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EDUCATION-

Electronic Edition

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THE 2023 MINNESOTA SERVICE COOPERATIVE MULTI-REGION State Spelling BEE

Maximus Katsoulis Takes Home the Championship Trophy





When Maximus Katsoulis successfully spelled soirée, he became the Multi-Region State Champion and earned an all-expense paid trip to the **Scripps National Spelling Bee** in Washington, D.C.

Maximus, an 8th grader from Blackduck High School, stated, “studying was very important” as he prepared for the Spelling Bee. He spent about 48 hours studying for this event. The words turned out to be a fun challenge for Maximus as he worked his way through 15 rounds of difficult words against nineteen other talented spellers from throughout the state.

Jaden Go, a 6th grader at Sacred Heart School in East Grand Forks, earned first runner-up honors. All 20 spellers demonstrated talent and poise as they worked their way through the language of origin, alternate pronunciations, and definitions.

Monica Thompson, the State Spelling Bee Coordinator, commented, “I was not the only person impressed by the talents of these students. The audience was amazed as they witnessed these students spelling words many had never heard of. The state bee is very exciting, but it is also bittersweet because we can send only one speller to the National Bee. All 20 spellers would represent our state very well.” We send our best wishes to Maximus as he advances to the National Bee.

Source/Author: *Monica Thompson, State Spelling Bee Coordinator*

From the Executive Director

As a former history and political science teacher, I love studying the Presidents, their rankings, failures and successes, and their legacies. The recent news of President Carter's hospice care helped me to reflect on his legacy. As he left office in 1981, the economy was not in good stead with significant inflation (even his peanut business was failing), the American Embassy faced a hostage crisis in Iran, and the Russians had invaded Afghanistan.



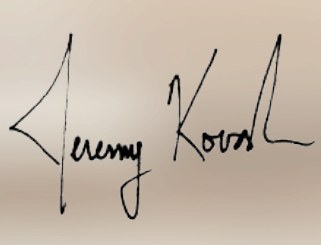
Jeremy Kovash
LCSC Executive Director

However, I believe Jimmy Carter's lessons are decency, humanitarianism, and unheralded acts. He is one of the few modern-era presidents that did not gain extreme wealth after his presidency. Rather, he started the Carter Center, which has saved countless lives through its health and peace programs. He built innumerable homes for poor people with Habitat for Humanity. He did this without gaining significant acclaim, without television shows or podcasts. He simply leads by example. My favorite Carter quote shows that he lives as a man of his word, "The course of human events, even the greatest historical events, is not determined by the leaders of a nation or a state, like presidents or governors or senators. They are controlled by the combined wisdom and courage and commitment and discernment and unselfishness and compassion and love and idealism of the common ordinary people."

> **"He was an unlucky president, and a lucky man. We are lucky to have had him. Blessed."**

I think the lesson Jimmy Carter will leave with us is one of humanitarianism above all else… "commitment and discernment and unselfishness and compassion and love and idealism of the common ordinary people." And also that, even if things have not been perfect… even if we've failed… there is time. There is time to be a difference maker. There is time to help others. There is time to rebuild or stay steadfast in our character as decent human beings.

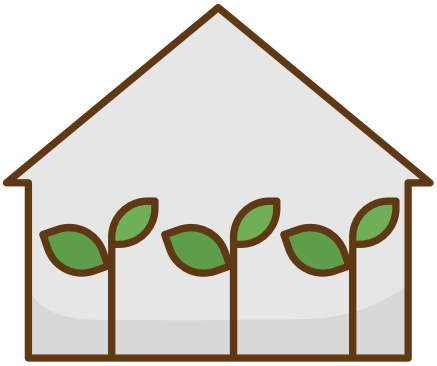
I'll end with a quote from James Fallows from The Atlantic who states, "He was an unlucky president, and a lucky man. We are lucky to have had him. Blessed."





CHANGEMAKER HUB!

On **April 13, 2023,** we will gather students and teachers from around west-central Minnesota for a day of exploration and solution-seeking.
World Savvy is a national nonprofit working with educators, school leaders, and community members to reimagine learning for the 21st century and create future-ready schools where young people develop the skills and dispositions they need to thrive in their ever-changing communities, locally and globally.
To learn more and to register,
CLICK HERE.



Local high schoolers will be growing vine-ripened produce and processing fresh cuts of pork and beef to benefit people in need at the Grant County Food Shelf.

