



DISTRICT BULLETIN

A World-Class Community of Learners

**CULTIVATING
A GLOBAL
CONNECTION
THROUGH IB**

**SPRING
2023**

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A World-Class Community of Learners

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
International Baccalaureate World Schools

DISTRICT BULLETIN SPRING 2023

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kim Hiel

SCHOOL BOARD

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Abdisalam Adam - *Vice Chair*
Nikki Auna - *Treasurer*
Jake Karnopp - *Clerk*
Donna Prewedo - *Director*
Avonna Starck - *Director*

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Fridley High School
Principal: *Patty Hand*
Assistant Principal: *Lamii Zarlee*

**Fridley Area Learning Center,
Preschool**
Principal: *Kelly McConville*

Fridley Middle School
Principal: *Dr. Amy Cochran*
Assistant Principal: *Matthew Engelhardt*

Hayes Elementary School
Principal: *Gaeli Iverson*

R. L. Stevenson Elementary School
Principal: *Veronica Mathison*

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Activities: 763-502-5606
Buildings/Grounds: 763-502-5008
Business & Finance: 763-502-5004
Communications: 763-502-5020
Community Education: 763-502-5100
Educational Services: 763-502-5021
Equity: 763-502-5067
Enrollment: 763-502-5081
Human Resources: 763-502-5013
Nutritional Services: 763-502-5021
Special Education: 763-502-5661
Technology: 763-502-5032
Transportation: 763-502-5026
IB (DP): 763-502-5062
IB (MYP): 763-502-5036
IB (PYP) Hayes: 763-502-5325
IB (PYP) Stevenson: 763-502-5219
IB (PYP) Preschool: 763-502-5117

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS SEARCHING FOR ITS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

This spring, Dr. Kim Hiel announced that she will become the next superintendent of Osseo Area Schools, beginning July 1, 2023. Stay tuned for a message from Dr. Hiel in the graduation edition of District Bulletin for her reflections on her five years as superintendent of Fridley Public Schools and her hopes for the future.

SEARCH UPDATE

Beginning in March, the Fridley school board began working with a search firm to ask students, staff, families and community members what they should be looking for in our next superintendent. On April 11, they presented the board with a new superintendent profile which will be used in recruiting candidates and in developing interview questions.

INTERVIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

The Fridley school board will hold first-round interviews with candidates at the Fridley Community Center on May 3 at 5 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. If necessary, additional candidates will be interviewed on May 4 beginning at 5 p.m.

Separate question-and-answer sessions with parents and community members will be held with each finalist at 5:15 p.m. in the FHS Media Center on May 8, 9 and 10 (if necessary). The public will be able to submit comments to the school board about the candidates.

The school board will hold a final interview with each candidate at 7:30 p.m. at the Fridley Community Center each of these evenings, with a final decision expected following the last interview.

For more information about our superintendent search, visit fridleyschools.org/superintendent or scan the QR code to the right.



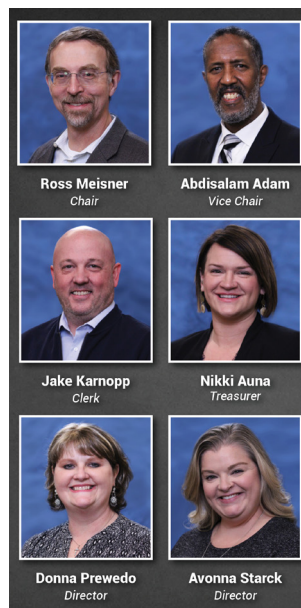


WE ARE HIRING!

FIND YOUR CAREER AT FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS:



- Visit: www.fridleyschools.org/jobs
- Browse all current job opportunities by category or school
- Questions? Contact 763-502-5003



SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Fridley Public Schools would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Fridley School Board members!

February 2023 was Minnesota School Board Recognition Month. Thank you, Fridley Board members, for serving in this important role and selflessly devoting your time, knowledge and talents to positively impact the success of our students!

CULTIVATING A GLOBAL CONNECTION THROUGH IB



Fridley students put their International Baccalaureate education into action connecting with the world through government, history and culture.

*Fridley High School junior Mars Bright.
Photo courtesy of Gysland Photography*

FRIDLEY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON CIVIC LEARNING PROGRAM

Fridley students participated in a simulation of the Minnesota state government at the annual YMCA statewide Youth In Government (YIG) conference held January 5-8. More than a thousand students grades 8-12, including 45 Fridley High School students and 23 Fridley Middle School students, became legislators, lawyers, judges, lobbyists, media representatives, or cabinet members running a state model government in the Capitol Complex. High school students participated in the full experience of the YIG conference, while 8th grade students got a sample of the program and were led by college students who had already been a part of YIG.

