



Mounds View
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Talk

FALL 2021



Bouncing back

Resilient students
return to in-person learning

Resilient students return

After a school year that at times provided either distance, blended or in-person learning, all schools opened this fall for in-person, daily instruction at full capacity as schools navigate the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As a system we value connectedness, and we know we do our best work when we’re in person with students,” says Superintendent Chris Lennox. “We’re so glad to be back in school.”

Health and safety

A variety of mitigation measures are in place at all schools.

- Students, staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings in school buildings.
- Students and staff who are experiencing symptoms of illness are asked to stay home.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces continues.
- Hand hygiene practices and routines continue.
- Schools have created structures to maintain as much distance as possible within the school building.
- Ventilation continues to filter air at the highest levels, exceeding federal and state requirements.



Orchestra director James Bartsch prepares Highview Middle School sixth-grade students in rehearsal for their December concert.

Although most staff and many students are fully vaccinated, at this time COVID-19 vaccinations are not required nor included as a part of School Immunization Law in Minnesota.

The District has been able to offer a blend of community testing opportunities along with school-provided testing options for students experiencing symptoms or participating in routine screening testing. Contact tracing and notifying students who are advised to quarantine continues. And the District continues to follow the state’s guidance for isolating individuals who test positive for COVID-19.

“We appreciate all that our families are doing to be sure their students are staying home when they’re ill and getting tested as recommended,” says Lennox.

As usual, schools are providing a variety of learning opportunities and supports for students through the school year.



Technology support

In support of teaching and learning practices, the District is providing Chromebook devices to all students this year. For students in kindergarten through fifth grade, devices stay at school and are secured and charged on a classroom-based cart. Each student has a device assigned to them in their homeroom class for their own use. Middle and high school students are issued a device, charging block and protective sleeve.



On the cover:

Fifth-graders Sarah Carlson, Noah Berry and Desmond Miller release energy on the Turtle Lake Elementary School playground, where masks are not required.

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with us:



Visit us:



www.moundsvIEWSchools.org

for in-person learning



Island Lake Elementary School students Rohit Thinakaran, Aaron Hoag, Elizabeth Tamble and Kinsley Badger enjoy a fall morning outside school. Students and staff are not required to wear masks outdoors.

“We value connectedness, and we know we do our best work when we’re in person with students.”

– Superintendent Chris Lennox

Instructional programming

Schools continue to use a variety of additional curricular materials to improve learning experiences for students. For example, elementary schools continue to use a classroom app to communicate and share student work with families. The Google Classroom learning platform helps students stay up-to-date and connected to their learning and allows for peer collaboration and access from anywhere. These tools assist in the process of creating engaging lessons,

personalized learning and monitoring student academic understanding.

This year, the District will also continue to provide student and staff access to flexible furniture configurations that allow for adequate spacing and enhanced learning experiences.

Student support and engagement

Schools are providing a variety of social emotional learning supports, increasing equitable services for all students and providing competency-based learning that foster inclusion. This includes expanded language supports, enhanced community resources and partnerships as needs change and vary.



To learn more about the District's Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan for 2021-22, visit moundviewschools.org/covidresources.

No-fee meals

Thanks to continued funding of the federal COVID-19 meals program, meals, including breakfast and lunch, are available for all students this school year at no cost to families.



Public opinion and metro

Like other Twin Cities school districts, Mounds View Public Schools worked tirelessly this summer and fall to navigate the constantly changing conditions and guidance around reopening schools during an ongoing pandemic. How well did metro-area schools meet the expectations of their residents?

“School districts have had to do a highwire balancing act over the past eighteen months of the pandemic,” says Peter Leatherman, market researcher and chief executive officer of The Morris Leatherman Company. “Residents and parents continue to be as concerned about the health and safety of children as they are about the quality of education students are receiving. They’re not as vocal, but almost two-thirds of metro-area residents and parents support continuing COVID restrictions, like social distancing and masking, to ensure students can continue to learn in person.”



Distance learning vs. in-person learning

“The pandemic has proven we can effectively educate students using **more technology** and remote learning.”

13% agreement

“The pandemic has proven many students need daily **interaction in classrooms** with teachers.”

