

The back-to-school excitement brought students and teachers together across the district, including these two friends at **Valley View Middle School**.



Experience

Edina Public Schools/Fall 2023

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. STACIE STANLEY

Ensuring a safe and secure learning environment



Fostering learning environments where students, staff, families, and the community experience physical and psychological safety is paramount to me as the superintendent of Edina Public Schools. Recent high-profile incidents have demonstrated our unwavering vigilance in preserving

a secure learning environment.

Interagency collaboration with Edina Police, Fire, and City officials is a critical element of our pursuits, and I was pleased to partner with them to host an Edina Public Schools Community Conversations event on safety and security on October 5, 2023. I am grateful to everyone who attended. The participation, thoughtful questions, and commitment of our community reaffirm that together, we are resolute in maintaining a secure and supportive learning environment for our children.

I hold profound gratitude for our parent/guardian partnership during these rare and deeply unsettling incidents. You trust us with your children, and we do

not take that responsibility lightly. As a district, we will always err on the side of safety.

I am proud to share that even in these challenging times, we have remarkable achievements to celebrate. Edina continues to stand as a beacon of educational excellence, including recognition as one of the **top five high schools in the state by U.S. News and World Report**, Countryside Elementary's prestigious designation as a **National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence**, South View Middle School's well-deserved award as an **AMLE School of Excellence**, and honor as a **National Unified Champion School**, not to mention an impressive record **200 state championship titles!**

Amidst these extraordinary accomplishments, it's the everyday moments across our schools that make us truly exceptional. I am eternally grateful for the resilience and unity that define the Edina Public Schools community. Together, we will continue to create a safe, supportive, and exceptional learning environment where each and every student can discover their possibilities and thrive.

Edina High School achieves historic milestone Celebrating 200 State Championship Titles



The boys golf team who clinched the 200th title revealed the historic number at the State Title Celebration.

In a remarkable feat of sports excellence, Edina Public Schools reached an extraordinary milestone in the school's storied history—the achievement of 200 State Championship Titles. This state record was celebrated at the first home football game of the season. Current and past state title recipients, alumni, parents, staff, and students came together for the momentous occasion at Kuhlman Field.

Titleholders from every decade, starting with the 1950s, came to support this legacy of excellence that Edina Public Schools has maintained for generations. The journey commenced in 1954 when Edina High School secured its very first state championship title, and this historic 200th victory was recently secured by the

Celebrating 200 State Championship Titles continues inside

Noteworthy



Countryside receives prestigious Blue Ribbon award

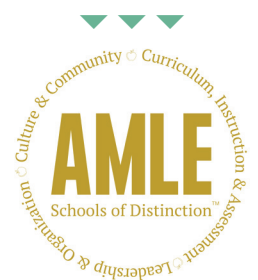
The U.S. Department of Education announced Countryside Elementary School has been named a 2023 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Countryside is one of only nine schools in Minnesota and 353 across the nation to be recognized this year.

Edina receives highest financial management rating

Moody's Investor Service reaffirmed Edina Public Schools' triple-A credit rating for its strong financial management. This triple-A rating is the highest possible rating, and Edina is one of just three school districts in the state to earn this prestigious distinction.

South View Middle named a School of Distinction

The Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) announced that South View Middle School has been named a 2023 AMLE School of Distinction. South View Middle School is one of only 11 schools nationwide to receive this honor, and the only school in Minnesota to be recognized this year.



Noteworthy



U.S. News ranks Edina High School fifth best in the state

Edina High School is ranked No. 5 among public high schools in Minnesota by U.S. News and World Report in its annual 2023-2024 Best High Schools Rankings. The publication ranked approximately 17,680 public high schools in the U.S. EHS ranks in the top 500 nationally at No. 428.

Top ranked Minnesota Schools

- #1 Math and Science Academy
- #2 Nova Classical Academy Upper School
- #3 Eagle Ridge Academy Charter School
- #4 Orono Senior High School
- #5 **Edina Senior High School**
- #6 Minnetonka Senior High School
- #7 Wayzata High School
- #8 Eagan Senior High School



Experience is mailed periodically to all residents in Edina Public Schools, District 273, to keep you up-to-date on the activities and accomplishments of students, staff, and the district. Questions or comments are welcome at communications@edinaschools.org.