“This program develops leadership, civic, and public speaking skills,” said Steve Holt, Fridley High



Fridley High School senior Nate Thorp stands with group of students in front of MN Capitol. Photo courtesy of Gysland Photography.

School's YIG advisor. He added that the conference is entirely student run, with adults there only to help out if needed.

High school students are given the opportunity to run for office in YIG as well as bring issues to light with the hope of having their bills passed. This year 9th grade student Kale Holst ran against other 9th and 10th grade students for chief justice of the Court of Appeals and won. Additionally, 11th grade student Mars Bright won Most Outstanding Member of the National Issues Forum.

“What I love most about participating in Youth in Government is getting to learn about current problems that are going on in the state that I wasn't aware of, as well as then finding solutions for these problems,” said sophomore Yahira Barreto-Paredes, who participated as a member of the Governor's Cabinet as the commissioner of transportation.

“It's a great way to learn about the three branches of government,” said Fridley senior Veronique Kolibe-Gnamikou. “As someone that lives in the US, I believe it's very important to learn how your government runs, its laws and know your civic duties.”

As an advisor, Holt overlooks recruiting, communication, meeting with student leaders, and organizing social gatherings. While Holt lamented that COVID-19 impacted the participation rate of Fridley students, he said it's encouraging the numbers are starting to recuperate.

Along with Holt, senior Nate Thorp, who is chair of the steering



Fridley High School junior Mike LeRoy. LeRoy had success with unanimously passing a bill at last years YIG Conference. Photo courtesy of Gysland Photography.

committee, has been helping to seek more student involvement. “The program means a lot to me and I want to have as many students join as possible,” Thorp said. “I have worked very hard for the past three years to help the club recover from the loss of numbers and want that growth to continue after I'm gone as well.”

Holt observed how positive and supportive the Fridley students were with one another during the conference. For example, students shared their celebrations and accomplishments with one another throughout the conference through a group text app.

Along with Holt, the field trip wouldn't have been possible without FMS teacher and YIG advisor Aaron Cuthbert, FHS teacher and Model UN advisor Jessica Schuette and chaperones Amy Engler, Jada Probasco, and Therese Selin. Also appreciated is the support from the Fridley Lions Club, Northwest Suburban Integration School District and

the Ann Bancroft Foundation who helped students financially be able to attend the conference.

Students that are looking to get involved this year can register for Model UN, which is coming up this spring, or look to join YIG next year.

“You meet so many people. People that look different from you, who have different backgrounds from you, live in different areas than you and have different opinions,” Kolibe-Gnamikou said. “I feel YIG allows you to be a more open-minded person and aware of other opinions and views.”

FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENT PROJECTS AT HISTORY DAY SHOWCASE

Eighth grade students presented their historical research projects at the History Day showcase at Fridley Middle School (FMS) on Thursday, February 16.

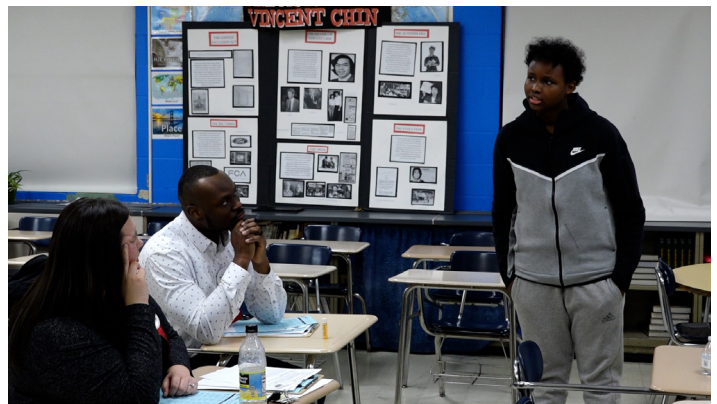
The school showcase is the first stage of the annual National History Day (NHD) competition in which students in grades 6-12 participate nationwide. This

year’s theme is “Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.” Students are permitted to pick the medium of their project in one of five categories: exhibit board, documentary, website, performance, or research paper.

“Through the process of creating a History Day project, students learn a diverse set of skills that will be necessary for their success in future endeavors,” said Aaron Cuthbert, an 8th grade Individuals and Societies teacher at FMS.

The project allows students to put into practice the Middle Years Programme (MYP) Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills that are fundamental to the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. ATL skills, which consist of self-management, communication, research, social and critical thinking skills, empower students to succeed and prepare them to pursue the rigorous IB Diploma Programme or IB Career-related Programme at Fridley High School (FHS).

“Most of these students have never worked so hard on any individual task, whether academic or personal, up to this point in their lives,” Cuthbert observed. “They all really stress about the project



FMS eighth grade student Raaid Salad presents a website about Gettysburg to a panel of judges.

and have moments of self-doubt, but through all of it they get a sense of satisfaction when they finish and get the opportunity to share what they have accomplished with the community.”



