



# SCHOOL REPORT



## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. ERIN RATHKE

It is with great excitement and honor that I welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year as your new ECCS Superintendent.



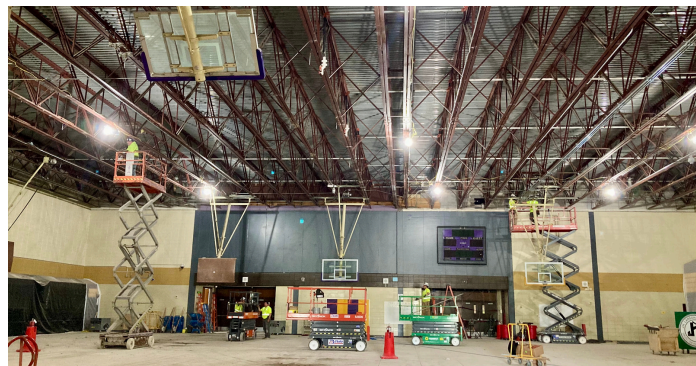
**OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR, “CARRY THE TORCH,” REPRESENTS THE DEDICATION, PASSION, AND COMMITMENT WE ALL SHARE IN CREATING AND SUSTAINING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS TO THRIVE.**

As we begin this new year, one of our top priorities is the importance of student attendance. Being present at school is a critical component of our students' success. Regular attendance not only ensures that students can fully participate in the educational opportunities provided but also supports their social and emotional development. Every day of learning counts, and we are committed to maintaining an engaging and supportive environment that encourages students to be present and ready to learn.

We recognize that the success of our students is a shared responsibility. A strong partnership with our families is essential in achieving our goals. We are committed to working closely with you to support each child's journey in Eastern Carver County Schools. Your involvement, encouragement, and collaboration are invaluable as we strive to provide the best possible experience for all our students.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our district. I am looking forward to an incredible year ahead, filled with growth, achievement, and success for all our students.

In Partnership,  
Dr. Erin Rathke  
Superintendent



## REINVESTING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES

The 2023 summer construction season in Eastern Carver County Schools featured numerous projects of different scopes; the largest coming at Chaska Middle School East with the first-half of a complete transformation of the interior of the building.

The 2024 summer construction plan is doubling down. The entire school campus was closed all summer to allow for the completion of Phase II at Chaska Middle School East along with Phase I of a major overhaul of the interior at Chaska Middle School West.

Projects, when complete, that will serve students for the next 50 years, according to Jim Muenzenmeyer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

“We’re doing a total upgrade of that building,” he said of Middle School West. “The lights, the HVAC, floor coverings, abatement. We’re hitting a lot of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.”

Other major projects this summer:

- Original flooring replacement at Bluff Creek Elementary
- Replacement of original chiller at Victoria Elementary
- Roof renovation at Clover Ridge Elementary
- Addition of a large freezer at Carver Elementary
- Repaving of asphalt at Clover Ridge Elementary, Chaska Middle School East, Chaska Middle School West, and La Academia
- Replacement of turf on upper field at Chanhassen High School



## NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES

Join us in welcoming these leaders to new roles for the 2024-25 school year.



**Dr. Erin Rathke**  
Superintendent



**Nate Manaen**  
Assistant Superintendent



**David Brecht**  
Director of Finance and Operations



**Sam Blank**  
Principal  
Carver Elementary



**Susana De Leon**  
Assistant Principal  
Chaska High School



**Whitney Eipperle**  
Dean  
Chanhassen High School



**Kimberly Foster**  
Dean  
Chaska High School



**Mike Low**  
Dean  
Chaska Middle School West



**Dr. Paul Obuono**  
Dean  
Pioneer Ridge Middle School

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



As Dr. Rathke begins her leadership of Eastern Carver County Schools, she will be engaging the community in a series of listening and feedback sessions centered around these four questions:



**WHAT IS GREAT  
ABOUT OUR  
SCHOOLS AND  
SCHOOL DISTRICT?**



**WHAT IS ON YOUR  
ECCS WISH LIST?**



**WHAT SHOULD THE  
DISTRICT PRIORITIZE  
AS THE BUDGET  
REMAINS A CHALLENGE?**



**WHAT ARE THREE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
WE HAVE?**

### Save the date

**NEW DATES**

**Full community session**

**October 1, 2024**

5:00 p.m.

Location TBD

**Sesión en español**

**October 10, 2024**

5:00 p.m.

Ubicación por determinar

**Full community session**

**October 24, 2024**

5:00 p.m.

Location TBD

**Fadhi ku hadla af-soomaali**

**September 26, 2024**

5:00 p.m.

Goobta lagu go'aamin doono



More information about the community engagement opportunities and Dr. Rathke's 100-day entry plan can be found at <http://eccs.mn/100dayplan>.

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

### School Board filing opens July 30

The Eastern Carver County School Board will have three seats open for election in November 2024. The term is for four years. The filing time frame for interested candidates is July 30 - August 13.

Find out more information about filing to run for the school board at [eccs.mn/schoolboardfiling](http://eccs.mn/schoolboardfiling) or contact Sara Skar at [skars@district112.org](mailto:skars@district112.org) or 952-556-6110 for more information.