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Edina School Board

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For each and every student to discover their possibilities and thrive



Educators came together with the Edina Education Fund to celebrate graduation from the rigorous LETRS program, which transforms literacy instruction. The training program was made possible through a \$400,000 commitment from the City of Edina and the Edina Education Fund.

Edina celebrates cohort's graduation from LETRS program EPS leads statewide efforts in literacy instruction

Edina Public Schools celebrated a significant professional development milestone for 30 dedicated educators. This summer, they proudly graduated from the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) program after completing a rigorous 144-hour graduate-level course.

These educators have embarked on a journey to enhance their skills and knowledge in evidence-based reading instruction. Edina Public Schools, in anticipation of the Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act), made proactive strides in preparing its educators to meet the new legislative requirements.

undergone rigorous, job-embedded professional development centered on structured literacy.

The commitment of Edina's educators to structured literacy and their dedication to this training program have been made possible through a \$400,000 commitment from the City of Edina and the Edina Education Fund. This investment has proved to be a game-changer, allowing teachers to meet students where they are and support their diverse learning needs effectively.

Read the full story:



Edina Public Schools, in anticipation of the Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act) ... made proactive strides in preparing its educators to meet new legislative requirements.

The READ Act sets forth a vision for every Minnesota child to read at or above grade level starting from kindergarten. To achieve this, the law mandates screening of students in kindergarten through third grade twice a year. It also requires that K-3 educators undergo structured literacy training. By July 1, 2025, teachers of these grades, special education teachers, curriculum directors, instructional support staff, and those responsible for selecting literacy materials must complete this training.

Edina has been proactive in ensuring that its educators are well-prepared. This year, 270 of its K-3 professionals (i.e., nearly 100 percent) are actively engaged in the LETRS training or are now in implementation. The district took the requirement a step further by ensuring PreK educators also participated.

Looking beyond elementary grades, Edina is also preparing its 4th and 5th grade teachers with the ASPIRE professional development program, a series of 40 modules based on empirical research on the science of reading. By 2025, all K-8 teachers in Edina will have



All decked out in green and white

Homecoming brought a community-wide celebration of spirit, pride, talent, and passion. Hornet pride was alive at the Edina parade, the Homecoming football game, spirit dress up days, and school pep-fests!

Get ready for fall 2024 kindergarten!



Kindergarten Registration Dates

Nov. 3: Online choice forms are available

Jan. 5, 2024 – 4pm: Online choice forms deadline

Jan. 12: Lottery results emailed to homes

Jan. 15 – 26: Online enrollment period for all families, whether attending their neighborhood school or a choice program

Has your child completed Early Childhood Screening?

Early Childhood Screening provides an overall check of your child's development. Screening can be conducted as young as 3 years old and is required by the state of Minnesota prior to a student beginning kindergarten. Screening is free and available to students whether or not they attend Edina Public Schools.

All screening is offered at the Edina Community Center. Make an appointment online at edinaschools.org/developmentalscreening.

**Students must be 5 years old by September 1, 2024, to be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year.*

More kindergarten enrollment information:



Our kindergarten program exposes our littlest Hornets to a robust kindergarten curriculum while learning through play, fostering social-emotional development, and sparking curiosity that sets the foundation for being a lifelong learner.

Families can enroll in their neighborhood school close to home or in one of our three choice programs: French Immersion, Spanish Dual Language, or Continuous Progress.



The event was an unforgettable gathering of state titleholders and community. Here, the Edina Cheer Team is captured holding cut out heads of the players of Edina's football team.

Celebrating 200 State Championship Titles *continued from cover*

Boys' Golf team, etching their names into the annals of history.

"It was such an honor to be a part of the festivities to celebrate 200 state championship titles in Edina school history. It is a privilege to represent our school and community," shared golf team member Torger Ohe, a junior at EHS. "The golf team was ecstatic to win the 200th state championship in school history this past spring. Go Hornets!"

