

SCHOOL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Erin Rathke

Stepping into the role of Interim Superintendent has been a whirlwind of excitement, and I am deeply grateful for the warm embrace I've received from all corners of our vibrant community.

Transitions can be a rollercoaster of emotions, but they also inject a surge of energy and promise. I am fully committed to ensuring a seamless and positive experience for everyone. I understand the importance of stability and continuity in the school district, and I want to assure you that staying the course is my top priority.

OUR DISTRICT IS NOT JUST A PLACE OF LEARNING; IT'S A THRIVING HUB OF ACTIVITY AND POSSIBILITY.

From energetic PTO gatherings to dynamic staff meetings in our beloved buildings, from the roar of incredible sporting events to the enchantment of one-act plays, and even the joy of serving lunch to our middle schoolers, there is excitement in the air. Our classrooms are filled with students engaging, learning, and applying their knowledge.

Building upon our rich legacy of academic excellence and community engagement, my vision is to foster an environment where every student's potential is not just realized but celebrated. Together, let's amplify our collective strengths and create educational experiences that ignite curiosity, inspire creativity, and empower our students to reach for the stars.

Moving forward together,
Erin Rathke
Interim Superintendent

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Eastern Carver County Schools employs 1,500 employees representing 12 unions/bargaining units. These are our teachers, our paraprofessionals, our custodians, and our bus drivers to name just a few. Contracts are negotiated on a cycle, and this year ECCS is negotiating two contracts, including our teacher contract. All of the remaining contracts will expire in June which means negotiations for all of those contracts will also take place this year. During the negotiation process, the district and bargaining group each present proposals asking for what they want included in the contract but neither the bargaining unit or the district is not obligated to agree to those requests. These processes can take many months, and even when relationships are good and solid progress is being made, negotiations can be challenging.

Our priorities during negotiations are the following, with the ultimate goal of supporting student success:



Improving academic outcomes



Sound financial stewardship



Preserving and expanding organizational & operational effectiveness



Recruitment and retention of high-quality staff

As with many school districts across the state, the challenge in this negotiation cycle has been around funding for unprecedented asks from the teacher union. It is absolutely true that the state legislature passed historic funding increases last year. It is also true that those funding increases were partnered with historic mandates, many of which only included very limited funding, such as the READ Act and Earned Sick and Safe Time. Coupled with inflation, enrollment loss, and the reality that school district funding still lags significantly behind where it needs to be, districts like ECCS are anticipating significant financial constraints that will impact negotiations.

We value every employee and their work. They do an extraordinary job serving our students and the broader community every day. Contract negotiations take time and patience. The district is committed to fair contracts for all our employees that align our resources to support their work and our students' success.

Visit eccs.mn/negotiations for the latest on contract negotiations.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

The Eastern Carver County School Board has contracted with a superintendent search firm, Ray & Associates to assist with identifying superintendent candidates. To begin the process, Ray & Associates consultants met with board members, school staff, parents, students, and community members individually and in focus groups. Those meetings identified the challenges, strengths, and goals of our district and the qualities or skills we would like to see in our next superintendent. In addition, all staff and community members had the opportunity to give written feedback to the search firm through a survey shared on the district website. Using this feedback, a profile was developed of the desired skills and characteristics of our next superintendent.

The next steps in the search and hiring timeline are:

April

- Ray & Associates presents highly qualified candidates (typically five to seven) to the school board for consideration
- School board interviews the superintendent candidates and narrows the field to a small finalist group
- Finalists participate in formal and informal interviews with board members, staff, parents and community members

April – May

- School board selects superintendent

ACHIEVEMENTS & HONORS

Teams from Chanhassen and Chaska high schools competed at the District 6 DECA competition Feb. 2-3, advancing a total of 104 students to the state tournament.

Chanhassen is represented by 56 students, and qualifiers include 19 seniors, 17 juniors and 20 sophomores.

Chaska has 48 students in the state tournament, including section champions Will Fiedler, Henry Young, Austin Kemp, Jack Donahue, Noella Ross, and Maika Tardia.

Chanhassen boys basketball senior Maxwell Woods set a program record for career rebounds with 499 (and counting). Woods was also named Mr. Football by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association, and the Minnesota Gatorade Football Player of the Year last fall.

Two Chaska/Chanhassen boys swimmers and a diver have broken records this season. Micah Brecht set a home pool record in diving for six dives, while Casey Bretz set a pool record in the 200 individual medley. Chaska's Zed Warain has broke two school records in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200 individual medley.

For the seventh year in a row, Eastern Carver County Schools' **Finance Department received the Meritorious Budget Award** from the Association of School Business Officials International. The award recognizes easy-to-read and accurate budget documents that clearly communicate the district's goals and objectives, and build credibility and trust with the community.

MISSION

We prepare every student to achieve their personal best, engage in lifelong learning, and be a thoughtful and responsible citizen.

