

The Simmons family stops for a photo on their way into Countryside Elementary School on the first day of school.



Experience

Edina Public Schools/Back to School 2024

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. STACIE STANLEY

Building Future-Ready Learners

The complexities of the modern world demand that our students go beyond academic preparedness and are equipped with a broader set of skills. Edina's *Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate* serves as our guiding vision within the Strategic Plan to ensure our students emerge as well-prepared individuals ready to succeed in college, careers, and life. We focus on six essential skills that every student should master: academically prepared, globally competent, responsible and engaged citizens, effective communicators and collaborators, innovative thinkers and problem solvers, and motivated life-long learners.

These skills are coming to life across our district in remarkable ways. For instance, the article below highlights our students' impressive success in AP exams, demonstrating their academic preparedness and resilience coming out of the pandemic. Additionally, a record number of students have achieved proficiency in world languages, enhancing their communication skills and multicultural understanding—key components of being globally competent.

Superintendent Dr. Stacie Stanley welcomes Edina High School student Alvi Buzar Barua as the new school year begins.



Our students are also making a significant impact through service. At Countryside, students participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's alongside the Edina Senior Center, exemplifying their role as responsible and engaged citizens. Moreover, 173 high school students have earned a letter in Community Service, contributing 24,080 hours of service.

These examples are just a glimpse of how our learners are embodying the *Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate*, continually inspiring us with their dedication and achievements. As we move forward this new school year, I'm excited to see our students thrive as they realize these essential skills and grow into well-rounded leaders of tomorrow.

Edina High School Achieves Academic Milestones

AP Results Soar: 91% Pass Rate

The Advanced Placement (AP) exam results were compiled this summer and reveal the strongest data in the past five years, with 91 percent of students earning a passing grade of 3 or higher. According to the AP College Board "Research shows that students who receive a score of 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers."

An impressive number of students earned special recognition. Of the 1,146 students who took 2,388 exams, 527 were named AP Scholars, with 93 earning the AP Scholar with Honor title and 252 receiving the prestigious AP Scholar with Distinction recognition. Additionally, two students achieved the highly coveted AP International Diploma, demonstrating exceptional performance across multiple subject areas. These achievements give students a stronger start to their higher education journey, earning valuable college credits and financial savings.



Congratulations to six Class of 2024 multilingual award recipients proficient in two additional languages, left to right: Oscar Sanchez Christiansen, Prema Suthakaran, Natalia Quintana, Julia Rapallini (not pictured: Pavlina Andish and Jane Porter).

Record Bilingual Proficiency

Edina High School recently celebrated a record-breaking 40 percent of the Class of 2024 who graduated with recognition for bilingual language proficiency. A total of 260 seniors received Bilingual or Multilingual Certificates or Seals, marking the highest results since the program began in 2016.

"This speaks to the quality of instruction in our World Language departments and the support for biligualism across Edina Public Schools," said EHS World Language area lead, **Kim Caster**.

Noteworthy



EPS Awarded Financial Excellence

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has awarded Edina Public Schools the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended 2023.



Edina Public Schools Strengthens Safety with New Emergency Management Coordinator

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 Public Schools has announced the appointment of **Alex Hattstrom** as its new Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator. Hattstrom's impressive career includes a recent position as a police officer at MSP International Airport, where he focused on critical infrastructure security. His prior experience encompasses roles with the Coon Rapids Police Department, the Metro Transit Police Department, and as a court deputy for the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

He holds a bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Metro State University and a master's degree in crime analysis from Arizona State University. Hattstrom started July 1, 2024 and works directly with School Resource Officers **Joe Delgehausen** and **Kyle Waterstreet**.



From left: Emergency Management Coordinator Alex Hattstrom with Resource Officers Kyle Waterstreet and Joe Delgehausen.

"Safety in our schools starts with preparation and collaboration—together, we build a foundation of trust and readiness that protects every member of our school community," said Hattstrom.



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BACK TO SCHOOL