Troy Stein, Edina High School's assistant principal and athletic director, expressed the school's pride and excitement. "It was truly incredible to see and meet

alumni who played on these championship teams. Their dedication and success have set us up for a legacy of Edina championships for years to come. The Edina community's support and passion for our sports teams have been unwavering."

Edina High School's 200th State Championship Title Celebration was a testament to the dedication, talent, and teamwork that have defined the school's sports legacy. It was a night that will be cherished by the Edina community for generations to come, reminding everyone that the Hornets are not just a team but a symbol of excellence and achievement.

Noteworthy

South View named a Special Olympics Unified Champion School

South View Middle School received national recognition for demonstrating a commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence.



Edina Public Schools earns an A+ Rating on Niche

Niche is a review and ranking site that compares K-12 schools across the U.S.

EPS welcomes new leadership

PATRICK BASS

Principal of Valley View Middle School

FRANNIE BECQUER

Director of Achievement Equity and Multilingual Learner Programming

ABIGAIL "ABBY" DOLLERSHELL

Director, Dining Services, Chartwells

CHRIS DUNN*

Administrative Dean of Valley View Middle School

JAMIE HAWKINSON*

Administrative Dean of Creek Valley Elementary School

JULIE KROHN*

Administrative Dean of South View Middle School

CAROLINE LINDEN*

Administrative Dean of Countryside Elementary School

TOM LUU*

Administrative Dean of Highlands Elementary School

PAUL PAETZEL

Interim Principal of Edina High School

TRICIA PETTIS

Principal of South View Middle School

JEFF POPE*

Administrative Dean of Edina High School

KANY SECK*

Administrative Dean of Normandale Elementary School

**The Dean position was shifted to an Administrative Dean*

Early Childhood Education for families

Early learning for lifelong success

The Early Learning Center offers Early Childhood Family Education classes for families with children ages birth through five years. We invite you to come meet other parents/caregivers, explore new experiences with your child, engage in discussions about parenting and child development, and feel supported by our licensed Parent Educators. It's a great way to connect to other families and our Edina Public Schools community. There are a variety of classes to meet your schedule needs.

Follow this QR code to see current classes:



Parenting Podcast

If you are a parent with an interest in kids, grown-ups, and the world around us, you have to hear these podcasts. Each class meeting includes a check-in and discussion of the week's theme. Our podcasts have a variety of programs and episodes. Participants may attend in person or virtually.

4 Sessions 7:00-8:00pm
Second Tuesdays, starting 1/9/2024

Me and My Dad: 2-5 years

Enjoy an ECFE class with dad! Parents and children will spend quality playtime for first half. The second half of the class, the dads (or caregiver) will attend parent education in a separate classroom with a Parent Educator.

Dad 2 Wed, 6:00-7:30 pm 1/10-2/14
Dad 3 Wed, 6:00-7:30 pm 4/17-5/22



Toddlin' Tykes Saturday: 12-24 months

Spend a Saturday morning with your toddler! You will participate in songs, story time, and puppet shows while learning social skills by taking turns, exploring together, and interacting with others.

S1224-2 Sat, 9:00-10:00 am 10/28-12/2
S1224-3 Sat, 9:00-10:00 am 1/27-3/2
S1224-4 Sat, 9:00-10:00 am 4/6-5/11



DEFINING EXCELLENCE

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Edina Class of 1951 Celebrates 72nd Reunion

Edina's first high school graduates from the Class of 1951 came together at the Edina Country Club to celebrate their 72nd reunion this fall. Graduate Frank Cardarelle invited Superintendent Dr. Stacie Stanley to join them for the luncheon celebration.

Calendar

Nov. 23-24	No School, Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 25	Winter Break Begins
Jan. 8	School Resumes
Jan. 15	No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 19	No School, Teacher Data Day
Feb. 19	No School, Presidents' Day
Feb. 20	No Students, Professional Development
March 8	No Students, Professional Development
March 18-22	Spring Break
April 19	No Students, Professional Development