

School Board Brief

St. Anthony  New Brighton
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 282

3303 33rd Ave NE, St. Anthony, MN 55418
isd282.org
612-706-1000

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Exploring the renewal of our expiring operating levy

I first want to thank the voters again for helping us to pass an operational levy this past November. The approved operating levy was an additional levy to our existing operations levy that expires this year on June 30.

With the passage of the Education Omnibus bill last year, school boards across Minnesota now have the opportunity to renew an existing levy one time without needing to go to the taxpayers for approval (MN Statute 126C.17).

This benefits our district greatly by allowing our school board to hold a vote to continue an existing levy without needing to run a costly campaign. This saves the district and taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. In the November 2023 elections, nearly 100% of levy renewals that went to voters passed.

The Board will be exploring this opportunity to review our expiring operating levy and continue it for another ten years. If the Board is interested in moving forward, there are requirements from the state to hear from the public on this topic prior to

making any final decisions. The Board will discuss this topic at the May 7 School Board regular meeting at the St. Anthony Community Center, 3301 Silver Lake Road at 7 p.m. If the Board wants to direct the district to continue at that point, a special board meeting and public forum will be held on May 21 prior to the work session. Action to approve the renewal of the levy needs to occur before June 15, so any potential passage will occur at the June 7 regular meeting.

I encourage you to view or join the May 7 regular meeting and continue watching for additional information on our website.

Ben Phillip
School Board Chair



Introducing the New Faces in Our District



Welcome Amal Younis, new Assistant Principal at Wilshire Park Elementary

We are excited to announce that Amal Younis is the new assistant principal at Wilshire Park beginning on July 1, 2024. Amal brings with her both building and district level leadership experience, along with classroom teaching experience. Most recently she has served as a dean of students in the Eden Prairie School District.



Kristine Schwintek to Serve as Middle School Dean of Students

Kristine Schwintek, 8th Grade Science teacher, will be stepping in to support the middle school as Dean of Students next year. Ms. Schwintek brings over 10 years of teaching experience to the position, and has a fervent commitment to loving and supporting every student. Congratulations!



Nurturing BRILLIANCE

The Official Newsletter of ISD282

*Celebrating community and connection at St. Anthony Middle School:
Led by our incredible staff, students engaged in small groups with their friends, listened to inspiring guest speakers and did fun community service including building benches as demonstrated by our young builders!*

Spring 2024

Ever WE ARE BRIGHTER.

Empowering Diversity and Inclusivity Everyday

Viviana Chavez Garcia's Leadership Enhances Support for Students, Staff, and Families in Multilingual Education



In the heart of our school district, where diversity and inclusivity are vital to the success of our students, District Multilingual (ML)/English Language (EL) Coordinator Viviana Chavez Garcia stands out as a leader who provides support and empowerment for students, families and staff. Viviana's role as the ML/EL coordinator is multifaceted, directly impacting our school community in incredible ways.

A big part of Viviana's responsibility is the screening of primary and secondary students who speak a language other than English at home. This crucial step ensures that students who may benefit from EL or ML services are identified and supported. Viviana's efforts to streamline this process are instrumental in providing timely and effective assistance to students, ensuring that language barriers do not hinder their education.

February and March mark a busy period for Viviana, with the administration of the Access test, a standardized EL assessment that evaluates students' proficiency in English. This testing is vital for understanding the specific needs of our ML students and tailoring support to help them thrive academically.

Beyond testing, Viviana supports professional development for EL and classroom teachers. Through workshops focused on scaffolding and support strategies,

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Levy funds support important roles within our school district

Through the passing of the 2023 operating and capital projects levies, our district can continue supporting the future of St. Anthony - New Brighton Schools! For the next ten years, these funds will:

-  Elevate academic support and programs advancing future-focused learning
-  Improve social-emotional learning for our students and staff
-  Increase support for our teachers through professional development and coaching
-  Develop a robust recruit and retain program for highly-qualified educators, ensuring that our schools are staffed with the best possible educators

Our coordinators make a difference in the lives of students, staff and families everyday and are important roles within our school district. Employees such as Special Education Coordinator Jenny Kuykendall and District Wellness Coordinator Lori Watzl-King serve important roles that further our mission.

she equips educators with the tools to foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment. These initiatives not only benefit ML students but also enrich the teaching practices of our educators.

