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Spring/Summer 2019

ISD 728 Administration Asks School Board to Consider 2019 Referendum

At the School Board's request, Superintendent Dan Bittman provided a recommendation to the ISD 728 School Board at its May 6 and May 20 meetings for a November 5, 2019 referendum. If approved by the Board, the referendum would seek local support for additional operating funds and building bonds to help achieve both the Strategic Plan results and community priorities.

The request is the culmination of a comprehensive planning process that began more than a year and a half ago and included community-driven development of the district's Strategic Plan – a roadmap that leads ISD 728 into the next decade of learning.

"Throughout that planning process, we collected feedback from thousands of residents in our ISD 728 communities," Bittman said. "Our Strategic Plan highlights their shared desire to provide our students with innovative learning environments, equitable opportunities, and access to programs and facilities. And, while the referendum recommendation will not meet all of the needs identified by this Strategic Plan, it is directly aligned with what the community asked for, while remaining fiscally responsible to our resident taxpayers."

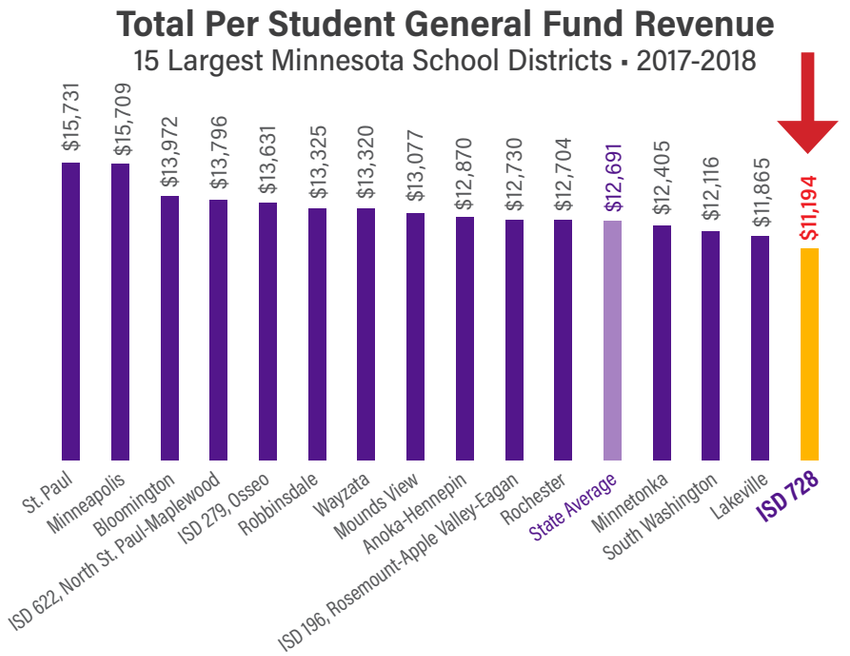
The recommendation is for a two-question ballot. Question One would increase the district's operating levy to fund school materials, staff and academic programs, and put the District closer to the state average and other similarly sized districts in terms of funding. Question Two would provide bond funds to address building needs due to growth, building age and inequities across the district. The Board anticipates making a final decision about the referendum at its June 24 meeting.

"We know some additional state funding is being made available by the Legislature. However, the additional funding does not even cover inflationary increases for this year or address years of underfunding. In addition, unfunded mandates related to Special Education programs, for example, cost our district more than $10.5 million a year beyond what we are reimbursed," Steinbrecher said. "No organization or business can operate that way."

The referendum funding would address multiple areas of concern and need, ISD 728 staff reported to the Board. First, curriculum and programming would be better supported, and there would be more equitable opportunities and services for our students and families, as prioritized in the Strategic Plan and recommended by residents.

Next, the referendum would address deferred maintenance needs across the district, which includes dollars for such things as roof and parking lot repairs, as well as for maintenance of heating systems at each of our sites. Funds would also provide space for growing enrollment by building a new school, and updating schools at all levels to improve accessibility, create more flexible learning spaces, and address current inequities.

Meanwhile and despite increased state funding, ISD 728 is moving ahead with more than $10 million in budget cuts for the 2019-2020 school year, with additional cuts likely in 2020-2021. While ISD 728 is the eighth largest district in Minnesota, its per student general education funding and operating levy are both dead last among the 15 largest school districts, and well below the state average.



