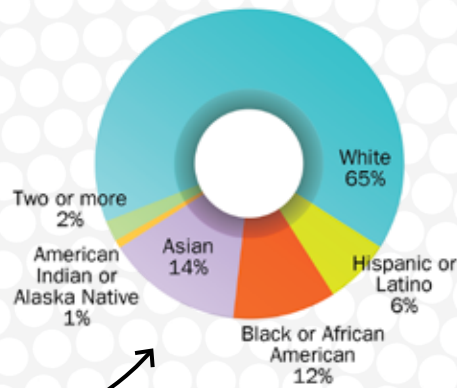


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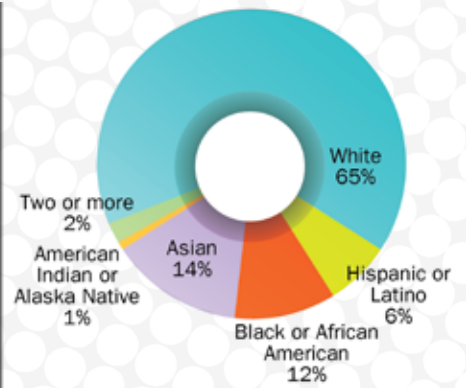
99% of students participate in at least one college credit-earning course before they graduate.

Participation in these courses mirrors the high schools' demographics.

Senior class demographics



Early college class demographics



12

Community members, parents, students and alumni serve on a number of District oversight groups.

- * Community Education Advisory Council
- * Curriculum Advisory Council
- * District Equity Council
- * Early Childhood Parent Advisory Council
- * Special Education Parent and Professional Advisory Committee

13

Mounds View Public Schools consistently ranks among the top 10 districts in the state for the most National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.



14

An annual Board-approved investment of \$800,000 supports high school co-curriculars, paying for transportation, uniforms, officials and some essential equipment.

15

Mounds View Public Schools is the 11th largest district in the state.



1. Anoka-Hennepin
2. St. Paul
3. Minneapolis
4. Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan
5. Osseo
6. South Washington County
7. Rochester
8. Elk River
9. Robbinsdale
10. Wayzata
11. Mounds View
12. Lakeville
13. Minnetonka
14. North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale
15. Bloomington
16. St. Cloud
17. Eastern Carver County
18. Eden Prairie
19. Prior Lake-Savage Area
20. White Bear Lake

16

76 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to student instruction and support.



Student instruction and support

17

Both high schools offer a variety of hybrid courses where the majority of the instruction is delivered online, supplemented by in-person instruction.



Offered since 2010

18

High school students can explore a variety of careers through specific coursework aligned to industry pathways like auto service technician, manufacturing and welding.



19

The District provides a variety of supports for student wellness, including school-based mental health services in partnership with local mental health providers.



20

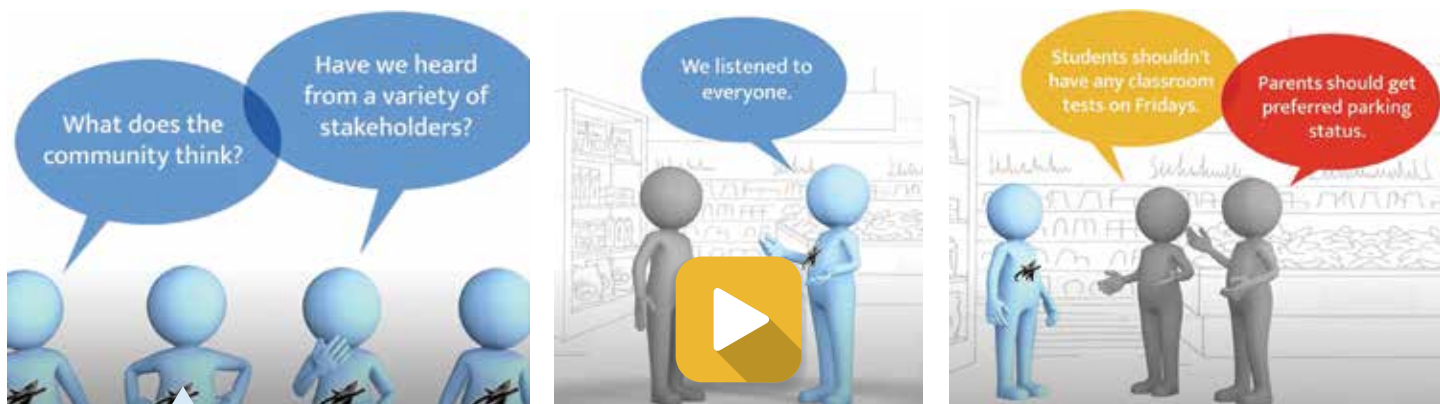
Last fall, voters re-elected the two incumbents and one new member to the School Board.