WEST CENTRAL AREA SCHOOL

With the help of nearly $700,000 in grants and community donations, West Central Area High School has added a fully-automated, modern greenhouse to its campus, and will launch a mobile meat processing trailer this fall.
The effort not only helps provide a hands-on learning opportunity for students, but it will also help relieve hunger in the community.
"We've got fresh, local produce and meat, and why not have it put directly on the shelves," said the school's FFA Advisor Eric Sawatzke.
As a teacher and advisor, Sawatzke said it's his job to excite students about agriculture.
"Kids don't get that out of a book; it's the only way to make education come alive, to live it and do it," Sawatzke said. "If they don't experience it before age 18, they will not consider it a career field."

While Sawatzke initially proposed adding a greenhouse to the school, he's quick to say the concept instantly became a community effort. He suggested the idea at a meeting where representatives of the local Lions Club and the food shelf were present, and he said the idea took off from there. At the time, Sawatzke was one of 20 educators from around the world proposing ideas to aid in ending world hunger through the World Food Prize Foundation.
Since he proposed the idea in 2019, 66 community businesses and organizations have stepped forward and donated $322,000 toward the effort; the rest of the funds have come from large-scale grants. Lakes Country Service Cooperative has also donated a walk-in cooler and refrigerated truck for the effort. Sawatzke is also applying to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for a grant to cover the cost of a walk-in freezer.

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When the mobile processing trailer comes online, he said, it will benefit area farmers, providing them with an additional place to process their meat. They'll also be able to process deer for area residents. The processing fees will go back into the program to make it self-sustaining.

The processing trailer, he said, will be a way to provide students with direct butcher training, something he said there's a shortage of in Minnesota. He applied for the USDA grant for the project with the help of the West Central Initiative Foundation. While nearly half the grant dollars went toward the trailer itself, which will be equipped with stainless steel tables, essential cutting equipment, and whitewash walls, the remainder will go toward researching hunger data in the county and paying for a part-time staff member to do the licensing, inspection and paperwork piece of having the mobile processing station. The trailer will be shared with Ashby High School.

Students will learn all about the muscles, fibers, and how to process different cuts of beef and pork. Outside of processing meat for customers, meat will come from a local locker plant and can be donated by area farmers. On specific days, an inspector will be on site to certify the meat, and those cuts will be passed along to the food shelf.

In a semester, Sawatzke estimates, students will be able to donate 500 pounds of meat. He has a long-term goal to expand the program, expand the space, and donate 5,000 pounds a semester.

On the greenhouse side, produce is already reaching the food shelf. Students have begun planting 2,500 root plant cuttings for hanging flower baskets, tomatoes, cucumbers, and strawberries. Students grow lettuce using hydroponics and we send 36 heads of lettuce a week to the food shelf.



"We're constantly driving things up to the food shelf," Sawatzke said. "The greenhouse will teach about plant science, but what we'll grow as one of our main products is food." The greenhouse is app-controlled and includes irrigation, shade cloths, and heaters.

The students have taken ownership of this project. Their pride was evident as they presented, shared several presentations, and gave greenhouse tours at the grand opening on February 21st in conjunction with National FFA Week.

Staff, students, community members, and collaborators saw West Central Area's food production in action. Everyone is very excited to continue their food processing and distribution work as WCA's communities benefit from this initiative.

Source/Author: *Kari Kreft, Public Engagement, West Central Area Schools*

LAKER PRIDE

PURPOSE RELATIONSHIPS INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT EQUITY



PROVIDING OUR STUDENTS WITH RELEVANT AND REAL-WORLD PREPARATION FOR THEIR FUTURES

"We are expected to teach our kids how to be prepared for the real world, but they have not experienced learning outside of the classroom since age five," said Mark Jenson, Detroit Lakes Public School (DLPS) Superintendent.

Jenson, who grew up in Moorhead, MN, said, "I have the dream job and love living "Laker Pride." The people in the Detroit Lakes community are so committed to the school and its kids."

Before taking the job of Superintendent, Jenson worked at Rocori High School and began as their Assistant Principal in 2006. Jenson ended his time at Rocori, serving as the Principal in 2020.

One of the many school programs at DLPS that Jenson is incredibly enthusiastic about is the Academies program. Serving 840 high school students, DLPS is now in its fifth year of operating the Academies model in the Detroit Lakes High School (DLHS). Jenson is incredibly pleased with the outcomes of the program and the many local business partnerships. He stated that he wished his children could have benefitted from an Academies model. "Having this program available to my children would have allowed them to discover their passions earlier and explore career options related to their interests. This would have prevented needless anxiety and reduced tuition expenses," said Jenson.