FHS senior Khalifo Aden and Superintendent Kim Hiel judge a student's exhibition.

The showcase included 166 projects presented by 196 students. Each project was evaluated by a team of 2-4 judges made up of district faculty, community members, and seniors at FHS. Projects are judged in order to determine which will move on to the regional competition held in March. From there, students have the opportunity to progress to the state and national competitions – in which FMS has students participate each year, Cuthbert said.

Whether they strive to compete on



*FMS eighth grade student Daphne Monroe-Fish presents an exhibition on the **Growth of the Railroad** to a panel of judges.*

a national level or simply see the project through to completion, Cuthbert emphasized that students should feel a sense of achievement because of how they grow through the experience.

“I’m very proud of them for fighting through the difficulties and anxieties of working on this project,” he said. “I’m proud of them for being successful, whether that means completing it, or learning something new, or developing skills that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.”

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS WITH ANNUAL CULTURE SHOW

The Fridley High School Culture Day committee hosted their annual Culture Show in the District Auditorium during lunch on Thursday, March 2. The program celebrated the school’s diverse population through performances of cultural dances and a fashion



Left to right: The dance group Los Tigres perform a Latin American dance and Asiya Shiikh-Ahmed and Mirkeni Ahmed show off Somali/Oromo traditional dress.

show that showcased traditional dress.

“This is an opportunity for scholars to present their cultures to the student body and feel proud about their cultural identities,” said Lamii Zarlee, assistant principal at Fridley High School. “Our scholars put plenty of time and effort into this show and are proud of their heritage and backgrounds.”

Though this year’s show was just the second held after last year’s inaugural program, the event has quickly become a popular mainstay. A palpable energy shared between the packed crowd of Fridley High School students and staff and performers on stage was maintained throughout the hourlong event.

“I believe the reason why everyone loves this event is because students are able to present themselves in a different light,” Zarlee explained. “They can be their authentic selves while showing a piece of their culture.”

Cultures featured through the dance performances included Togolese, Caribbean, Oromo, Liberian, Somali, Latin American, and Korean by two K-pop troupes: VKZ3 and Pretty Savage. Additional cultures represented through the fashion show included Gambian, Jamaican, Hmong, and Filipino.

At the end of the program, all participants gathered on stage waving their respective national flags to a standing ovation from the audience.



The Fridley High School Culture Day participants gather on stage after the performance.

Fridley Public Schools celebrates

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fridley Public Schools culminated its monthlong celebration of Black History Month in February with an assembly broadcast live throughout the district on Tuesday, February 28. The program, held in the District Auditorium at Fridley High School (FHS), honored Black culture through song, dance, poetry, and more. February has been nationally recognized as Black History Month since 1976.

“The assembly allows students to learn, celebrate, and honor history,”

said Aloda Sims, equity and inclusion specialist at Fridley Middle School (FMS).

The livestreamed event featured presentations from students across the district, including a showcase of traditional African dance by FHS students, profiles of prominent Black historical figures such as John Lewis and Claudette Colvin by FMS students, a video piece highlighting the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech on Hayes Elementary students, and



Fridley High School junior Lillie Franklin sings “Stand Up” By Cynthia Erivo.

a drumming performance by Stevenson Elementary 4th grader Jay Cooper.

“Student voices mean a lot to our district,” Sims observed. “Seeing all of the performers create space for other students to follow speaks volumes for our community.”



Left to right: a group of students from the district choirs sings, Fridley Middle School 7th grade student Jaquan Dixon reads about Kareem Abdul-Jabar and Stevenson 4th grade student Jay Cooper shares his talent for drumming.

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

Earlier in the month on February 6, Hayes Elementary, Stevenson Elementary and FMS invited parents and guardians to have lunch with their students in recognition of National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). NAAPID was created in 1995 by Joe Dulin, an educator and principal from Ann Arbor Public Schools, as a call to action to get parents more involved in their students' education.

For some parents and guardians it was their first experience seeing their scholars in a school setting



Left to right: Stevenson's Equity and Inclusion Specialist Alma Lora, takes a photo of a mother and son, 5th grade FMS student Daviana Starks has lunch with her mother and brother on NAAPID.

and meeting their friends. TaShana Nelson, mother to 5th grade FMS student Daviana Starks, said, "It's nice to be able to drop in and see her in her own element."

Students were equally excited to share their school day with their parents. "It's really fun for all of us to be together in the school," said Camila Gonzalez, 1st grade student

at Hayes Elementary.

Many parents like Yahtia Taylor, mother to Hayes 4th grader Yahniece, emphasized the significance of the event as both a teaching and bonding opportunity for their families. "We have to come through for our kids," she said. "This is important to them."