Yolanda Magee became the first person of color elected to the Board.



Serving on the School Board

What does it really mean?



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

For decades, Mounds View's School Board has been among the leaders in adopting policy governance as a model of operation.

How does it work?

Policy, not management

The School Board focuses on policy decisions rather than on managing the operations. It adopts policies that provide general principles for guiding the management of the School District. It's the Superintendent and administration who manages the day-to-day operations of Mounds View Public Schools. Working in partnership with the Board, the Superintendent and administration also will make recommendations for the Board's consideration.

"Every school board is different," explains chair Jonathan Weinlagen. "Our board has not taken any formal votes about operations during the pandemic, but that doesn't mean we haven't been involved in the decision-making process. At every stage, the Superintendent has explained the options and we've discussed the challenges, advantages

and disadvantages of every one of the complicated decisions that we know impact our families and staff in various ways."

Working in close consultation with management allows the Board to approve the District's Operational Plan (DOP) of annual goals and to evaluate its only employee: the Superintendent.

"This School Board understands the Superintendent's decision-making process, and he and his team have our full support," says Weinlagen.

Many backgrounds, one voice

No matter where they live, School Board members represent the interests of all the students in all the schools. Often, parents and staff will pressure the Board to engage in management to affect issues they are passionate about and become frustrated if their personal interests are not served.

"Our role is to interpret the needs of the entire community, not just our own attendance areas or by only listening to the loudest voices in the room," says Board member Heidi Danielson, "We get countless texts, emails and phone calls from residents who have

very diverse opinions. As a Board, we will exchange ideas and debate issues, but after a vote is taken, we have a responsibility to speak with a single voice."

"Our role is to interpret the needs of the entire community, not just our own attendance areas."

— Heidi Danielson,
School Board member

This unified position gives sound and clear direction to those in management, and more importantly, to staff.

"For me, serving on the School Board was the next step after years of volunteering in schools and serving on District-wide committees," she says. "It's so often an incredibly rewarding experience seeing the difference you can make in so many lives."

Membership

The School Board is made up of seven citizens elected at large by voters in the District every two years to four-year overlapping terms. At the end of a four-year term, members may run for reelection to successive terms. Voting takes place at general elections in November and terms begin the first Monday in January thereafter.

Every year at its first meeting in January, the School Board holds an organizational meeting to elect officers, make committee and school liaison assignments and settle other routine business. The Superintendent is an ex-officio member of the Board who facilitates the work of the Board and is responsible to the Board for providing leadership to the District and carrying out Board directives.

Responsibilities

As the elected governing body of the Mounds View School District, the School Board is responsible to:

- Establish policy. The administration implements policy and supervises school operations.
- Employ and evaluate the Superintendent. The School Board is responsible for hiring, then evaluating, the chief administrator who oversees all operations of the School District.
- Establish and approve the annual budget.
- Set the annual local school levy.
- Work with the administration to determine the District's educational goals.
- Interpret the needs of the community regarding the educational program.
- Authorize development and revision of curriculum and student services.
- Approve expenditures and otherwise ensure that proper facilities and equipment are available to support teaching and learning in Mounds View Public Schools.
- Approve appointment of staff members as well as resignations, terminations and leaves of absence.

Meetings

The School Board generally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday and occasionally on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the District Center, located at 4570 Victoria St N, Shoreview. They are livestreamed and archived on the District's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools](https://www.youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools). The School Board also holds regular work sessions to study issues in more depth. No formal actions are taken. Work sessions are typically held at 5 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the District Center and are open to the public.

Policy Governance

Group	Roles
Public and parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary educator of the child (parents)• Elect School Board members• Engage School Board members on educational issues• Vote on levy requests
School Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervision and appraisal for one employee: the Superintendent• Development of policies that govern schools and creation of district mission/vision/values• Communication with the public• Approval of budgets
Superintendent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management and operation of School District through implementation of Board policies
Principals and administrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create school-based plans that align with District's operational plans and vision• Support for the Superintendent• Implementation of policies and procedures
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate students• Support for Superintendent, principals and administration• Implementation of policies and procedures

Goals

Every year, the Superintendent and Cabinet define goals, strategies and measurable performance indicators in the District Operational Plan (DOP). Twice a year, the Superintendent reports progress to the School Board. Twice a year, the School Board evaluates and reports on the performance of the Superintendent.