80% agreement

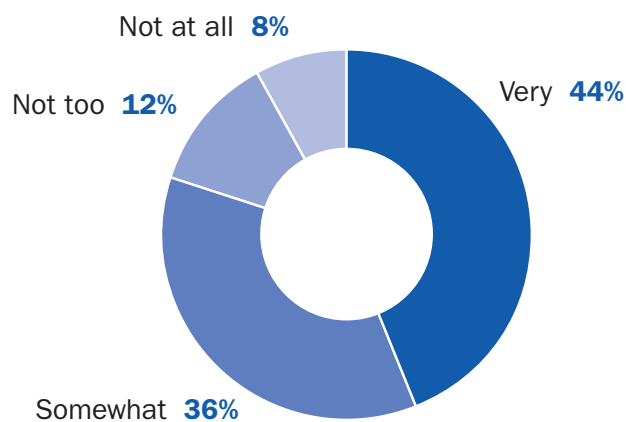
Unsure

7%



Quality of education

“I am concerned about the **quality** of students’ education.”



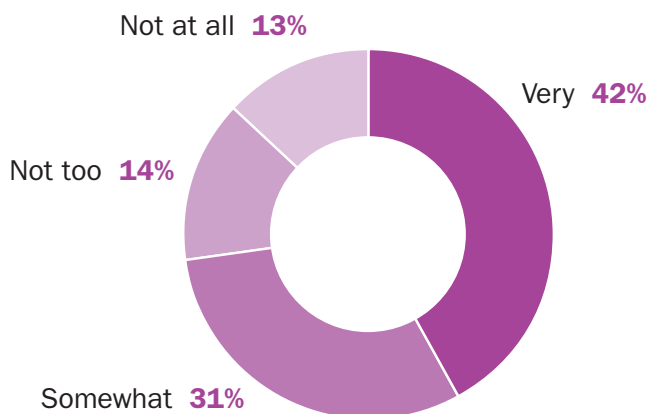
school districts

“They’re not as vocal, but almost two-thirds of metro-area residents and parents support masking to ensure students can continue to learn in person.”

– Peter Leatherman, CEO, The Morris Leatherman Company

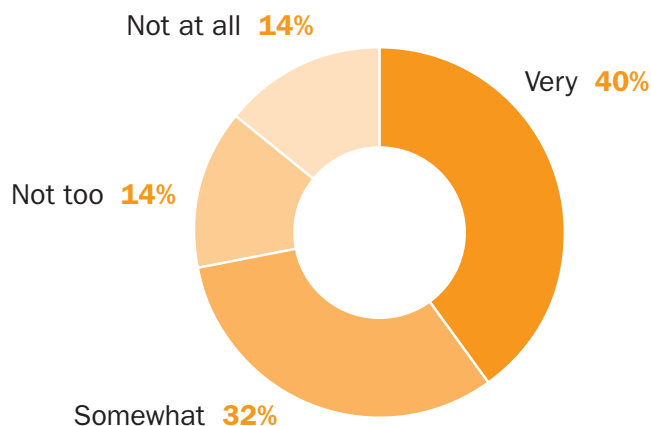
Student health and safety

“I am concerned about **students’** health and safety.”



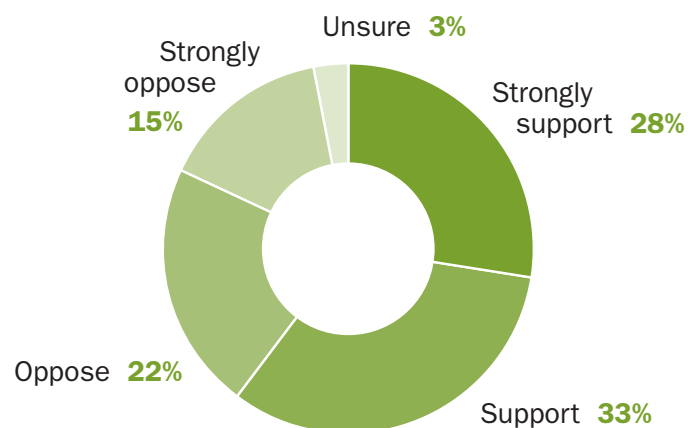
Teacher health and safety

“I am concerned about **teachers’** health and safety.”



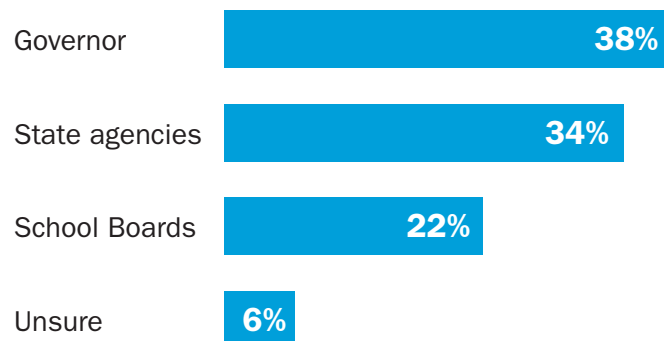
Mask requirements

“Schools should open this fall with **distancing and masking** required.”



