



MEETING OUR MISSION

OF INSPIRING EACH

A Note From Superintendent Dr. Josh Swanson

Eden Prairie community,

We did it! Our 2023-24 school year was one of our best yet, and that's because of our exceptional students, staff, families and community.

As a district, we spent a lot of time this year reflecting on what's brought us here and thoughtfully planning for the future. Thanks to our community, we're heading into the next five years with an updated Strategic Plan (which you can learn more about in this issue) and ongoing financial stability because of our voter-approved operating and technology levies. All of this fills me with gratitude as Superintendent, and also reminds me of the importance of strong connections between a community and its schools.

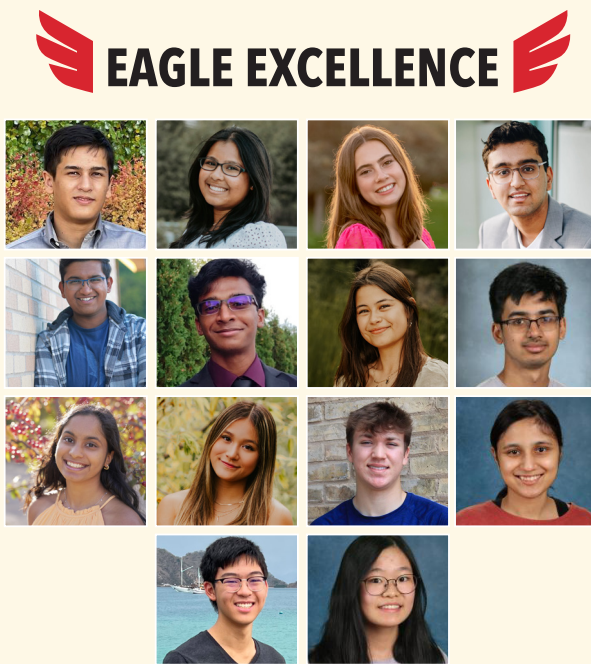
Since Eden Prairie's earliest days, its residents have believed deeply in the power of community and the value of education. And in the 2023-24 school year, we're lucky to be able to honor that with our district's 100th birthday!

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, Eden Prairie Schools will celebrate 100 Years of Inspiring Each to recognize the legacy of our growth, achievement, and excellence together as a community. Watch your mailbox and www.edenpr.org for more information about happenings throughout the year.

I hope you enjoy a safe and relaxing summer – we can't wait to build on this year's progress and see what the next few years have in store for Eden Prairie Schools!



Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent



Introducing our 14 National Merit Finalists

Each year, about 1.5 million high schoolers nationwide enter the National Merit Scholarship Competition to earn scholarships and recognition. This year, 14 Eagles have progressed to Finalist status! Some scholarships have already been awarded, and more award offers have been sent throughout the month of June.

Congratulations to the following 12th graders!

- **Maanav Basnet** – National Merit University of Minnesota Scholarship
- **Srijani Datta** – National Merit University of Minnesota Scholarship
- **Amelia Dewberry** – National Merit Gustavus Adolphus College Scholarship
- **Avik Garg**
- **Aniketh Hanagavadi** – National Merit University of Minnesota Scholarship
- **Adhiraiyan Kartheesan** – National Merit University of Minnesota Scholarship
- **Hinano Kazama** – National Merit Scholarship
- **Aditya Kshirsagar** – National Merit University of Minnesota Scholarship
- **Shruthi Kundoor**
- **Madison Lin**
- **Erik Lundeen** – National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship
- **Suchita Sah** – National Merit University of Minnesota Scholarship
- **Darren Tanubrata**
- **Vivian Wang** – National Merit Scholarship



Name: Autumn Koenen **Grade:** 4
School: Forest Hills Elementary

What is the best thing you learned this school year?

"The best thing I learned in school this year is multiplication. I don't get math that easily, but multiplication helped me a lot."

What are you looking forward to the most for next school year?