The 2021-22 DOP includes several goals. Special emphasis is placed on the following priority goals:

- Centralize the District's "Welcome and Enrollment Services."
- Align and strengthen career and college advising services in middle and high schools.
- Continue to enhance and expand student access to new flexible furniture and technology.
- Design and implement a 1:1 technology plan for middle school and high school instruction.
- Centralize, align and strengthen the District's system of student support and intervention.
- Complete contract negotiations with all employee groups while aligning expenditures and revenue, keeping class sizes within Board-approved ranges, limiting legacy costs and balancing the need to attract and retain the best employees.

Changing conditions, changing responses

At the end of February, Mounds View Public Schools was among the many school districts, cities and counties across the country that adjusted their COVID-19 mitigation strategies. As a result of falling case counts, lower absenteeism and wide-spread vaccination availability, the District moved to recommend and no longer require that students, staff and visitors wear masks while inside District buildings, effective February 28.

“This district will remain a community of schools that cares for and respects all of its members.”

– Superintendent Chris Lennox

“Some students and staff will choose to keep wearing masks in schools, and others will choose to not wear masks, despite our recommendation,” says Superintendent Lennox. “We will honor and support all of our students and staff in whatever choice they make. This district will remain a community of schools that cares for and respects all of its members.”

Although wearing a mask remains a strong recommendation during times of high transmission, health experts believe the most effective protection from serious COVID-19 illness remains vaccination. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must wear a mask if they choose to return to school on days six through 10.



Sophomore Jaia Williams and freshman Jennice McFadden respect each other's masking choice at Mounds View High School.

WELCOME!



**MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED IN ALL SCHOOLS
AND DISTRICT BUILDINGS.
THANK YOU.**



Schools continue to focus on layered mitigation strategies such as physical distancing, regular testing, hand-washing, sanitizing surfaces and more. Site-specific plans have been developed to physically distance students as much as possible during lunch and snack breaks. The District also continues to partner with local health care providers in providing locations for vaccination clinics.

As conditions change, schools may temporarily return to required masking if necessary. School-level data, not District-wide indicators, will be used to inform any return to school-level masking requirements. Masking will be temporarily required at a school if/when the school experiences 5% or more students absent due to positive cases of COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

“Please know that we remain committed to following the latest guidance as necessary to continue learning in person in a healthy and safe environment for the rest of this school year,” says Lennox.

2022 School Board



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

Audit report

In November, a representative from the audit firm Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosovich & Co., P.A. reviewed the 2020-21 audited financial statements and supplemental reports. During the presentation to the Board, the representative commended the District for its excellence in financial reporting and issued the highest level of audit reporting an auditor can give an organization. The audit report is available at mvpschools.org/finance.

Board member recognition

At her final meeting in December, Board member Marre Jo Sager was recognized for her 28 years of service to the School Board. Sager announced her retirement in 2021. Past and present Board members commemorated Sager's long-term commitment to public service, education and the students and families of Mounds View Public Schools.

All employment contracts settled

In December, the Board approved contracts between the District and SEIU Local 284 paraprofessionals, SEIU Local 284 custodians, SEIU Local 284 clerical employees and non-affiliated employees. As a result, all employee bargaining group contracts have been settled for the next two years.

Property tax levy certified

In December, the Board approved a resolution to certify the 2022 property tax levy. The final certification will be forwarded to Ramsey County for processing of the final property tax statement. The tax statements will be sent out in March 2022. The property tax revenue will be available to the District for the 2022-23 school year. The total levy amount is \$63,555,833.86 which is approximately 1.65% more than the 2021 levy. Find more at mvpschools.org/finance.

Non-resident enrollment options

In December, the Board adopted a resolution that the District remain closed for non-resident enrollment options for the 2022-23 school year. The current capacities of school buildings, return to in-person learning, pandemic enrollment changes and the increasing availability of medical interventions were factors in this decision.

Oath of office and officer elections

Three residents took the oath of office for School Board at the January 11 meeting: incumbents Diane Glasheen and Shauna Bock, and newcomer Yolanda Magee who became the first person of color elected to the Board. The Board also re-elected Jonathan Weinhausen as chair, Diane Glasheen as vice chair, Sandra Westerman as clerk and Shauna Bock as treasurer.

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 will begin 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.



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.

Save the date for Rock the School House

We are excited to announce the 10th anniversary of Rock the School House, Mounds View Schools Education Foundation's flagship fundraising event. The event will take place Saturday, September 24, at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. Event details will be provided in the weeks to come. Email heather.meyer@moundsvIEWSchools.org for additional information and to learn more about the numerous unique sponsorship opportunities we are offering this year.