Decision-makers

“I believe restrictions should be **determined by...**”



Morris Leatherman sample of 437 metro-area residents, August 9-16, 2021. +/- 4.9%.

Thank you, residents!

Nearly 400 visitors toured schools during the District's construction completion celebration in September. Every school site opened its doors to the public for student-led tours of the new spaces made possible by voters who approved funding for the \$165 million construction bond. All of the projects were completed on time, on budget and on target this fall to meet the recommendations from a community-wide facilities task force.



Irondale High School's 650-seat auditorium



Irondale High School's renovated commons



Mounds View High School's renovated student commons



The new fitness center at Mounds View High School

To view images of each school's new spaces, visit moundsviewschools.org/facilities.



Voters re-elect incumbents and one new member

On Election Day, voters in Mounds View Public Schools returned Shauna Bock and Diane Glasheen to the School Board. Residents also elected first-time candidate Yolanda Magee. Each will serve a four-year term. Election results (not canvassed at press time) for all candidates are below:



**New School Board member
Yolanda Magee will start her
four-year term in January.**

Shauna Bock	3,453 votes	17.24%
Diane Glasheen	3,873 votes	19.34%
Christine LaDuke	2,316 votes	11.56%
Yolanda Magee	4,747 votes	23.70%
Tim Root	2,508 votes	12.52%
Jon VanOeveren	2,700 votes	13.48%

Source: Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

2021 School Board



Diane Glasheen, Heidi Danielson, Jonathan Weinhausen, Sandra Westerman, Marre Jo Sager, Shauna Bock and Jim DeMay.

Policy governance

For years, Mounds View's School Board has been among the leaders in adopting policy governance as a model of operation. How does it work?

The School Board focuses on policy decisions rather than on operational issues. It adopts policies that provide general principles for guiding the management of the School District. The administration develops regulations that specifically support the School Board's policies. Policies can only be adopted by the School Board, while regulations do not require School Board approval to be implemented.

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

Certifying property taxes

Ramsey County will mail Truth in Taxation notices in mid November. Mounds View Public Schools will discuss the budget and the final property tax levy for 2022 at a 6 p.m. focused forum scheduled before its regularly scheduled 7 p.m. Board meeting on December 7, when it will certify final property taxes. The proposed taxes for 2022 total \$63,179,719.34, which is an increase of \$653,163.26, or about 1.04% increase over the final taxes payable 2021. For more information, please visit the Budgets and Finance page at moundsviewschools.org.



Mounds View Schools
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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

For more information on the Foundation visit mvsef.org.

MVSEF hosts its annual Rock the School House Event

In early September, the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation hosted its flagship event, Rock the School House — a fundraiser supporting the students in the Mounds View School District. After a year of “going virtual” due to the pandemic, community members, parents and Mounds View District staff were eager to gather in person to support the Foundation’s efforts.

It was a successful evening of fundraising with \$65,000 committed to support a broad range of programs for students throughout our schools, including the Intentional Social Interaction (ISI) events, the music instrument and Equity Promise Scholarship programs.

“We appreciate the extraordinary generosity of contributors to the

silent and live auctions as well as fund-our-mission,” said Erik Rasmussen, president of the MVSEF board of trustees. “It was special to be back in person, and we are exceptionally grateful for the support received by those in attendance, as well as the contributions by those in advance of the event.”

Erik Rasmussen began the program by offering a moment of silence in recognition of the 20-year anniversary of September 11. Rasmussen then acknowledged the generosity of the sponsors who supported the Foundation over the past year, despite the virtual nature of doing business. In addition, Mounds View staff were recognized for their commitment to our students given the significant



challenges presented by distance learning.

Pike Lake Kindergarten Center principal Todd Durand then took the podium to offer his perspective on the importance of the MVSEF’s partnership with the District. Todd set the stage for a smooth transition to the auctioneer leading the live auction and fund-our-mission portion of the program.





Throughout the evening, guests had the opportunity to participate in the popular wine and spirits toss as well as taking advantage of having a sketch done by local fashion illustrator Claire Ward. It was a fun-filled night and a welcome return to celebrating in person with our school community.

