



Dr. Kevin Day and One Student's Musical Dreams

Composer and conductor, Dr. Kevin Day visited Mr. Erickson's Symphonic Concert Band course this year. Dr. Day worked through his piece, "Uplift" with the student musicians. After class, students asked Dr. Day about his experiences becoming a professional musician.



Rupert Shackleton, a long-haired trumpet player comes from a long line of brass instrument players. He's been to several concerts, but getting to meet and work with someone like Dr. Day was a totally different key of awesome.

"It was interesting to see someone so knowledgeable about the composition direct the band. He knew exactly what he wanted to hear AND how to get us there."

Rupert would love to be a professional musician similar to Dr. Day. His current focus is mastering the trumpet while staying curious about other instruments and genres.

Upcoming Events

See what's happening at St. Anthony-New Brighton schools! Visit isd282.org for more information.

Jan. 7, Feb. 7, 18, 25	School Board Meeting (7 p.m.)
Jan. 13	Choir Concerts: 5th and 6th Grade (6 p.m.) 7th and 8th Grade (7:15 p.m.)
Jan. 20	No School. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Jan. 21	No School. School Board Meeting (7p.m.)
Jan. 27, Feb. 24	SAVHS Parent Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
Feb. 17	No School. President's Day.
Feb. 26	9th Grade Orientation (6 p.m.)
Feb. 28	No School. Tibetan New Year.

Board Brief

The St. Anthony-New Brighton School Board has been working hard to keep SANB on a positive trajectory. On Dec. 17, the board presented their 2025 Legislative Platform to Minnesota legislators. Our board members got to hear Senator Kunesh's and Representative Feist's legislative priorities. This platform will be used to advocate for more funding and equitable processes for our school district.

Scan the code to check out the full platform!



Meet Our Newest Board Member: Dr. Prachi Striker!

Dr. Prachi Striker (she goes by PJ!) is the newest appointee to the SANB School Board, starting her tenure at the beginning of November.



PJ grew up in New Brighton and moved to St. Anthony in 2017. PJ is a childhood and adolescent psychiatrist and has three children within the SANB ecosystem.

"Having children at each level of education, as well as my experience as a child/adolescent psychiatrist and medical director, give me a unique perspective and knowledge to be an asset on this board. I look forward to continuing the work."

St. Anthony  New Brighton
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Ever WE ARE BRIGHTER.

A Rising Political Mind: How One Junior is Building Voting Power

What does it take to inspire the next generation of voters? For Maitreya Reeder it starts with a clipboard, a smile, and a focus on the future of democracy. Maitreya is a junior at St. Anthony Village High School; she's passionate about voting rights, youth voice in politics, and engaging aspiring voters around the issues they care about.



Maitreya's been involved in youth politics since she was just 13 years old, often tagging along with her parents in the voting booth. She's the chair of the SAVHS Youth in Government Delegation, a model government program run by the YMCA. The program hosts mock trials, policy conferences at the Minnesota State Capitol, and allows for members like Maitreya to write bills and argue fictitious court cases.

"The immersive environments that the YIG program provides really inspires me to get more into civic engagement."

Youth in Government is where Maitreya met Markus Wessman, the founder of the Youth Voter Project (YVP), a student-led nonprofit organization committed to pre-registering and registering Minnesota teens. Maitreya is the Public Relations Director at YVP and has loved hosting voter registration drives across the state. The 2024 General Election was the first election in which Minnesota's preregistered teens were eligible to vote.

"Some of the most memorable moments I have with future voters are the ones who are genuinely so excited to get this information back to their communities."

Maitreya's excited to vote in the next election and to keep reminding SANB students of the power of their voice.

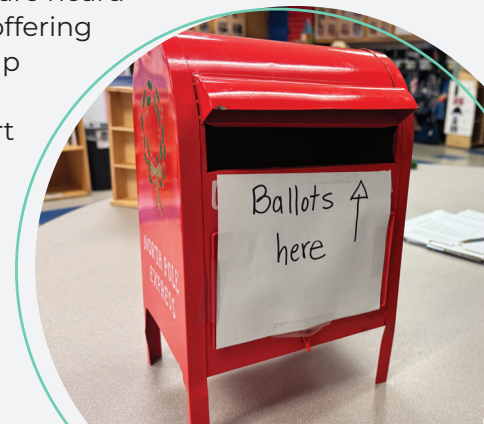
What It's Like to be an Election Judge in MN

Soneti Andea learned how she could get involved in the whirlwind of election season in Mr. MacLeod's AP Government class. She realized it was a great opportunity to see the voting and election process, before she gets to vote next year. As an Election Judge, Soneti helped register and guide voters through the precinct, helping them cast their ballots with confidence.

Soneti was also tasked with translating for Oromo language speakers. While she couldn't go into detail about campaign information for candidates, she could describe what was on the ballot.

"Seeing people from my culture go out of their way to vote in a language they don't know was inspiring. It's harder to vote if English isn't your first language, but they still wanted their voices to be heard."

Today, Soneti encourages her friends and family to turn out to every election they're eligible for, ensuring that their voices are heard while offering her help and support along the way!