New Board members

The Mounds View Schools Education Foundation is pleased to welcome three members to our Board of Trustees.



Shannon Belland



Tony Paetznick



Nick Wold

Shannon Belland

Shannon and her family have a long history with the Mounds View School District. Shannon and her mother both taught at Mounds View High School. Shannon is also a proud Mounds View alumna and is committed to ensuring others in our District have the same educational opportunities she was afforded. Shannon and her husband have four children who attend schools in the District. Shannon's passion for public education aligns well with the Foundation's commitment to supporting the students and their families in our schools.

Tony Paetznick

Tony Paetznick currently serves as the Director of Public Safety for the City of New Brighton. A graduate of Irondale High School, Tony has supported the District in a variety of ways, including serving as a member of the Bel Air construction design team, volunteering with the Irondale Marching Knights Band and serving as a chaperone at the Laurentian Environmental Center. Tony and his wife have three children currently attending Mounds View Public Schools.

Nick Wold

Nick is a graduate of Mounds View High School and chose to return to the District to raise his family. Nick has four kids currently attending Mounds View Public Schools, ranging from elementary to high school. Nick graduated from St. Olaf College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and earned his master's degree in biostatistics from the University of Minnesota. Nick currently works as a biostatistician at Boston Scientific Corporation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fourth annual PowWow

Join us on Saturday, April 23, for the Mounds View Public Schools fourth annual PowWow to celebrate and honor American Indian students, education and tradition. This free event will include song, dance and more. The grand entry takes place at 1 p.m. at Highview Middle School.



Students from Valentine Hills Elementary School, Chippewa Middle School and Mounds View High School participate in the 2019 PowWow at Irondale.



Music at Mounds View

Music at Mounds View is a benefit concert featuring student performers that raises money for pediatric brain tumor research in honor of former Mounds View High School student Marit Swenson, who passed away from a brain tumor in 2017. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the National Brain Tumor Society as well as a new nonprofit organization founded by the Swenson family. The concert will take place at Mounds View High School (1900 Lake Valentine Rd., Arden Hills) on **Saturday, April 9, from 6:30–8 p.m.**

The concert was founded in 2018 as a memorial for Mounds View students lost in recent years, with past concerts raising more than \$4,000 for charity. More information regarding the event will develop in the next month. Contact moundsviewnhs@gmail.com for more information about the event.



Spring plays

Mounds View High School:

“Shrek the Musical”

April 21, 22 and 23 at 7 p.m.

April 24 at 1 p.m.

Irondale High School:

“She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition”

April 28, 29 and 30 at 7 p.m.

May 1 at 1 p.m.

Highview Middle School:

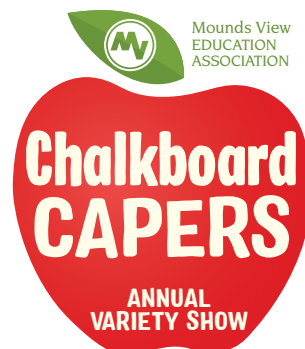
“Left to Our Own Devices”

May 5 and 6 at 7 p.m.

May 7 at 2 p.m.

Chalkboard Capers will return in 2023

Chalkboard Capers is a variety show presented annually by the Mounds View Education Association. District teachers and staff host the show to raise money for student scholarships for graduating seniors from Irondale High School, Mounds View High School, REACH Academy, Area Learning Center and Adult Basic Education. The 2020 and 2021 events were canceled due to COVID-19. Stay tuned for details about the 2023 show.



Irondale presents “The Wizard of Oz”

In November, Irondale Drama performed the fall musical, “The Wizard of Oz,” in Irondale High School’s newly completed 650-seat auditorium. The performance featured flying monkeys and witches, the first attempt at acrobatics for the Drama Department. To see more photos, visit mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

The Hennepin Theatre Trust’s Spotlight Education Program honored the following students:

Outstanding actor in a leading role:

Miles Collins, Scarecrow

Sophia Haugen, The Wicked Witch

Ada Vanderbilt, Dorothy

Honorable mention:

Alla Killins, Good Witch of the North

Lilly Grommes, Ava Bagwill and

Chloe Schwagerl, technical leadership



Mounds View Theater presents “A-Haunting We Will Go”

The Mounds View High School theater department performed its fall play, “A-Haunting We Will Go” in November. The fall play is typically a musical, but was postponed due to COVID-19. The spring play will be in a musical format.



Edgewood Middle School presents “Matilda”

Edgewood Middle School performed “Matilda” in November. To see more photos, visit mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.