The Mounds View Schools Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works in partnership with District leadership to fund priorities that impact students throughout the Mounds View School District. To learn more about our efforts visit our website at www.mvsef.org.






FOCUS on your future Mounds View Public Schools

Kindergarten Round-Up:

	Island Lake	at Snail Lake*	February 10	5-7 p.m.
	Turtle Lake	at Snail Lake*	February 8	5-7 p.m.
	Bel Air, Pinewood, Sunnyside and Valentine Hills	at Pike Lake*	February 9	5:30 p.m.
			February 10	5:30 p.m.
(Families can attend on either date.)				



*These events will take place virtually. More information will be sent to attendees closer to the events.

2022 middle school information nights:

	Chippewa Middle School	February 8	6-7:30 p.m.
	Edgewood Middle School	January 18	6-7:30 p.m.
	Highview Middle School	February 8	4-6 p.m.

2022 high school information nights:

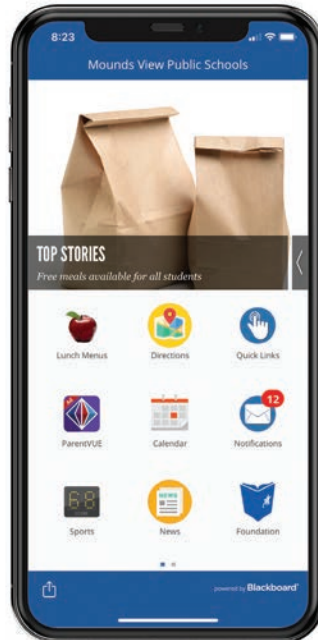
In January, 8th-graders will receive registration information in the mail. Information nights will offer families an opportunity to learn more and register online (during the event or at home).

	Irondale High School	January 11	
	8th-grade information night		5:30-6:15 p.m. or 6:45-7:30 p.m.
	Mounds View High School	December 14	TBD

District-wide annual asbestos notification

Mounds View Public Schools has continued to respond to asbestos in buildings in a cautious and proactive manner. Building administration will continue with its ongoing asbestos operations and maintenance program, including periodic surveillance inspections, which are conducted on a semiannual basis. Also required as part of AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act-EPA) are re-inspections, which are conducted by accredited inspectors every three years since the implementation of the District's Management Plan. The building administration's ongoing efforts related to the management and control of asbestos containing materials are focused on providing a safe environment for our building occupants and employees. If you have any questions, would like to review the management plan, or are interested in recent response actions completed at the buildings, please contact Chris Paquette at 651-621-6090.

Stay connected in 2021-22



Staying connected to the District and its schools is more important than ever. Add your email and phone number to Synergy to make sure you receive email and text updates, and download the free Mounds View Public Schools app. Find the app in the App Store or on Google Play to receive the latest news and updates. Search Mounds View Public Schools to download the app.

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.

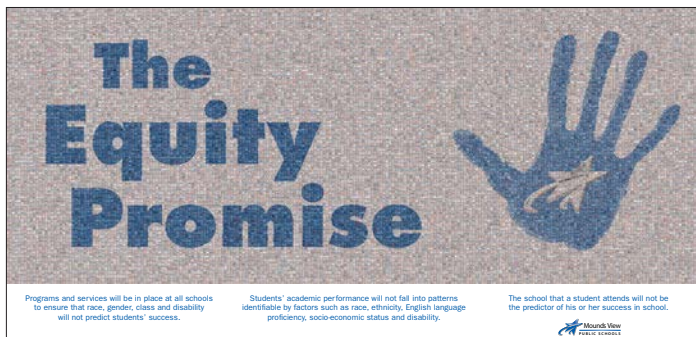
Para aprender mas sobre los programas del Distrito Escolar y de los eventos en esta edicion de *School Talk*, llame a Angel Toro al 651-724-2854.

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.