Without additional funding provided by the two proposed ballot questions, class sizes would increase, there would be less support for struggling students, budget cuts would continue, boundary changes would be necessary and important building maintenance needs would not be addressed, among other impacts.

"We know our administrative and leadership team has done a lot of work to seek input, align budgets and communicate its concerns about funding over the past year," Steinbrecher said. "Every approach and angle has been considered. School funding is a shared responsibility between the state and federal government, as well as our local communities."

"The budget planning process has allowed the school district to take a hard look at its operations," Bittman added. "Making budget adjustments is never anything a superintendent or a school board want to do. Ultimately, we want to continue and build on our success as one of the top school districts in Minnesota, and to meet the needs of our families as outlined in our planning process. We're approaching this as an opportunity for change and growth, in partnership with our community," he said.

ISD 728: Expansion of Building Space, Educational Services Needed to Meet Strategic Plan, Next Decade of Learning

Nearly one year ago, the ISD 728 School Board approved its latest Strategic Plan, setting the course for the next five years of learning in the school system that serves the Rogers, Otsego, Elk River and Zimmerman communities, as well as townships and neighborhoods throughout the surrounding areas.

The Strategic Plan – a community effort that included input from more than 1000 different voices – includes a pair of strategies the district stated it would utilize to maintain its status as one of the top school districts in Minnesota.

First, the plan states ISD 728 will cultivate "an innovative environment where all members of our community support a culture that is committed to embracing exceptional opportunities for all learners to achieve our mission and learner outcomes."

Second, the plan states the district will "ensure equitable opportunities and access to programs and facilities so that all learners achieve" our mission, maintain core values and reach for higher-than-ever learner outcomes.

ISD 728 staff, with the support of members of the leadership team, reported a plan on how to deliver on the tenets of the new Strategic Plan at a special presentation to the School Board held on April 22, 2019. The report laid out a purposeful plan to expand facilities to meet growth and student needs, while also reviewing curriculum and special needs necessary for the district to implement innovative learning tactics for the year 2020 and beyond.

"We know the direction we have been given from our communities," said Superintendent Dan Bittman. "Their input into our plan has been something we are excited about and are using to guide our work. Yet, in order to achieve these strategic goals, we knew some steps had to be taken to not only keep us successful, but to put us in position to achieve new levels of success as a district."

ENSURING 'EQUITY AND ADEQUACY'

ISD 728 Director of Community Relations Cory Franson admits the district's strategies can sometimes get "jumbled by jargon." However, the objective is pretty clear – the district is growing and needs more space. And, the spaces already utilized in ISD 728 need to meet the needs of a modern-day student.

"The systematic method of standing in front of a classroom and talking to kids about nouns and pronouns or the Pythagorean theorem is only part of what our teachers and students do," Franson said. "If that's all a classroom is made for, and all a school offers, districts will not be preparing our students for their future. They need a different experience than what was offered years ago."

The need to update and maintain existing space is one part of a three-legged stool. But it's necessary to create the best learning environments throughout a district that has facilities ranging from very old to very new.

Secondly, ISD 728 is growing. A trip down Wright County Highway 39 to the south and west of Elk River shows a booming community across the Mississippi River. Otsego officials told the district more homes have been built – on the average – over the last two years than even prior to the recession of 2008. And more are on the way.

This spells the need for an additional school, according to demographics presented to the district via an independent study earlier this year.

"Growth in enrollment is a good problem to have, as it means families want to live here and have their children attend our schools," Bittman said. "However, it's not one that is easily or quickly accommodated. While ISD 728 added space with the 2014 referendum, we're in need of more on the southern end of the district. We will increase by 600 kids every three years, according to projections and expect to have an additional 2,000 within the next five to ten years. That level of growth equals a new elementary school every three years. There simply isn't enough room in our schools in the southern end of the district."



Third, responsible spending – something the district has been recognized for over the past decade – also means taking care of our buildings by addressing deferred maintenance needs. Those include new roofs, heating systems, parking lots and more.