Nurturing BRILLIANCE

 The Official Newsletter of ISD282

Winter 2024-2025

EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION:

How It Works

Nurturing Brilliance is more than the name of our newsletter, it is a driving force behind St. Anthony-New Brighton Schools. **Our district is currently in the midst of a multi-year process aimed at helping teachers transform their instructional methods to meet the needs of all students and reduce achievement gaps.** Effective Instruction is a widely researched and recognized methodology for equity-based education. We know that our community wants their tax dollars to be used most effectively to ensure the success of all students. Effective Instruction is one way we're rising to that expectation.

Each term, a teacher teaches a subject through a course. The course is divided into units, and each unit is broken down into learning targets. Every day, students should know what they are learning in class. For each unit, teachers should be able to answer these questions and show evidence of their work:

- ▶ Is there an outline of the skills students will have learned by the end of the unit?
- ▶ Do the skills in the unit align with state and national standards?
- ▶ Are there checkpoints: activities, quizzes, assignments, and tests that help teachers know if students have learned the skills? If students demonstrate they have not learned the skills, what steps are taken to ensure the skills are learned?
- ▶ How does the instructional plan personalize learning? Our students come into our classrooms with prior knowledge and strengths. How do we ensure learning of the skills and teach students how to apply and transfer those skills to other situations since students learn in different ways? **How are teachers helping students like high-achieving students, students with special needs, English language learners, and historically marginalized students be able to enter into the material and understand it, which helps reduce achievement gaps?**
- ▶ Is all this information written down in an instructional plan?



Meet Ms. Margie: Early Childhood Effective Instructor



Margie has been teaching at St. Anthony-New Brighton for 28 years! Starting her SANB career as a paraprofessional, she moved through almost every early childhood program, and now is proudly the beloved Head Teacher of All Day Preschool. When she first learned about Effective Instruction she was intrigued, excited even.

"I've been teaching for so long, I know there's always new things I can learn and try."

She was trained in the methodology in 2023, and brought it to her classroom for preschoolers beginning in the Spring of 2024. She admits sometimes it is overwhelming, there's a lot of steps.

"For each unit, I send my parents a breakdown describing the learning targets and the expected progression for their student."

Margie says time is her biggest challenge with EI, "I steal whatever moment I can to plan. It's important for me to have a clear plan even if I have to give up a little time." She says it's more than worth it. Margie's preschoolers are consistently aware of what skills



they're building and their goals. One parent told Margie her child is asking about learning targets for their home!

It wasn't easy getting to this progress.

"The more I just practice and try the steps of Effective Instruction, the easier it gets."

Margie says having regular meetings with EI coaches has been a tremendous help. Touching base with other early childhood educators has also been helpful, getting to share feedback of what's been working encourages everyone to hold each other accountable and to simply keep trying. Margie always says she loves working at SANB, trying new things to uplift her students is a big part of that love.

Effective Instruction at Home: How to Ask Good Questions

It takes a village to raise and support a child in becoming a thriving citizen; the activities a student does at school are just as important as the activities done at home. Parents can get involved in the Effective Instruction process by asking deeper questions so their child can demonstrate what they're learning each day.

Instead of "how was school?" or "what did you learn?" try these questions:

How can I or your teacher(s) help you know you have mastered the skill(s)?

What unit are you studying or big ideas are you exploring in class right now?

What skills are you working on?
What are your learning targets this week?
How do you feel about what you're learning?
Do you think you're beginning to learn the skill, getting better at it, or have you mastered it?
[This relates to Learning Progression].

Investing in Brilliance: Empowering Every Student and Serving Our Community

What is the purpose of school? What is valuable learning? These are a couple of questions that guide my actions as Superintendent. The purpose of St. Anthony-New Brighton schools is to help kids reach their fullest potential and become a thriving citizen. As an educator, I know learning is a process of gaining both the academic skills and life skills to positively contribute to society. How do we make this process more equitable? An equitable process ensures everyone has access to opportunities, resources, and support to help them be successful once they leave our schools. An equitable process includes tailoring our curriculum and trying new methods so that any student at St. Anthony-New Brighton can enhance their innate brilliance.

The 2023 Operating Levy that you, our voters, supported is helping educators teach our students in research driven instructional practices. Our levy dollars, *your investment*, is directly sustaining our teachers and our students. For example, the Effective Instruction team is coaching educators every week, digging deep into state standards, learning targets, and building learning progressions so our students receive rigorous instruction at every level. Education at SANB emphasizes critical thinking and transferable skills that can be utilized and applied in other classes and beyond school.

Our students deserve an education where they can showcase their brilliance and individuality. Our kids are telling us they want to work hard, they want to be challenged, and they want to take the risks deep learning requires. Thanks to our community, we can provide this learning because we have the funds to pay our staff and support our teachers. We will continue to help kids reach their fullest potential and become a thriving citizen. We are Ever Brighter.



Your Investment, Our Brilliance: Financing SANB Schools

School districts across the metro have had to make cuts to their budgets while continuing to serve their students as best as they can.

Here at St. Anthony-New Brighton, we're incredibly grateful for our community supporting the 2023 Operating Levy. We're also proud that our 2023-2024 audit found no issues in our financial records. Here's a breakdown of how we're remaining fiscally responsible with your tax dollars:

General Fund Budget = \$25.60 million