MAKING THE GRADE

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

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



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

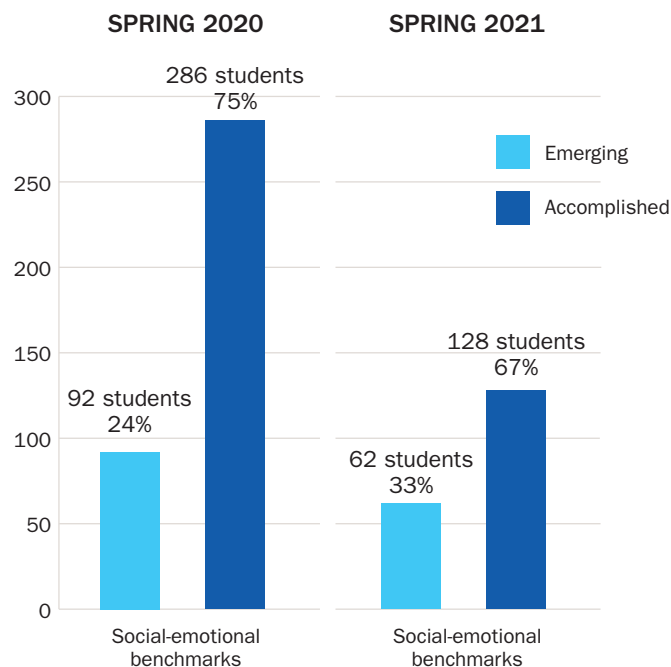
1. All students meet school-readiness goals.
2. All third-grade students achieve grade-level literacy.
3. Close achievement gaps for all student groups.
4. All students graduate from high school.
5. All students attain college and career readiness.

STUDENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRESS INDICATORS

1 All students meet school-readiness goals.

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

KINDERGARTEN READINESS RESULTS



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

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

Student performance of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment for reading provides an annual check of third-grade literacy progress. At Mounds View, 62.7% of students are proficient (meet or exceed the standards) on this exam,

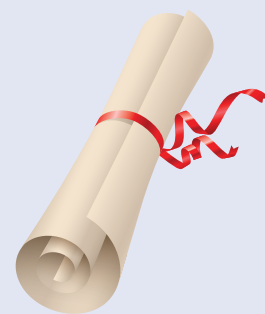


Class of 2020 summary

99% participated in college credit-earning courses.

89% earned college credits.

63% earned 1 semester or more of college credit (12 or more credits).



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

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

which is indicative of students who are on track with their development of literacy skills. During the 2020-21 school year, 76% of students participated in this assessment. The District's Read Well by Third Grade plan demonstrates our commitment to monitoring students' progress in the area of literacy beginning in kindergarten. The plan can be viewed at moundviewschools.org/readingwell.

3 Close achievement gaps for all student groups.

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

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

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

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

Early College

AT IRONDALE & MOUNDS VIEW

\$3,908,750

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



Cost savings for students of color:

\$1,185,250

Cost savings for students who qualify for educational benefits:

\$581,250

4 All students graduate from high school.

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

Progress on Graduation Rates	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
ALL Students	96.5	97.7	96.7
White Students	97.2	98.3	97.6
Students of Color	95.2	95.2	95.4
Students receiving educational benefits	92.0	92.0	93.7
Students receiving EL services	88.0	93.2	86.0
Students receiving SE services	93.5	93.7	90.8

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

5 All students attain college and career readiness.

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



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

GRADUATING CLASS ACT SCORES

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

Scores represent tests taken during District and national testing.

Mounds View student learns from local reporters

During ThreeSixty Journalism's annual summer TV reporting camp, Mounds View High School junior and budding journalist Han Vu-Tran was able to write and shoot a video news story with the help of reporters at KSTP Eyewitness News. Her news story focused on the work of the University of Minnesota's Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity, where academics are examining the impact of systemic racism on health care outcomes in the Black community. ThreeSixty Journalism, a nonprofit program at the University of St. Thomas, helps diverse youth tell the stories of their lives and communities through principles of strong writing and news reporting. To watch Han's news story, visit moundsviewschools.org/schooltalkplus.



Mounds View junior Han Vu-Tran works with KSTP reporter Kirsten Swanson on writing, shooting and editing a video news story.

Sunnyside students meet K9 officers

Sunnyside Elementary School had some special guests visit their school this summer, thanks to the Mounds View Police Department. K9 Officer Nico, along with his human partner Officer Erickson, and K9 Officer Grizz, along with his human partner Officer Schultes, visited students and demonstrated their skills. Students were able to learn more about the K9 unit's duties, as well as see a demonstration and meet them up close.



Teachers: Sadie Schwebach and Tam Dang;
Officer Erickson and K9 Niko

Students, from left to right: Matteo C.,
Andrew M., Valeria M., Tenzin J., William H.,
Pierre P., Abigail T., Daniel A., Julian Martinez R., Matthew H.

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf



Donations help 897 students

Thanks to community donations, the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf distributed school supplies to 897 students in grades K-12 as part of the Good Neighbor Back to School Project. Students received everything from pencils to backpacks.