Irondale Seniors to Seniors holiday concert returns

Irondale High School's popular Seniors to Seniors concert returned this holiday season. The Concert Choir, Symphonic Winds and Symphony Orchestra performed a free holiday concert for parents, grandparents and community members in Irondale's new auditorium.

Students come together for West Side Choir Festival

In January, seventh- and eighth-grade students from Edgewood and Highview traveled to Irondale to participate in the West Side Choir Festival. The middle school students performed together and were also able to see a live performance by the Irondale Concert Choir. The choirs also performed a piece called "Come and Sing" in a performance together. This experience allowed middle school students to perform in the new Irondale auditorium and connect with their future Irondale musician peers.



Pinewood Elementary presents "101 Dalmatians"

In February, The Pinewood Performing Arts Club performed Disney's "101 Dalmatians" in Irondale's 650-seat auditorium. Pinewood students in fourth and fifth grades attended twice-weekly rehearsals, which included auditions, dress rehearsals and three spectacular performances. The Performing Arts Club at Pinewood fosters an early love of music theater and a unique opportunity to demonstrate Panda Pride both on stage and behind the scenes.



Top row: Zeke Menning, Lulu Besinger, Callahan Willmert; Middle row: Asher Hopkins, Naomi Shasky; Bottom row: Morayo Ayinde, Andrew Liebsch and Hanshal Katta.



Irondale hosts drive-up donation event

Irondale High School DECA students hosted a drive-up donation event for their Spirit of Giving Week before winter break. Overall, they collected more than \$9,300 worth of gifts, coats, backpacks and monetary donations. These donations helped more than 50 families during the winter break and holiday season. The event was part of Irondale High School's annual Week of Giving, in which students, staff and the community collect donations for families in need and stock the school pantry, which is a free resource for any student in need.

Mounds View hosts toy drive competition

Mounds View High School students from Educators Rising, Student Council and UNICEF Club sponsored a school-wide toy drive competition for fifth-hour classes in December. Mr. Heinz's fifth-hour class won the competition with more than 120 donations. As a prize, they received a class party from Kowalski's and Crumbl Cookies. Throughout the school, students donated upwards of 500 toys and more than \$800 for the toy drive in partnership with Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. The toys were donated to young District students in need.



Students in Mr. Heinz's class won the toy drive competition after donating 120 toys to the cause. Overall, Mounds View High School students donated 500 toys and more than \$800.



Heidi Borjon Manriquez (left) and Vivienne Thao (right) work on their tie blankets during Ms. Erickson's third-grade class at Valentine Hills.

Third-graders learn economics while giving back

Third-graders at Valentine Hills Elementary School learned about economics and gave back to the community at the same time. As part of Spread Sunshine Week and their economics unit, students used their budgets to "shop" for items to make tie blankets. They chose the materials, patterns and scissors while shopping. Students then worked in groups to finish making their tie blankets with the intent to donate them to various nonprofit organizations in the community. Due to the overwhelming amount of donations Valentine Hills received for this project, students were able to make and donate more than 65 blankets to communities in need.



Wrestling world champion

This fall, Mounds View alumna **Emily Shilson '19** claimed her second world championship in wrestling. She captured the title in the 50-kilogram (110-pounds) women's freestyle category at the United World Wrestling U23 World Championships. Emily is currently a junior attending Augsburg University.

Gophers basketball player hosts camp at Irondale

University of Minnesota men's basketball player and Irondale alumnus **Sean Sutherlin '17** hosted a youth basketball camp at Irondale thanks to a recent NCAA policy change allowing him to use his own name and likeness. The camp was open to fourth- through 11th-graders and focused on basic skills like ball handling, shooting and dribbling. It also focused on the mental aspects of the game and how to apply skills to life outside of basketball. "I just have a passion for basketball, and I'm trying to give back to the kids," said Sean. Read the KARE 11 story about the camp at mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.