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DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOL WAS THE TOP CPC EXPRESS USER IN THE LCSC REGION IN JANUARY!

Detroit Lakes Public School is kicking off a successful 2023 by saving time and money! Express is CPC's online marketplace. Designed especially for public procurement, providing an efficient solution for price comparisons, approval processes, and online shopping of CPC's competitively solicited contracts.

For more information, please visit purchasingconnection.org

Express online marketplace

When a DLHS ninth-grade student enters the Academies, they participate in a five-week aptitude and interest survey process, which helps determine their correct pathway. Pathways include opportunities in five areas: Production, Health Sciences, Human Services, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Information Technology.

There are several administrative elements contributing to the ongoing success of the Academies. The DLHS Academies Champions' Board provides a long-term vision for the academies and ensures equity in the program delivery. Academies Advisory Boards meet routinely to plan curriculum and work-based learning activities. In addition, DLHS also employs an Academies Leadership Team and Academies Student Ambassadors who are focused on the continuous improvement and implementation of the Academies.

The Academies at DLHS have a strong relationship with the local community and connections to more than 60 business partners. Business partners invest in the program by donating time and equipment. Business partner donated time includes a DLHS Vantage experience, which all Senior students complete. This experience consists of one or two hours daily working with a business partner to solve real-world problems. Students can also participate in paid internships as Certified Nursing Assistants, in Greenhouse Management, and Advanced Manufacturing. These activities expose students to real-life careers of high wages, high demand, and high-skill areas.



Joshua Omang
DLHS Principal

When asked about the impact of the program, DLHS Principal Joshua Omang shared, “Most of the data collected over the years of our program operation deals with the number of certifications our students have earned, the number of seniors who have done internships, the number of seniors completing capstone projects, hours donated by our community partners, number of industry related field trips taken by students, and advanced courses attempted by students. In this version of career academies, we are truly doing three things simultaneously. Teaching kids to be college-ready, career-ready, and life ready. The most meaningful way to share our impact is by telling the stories of our students and by having them tell their stories!”

One story of the Academies’ success was from Senior Student Mark Carlson. Mark received a Fall internship at Detroit Lakes BTD Manufacturing in the Mechanical Drafting department. Mark had a great experience working in this area, and BTD was very impressed with him. Mark shared that he was interested in employment at BTD, and they offered him a part-time job for the year’s second half. Mark can now rotate through the different departments at BTD and learn more about each area and where he is most passionate. He will then select the area he is interested in pursuing, and BTD will hire him full-time in the Fall. BTD had a signing ceremony after his semester one internship. Mark signed a letter of intent/contract for the part-time and full-time positions.

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In addition, BTD will also offer him tuition reimbursement and part-time employment if he chooses to pursue a related degree. This would be established after he decides what position he wants to pursue at BTD.

Before graduation, all Seniors complete a capstone project and present these projects publicly at the Capstone Night each Spring showcasing the students' amazing impact, innovation, and creativity.

DLHS Academies open the learners' eyes to exciting possibilities as they explore the world of work and careers. Long-term benefits of the Academies program in the Detroit Lakes community are projected to be a more educated and stable workforce, a greater ability to attract new business to the community, increased graduation rates, greater earnings among graduating students, and increased readiness for college.

If you want to learn more about DLPS and the success of the Academies program, follow this link.

https://hs.dlschools.net/academies

Source: *Mark Jenson, DLPS Superintendent; Joshua Omang, DLPS HS Principal*
Author: *Mary Phillipe, LCSC Communications Generalist*



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CNA OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO OUR STUDENTS!

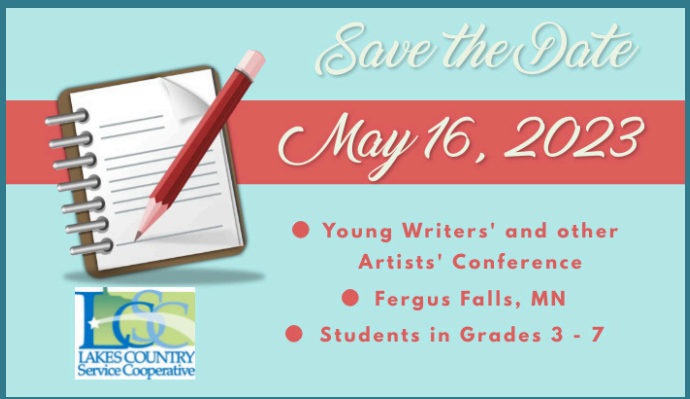


LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES



SCIENCE AND GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS





The 2023 Young Writers' and other Artists Conference is scheduled for May 16, 2023 at Minnesota State Community & Technical College in Fergus Falls.