Thanksgiving bags

Thanksgiving bags with all the fixings are available to families in need during the month of November. To set up an appointment, please call the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf at 651-621-6280 or visit the upcoming events tab at ralphreederfoodshelf.org for more information on all of our holiday programs.

Looking for ways to help?

Monetary donations are needed and can be made online at ralphreederfoodshelf.org or by mailing a check to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf at 2544 Mounds View Blvd, Mounds View, MN 55112. Non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon at the back entrance or by appointment by calling 651-621-6280.

Summer band attracts students

More than 400 band students played together in the District's Summer Band program. Instruction at all levels was offered for students entering fifth grade, with opportunities to participate online and in person. Beginner students entering fifth grade learned the very basics of their instruments, while students entering sixth grade were able to appreciate playing with their classmates in the full band. The advanced level, for those entering seventh through ninth grades, offered students the opportunity to make music with their friends and their favorite band directors. The four-week program concluded with a grand finale concert in August, in which all three groups performed for a live audience at Irondale High School.



Summer orchestra students perform at Twins game

Students who participated in the summer band program performed during a Twins game at Target Field in September. Performers included students from all elementary and middle schools' summer orchestra programs.



New principal hires

Vichai Saefong

*Irondale High School
associate principal*



Vichai Saefong (vee-chai say-fong) comes to Irondale High School from the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school district, previously serving as an assistant principal at Tartan High School for three years. He has also served as a dean of students at Community School of Excellence and a behavior specialist in Saint Paul Public Schools.



Staci Souhan

*Turtle Lake Elementary
School principal*

Staci Souhan started this school year as the new principal at Turtle Lake Elementary School. She succeeds Darin Johnson, who was recently named the executive director of school management for Mounds View Public Schools. Souhan is an experienced elementary school principal and instructional programming leader. She has over 15 years of experience in public education, serving as a principal, summer school program administrator and teacher, most recently serving as principal of CE Jacobson Elementary School in Rush City Public Schools.

Gretchen Zahn

*Mounds View High School
associate principal*



Zahn joins Mounds View High School after serving as the Director of Curriculum & Instruction for the District. Prior to that role, she served as a teacher at Mounds View.

Alumni update

2007 Mounds View High School graduate **Lara Dallman-Weiss** participated in her first Olympics this past summer as part of the United States sailing team. Lara and her sailing partner, sailing as Team Perfect Vision, came in seventh place overall.



First-time Olympic sport climber **Kyra Condie**, a 2016 Mounds View graduate, came in eleventh place overall in Tokyo.



Mounds View High School class of 2021 graduate **Grace Plowman** was named the Youth Advocate of the Year from the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota. While at Mounds View, she created a tobacco prevention advocacy group that encouraged teens to quit smoking and vaping. Grace has also advocated for policy changes at the city and state level—including testifying in favor of Tobacco 21 and policies to end the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Mounds View High School alumnus **Sam Hentges** returned to Minnesota in June for his Major League Baseball debut. After being drafted to the Cleveland Indians as a fourth-round pick in 2014, he was the starting pitcher for the Indians at the Twins game on June 26. Sam was a 2014 graduate of Mounds View High School and helped lead the baseball team to a state championship victory during his senior year.



Pesticides and Herbicides: Parents' right to know

A Minnesota state law went into effect in the year 2000 that requires schools to inform parents and guardians if they apply certain pesticides on the school property. Specifically, this law requires schools that apply these pesticides to maintain an estimated schedule of pesticide applications and to make the schedule available to parents and guardians for review or copying at each school office. The long-term effects on children from application of such pesticides, or the class of chemicals to which they belong, may not be fully understood. If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the estimated schedule (excluding emergency applications), please contact Chris Paquette at 651-621-6090.

ALC hosts annual block party

The Area Learning Center hosted its annual back-to-school block party for staff, students and their families. Attendees had the opportunity to get to know each other ahead of the start of the school year while enjoying free book giveaways, crafts, cotton candy, popcorn and more.



Island Lake creates pollinator garden

Island Lake Elementary School's pollinator garden, maintained by staff and students, won top honors in the Landscape Ecology Awards Program (LEAP) through the Ramsey-Washington County Watershed District. The award recognizes landowners and managers in the area who use innovative practices to benefit water quality and natural resources. Students planted the pollinator garden with hopes to attract bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds to transfer pollen from flower to flower and improve the local natural habitat.



Students get hands-on STEAM skills

Sunnyside Elementary School students had the opportunity to build towers using blocks during Ms. Michelson's third grade STEAM class this fall. STEAM uses science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics to guide student learning.