VISION

We are committed to providing educational excellence for all by:

- ★ Offering personalized, rigorous academic and extensive extracurricular programming delivered by highly-trained staff
- ★ Promoting a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable culture where everyone has the opportunities and supports needed to be successful
- ★ Engaging with community partners to support student learning and career exploration
- ★ Investing our resources wisely to best meet the needs of our learners and communities

CORE VALUES

STUDENT-CENTERED: Student needs and growth drive our words, actions, and choices

EXCELLENCE: Committed to high standards and striving for our best

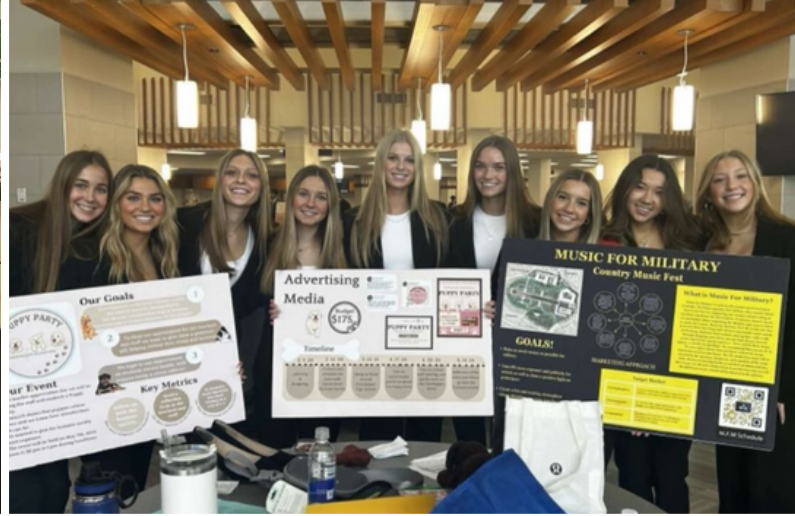
RESPECT: Everyone is seen, heard, valued, and included

COLLABORATION: Engaging, listening, and partnering with others to learn, develop, and innovate

ACCOUNTABILITY: Fostering a culture of integrity and responsibility

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- ★ Improving **TEACHING AND PERSONALIZED LEARNING** for the development of each learner
- ★ Fostering a **SAFE, WELCOMING, AND INCLUSIVE** environment
- ★ Developing **STRONG PARTNERSHIPS** within the communities we serve
- ★ Optimizing our management of **RESOURCES** to support student learning



EYE ON ECCS: MARKETING 101

Throughout the school year, we visit schools across Eastern Carver County Schools to give families and our community a glimpse into the everyday learning environment happening in our buildings. It's a chance to spotlight the incredible work our teachers and staff do daily for our students and to showcase the incredible work of our students. Keep your Eye on ECCS!

Wherever you look – on your phone, in your car driving, on the TV, on the uniforms of some of your favorite professional sports teams – you will find products. Businesses are always looking for new ways to market their products to best reach consumers. Marketing teams need to identify who their potential customers are, what their likes and wants are, what budget they may have for a product, and ultimately, how to get the product to the consumer.

Dr. Tara Campbell taught three sections of Marketing I, or Sales and Marketing, during the first semester to 87 students at Chanhassen High School. The class is only available to sophomores, juniors and seniors. It is a prerequisite to participating in the school extracurricular, DECA, which prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

“In this class we cover branding and the 4Ps of marketing – product, price, place, promotion. This is the foundation of all marketing concepts,” Campbell said.

Mid-semester, students were working on a product management unit in which they were given five choices for an application project, demonstrating what they learned. They included creating a product classifications game, a product poster, a video showing a product's life cycle, an online infographic describing the phases of product development, or designing a new juice box package.

“I always give students a choice on what that application project will be so that they can choose how they demonstrate their mastery of the material to me,” Campbell said.

A large draw for the marketing class is the opportunity to participate in the DECA team. “Marketing students are invited to join DECA, which is a competitive student organization that competes globally related to business and marketing content. This year, we have 130 members, a school record for DECA membership,” Campbell said. “Our students take a standardized marketing test and compete in two events – an impromptu business problem-solving scenario called a ‘role play,’ and a prepared event in which they write a 10-20 page paper and prepare a presentation to justify marketing/business strategy decisions.”

DECA competitions began in January at the district level among seven local high schools followed by the state tournament in March in Minneapolis and the international competition for a select few in April in Anaheim, California.

The full story is available by scanning the QR code below!



Read more
Eye on ECCS
features by scanning
the QR code





In and out of the classroom, students in Eastern Carver County Schools have extensive opportunities to excel in academics, arts, and athletics. Each student is encouraged to pursue their passions and interests.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Mar. 1: No School - Conference / Workshop
- Mar. 25-29: No School - Spring Break
- May 27: No School - Memorial Day
- June 4: Last day of School K-5
- June 6: Last day of School 6-12
- June 7: Graduation



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION



In the event of an emergency in our district, you'll find accurate and up-to-date information on the ECCS website (district112.org) and on the district's media account accounts (@ISD112). If a school is involved in an urgent event, school staff may not have time to answer phones or get information out to parents right away.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Parents and guardians can update their contact information and communication preferences in the Campus Parent Portal under Family Information and Contact Preferences. Updates can also be requested through email to welcomecenter@district112.org.

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