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES FOCUSES ON TRADITIONAL MEALS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fridley Public Schools' Nutritional Services department served meals traditionally enjoyed in Black communities throughout the month of February, featuring three new dishes including



Jollof rice with jerk chicken, chicken and beef andouille sausage gumbo, and collard greens with chicken tenders and mac and cheese.

"I had a 2nd grade student at Hayes

run up and tell me that her mom makes gumbo all the time at home, and she couldn't believe we were having it at school," said Katie Joyce, nutrition coordinator at Fridley Public Schools. "You could tell she felt proud to have a food she loves shared with her classmates. I hope other students felt that same pride."

All meals honoring Black History Month were chosen by a group of Fridley students to ensure each dish celebrated their unique cultures and traditions.

"Nutrition staff recognize the impact they have on the students they serve," Joyce said. "They were

excited to try some new recipes that we now hope to incorporate into our year-round menu."



Left to right: beef andouille sausage gumbo, Jollof rice with jerk chicken and collard greens.



Check out the full Black History Month broadcast!

=100 DAYS= OF SCHOOL!

Friday, February 17 marked the 100th day of school for our Fridley Preschool students! Students celebrated with their parents/guardians while participating in a variety of “100” themed activities in the Fridley Community Center gym.



MYP PERSONAL PROJECT CELEBRATION IS A MILESTONE EVENT FOR 10TH GRADE STUDENTS AT FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL

The annual Middle Years Programme (MYP) Personal Project celebration showcased the independent research skills and diversified interests of 10th grade students at Fridley High School. Students chose a topic that they were passionate about, set an achievable goal related to that topic, and developed a deeper level of learning about that topic through independent research. They presented their personal projects using visual displays, demonstrations, websites and slideshows to proud families, staff and students on Wednesday, January 18.

“This project brings to life all the skills they’ve learned throughout the years,” said MYP Coordinator Kari Reiter. She mentioned that the personal project allows the students to use the Approaches to Learning Skills, which are an integral part of the International Baccalaureate Programme. Essentially these skills teach students “how to learn.” They include communication, research, self-management, social and thinking skills.

Students started working on these projects at the beginning of their 10th grade year, with topics ranging from artistic and creative endeavors, learning to cook new foods and exploring careers, to mental health issues, learning a new language and much more.



Reiter mentioned that this is a milestone in their education at Fridley Public Schools that occurs before they decide what is next for them as they move out of the MYP and into either the Career Programme (CP) or the Diploma Programme (DP). Students will now reflect on their project and write a paper to submit to the International Baccalaureate to be accessed.

“The students are so proud of their accomplishment,” said Reiter. “It’s exciting to really celebrate what students are able to achieve and show in their learning. I’m so excited to be a part of it.”





WINTER WONDERLAND DANCE AT FMS

The Fridley Middle School Student Council hosted a Winter Wonderland Dance on Friday, February 10 for 7th and 8th grade students! The dance floor was packed and students had a great time dancing and taking photos in front of decorated selfie walls.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT GROUPS CREATE STAR QUILTS

Members of the Native American Student Groups at Hayes Elementary and Stevenson Elementary worked together to create a star quilt at each school. Star quilts are a valued gift of the Lakota (Sioux). The tradition of star quilts grew as they were draped around Lakota warriors

and hunters when returning from battle, a successful hunt or as they began a vision quest. Star quilts are also presented at funerals to honor loved ones.



FRIDLEY ALC RECOGNIZES STUDENTS AT CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC) students who were honored at the school's annual Celebration of Excellence! The ceremony was held twice to honor both morning and afternoon students at the ALC on February 15. Award winners were recognized by teachers and staff, as students celebrated alongside their families.

"This celebration was started to recognize the accomplishments of our students during the school year as well as the students who have already graduated this year," said Nicole Moussette, who is a teacher on special assignment at the ALC.

"My hope and wish for all of you is that you achieve the ultimate goal of a high school diploma," Moussette said addressing the students. "What you need to do is put in the effort or persist fridleyschools.org

even when it's hard and there are roadblocks in your way. Put yourself and your future-self first. You are worth it."

The first graduates of the school year were also acknowledged for their determination and hard work to graduate. The graduates are: Ruby Gomez Vergara, Jhournei Chalmers, Selajdin Sahiti, Kai Love and Jabril Samatar.

Principal Kelly McConville closed the ceremony talking about how the ALC is a unique educational opportunity. Students are able to earn twice as many credits as the high school and are able to go at their own pace. "We are here for you every step of the way.

Nothing makes us prouder to see our graduates," McConville said. "Whatever it takes, whatever you need, we are here to support you."



Top to bottom: the morning ALC student award winners and the afternoon ALC student award winners.



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Fridley Public Schools has its
own Instagram page!



Our IG account is @fridleypublicschools

Follow along to find all the latest
stories and posts about our world-class
community of learners.

Be sure to use the hashtag #FridleyPride
on your photos and reels to join us in
creating an Instagram community that
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