Fire Department visits Snail Lake

The Lake Johanna Fire Department visited Snail Lake Kindergarten students to teach them about fire safety and how the Fire Department uses its trucks to put out fires. Students learned about the different parts of a fire truck and had the opportunity to take a look inside.



Playworks returns to elementary schools



PLAYWORKS

After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Playworks program returned to elementary schools this fall. Playworks partners with schools to create recess and play environments where every child can join in. They

believe all students experience the social, emotional and physical benefits of play. Activities can include guided kickball games, water balloon tosses and more. The District and Playworks are teaming up over the next two years to ensure a safe, engaging and empowering recess experience at every elementary and kindergarten center through training and staff professional development, on-site programming, and the design and implementation of a written plan for recess at each school.

Highest ACT score

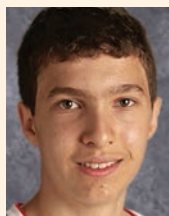
The following students received a composite score of 36 during last year's ACT administration, the highest score that can be achieved on the exam (due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many students took the exam at different times during the school year). See the spring 2021 issue of *School Talk* for additional students who received top scores.



Gavin Chang
Mounds View



Connor Chervany
Mounds View



Hamza Rahmoune
Irondale



Gina Song
Mounds View



Claire Stellmack
Mounds View



Joey Tan
Mounds View



Johnny Yue
Mounds View

Not pictured:

Cynthia Dong, Mounds View High School

Chandan Sankar, Mounds View High School

Molly Schuh, Irondale High School

Irondale students recognized for PSAT scores

Irondale High School seniors **Diana Abarca Palma** and **Raffael Venterea** are two of 32,000 students from across the country to earn academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs. These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them stand out during the admissions process. They earned this recognition by excelling on their PSAT and/or AP exams during the last school year.



Diana Abarca Palma



Raffael Venterea

Mounds View teacher wins Fulbright

Mounds View High School economics teacher **Martha Rush** recently received a Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program award. As a Fulbright recipient, Rush will foster meaningful connections across communities in the United States and abroad. Fulbrighters engage in cutting-edge research and expand their professional networks, often continuing research collaborations started abroad and laying the groundwork for forging future partnerships between institutions. Fulbright alumni include 60 Nobel Prize laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize recipients and 39 who have served as a head of state or government.



Minnesota Youth Symphonies



Chippewa Middle School violinist **Riya Kulangaroth** (seventh grade) was recently accepted into the Minnesota Youth Symphonies' orchestral program. Minnesota Youth Symphonies is one of the premier musical training programs in

the country and accepts students based on their audition and other factors. Once accepted, students participate in weekly musical training and performances.

Six ALC students named finalists in writing contest

The Minnesota Reading Association named six finalists from the Area Learning Center during their Celebrate Literacy Young Authors Celebration. The focus of the event was on student identity and honoring students' unique voices and cultural backgrounds. This year's prompt was titled, "My journey shapes who I am." The finalists were **David Alarcon Olivar**, **Donna Chmielewski**, **Karina Flores Ruiz**, **Molly Lamberson**, **Marcia Marquez Garcia** and **Samantha Moreno**.

2022 National Merit Scholarship Program

16 students named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program

Mounds View Public Schools is proud to announce 16 semifinalists for the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. They join about 16,000 students nationally competing for scholarships in this highly competitive program. Semifinalists were selected based on the PSAT scores and other indicators of high achievement. Finalists will be announced in February.



Gavin Chang
Mounds View



Connor Chervany
Mounds View



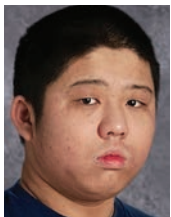
Cameron Dolbow
Mounds View



Austin Gin
Mounds View



Elisa Guo
Mounds View



Ashton Jin
Mounds View



Daniel Lei
Mounds View



Yatharth Sharma
Mounds View



Claire Stellmack
Mounds View



Riley Stern
Mounds View



Elizabeth VanLoon
Irondale



Johnny Yue
Mounds View



Sarah Zhang
Mounds View

Not pictured:

Cynthia Dong,
Mounds View High School

Chandan Sankar,
Mounds View High School

Margaret Xiao,
Mounds View High School

Commended students

Daisy Bai, Mounds View High School

Joshua Dickinson, Irondale High School

Brendan Goldman, Mounds View High School

Elizabeth Gregory, Mounds View High School

Olivia Hoyhtya, Mounds View High School

Joshua Lange, Mounds View High School

Carter Lessard, Mounds View High School

Calvin Marcellus, Irondale High School

Katherine Nelson, Mounds View High School

Griffin O'Connor, Mounds View High School

Erin O'Rourke, Mounds View High School

Omar Rahman, Mounds View High School

Sydney Rasmussen, Mounds View High School

Zaid Rizvi, Mounds View High School

Molly Schuh, Irondale High School

Matthew Shen, Mounds View High School

Gina Song, Mounds View High School

Gregory Starr, Irondale High School

Joey Tan, Mounds View High School

Ian Tsai, Mounds View High School

Sophie Ulaszek, Irondale High School

Derek Wang, Irondale High School

Kevin Xiong, Mounds View High School

Junha Yoo, Mounds View High School



This past spring, several students from the Area Learning Center (ALC) received scholarships. **Mazin Abdelkhalig** received an Equity Promise Scholarship which recognizes students

ALC students receive scholarships

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. Mounds View Public Schools would like to thank the New Brighton Lion's Club who

contributed to this scholarship. In addition, Mazin also received an ALC staff scholarship, while **Ja'Quan Harris**, **Samantha Moreno** and **Angie Sanchez-Garcia** received the Ray and Marjorie Cox Memorial Scholarship. These two scholarships were administered by ALC staff and donors.



IRONDALE

Busiest goalie in the state

Irondale soccer goalie **Jo Mahlum** (senior) was featured in the *Star Tribune* for having the highest rate of recorded saves in the state. This season, Jo has made 254 saves on the soccer field, compared to the next highest recorded rate of 166 saves. This comes after Jo switched from volleyball to soccer during her junior year.



Senior sets new school record

Irondale High School swimmer **Mezi Koke** (senior) set a new school record for the 100 yard butterfly. She completed the race in 58.18 seconds, compared to the previous record of 59.60 seconds set in 1985.



Marching Knights named state champions

Irondale's marching band claimed the Class AAA championship and came in fifth place overall in the state tournament in October. This ends a successful season that included hosting the 29th annual Music of the Knight performance. The competitive field show was a spectacular combination of music, marching, movement and visual effects that featured local and regional marching bands from Minnesota and Wisconsin. See more photos at moundviewschools.org/schooltalkplus.

Boys cross country

The boys cross country team competed in the Suburban East Conference meet in October. Team captain **Felix Ongera** (senior) had a stand out performance, coming in 15th place overall and being named All-Conference.



Irondale Knights on
Twitter @Golrondale



facebook.com/
IrondaleHighSchool



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

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





MOUNDS VIEW



Boys soccer

The boys' soccer team became Suburban East Conference champions with their win over Roseville in October.

Cross Country

The boys and girls varsity cross country teams were named conference champions. The boys and girls junior varsity teams also won conference titles this fall.



Girls tennis

The girls tennis team won third place in the state tournament. This comes after their fourth conference championship in a row, and their 22nd in school history. The following players were named All-Conference: **Molly Austin, Shae Crockarell, Amanda Diao, Katerine Smircinschi, Emma Sun and Rory Wahlstrand.**

Boys Tennis Player of the Year

Mounds View senior **Bjorn Swenson** was named the *Star Tribune's* Metro Boys' Tennis Player of the Year for the second time. "I really love playing high school tennis. I love playing for a team," said Swenson. This season, he hopes to play doubles with his younger brother. Next year, he has committed to playing at the University of Michigan.



Photo courtesy of the *Star Tribune*.

Mounds View High School Hall of Fame

The following former students and staff have recently been added to the Mounds View High School Hall of Fame.

- Leah Hansen, Class of 2009
- Dan Hoverman, Superintendent
- Sierra Krebsbach, Class of 2006
- Stuart McFarland, Class of 1996
- Kayo Merritt, Class of 1994
- Allie Phillips, Class of 2009
- Hank Ryan, Coach
- Tom Schutta, Class of 1966
- Pete Stacy, Class of 2008
- Billy Turner, Class of 2010
- Maurice Turner, Class of 2006
- Arya Vayghan, Class of 2007



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.moundsviewschools.org/moundsview.

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





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Registration for Winter/ Spring programs opens December 6, 2021, at 9 a.m.

Highlights include:

Family ski/snowboard
and tubing nights at
Wild Mountain



All ages
Minnesota
star watch
party



New youth enrichment
programming for arts,
languages and more!



Adult enrichment
opportunities,
including gardening
and cooking classes

Register using
this link:



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