CREATING AN INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Innovation, Assistant Superintendent Jana Hennen-Burr said, means building on new ideas, and expanding on recent success. For ISD 728, that means - ideally - growing award-winning programs like the Mindfulness initiatives across the district, and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) efforts and partnerships that have changed academic and career relationships around ISD 728 communities. That can't be done without more resources assisting the departments leading these programs.

"I think one of the great success stories we've had as a district recently is the community's response to our efforts in CTE, which has included numerous opportunities including work experiences and apprenticeships for students," Hennen-Burr said. "The Strategic Plan the Board approved last year encourages us to find new ways to continue to grow that program, and to bring it to more students every year. We're finding more support for that from our business partners, and that's creating new opportunities for students everyday."

In addition to expanding CTE opportunities, ISD 728 hopes to invest in its teaching and learning team, allowing it to narrow its curriculum review cycle from 10 to seven years. This means updating student materials around the state's 8th largest district more regularly to meet new demands from an ever-changing workforce. Other important efforts to support students would be embraced with additional resources, should they become available. Leading the way would be a focus on social-emotional learning – including mental health support – and additional resources for students who are struggling and in need of specialized support. Finally, ISD 728 would strive to maintain or lower class sizes across the district. This is a conscious decision to provide more resources for students, while maintaining optimal teacher/student ratios for our professionals as well.

"The support we've received from our community has been vital to our past success," Bittman said. "Continued support will be needed to maintain that level – and then improve upon it. So our discussion is centered on how to fund our academic and facilities needs so they align with the Strategic Plan. How do we put ourselves in a position where, in 2023, we can look back and say, 'We were able to build upon what we started as we entered the 21st Century and then become an even more dynamic and innovative place for our students, staff and families.' ISD 728 is an amazing place to live, work and grow. We're excited to work with our community to make it even better."

Community Leaders Get Update



Representatives from ISD 728 community partners, including city leaders, business partners and more, visited the ISD 728 District Offices in April for a day of learning and discussion.

At the heart of the day was a discussion about the District's financial situation – facing a $10 million reduction for the 2019-2020 budget and the possibility of a 2019 bond and levy referendum. Discussion was positive, centering on school successes and student achievement, with an eye on the future of ISD 728.

"We appreciate these partnerships so much as we move forward in our Strategic Plan and delivering on the major tenets of that plan to our students and staff. It's a community effort, and we're really happy to be a part of these great cities and townships," said Superintendent Dan Bittman.

In addition, the District Office hosted the Core Planning Team, which took a deep dive into the upcoming budget and the next decade of learning here at ISD 728. With the 2018-2019 school year wrapping up, focus is on the next decade of learning here in ISD 728. The Core Planning Team examines budget, curriculum and our mission to set the course for the upcoming year, while looking at success and items that need addressing to continue our status as one of the highest achieving districts in Minnesota.

Thanks to all who participated and gave their time to this busy week of discussion and learning.

ISD 728 Spends Day with Legislative Leaders in St. Paul



Superintendent Dan Bittman and Community Engagement Director Cory Franson were joined by a handful of ISD 728 constituents and one student as they traveled to St. Paul Wednesday, April 24 for a day at the State Capitol.

The group visited a number of ISD 728 representatives including Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Michelle R. Benson, Representative Kurt Daudt, Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Senator Warren Limmer, Representative Eric Lucero, Representative Kristin Robbins, Representative John Heinrich and Representative Nick Zerwas. The contingent shared the district's current budget hardships and discussed ways state government policies could impact future budgets and district programming.

ISD 728 Finance Team Earns National Award for Transparency

The ISD 728 finance team has earned recognition for its excellence in financial reporting and transparency, awarded by the Association of School Business Officials.

ISD 728 is one of about 550 school districts nationally who received ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE) for the fiscal year 2018.

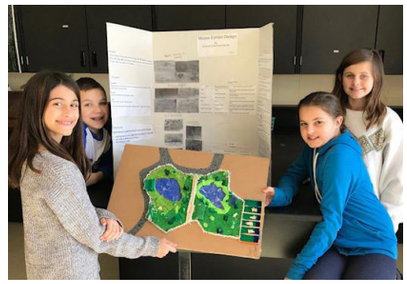
The COE program recognizes school districts for excellence in the preparation of their Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

"We are proud of our entire team and the work they do for our district, and for our stakeholders," said Superintendent Dan Bittman. "The pathway to a balanced budget and financial stability in a school district isn't an easy one to navigate, and our staff does an excellent job of supporting our community each year. This is well-deserved recognition for our team."