Family donates hundreds of books to honor their daughter

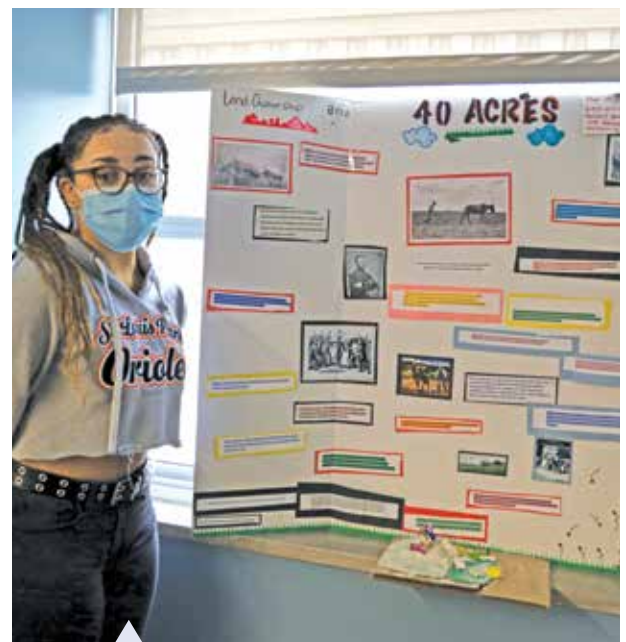
Bel Air Elementary School was honored to host the dedication of a generous donation of books in memory of Chris and Amanda Duffy's daughter, Reese. Reese would have been in first grade at Bel Air this school year. Reese's parents raised more than \$6,500 to donate a diverse selection of books for young readers to the school's first-grade teaching staff, as well as dedicate a bench to their daughter. Last year, the Duffy family donated more than 900 books to the library at Pike Lake Education Center, where Reese would have attended kindergarten.



The Duffy family, principal Dawn Wiegand and first-grade teaching staff at Bel Air gather around Reese Duffy's dedicated memorial bench.

Black History Month projects on display at high schools

In honor of Black History Month, high school students enrolled in the African American History class created a "museum" of projects that was displayed in common areas throughout their schools all month long. The optional history course was new to Mounds View's and Irondale's curriculum this school year. Project topics included President Abraham Lincoln, the Fourteenth Amendment, Black churches during Reconstruction, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and more.



Linnea Valentine created a "40 Acres" display for her history museum project at Mounds View High School.



Mounds View students enjoy inaugural StarLab visit

In December, Mounds View High School students in Mr. Hairrell's class were able to use StarLab, a portable, inflatable planetarium that engages students in a unique, cost-effective way. In the 2019-20 school year, the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation raised funds to replace the District's aging StarLab. The newest StarLab has state-of-the-art software and projection technology, with enhanced software to create dynamic and interactive learning environments. "I enjoyed how this StarLab was more modern than the one that we used in elementary school. Also, it was fun to be able to 'travel' through the universe," said a student who used it in class. To see more photos, visit mvpschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Equity Committee leadership project

Middle and high school students from across the District participated in a leadership project through a partnership with the District Equity Committee, University of Minnesota and the Ramsey County 4H leadership program. Participating students interviewed their peers to learn about their experiences in the pandemic and how to reimagine their school and community experiences moving forward. In addition to career and college preparation, students learned the skills needed as a social science researcher. The next step for the group is to decide how to share their findings with the community.

Elementary students celebrate 'I Love to Read Month'

Schools across the District celebrated "I Love to Read Month" in February. At Island Lake, students enjoyed staff reading bedtime stories for their students to watch at home, featuring a special cameo from Mrs. Moede's horse, Ruby.



Mrs. Moede, the school nurse at Island Lake, shared *Thelma the Unicorn* with her horse Ruby nearby.

District recognizes Orange Shirt Day

Mounds View Public Schools officially recognized Orange Shirt Day for the first time on September 29. The globally recognized event was created to commemorate the American Indian residential school experience, to honor the healing journey of the survivors and their families and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. At the Drum & Dance event, a prayer song was performed for victims and survivors of boarding schools across the country. Students and families were invited to join by wearing an orange shirt. To learn more about this day, visit orangeshirtday.org.



High school mentors partner with Pinewood students

Area Learning Center and Irondale High School National Honors Society students partnered with Pinewood Elementary School to provide mentoring in classrooms. Students met with fifth-graders during a series of visits in the library and classrooms to partner and complete activities tied to the Winter Olympics.



Irondale High School senior Diana Abarca Palma reads to Pinewood Elementary School fifth-grader Zeke Manning during a mentoring program in February.



Fourth-grade Olympians representing India (Mrs. Morse's class) and Greece (Mrs. Leiser's class) come together to celebrate a win in the qualifying round of the two-person luge competition.

Elementary students compete in Olympic Games

Island Lake Elementary School students in Mr. Palke and Mr. Leiser's physical education classes participated in their own Wolf Pride Winter Olympic events during the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. Each class competed in modified versions of different Olympic sports, including floor hockey, curling with scooters, bobsled and skeleton. In addition to learning lessons about teamwork and sportsmanship, students also learned how STEAM concepts affect the sports they played.

At Turtle Lake Elementary School, students participated in outdoor and indoor activities that emulated the Olympic Games. Each homeroom class chose a country to represent as they competed. Activities included sled racing, tug of war, capture the flag, scooter races and an obstacle course.

