

Royal Roundup

Reflecting on a School Year that Brought Challenges and Success for WM Schools

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As we approach the end of the school year, and reflect back through the months, I can safely say that in my 28 years in education, and first year as your superintendent, I have never experienced a year quite like this school year. Our teachers, support staff, and school leaders met a wide range of challenges

from delivering instruction virtually and implementing new technologies, to eating lunches in classrooms and wearing masks throughout the school day. Never in the history of American education have we endured so much.

With that being said, I could not be more proud of our Watertown-Mayer students, staff, and families for their resilience, perseverance, and a community partnership that provided support to get us through this challenging school year. We continue to build upon the connections and opportunities that make our school district special.

Our staff have learned many things over the past school year. We know we can continue to provide an outstanding learning experience for all students in each of our learning models: in-person, hybrid, or distance learning. Students found the need to be more responsible for their learning than ever before and our Watertown-Mayer students exceeded expectations. Students succeeded in all academic areas as well as co-curricular and extracurricular activities during the pandemic.

I am also very excited for the future of Watertown-Mayer Public Schools. Over the last year, we completed many construction projects with approved funding from our November 2019 bond referendum. We have had

favorable bids on all building scopes which means we have been able to stretch taxpayer dollars even further to capitalize on the positive bid process and complete additional long range projects. Work has begun on: renovations to the high school, remodeling of the entire middle school, and updates to the elementary special education suite and common areas. The changes to our outdoor facilities, stadium, track, and new concession stand, will provide our students with an outstanding academic and co-curricular experience. I would encourage you to follow the construction progress by visiting Construction Updates on our district webpage.

Additionally, in passing the operating levy in 2019, we have started to update our PreK-12 curriculum and have reinstated a curriculum review cycle in which we have completed a rigorous curriculum adoption process in math, language arts, and physical education over the past year. Teachers in these departments reviewed a variety of resources and compared them to state standards, student needs, and our district goals within the Profile of a Graduate. These new resources, along with upcoming professional development and training, will increase the instructional rigor for students and expose them to a variety of new and engaging learning opportunities.

I wish you a relaxing and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you at the grand opening of our remodeled facilities when we return in September. Stay tuned for more information. Go Royals! 🏰



Watertown Mayer
Public Schools

Connections • Opportunities

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Bond Referendum Project Highlights

Spring has sprung and so has construction in our district! In a time of uncertainty and hardship, it is with a breath of fresh air that we welcome the start of spring and the start of our major bond referendum projects! The following are a few highlights of the goings-on at Watertown-Mayer Elementary School, Middle School and High School.



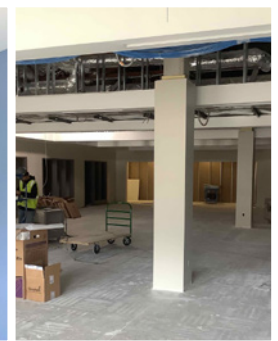
2021 Bond Referendum Projects at a Glance

Our Elementary School is getting geared up for remodeling of several spaces in June and all new furniture expected in August.

Our Middle School is getting a bigger facelift starting the first week in June with the remodeling of all Middle School classrooms, Special Education suites and Media Center.

The High School has had the most change to date. Demolition of the Media Center, shared Cafeteria and Special Education Suites are complete and each space is starting to take shape. We anticipate all painting to be completed shortly with flooring, ceiling and electrical finishes to follow. In June, the remodeling process continues into our high school Biology, Robotics and CTE (Career and Technical Education) classrooms.

The biggest and most visible progress is taking place in the Stadium project. Bids for both the Stadium and Concessions building were received and awarded in April and work was started on the Stadium the first week of May. The construction for the new outdoor Concessions Stand is slated to start at the end of May with footings and foundation.



With so many moving parts, we want to ensure our District and Community members remain informed throughout the entire Bond Referend process. We encourage all residents to visit our Bond Referendum website regularly, where we will continue to post weekly and monthly updates at <https://www.wm.k12.mn.us/domain/107>.

Thank you to all District residents, Community members, staff, parents, and students. We appreciate your involvement and feedback. 🏰



Want to Make a Difference for WM Students?

You can make a difference with the WM Royal Boosters! To date, the WM Royal Boosters have donated over \$500,000 to various WM clubs and sports! Yep, a cool half million dollars! So chances are your kids have or will benefit from this! The WM Royal Boosters Club is looking for new members and has several sub-committees that you can be a part of, including: Advertising, Sponsorship, Livestream, Booster Bash, Concessions and Apparel. If one of these areas are of interest to you or you are willing to provide expertise, we want YOU! We are a small group making a BIG impact, but in order to continue to do so, we need more members! Please consider joining! If you have any questions, please contact us at wmboosterclub@gmail.com. 🏰



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2021

The Class of 2021 has had more than its fair share of challenges in the last few years, but we were excited to watch them cross the graduation stage and take a step towards the future. Watertown-Mayer prides itself on helping our students develop the skills essential to their future success. Our 2021 class demonstrates the qualities set forth in the Watertown-Mayer Profile of a Graduate.

Achievements and plans of the Royal Class of 2021:

- 70% of graduates plan on pursuing a four-year degree in colleges spanning from Arizona to Massachusetts
- 12.5% of graduates plan on attending a two-year degree or certificate program.
- 12.5% plan on attending a trade or technical school or apprenticeship program.
- 5% plan on immediately starting their career.
- Our students have saved themselves and their families over \$700,000 in College in the Schools courses over their high school career.
- More than 60% of graduates have earned some college credits before graduation.
- We have three (3) students enlisting in the military.
- We have a National Merit Scholar in the class.
- We have several athletes participating at the collegiate level and some receiving Division 1 Scholarships.
- We have state champions and participants in Wrestling, Gymnastics, Mock Trial, Speech, Business Professionals of America, and other events.
- Students have worked more than 1,000 hours in total in the Work Experience Program and some participated in the Harbor Freight Apprenticeship Program.
- Students have completed over 1,200 service hours in our community.

These are just some of the many accomplishments that our students have achieved in their four years here at Watertown-Mayer. We are proud of what they have done and are glad to share it with you!





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At Watertown-Mayer Public Schools, we make authentic learning connections with each of our students, providing them with the opportunity to reach the full potential of their passions and strengths.

Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Awards

The Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation (WMEF) awarded academic scholarships at the WM Awards Night held on May 12, 2021. We were pleased to award over 80 scholarships from a variety of donors and businesses totaling over \$35,000.

It is our mission to encourage our graduates to apply for scholarships that help support their studies at accredited community colleges, vocational training programs, or universities. We are excited to see where this year's graduates end up. Congratulations and Good Luck!

As a way for the Foundation to connect more with our alumni, we will be interviewing graduates and legacy families for upcoming stories that highlight our great heritage at Watertown-Mayer. If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact us by checking out our Alumni Page at www.wm.k12.mn.us/wmef. We are also planning an in-person social event soon that will highlight our mission goals and provide us an opportunity to reach out to our community. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on upcoming announcements.

Although this year's scholarships have been awarded, WMEF gratefully accepts donations year-round that can be



Watertown-Mayer
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enhancing Education Through Community Support

designated to scholarships, grants for educators and school activities or toward the General Fund to support and enhance the education of all students.

WMEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that operates independently of the School Board and the District. Gifts to WMEF are tax deductible. To donate, please visit www.wm.k12.mn.us/wmef. 🏰