More information and registration will be coming soon.

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June 20 & 21, 2023

We know that educators want to renew their excitement, energy, and focus within their classrooms and buildings. The multiple "Keynote Sessions," on June 20 and June 21, allow participants to learn from a few leading experts to address the systemic trauma we see, ignite our shine, and the changing atmosphere of education. Register today for the FIRST Education WE GOT THIS SUMMIT at Detroit Lakes Public Schools on June 20 & 21, 2023.

CLICK HERE to download the entire summit agenda and details.



AMPLIFYING STUDENT VOICES

Prairie Public is offering educators a self-paced online class that explores how to use video production, podcasting, and social media in the classroom. The course is free and open to educators of all grades, subjects, and experience levels.

Continuing education credits are available through five North Dakota universities.

The course will be led by Darcy Bakkegard, M.A., who specializes in interactive strategies for the classroom, meaningful tech integration, and building relationships with students. Darcy is an ISTE Certified Educator and an experienced international presenter.

Registration is open now through May 12 at https://www.prairiepublic.org/education/amplify/

Underwood Public School

100 CELEBRATES DAYS

NAVIGATING LEADERSHIP AS THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Jeff Wilson is celebrating **100** days! One hundred days of the school year and 100 days as the new Superintendent of Underwood Public School.



The community of Underwood is a small town of 360 people and is home to the "Rockets," and tucked right alongside Minnesota Highway 210 is the Underwood Public School.

"The supportive culture and relationships with families in Underwood are strong here. You can't help but get excited to meet the families in this community," said Wilson.

Wilson grew up in Grandview, Iowa, and has been in Minnesota for 23 years. Before accepting the role of superintendent in Underwood, Wilson had been a principal for 17 years, the last four of those years in the Brooklyn Center School District.

Wilson said, "I do this work because being around kids keeps me young. Before graduating from high school, I was planning a career in law enforcement and wanted to be an FBI agent. Fortunately, a coach pulled me aside and shared that he could see I was great with kids and that I should think about teaching, and here I am!"

The Underwood School District is a rural district serving 608 students enrolled in preschool through twelfth grade. Attending a rural public school like Underwood's can offer many benefits, such as smaller class sizes and more individualized attention from teachers. Additionally, smaller schools often have a strong sense of community, making students feel more connected to their peers and the school.

"I love the Underwood community because of the small-town feel," said Wilson.

Underwood Public School is committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment, and this past fall, Otter Tail County Officer Carla Doll was added as a Student Resource Officer (SRO). As the SRO, Doll provides an added layer of protection to the current safety protocols and works to build relationships with the students, staff, and visitors. "SRO Dahl is a shared expense through a partnership with the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department and has been enthusiastically received by the students," said Wilson.

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Source: *Jeff Wilson, Underwood Public School Superintendent; MSHL Website; Rippleeffects.com*
Author: *Mary Phillipe, LCSC Communications Generalist*



"CHANGE HAPPENS ONE RIPPLE AT A TIME"

Wilson also shared that staff and students continue implementing a character-building program called the Ripple Effect. This program personalizes social-emotional skill building and promotes positive behavior and mental health. Ripple Effect programs are used to ensure each student gets what they need to thrive in school and life, and it works on building student leaders. "We are seeing some very positive effects from this program. We now see students stepping up as leaders who may not have previously participated in this positive behavior," said Wilson.

Superintendent Wilson was eager to share information about several Underwood students' academic success. The Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, commonly known as the Triple 'A' Award, honors high school seniors throughout Minnesota with a 3.0 or higher grade point average and participating in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities. Underwood student Cole Peterson was recently selected as the Sub-Section 22 Triple award winner. Underwood has had seven students win the award in the past and has had the most students awarded this honor by any other high school in the state.

Underwood School District is also known for not increasing local taxes to support their school. When asked if the school was entertaining any big projects or additions, Wilson stated they were working on necessities such as a new indoor air quality project and milling the parking lot this summer.

When asked what keeps him up at night, Wilson said, "We need stable state funding to plan our budgets as we face rising costs year after year. The Minnesota House of Representatives recently passed a bill for free lunch and breakfast to all Minnesota students, regardless of income requirements. Wilson hopes to have the ability within the local school district to manage these funds when passed by the Minnesota Senate.