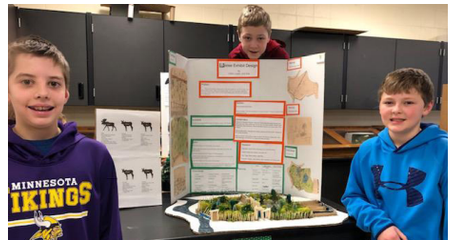


Zimmerman Middle School Students Shine in Zoo Contest

Several students from Zimmerman Middle School were rewarded with a trip to the Minnesota Zoo prior to Spring Break thanks to their efforts in a regional competition. The sixth-graders worked on the "Zoo Zooms" Exhibit Design challenge and created new habitats for moose and tigers at the zoo. Congratulations, students!









Retirees Honored at Annual Ceremony

ISD 728's retirees were thanked for their years of dedication and service to our area schools with a special ceremony held Wednesday, May 29 at the ISD 728 District Office. Nearly 15 of the district's 27 retirees – with a combined experience of more than 600 years, according to Human Resources Executive Director Tim Caskey – participated in Wednesday's ceremony with their families, friends and colleagues on hand.

"This is just one of the ways we can say 'thank you' for all that you've done for our kids, our schools and our communities," Caskey said.



Janine Ahrens
Kindergarten Teacher
Otsego Elementary School
33 years

Cynthia Barnwell
Cook Helper
Rogers Middle School
4 years

Norine Bell
Cook Helper / Hope Instructor
Elk River High School
6 years

Mary Blattner
Grade 4 Teacher
Westwood Elementary School
41 years

Carole Boelter
Kindergarten Teacher
Lincoln Elementary School
45 years

Beth Britt
ECFE Teacher
Handke Center
17 years

Kathy Brown
First Cook
Zimmerman Elementary School
22 years

Mary Christian
Head Cook
Meadowvale Elementary School
25 years

Kerri Conlin
Kindergarten Teacher
Lincoln Elementary School
34 years

Susan Geiser
First Cook
Rogers Middle School
21 years

Janet Goble
Elementary Teacher
Otsego Elementary School
25 years

Laureen Grasso
Technology Assistant
Westwood Elementary School
13 years

Ricky Greenwaldt
Science Teacher
Rogers Middle School
31 years

Sharon Grones
Supervision Assistant
Zimmerman Middle / High School
23 years

Julie Hall
Assistant Supervision
Salk Middle School
18 years

Patricia Heitke
Secretary
Rogers High School
12 years

Terri Jore
Special Education Coordinator
District-Wide
31 years

Michelle Koteles
Instructional Assistant
Twin Lakes Elementary School
18 years

Denise Linn
Math Teacher
Rogers High School
15 years

Mary Jo Matchinsky
Grade 3 Teacher
Otsego Elementary School
34 years

Julie Miller
Supervision Assistant
Parker Elementary School
27 years

Cynthia Nagle
Kindergarten Teacher
Parker Elementary School
21 years

Colleen Pagh
Grade 1 Teacher
Otsego Elementary School
26 years

Jill Pouliot
Grade 1 Teacher
Lincoln Elementary School
37 years

Diane Priyatel
Special Education Assistant
Meadowvale Elementary School
23 years

Vaunnie Thayer
Speech Clinician
Otsego Elementary School
14 years

Cynthia Thompson
Head Cook
Lincoln Elementary School
30 years

ISD 728 Honors with Annual Awards

Each year, under the guidance of the Elk River Education Association and the ISD 728 Human Resources Department, the school district honors a handful of teachers and staff members who are nominated by their peers for excellence in their craft.

These nominations are then scored by a panel of district personnel, including teachers, administrators, directors and communications staff.

Six winners were named recipients of this year's annual awards.