The Olympic celebration continued at Turtle Lake as students from Mrs. Zustiak's and Mrs. Roberts' third-grade classes used all their might to muscle the tug-of-war rope to victory.



Valentine Hills wins 'Thank a Teacher' donation

Old National Bank chose Valentine Hills Elementary School for their "Thank a Teacher" event. All Valentine Hills staff members received a treat bag, and the bank donated \$1,000 to the school.



One Act at Irondale

The Irondale Drama Department's One Act team took third place in the Sections competition in February.



Back row: Leo Walther, Sophia Haugen, Ada Vanderbilt, Alla Killins, Miles Collins, Leo Koefod; Front row: Sarah Gunderson, Lilly Grommes, Chloe Schwagerl, Ava Larson and Ava Bagwill.

Voice of Democracy finalists

Students from Irondale and Mounds View High Schools competed in the annual Brooker-Edmond VFW Post 724 "Voice of Democracy" contest. They wrote and recorded a broadcast based on the theme, "Where Do We Go From Here?" Naomi Nyakundi won first place in Irondale's contest, and Anna Grace won first place in Mounds View's contest.



Naomi Nyakundi (junior) won the Irondale Voice of Democracy audio essay contest. She poses with Brooker Edmond VFW Post #724 representatives Vern Wehlage, (left) and Terry Hoyer (right).



From left to right: Brooker Edmond VFW Post #724 representative Vern Wehlage, Mounds View essay winners Bhuvu Jain (sophomore, second place), Allison Yu (sophomore, third place), Anna Grace (senior, first place) and principal Stephanie Bruggers.

Irondale and Mounds View DECA honors

Irondale

Twenty five Irondale High School DECA members embarked on their first round of competition with eight area schools in more than 75 events. All 25 competitors qualified for the state DECA competition in Minneapolis for the first time in Irondale DECA history. The following competitors placed first in a variety of events:

Samia Abdulle	Melissa Perszyk
Gabby Caldwell	Kristina Silwal
Julia Clark	Kristian Thompson
Emily Ellingson	Bella Woo
Saylor Gallagher	Alex Woodbury
Gabe Luhman	Max Woodbury
Nick Martin	

Mounds View

Nineteen students from Mounds View High School participated in the annual Minnesota DECA District Career Development Conference in January. More than 250 students from the area competed in more than 50 events. Events focused on areas of entrepreneurship, finance, hospitality, marketing and other related fields. The competitions were designed to simulate real-life business scenarios and test students' academic understanding and skills development. District winners then put their talents to the test during the State Career Development Conference in Minneapolis. The following students qualified for the state competition in Minneapolis:

Gillian Anderson	Garima Khatiwada
Owen Arndt	Reyceliana Magaling
Yunru Chen	Ian Mulheron
Ava Frey	William Overbo
Anna Grace	Yewon Park
Sam Handelsman	Riley Stern
Ella Herbert	Camille Tran
Bhuvi Jain	



U.S. Presidential Scholar candidates

Eight District students were named candidates for the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars program. Established in 1964, this esteemed program recognizes and honors excellence in high school seniors around the country. Each year, up to 161 students are named U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. Mounds View Public Schools is tied for claiming the second highest number of candidates named from Minnesota.



Gavin Chang,
Mounds View
High School



**Connor
Chervany,**
Mounds View
High School



**Hamza
Rahmoune,**
Irondale Senior
High School



**Chandan
Sankar,**
Mounds View
High School



Joey Tan,
Mounds View
High School



Johnny Yue,
Mounds View
High School

Not pictured:

Molly Schuh,
Irondale High School

Margaret Xiao,
Mounds View High School

Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to **Courtney Hess** (Mounds View High School) and **Ariana Lynch** (Pinewood Elementary), who were named candidates for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year award. In March, Ariana Lynch was named a semifinalist and will be asked to record a video submission before the selection panel chooses a pool of about 10 finalists in April. The award is the oldest and most prestigious award honoring excellence in education in the state. The statewide Teacher of the Year will be named May 1.



Courtney Hess,
candidate



Ariana Lynch
semifinalist



All State Choir

Six choir singers from Irondale High School performed in the Minnesota All State choir at Orchestra Hall as part of the Minnesota Music Educators Association winter conference.



Back row: Ethan Favre and Matteo Rodriguez. Middle row: Liam Stone and Tomas Sepulveda. Front row: Kaitlyn Davies and Ava O'Rourke.



All-Conference band, choir and orchestra

The following band, choir and orchestra musicians participated in the SEC All-Conference Orchestra in February. The All-Conference ensembles are a select group that represents all of the schools in the SEC conference. The ensemble rehearsed together twice in January in order to prepare for a Grand Finale Concert at the end of the festival.