"Next year I am excited for art! I want to make coil pots and masks because it is fun to get dirty."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Aug. 14-17: KinderCamp at elementary schools

Aug. 24-31: Back-to-School Nights

Sept. 5: First Day of School

Sept. 12-21: Open House events

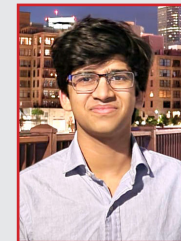
EXCERPT Ep EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



01 | Two Eagles are Coca-Cola Scholars

Each year, Coca-Cola honors 150 young people who are making positive change in their communities and around the world. This year, two of those 150 are Eagles! Congratulations to **Mohit Agarwal** and **Lucas Wagner**, who will each receive a \$20,000 college scholarship to Stanford and Duke universities, respectively.



Forest Hills celebrates 50 years

On June 1, more than 100 community members joined us to celebrate the legacy of Forest Hills Elementary School at its 50 Year Anniversary celebration! Attendees took a walk down memory lane with past principals Bob Hallett and Connie Hytjan and current principal Joel Knorr.

03 | District receives national award for referendum communication

To ensure Eden Prairie voters had enough information to make an informed decision about last fall's referendum, the district connected with our community in many ways, including banners, flyers, Town Halls, and mailers like this one. This month, the National School Public Relations Association named Eden Prairie Schools as one of only eight winners of its prestigious Gold Medallion Award for campaigns grounded in strategic communication best practices!



The results are in.
Learn more about the
2023-28 Strategic Plan.



INSPIRING NEWS

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8100 School Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
www.edenpr.org
952-975-7150

EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS



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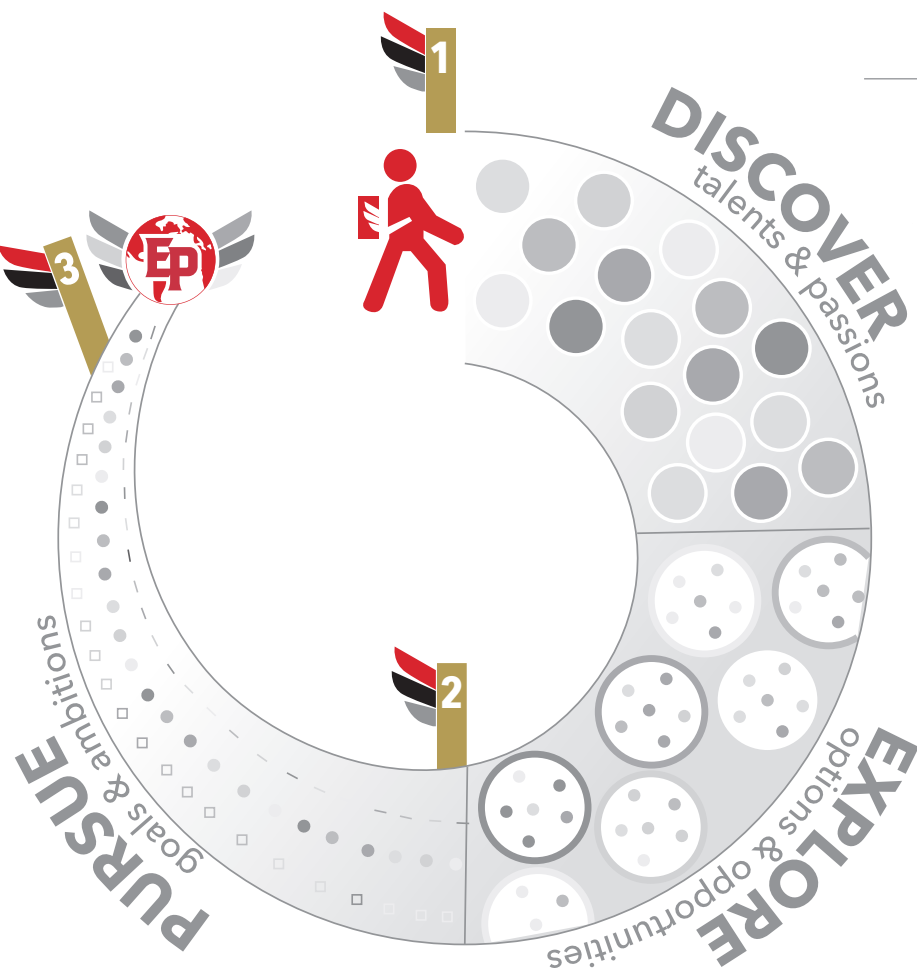
Inspire EACH Student

The Strategic Plan is our roadmap for 2023-28 and guides how we provide experiences for those in our learning community, including students, staff, and families. We're calling this experience an Inspired Journey of Discovery, Exploration, and Pursuit.