In his first year as a superintendent, Wilson admits there is a learning curve, and he has been fortunate to have a network of Superintendents to bounce off ideas and ask questions when he needs a solution. "I really appreciate the support that New York Mills Superintendent Blaine Novak has provided me over the last few months," said Wilson. Wilson also shared that he is fortunate to have an outstanding team of people at Underwood Public School. "The staff has been very supportive, and the students are a blast to work with. I am humbled to have the opportunity to lead Underwood School District," said Wilson.

Do you want to learn more about programming and academic excellence at Underwood Public School? Visit their website at underwood.k12.mn.us

Math Masters

March 2, 2023







Twelve Area Teams Competed

Fergus Falls- 6 teams
Battle Lake- 1 team
Rothsay- 1 team
Wadena- Deer Creek- 1 team
Morris- 1 team
Hillcrest- 2 teams

1ST PLACE - FERGUS FALLS KENNEDY- WHITE



The Math Masters mathematics competition program challenges 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade students to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills in mathematics. Students compete individually and on teams in eight rounds of competitions each year in March and April. Students' academic effort and achievement is recognized with plaques, medallions, and ribbons in each competition element: Fact Drill, Individual Round, and Team Competition.

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TEAM MATH AWARDS



2ND PLACE - FERGUS FALLS KENNEDY- MAROON



3RD PLACE - HILLCREST WHITE



4TH PLACE - MORRIS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



1ST- CADE JOHNSON



2ND - WESLEY ODELLO



3RD - MAX BATZLAFF



4TH- JACOB WARNER

FACT DRILL AWARDS



1ST- DEXTER FELSTUL



2ND- CADE JOHNSON



3RD- JACOB WARNER



4TH- ALEYTHIA GERSTMANN

FACT DRILL AWARDS

1st- Dexter Felstul

2nd- Cade Johnson

3rd- Jacob Warner

4th- Aleythia Gerstmann

Individual Awards

1st- Cade Johnson

2nd- Wesley Odello

3rd- Max Batzlaff

4th- Jacob Warner

Team Awards

1ST PLACE- FERGUS FALLS KENNEDY- WHITE

- o Max Batzlaff
- o Aleythia Gerstmann
- o Cade Johnson
- o Fia Nasri

2ND PLACE- FERGUS FALLS KENNEDY- MAROON

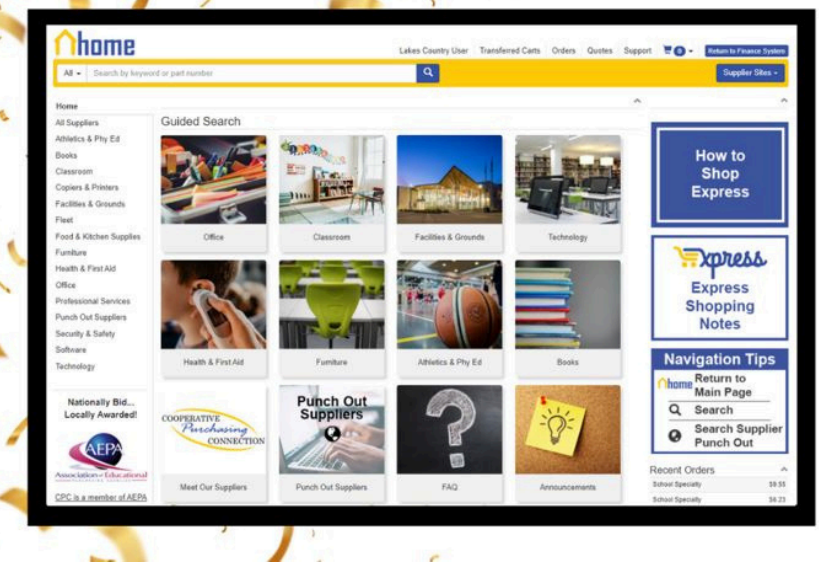
- o Zayne Jordan
- o Jacob Warner
- o Oscar Ellerbusch
- o Grady Haarstad

3RD PLACE- HILLCREST- WHITE

- o Luke Bjorndahl
- o Myles Selvig
- o Brielle Tysdal
- o Eli Walkup
- o Sophie Walkup

4TH PLACE- MORRIS

- o Adelyn Ferrian
- o Wesley Odello
- o Fabian Hernandez
- o Lacie Nohl
- o Kayla Howe



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