Irondale Choir



Back row, left to right: Ben Swanson, Leo Koefod, Qikai Lin, Conor Stone, Lucas Sepulveda, Jo Mahlum. Front row: Oluwatobiloba Samuel, Callie Nyaribo, Ava O'Rourke, Liam Stone, Tomas Sepulveda, Peter Markham, Pema Thinley, Kaitlyn Davies and Ella Kuipers.

Irondale Band



Left to right: Maddie Aplikowski, Josh Dickinson, Will Obrestad, Lucas Rabenn, Danne Harvey, Emilio Vargas, Sol Ulaszek and Jocelyn Ingbretson.

Irondale Orchestra



Back row: Lydia Nau, Mia Tranowski, Victor Ogwethi, Coen Breuch, James Chiri. **Front row:** Lorena Gil-Mora, Narindwa Semakula, Zoe Gutierrez and Anna Presseller.

Brooke Baumeister, Lucy Ehlers, Kieran Connolly, Lauren Breen, Ally Brodin, and Jack Nitti.

Mounds View All-Conference musicians

Daisy Bai, orchestra	Max Huberty, band
Brooke Baumeister, choir	Isabel Newhouse, band
Jace Blood, band	Jack Nitti, choir
Logan Bone, orchestra	Matthew Shen, orchestra
Lauren Breen, choir	Natalie Simms, band
Ally Brodin, choir	Gina Song, orchestra
Kieran Connolly, choir	Skylar Weirens, band member, played with the orchestra
Cynthia Dong, orchestra	Charlotte Wise, orchestra
Lucy Ehlers, choir	Sarah Zhang, orchestra
Annabel Grindheim, orchestra	Steven Zhou, orchestra
Liam Hall, orchestra	

Mounds View Choir



Edgewood robotics tournament

The Edgewood Middle School FTC Robotics Team #13787, Eagle Tech, participated in the FTC MN State Tournament in February for grades 6-12. The team ranked fifth out of 24 after the morning qualification rounds. In the finals, the team was knocked out in the first round by the #1 ranked team.



Front row, left to right: William Lee, Angelo Bravo, Dante Briones, Ryan Huynh, Colin Andert and Eamon Quigley. **Back row, left to right:** Scott Davis (Mentor), Tengis Gansukh, Lhanzay Gansukh, Gavin Henning, Anika Livstrom, Kevin Nguyen, Diego Sanchez, Benjamin Mansheim, Nate Cmiel (Mentor). **Not pictured:** Daniel Owen and Carl Kaden.



IRONDALE

College signings

Lucas Shaver signed a letter of intent to play lacrosse at Lander University in the fall. **Elizabeth VanLoon** committed to run cross country at the University of Minnesota – Duluth.



Bowling

Irondale's junior varsity and varsity bowling teams made All-Conference and went to the state competition in November.



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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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activities on your mobile
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Diving

In November, **Lulu Semakula** (freshman) qualified for state in diving.



State competitors

Gymnastics:

Lulu Semakula (freshman) performed in vault at the state competition. **Julia Clark** (senior) received fourth place overall for her all-around performance.

Nordic skiing:

Noah Besemann (junior), **Elizabeth VanLoon** (senior), and **Siri Stolen** (sophomore)



Left to right: Coach Torvi, Elizabeth VanLoon and Siri Stolen.



MOUNDS VIEW



College signings

The following students signed letters of intent this fall to continue their education and athletic achievements at the college level.

Ryan Edelman, football, St. Olaf College
Olivia Gette, soccer, Michigan Tech University
Blake Guerin, baseball, University of Iowa
Olivia Johnson, volleyball, University of Northwestern
Will Skelly, track and cross country, Duke University
Hadley Streit, track and field, University of Minnesota
Bjorn Swenson, tennis, University of Michigan
Raegan Valois, lacrosse, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Viewettes dance team

The Viewettes placed first in kick and 3rd in jazz at the Class AAA section championship, and qualified for the state tournament in February.



Bowling

The varsity bowling team finished second in the state with a season record of 10-4. **Nathan Swanson** and **Vince Bondhus** received All-Conference honors. Bondhus was also named to the All-State Team.



Left to right: Vince Bondhus, Nate Swanson, Connor Pederson, Ryan Maurer and Lex Jahnsen.

State competitors

Gymnastics:

Avery Dox,
floor (sophomore)

Alethia Olson-Skog,
vault (freshman)

Skiing:

Brynn Mills,
Nordic skiing (junior)

Ian Tsai (pictured at right),
alpine skiing (senior)



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