EARLY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
Kara Huberty
ECFE Teacher
Handke Center



ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Sarah Montplaisir
Media Specialist
Westwood Elementary School



SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Dave Crocker
Counselor
VandenBerge Middle School



STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Deborah Whiteoak
Secretary
Elk River High School



DISTRICT-WIDE TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Patricia Sanford
Curriculum Specialist
District Office



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Terri Lee
Westwood Elementary School

Elk River High School Culinary Team Wins State Competition



The group that brings hundreds of students at ERHS the “Hallway Café” is back on top of the Minnesota ProStart competition – winning both categories at the Minnesota ProStart Invitational held March 7.

Seventeen teams entered the culinary competition with Elk River taking top honors. Their winning menu included a Duet of Tuna, Pan-seared Lamb with Chocolatte Panna Cotta. Team members were Riley Hogan, Taylor Kline, Kaden Odegaard, Taylor VanHoutan and Ben Greni, with instructor, Monique Sabby.

Five teams vied for prizes in the management competition and Elk River again took 1st place. Team members were Larkin Clem, Riley Hogan, Sarah Johnson, Taylor VanHoutan, Kaden Odegaard with instructor, Monique Sabby.

Salk Teachers, Staff Collect National STEM Award



Salk Middle School Principal Julie Athman and a group of Salk educators and staff headed to Florida recently to pick up some hardware. Salk Middle School has once again been recognized by Magnet Schools of America, after the national association for magnet and theme-based schools named Salk Pre-Engineering Magnet School a National Magnet School of Excellence.

This is the SEVENTH year in a row that Salk has been recognized by Magnet Schools of America as a merit award winning school.

Magnet School of Excellence Awards are given to a select group of magnet schools. Schools of Excellence are eligible to receive monetary awards and are eligible to be named the nation’s top Elementary, Secondary, or New & Emerging Magnet School. One of the Schools of Excellence will also be selected to win $5,000 and the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award, which is considered the most prestigious magnet school award in the nation. To receive a national merit award, members of Magnet Schools of America must submit a detailed application that is scored by a panel of educators. These schools are judged and scored on their demonstrated ability to raise student academic achievement, promote racial and socioeconomic diversity, provide integrated curricula and instruction, and create strong family and community partnerships that enhance the school’s magnet theme.

Wish Granted to Lincoln Elementary Kindergartner



ISD 728 student Graeme Basara, a superhero in his own right, got the surprise of his young life this school year at Lincoln Elementary in Elk River.

Graeme was greeted in the Lincoln Elmentary School gym by members of the Avengers, as they surprised him with his “Wish,” courtesy of Make-A-Wish.

The 6-year-old, who has been battling leukemia since he was 3, was declared cancer free just before the school year started. His wish – a trip to the new Marvel Land at Disneyland California, set to open in the summer of 2020.

Graeme and his class were sent to the gym to meet his family and Mr. Justin Sperling, Lincoln principal. There, everyone from Captain America to Thor and Captain Marvel were there to greet him with his trip to California! The class enjoyed cookies with the Avengers cast, and celebrated both Graeme’s health and his exciting adventure with the Basara family. Congratulations, Graeme!



Sherburne Refuge, ZES Team Up to Replace Trees





The award-winning partnership between the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) and Zimmerman Elementary School was back at it in early May as second grade teacher Tammi Hendrickson’s students and SNWR staff planted new trees in the oak savannah outside of the school. The trees were planted to replace a pair of trees lost to storm damage.

Rogers High School DECA Trio Makes History

It's one thing to be called to the center stage at ICDC (International Career Development Conference) during the final rounds of awards in front of thousands of fellow DECA students and advisors.

It's another to take First Place in a major category and not even really know it until everyone is congratulating you.

But that's what happened, said Rogers High junior Logan Kimbler, after he and teammates Pressley Dobitz (senior) and Elizabeth Mink (senior) won the Learn to Earn Category at the 2019 conference in Orlando, Florida.



"It's a whirlwind. You really have no idea what's happening. It's an incredible honor to win, and I'm just so happy for our chapter and our school."

It's the first-ever International Championship for Rogers High, and it was icing on the proverbial cake for the three students who created the "Live 2 Give" event, which earned the award.

"First, we did the event really because we wanted an event that would raise money for a lot of different charities in our area – some that we chose to help out," Mink said. "Second, our goal was, really, to win state and then just see what we could do at ICDC. We had no idea it was good enough to win the top award."