### 2024 District School Board

Jenny Stone, Chair  
952-220-4136

Sean Olsen, Vice-Chair  
952-221-7745

Angela Erickson, Treasurer  
320-491-9451

Tim Klein, Director  
612-963-1150

Ellie Krug, Director  
319-360-1692

Jeff Ross, Ph.D, Director  
763-458-8801

Joe Scott, Director  
612-839-3800

# THE NEXT WAVE OF TEACHERS STARTS IN OUR CLASSROOMS

## Chaska, Chanhassen High Schools offer Intro to Education courses each spring

Elizabeth Balmaceda Amenta knew she needed to make a phone call to her college admissions counselor after her third field experience in her Introduction to Education class during her final semester as a student at Chaska High School.

“I thought I’d come into the field experience and I would leave sticking with my decision of getting into secondary education. After my third week here, I was like, ‘I’m switching my major and declaring it for elementary education.’

Balmaceda Amenta was one of seven Chaska students that took Introduction to Education with Susan Busch last spring. There were 11 students – a mix of seniors and juniors – in Melissa Martin’s class at Chanhassen High School.



Chanhassen High School’s Ellie Rollins works with a small group of students in Molly Aker’s fifth-grade classroom at Bluff Creek Elementary in May 2024.

Introduction to Education is described in the registration guide as “an overview of the education profession and the U.S. educational system, including historical development, social foundations, and educational institutions. Other topics include current theories, trends, and issues in education and the community, certification standards, roles and responsibilities of teachers, learners, and other school personnel.”

The class is taught through Normandale Community College in Bloomington, earning each student four college credits. In addition to classroom work, every student must complete a 25-hour field experience in an area school. This is completed during class hours at a local elementary school. Transportation is provided for students.

### INTEREST IN EDUCATION

Lydia Edison has always been interested in becoming an elementary-age teacher. When her teacher, Mrs. Susan Busch, suggested she take the course and earn college credit, she was sold. Edison spent the semester with Jonathan Elementary counselor Stacy Busch. “Each time I come here, it makes me even more excited to major in education in college. I love kids. They’re the best!” Edison said.

Chanhassen junior Katelyn Anfang has always enjoyed working with children, so she went into the experience with an open mind to teaching. “I knew this would be a good way to see if being a teacher would be something I’d like. It’s been really fun,” Anfang said.

Others are more interested in different fields involving children but saw the class as a great experience and an extension of the Childhood Development class they took in the first semester.

“Right now I’m thinking of becoming a pediatric nurse. I’ve babysat for many years, and I work with kids at my dance studio, so I definitely want to do something with kids,” Chanhassen senior Kaelyn Wild said.

“I definitely am interested in doing something with children. Maybe pediatrics or something in the healthcare field,” Chanhassen junior Ellie Rollins said. “When I heard that I could do my work experience at Bluff Creek, where I went to school and where my sister is now, I was so excited.”

### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

“I’ve gotten to know them more and more, learn their names, and start to build relationships with all of them. You really learn what each student likes and dislikes,” Anfang, who has been in Jordan Kilber’s third-grade classroom at Chanhassen Elementary, said.

“Being able to make a difference in kids’ lives is amazing. Today a couple of kids came up and gave me a hug, and I’m only here one day a week and they remember me. It’s a great feeling. Once you start making those connections, you really can make a difference. That’s what teachers are doing all school year with these kids,” Chanhassen senior Georgia Wolf said.

**Miss reading news about Eastern Carver County Schools in the Chaska Herald and Chanhassen Villager?**

Subscribe to the 112 Online for the ECCS newsletter delivered bi-weekly to inboxes using the online form at [eccs.mn/subscribe](https://eccs.mn/subscribe) or use this QR code.





# Important Dates 2024-25 School Year

## September 3

First day of school

## October 17-18

No school: Education Minnesota Conference

## October 21

No school: Conference/ Teacher Workshop

## November 1

No school: Teacher workshop

## November 27-29

No school: Thanksgiving break

## December 2

No school: Conference/ Teacher Workshop

## December 23-31

No school: Winter break

## January 1

No school: Winter break

## January 20

No school: MLK Day

## January 21

No school: Conference/ Teacher Workshop

## February 28

No school: Conference/ Teacher Workshop

## March 31

No school: Spring break

## April 1-4

No school: Spring break

## April 18

No school: Late spring break

## May 26

No school: Memorial Day

## June 3

Elementary last day of school

## June 5

Middle and high school last day of school

SEPTEMBER 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

OCTOBER 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F
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7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F
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18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F
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16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

JANUARY 2025				
M	T	W	TH	F
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6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2025				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2025				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

APRIL 2025				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

MAY 2025				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JUNE 2025				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6

## Stay Connected

Bluff Creek Elementary: 952-556-6600

Carver Elementary: 952-556-1900

Chanhassen Elementary: 952-556-6700

Clover Ridge Elementary: 952-556-6900

Jonathan Elementary: 952-556-6500

La Academia: 952-556-6300

Victoria Elementary: 952-556-3000

Chaska Middle School East: 952-556-7600

Chaska Middle School West: 952-556-7400

Pioneer Ridge Middle School: 952-556-7800

Chanhassen High School: 952-556-3500

Chaska High School: 952-556-7100

Integrated Arts Academy: 952-556-6200

STAR: 952-556-6120

Family Learning Center: 952-556-6100

Community Education: 952-556-6400

Welcome Center: 952-556-6100

Transportation: 952-556-6160

Nutrition Services: 952-556-6145



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