A lesser-known aspect of Viviana's role is her use of Spanish to communicate directly with students and families, bridging the gap between home and school. While she's not a licensed interpreter, her efforts to use her language skills where most impactful underscore her dedication to inclusivity.

Viviana's journey is one of constant learning and adaptation. Her goal of defining and enhancing EL/ML services is an ongoing process, driven by her commitment to meet the evolving needs of our district. She cherishes the diversity of her daily tasks and the opportunity to support ML students and families, drawing from her personal experience as a multilingual individual.

Her work is pivotal in offloading administrative tasks from educators, allowing them to focus on teaching and support of students. Viviana's vision for the future includes fostering closer connections with ML families through events and focus groups, celebrating the achievements of our ML students, and building a more inclusive community.

Viviana Chavez Garcia and her team embody the spirit of our district's commitment to educational equity. Their tireless efforts and innovative



approaches to supporting our ML community have made an impact on students, families, and staff alike, making them an invaluable asset to our St. Anthony - New Brighton School community.

The number of multilingual students has grown since 2014. At that time, there were 120 multilingual students and now our district serves over 150 students. We've also seen the number of special education students rise too. The need for our staff to develop skills necessary to support these students is paramount.



Senior Lunch

Join us on **Thursday, May 23** from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** for great fellowship and food at the St. Anthony Community Center for a tasty luncheon catered from Culver's and then listen to the sweet sounds of the St. Anthony High School choir. Lunch includes a pot roast sandwich, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, and a dish of custard. Coffee and water will be provided. The cost of the meal and beverages is \$12 per person. There are two price options available to meet the financial needs of individuals. If you have any questions, please call 612-706-1176.



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Bright Happenings

within St. Anthony - New Brighton Schools



St. Anthony Village High School students visit Capitol Hill in St. Paul

The students' trip to the Capitol in March, led by Travis MacLeod, High School Social Studies Teacher, offered students a chance to see where our elected officials gather. Students enjoyed a guided tour, a meeting with Representative Sandra Feist and a look inside the press room.



Book Buddies: High school students field trip over to preschool

In March, our preschoolers and St. Anthony Village High School students embarked on a journey of stories, laughter, and learning during a special reading time with older students! Reading buddies brings together our high schoolers and preschoolers, fostering a love for reading and learning that truly is Ever Brighter.

Partnerships for student mental health and substance support

Our district partners with Northeast Youth and Family Services, a local school-based mental health organization, to provide developmentally-targeted therapy for students who can receive support when in crisis. There is one full-time therapist at each building, serving a total of 60 students. Additionally, we partner with Know The Truth, who works with youth facing the impact of substance use and related mental health issues, providing resources and support.



Community Iftar

St. Anthony Village High School Celebrates Ramadan with Neighbors

Ramadan Mubarak! In March, St. Anthony Village High School's Muslim Student Association hosted a community Iftar event for over 240 Muslim and non-Muslim neighbors from St. Anthony and New Brighton to enjoy dinner and break the fast of Ramadan together.

The student-led program included a few short speeches by students and elected officials from the Cities of St. Anthony and New Brighton. The meal, catered by Holy Land, was made possible by a grant from the St. Anthony New Brighton Family Services Collaborative.

It was a fun event with many community members joining to celebrate Iftar!



Upcoming Events

May 7 School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Anthony Community Center	May 21 School Board Work Session 7 p.m. St. Anthony - New Brighton Schools	May 30 Chamber Choir Senior Concert 7:30 p.m. Silverwood Park
May 16 Wilshire Park 5th Grade Band Concert 7-9 p.m. West Gym	May 22 Jazz Bands Senior Concert 7:30 p.m. OD Tinguam Auditorium	May 31 Last day of school for seniors
May 18 High School Prom Five Events Center	May 23 Senior Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Anthony Community Center	May 31 Wilshire Park Track and Field Day 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Wilshire Park Elementary
May 20 6th and 7th Grade Bands Concert 7 p.m. OD Tinguam Auditorium	May 27 No school Memorial Day	June 4 School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Anthony Community Center
May 21 8th and 9th Grade Symphonic Bands Concert 7 p.m. OD Tinguam Auditorium	May 28 Middle School and High School Choir Concert 7 p.m. OD Tinguam Auditorium	June 5 High School Graduation 7 p.m. Dennison Field