The Strategic Plan remains grounded in our mission of inspiring each student every day, shown as the graphic with a student with a backpack and the world they are contributing to. Our core values are at the heart of who we are, shown in the EP of our logo – which has a nice connection to the “Each Person” of our core values.

The mission outcomes serve as the guideposts throughout the Inspired Journey to hold us accountable for meeting our mission. The strategies, represented by the EP wing, were developed with our community and show focus areas and what we must do to continue fulfilling our mission.

This all comes together in the image shown here, where each piece of our Strategic Plan plays an integral part in Inspiring Each Student Every Day.



Our Mission

Inspire each student to learn continuously so they are empowered to reach personal fulfillment and contribute purposefully to our ever-changing world.



Core Values

We believe that:

- **Each person** has intrinsic value.
- **Each person** has individual gifts, interests and talents.
- Community benefits when **each person** contributes.
- Relationships flourish on a foundation of mutual trust and respect.
- Continuous learning is essential for personal fulfillment, opportunity and success.

Mission Outcomes

- 1 Each student will be inspired to learn continuously and achieve district expectations.
- 2 Each student will enthusiastically and confidently engage in the continual pursuit of personal goals and aspirations.
- 3 Each student will proactively engage in actions that contribute to community.

Strategic Delimiter: We will not adopt any new program or service unless it aligns with and contributes to our mission.



AUTHENTIC & PERSONALIZED LEARNING STRATEGY: By 2028, we will inspire students to engage and achieve at high levels through authentic and personalized learning experiences.

1. Eden Prairie Schools’ “Inspired Journey” of discovery, exploration and pursuit will be fully implemented.*
2. Each student’s experiences, backgrounds, and cultures will be reflected in curriculum, instructional resources, and learning, while promoting and developing each student’s unique strengths and identities.*
3. Each student will demonstrate their learning through performance tasks and assessments that measure growth and mastery of content. Meaningful feedback will be provided to promote further growth.
4. Each educator will consistently disaggregate multiple forms of data to design and adjust instruction in response to each student’s learning.
5. Opportunities will be provided and conditions will be created for each student to experience the 21st-century skills of critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creative problem solving. (Lever)
6. Each staff member will be supported in authentic and personalized professional learning experiences designed to meet the needs of students. (Lever)



WELLBEING STRATEGY: By 2028, we will nurture wellbeing among all students and staff by fostering belonging, ensuring physical and emotional health, and promoting safety, kindness and personal responsibility.

1. Each student will experience wellbeing through intentionally designed instruction and learning environments.
2. As part of their Inspired Journey, each student will deepen their understanding of themselves to promote individual and community growth.
3. Targeted mental health resources will be provided to students and staff based on identified needs.*
4. Ongoing professional development will support all staff in providing positive experiences for students, families and one another that increase a collective sense of wellbeing. (Lever)
5. Each student and staff will receive continual training to improve and strengthen school safety and emergency response.*



INCLUSION & BELONGING STRATEGY: By 2028, we will cultivate an inclusive learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging for each student within our diverse community.

1. Each student will be highly engaged in their learning and receive equitable access to all programming.*
2. Predictable achievement disparities will be eliminated.
3. Each staff member will be highly engaged in cultural awareness development.*
4. The racial demographics of staff will closely reflect that of the student population.
5. Each student and family will experience authentic relationships with school staff to enhance learning.

DEFINITIONS

Core Values: Who are we? | **Mission:** Who do we serve? Why do we exist? | **Strategic Delimiter:** What will we not do in order to remain focused. | **Mission Outcomes:** For what outcomes will the district be held accountable? | **Strategic Plan:** A process by which a human system discerns its core purpose, and designs the means to achieve that purpose. | **Strategies:** What must we do to achieve our mission and objectives?