Mink and Dobitz worked with Kimbler on "Live 2 Give" throughout last summer, launching the project last August in coordination with the Elk River and I-94 chambers of commerce. The fundraiser was a "Survivor" style competition, with competitors walking away with cash and prizes, but raising money through registrations and sponsorships.

"We are all very passionate about local causes," Dobitz said. "And I remember riding on a bus with Logan at the end of the 2018 school year saying, 'We're going to do a project together.' That was pretty much the only expectation we had going in, though. So this has just been an amazing ride."

Mink said she will keep the fundraiser and competition going this summer, with the event held the last weekend in August, so look for Live 2 Give 2019 information coming soon.

Kimbler, who returns next year to the RHS DECA Chapter, said he's excited to keep the new tradition of success going.

"We have just a great group, and our advisers [Janelle Moore and Shalaine Seymour] push us to go higher. So I'm not feeling pressure about it. I think it's exciting to have that challenge and that goal to get back to ICDC again next year," he said.

Mink and Dobitz both said business – the heart of DECA – will be in their college plans next year at some level.

"This is something that definitely prepared me for life beyond high school, it's just a matter of how I apply that," Mink said. "Having friends as your partners and then just having this success – it was really fun."

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NBC's "Making It" Artist Swims with Students at Hassan

On a brisk, post-February snowstorm day, California native Billy Kheel is somehow here in Minnesota, playing with kids at a school.

"It's surreal, but it's really fun. It's cool," Kheel, who made a break for fame on NBC's "Making It" last summer, said. "I never dreamed I'd be in Minnesota in February. I guess, you kind of know what you're signing up for. But you can't brace yourself for it. It's cold. Nothing else you can say." "But the people have more than made up for it. They've been amazing," he said.

Hassan Elementary is home to a brand new art installation thanks to Kheel and the teamwork of art teacher Nicole Hahn and husband Tim Hahn – both ISD 728 award-winning teachers. Nicole worked tirelessly to get Kheel to bring his artistry into her classroom. Kheel – who works with Felt – has a myriad a projects he's done that appeal to kids, including pennants and displays.

"I drew on the Los Angeles River project that I did a couple of years ago for what we could do here," Kheel said. "Nicole and I just kind of hashed it out, and it's been really exciting. We researched the kind of fish and vegetation we have right out the back door, almost, here at Hassan. And it makes for a really cool looking aquarium."

Hassan kids spent classes cutting out everything from fish to bubbles, and placed the felt carefully on the displays made by Mr. Hahn prior to Billy's arrival. From there, a "social gathering" on Friday night, Feb. 8, brought dozens of students and parents back to school for a bit to make the display three-dimensional, adding backing and stuffing the fish, making wire plant displays with grass (green felt), and much more.

"He's been just great to work with and the kids have loved it since the first day," Nicole said of Kheel's visit. "He's just a great artist and has a unique medium with felt – which is also kid-friendly. "





Elk River High Knowledge Bowl Team Makes History at State



The Elk River High School Knowledge Bowl program made history, placing 13th overall at the State AA Competition. It was the first trip to a state meet – held at the Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd – for more than two decades, according to coach Troy McGowan.

"I didn't really have record for it, so I had to go and look at some of the old trophies. It's been since the 1990s, for sure," McGowan said with a smile.

The team of Jack Hipsag, Christian Kubicka, Bennett Jordan, Jack Milless and Sebastian Sandor was one of just 24 to make it to the State AA Meet – out of more than 900 teams statewide. Prior Lake took home the state championship, defeating Sartell-St. Stephen.

For the Elks, just getting to the meet was the start of something they hope is a new tradition for the program.

"It's been a lot of hard work. We have some of the best teams in the entire state within our district/section [Central Region], so to get to state is really a bonus. The toughest competitions we have throughout the year are within our section for sure.

The concept of Knowledge Bowl is team oriented – a literal exam begins the competition, with the team working together on 60 questions. The results then determine your room ranking as you head to the next round, which is an oral quiz. There are multiple rounds of the oral quiz – with about three teams per room – in a quiz bowl style format, buzzing in and solving the problem.

"Getting 10 out of 45 in an oral quiz round is pretty good, for example," Jordan said. "It's competitive. It gets really intense."

The regular season pits schools against each other until the section meet, which is in March. Coaches then use those meets to find the best combination of teams, McGowan said.

"By the time state rolls in we've had a lot of competition, including the meet we host here with some of the other schools from around the state. Buffalo has a large one, as well. So there's some recognition in the competition you're up against." Jordan said he joined the Knowledge Bowl team after the ISD 728 started using in-school competitions at the middle school level.

"We won a few times when I was in middle school, and I was someone who contributed to those wins, so I liked the competition of it. And when I found out we had a competitive team here at Elk River, it was something I definitely wanted to do," he said.

As for Sandor, it was a friend who brought him on board. "She kind of explained the format to me, and it sounded like a challenge, but a lot of fun. I wasn't disappointed," he said.

The team will have much of its core returning for the 2019-2020 school year, which is good news for the program, McGowan said. Kids have a competitive streak to them, and they're going to want to get friends who can make the program better into Knowledge Bowl now that they've accomplished one of their ultimate goals.

"The challenge now is to make it back," Jordan said. "We hope we can just keep building on what we did this season."

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Graduates Leave their Mark on ISD 728 High Schools

More than 950 students donned their school colors - cap and gown style - as ISD 728 high schools held their commencement ceremonies for Rogers High School, Zimmerman High School, Elk River High School and Ivan Sand Community High School throughout the first full week of June.

The Class of 2019 produced success in the classroom, on the playing field and out in the community, said Superintendent Dan Bittman as he addressed students at each ceremony.

"We are beaming with pride. What you have accomplished here may feel like the end, but it truly is only the beginning," he said. "We expect great things from you, the Class of 2019. The mark you have left here as members of this school district won't soon be forgotten. We thank you. We celebrate you. Congratulations to all of you today."

Combined, ISD 728 students received nearly half of one million dollars in scholarship money from area organizations, businesses, universities and academies across the country. The Class of 2019 boasts many student-athletes that will continue their respective careers in colleges and universities across the nation. But it's their success in the classroom - with state best scores in 2018 on the MCA assessments and high performance on national tests like the ACT - that positions this group for future success.

That, and its unprecedented participation in the district's Career and Technical Education programs, including the new internship program, has created a class ready for the world's workforce.

"I say it each year - I love you guys," said Rogers High School Principal Jason Paurus. "You make us very proud as educators to do what we do. Congratulations."

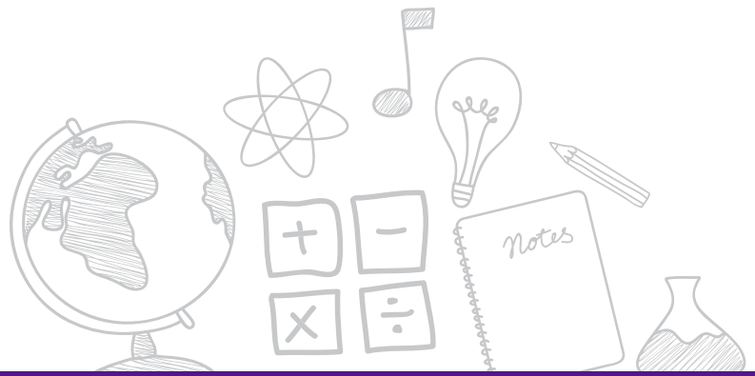
From all of your ISD 728 staff and family – congratulations to the Class of 2019 and best of luck in the future! Check out more candid photos from the graduation ceremonies at **www.isd728.org/Classof2019**.



ISD 728 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 728
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School is Cool! Photo Gallery



Westwood Elementary School hosted an Arts and Talents Night on May 16, where visiting artist Shane Anderson helped students and community members paint three snow plow trucks. The plows will be painted throughout the 2019-2020 winter!



Rogers Elementary STEM Magnet School second graders visited the Mill City Museum where they learned histories of the flour industry, the river, and the city of Minneapolis.



Elk River High School Multicultural Club visited Lincoln Elementary School for Mix-It-Up Lunch Day.



VandenBerge Middle School Honors Society sold roses, then used the money to buy and deliver flowers to residents at Guardian Angels.



Twin Lakes Elementary fifth grade students engineered their own catapults and launched marshmallows.