The Eden Prairie School Board: (starting left)
Dr. Josh Swanson – Superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools, Abby Libsack – clerk,
Charles Strehl – treasurer, Aaron Casper – chair, Dennis Stubbs – director,
Kim Ross – director, Debjyoti Dwivedy – director, Steve Bartz – vice chair.

Making connections among community members is essential to building a sense of trust and understanding. As part of the Board’s ongoing effort to connect with school families and the community, our Community Linkage Committee put the seven Eden Prairie School Board directors to task to share a little about themselves.

STEVE BARTZ grew up in rural North Dakota hunting and fishing with family and friends and working on family farms and lumber businesses. He and his wife moved to Eden Prairie in 2004. Their son is a junior in college (Go Big Red!), and their daughters are 2023 graduates of EPHS. Steve has been involved in the community as a soccer dad, school volunteer, and coach, and is an active member at Grace Church of Eden Prairie. He works as a Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and in his spare time enjoys cooking over fire, outdoor adventures, and reading Dostoevsky.

AARON CASPER and his family have been residents of Eden Prairie since 2004. All four of his children are products of Eden Prairie Schools with his three daughters currently attending college and his son entering high school this fall. Aaron is a benefits consultant in addition to currently serving in his twelfth year on the Eden Prairie Fire Department. He is also active at Grace Church, Eden Prairie AM Rotary, Boy Scouts of America, and youth coaching in basketball and football. A strong supporter of Eden Prairie Schools, Aaron advocates for students, families, and the community in which they live.

DEBJYOTI “DD” DWIVEDY is a First Generation American who came to the United States to pursue the American dream. He grew up playing cricket and soccer and still enjoys watching a good soccer match! DD obtained his graduate degree at NDSU and is currently the System Lead of Network Solutions Engineering at Federal Reserve IT. He moved to Eden Prairie in 2013 and served in the Sustainability Commission of the City for three years. DD is a Commissioned Officer (Captain) in the United States Army Reserve. He has served on a deployment and goodwill missions abroad with the Army Reserve.

ABBY LIBSACK grew up in Missouri and spent most of her high school years singing and performing. After meeting her husband at Northwest Missouri State, she lived in Colorado and Georgia before moving to Eden Prairie in 2013. Abby’s daughter is an EPHS 2023 graduate, and her son will be a freshman. She has been an elementary classroom teacher, and a substitute teacher, tutor and volunteer in EP Schools. She enjoys fellowship at Grace Church, traveling with her family, and live music, and she also runs a photo studio in Chanhassen.

KIM ROSS is one of Eden Prairie’s biggest fans, a resident for almost 40 years, and board member from 2008-2011 and 2021 to present. Her daughter Braden graduated from EPHS in 2019, from UW-Madison in December 2022, and is a TV reporter in Madison. Kim is a member of the Eden Prairie Noon Rotary Club—sponsors of projects like My Book Day and Rib Fest. She has shared her marketing expertise, mentoring EPHS students for many years. As she has seen Eden Prairie grow and change, she truly celebrates our diverse community and knows the best is yet to come.

CHARLES “CJ” STREHL has an amazing wife and growing up, he moved across nine different states. This experience shaped him into an extrovert that loves to engage with people. He has four kids spread across Prairie View Elementary, CMS, and EPHS. CJ loves working with kids through Cub Scouts (Pack 342) and youth group and is energized by children’s enthusiasm, energy, and creativity. You can find him at school, soccer, football, baseball, swimming, and basketball games. CJ loves to talk Packer football and is an avid golfer, traveler, tailgater, and camper. If you see him out and about, please say hi!

DENNIS STUBBS has lived in Eden Prairie since 2014. He and his wife, Miranda, grew up and graduated high school in Anchorage, Alaska. They have a 4th grade son Decker and a 2nd grade daughter Reece, both at Eagle Heights, and a 4-year-old daughter Mykah. Dennis coaches hockey and flag football. He grew up playing basketball, but let’s be honest, he wouldn’t have made the high school team at EPHS! He was the 1st Chair trombonist in his high school Honor Band, so pep band would probably be more realistic! Dennis is a residential construction contractor and attends and volunteers at River Valley Church.

We hope to connect with you when we are out and about in the community or attending district events! The Board members come from a variety of perspectives and experiences and are honored to share in the work being done to accomplish the mission of Eden Prairie Schools.