199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | BACK TO SCHOOL 24-25

Referendum Question Approved for Nov. 5 Ballot

OUR STUDENTS
OUR FUTURE
Enhance safety. Maintain quality.

Residents of the Inver Grove Heights School District (ISD 199) will be asked to vote on a referendum question on the ballot for Election Day, November 5.

The referendum question is intended to enhance safety and maintain quality educational opportunities by avoiding further budget cuts.

This referendum question is based on our community's survey responses and what the district really needs to maintain quality educational experiences for our students. We believe a reasonable increase in revenue will have a significant and positive impact on our students, staff, and community.

Enhance safety
It's incredible to see the work of our School Resource Officer, or SRO. Officer Erica Eid is an Inver Grove Heights Police Department Officer who builds positive relationships within our schools in addition to assisting with any safety concerns. The impacts of her work affect both our school district and our surrounding community.

In addition to hiring a second SRO, which is typical for a district of our size, referendum funds would be used to increase cybersecurity for data protection and update security equipment such as building cameras.

Maintain quality
Increasing the levy would allow the district to maintain quality educational opportunities by avoiding further budget cuts, maintaining class sizes, and retaining quality educators.

ISD 199 reduced programming and 18 staff members districtwide to balance the budget for this school year. We tried to limit the impact on students as much as possible, but budget cuts will be the reality every year unless additional revenue is approved.

The budget shortfall is a result of state funding not keeping pace with inflation over the last 20 years, in addition to other factors. Even though it's true that the Minnesota Legislature approved a one-time 4% increase for public education in 2022, it did not make up for the decades of underfunding. Without additional revenue, students will be impacted by increased class sizes and discontinued programming.

Our goal is always to remain efficient. The "per student" amount for Inver Grove Heights Schools is currently the lowest of its surrounding school districts, and it would remain the lowest even if the operating levy increase is approved.

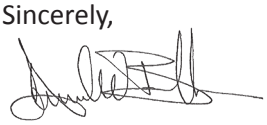
Impact to students
The question would increase the operating levy paid by local property taxes. Funds provided by the operating levy would allow the district to enhance school safety through an additional SRO, increased cybersecurity, and updated security equipment. It would also help avoid further budget cuts, maintain class sizes, and retain quality educators.

Cost to taxpayers
Our current operating levies total less than half that of other Dakota County school districts. The district has deliberately kept levies low by operating as efficiently as possible. The proposed levy increase would amount to an additional $165 annually on a $317,250 residence, which is the average district home value. The total monthly impact would be $13.75.

The district will mount an intensive information campaign so voters can learn more and make an informed decision.

Visit *www.isd199.org/referendum* for more information and, if you have questions, feel free to reach out to me at *BernhardsonD@isd199.org* or 651-306-7199.

Sincerely,



Dave Bernhardson, Superintendent

199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

2990 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-306-7800
www.isd199.org

Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

The 199 Reporter is a quarterly publication that is mailed to every household in ISD 199 boundaries to keep all of our community members informed about district news.

If you have questions about this publication, please contact:

Katie Sheridan
Communications Manager
SheridanK@isd199.org

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199 REPLIES

Do you have a question about our district?

Part of our mission is to maintain an involved and invested community. To do so, we want to keep you informed. Visit *www.isd199.org/FAQ* to browse answers to previously asked questions about our district or ask your own.

Community Survey Results Show Support for Levy Increase

Residents of the Inver Grove Heights School District (ISD 199) gave the district high grades overall, according to a survey conducted May 20-June 3 this year. The Morris Leatherman Company, a national survey research firm, conducted a stratified random-sample phone survey of 400 residents. A stratified random-sample survey aims to mirror the community's voter demographics with its respondents. Questions included perceptions of the school district and reactions to potential levy options. School board members used the survey results to inform their decision to approve an operating levy question for November 2024 ballot.

Morris Leatherman consultant Don Lifto presented highlights of the survey results to the school board during their June 17 work session. Highlights included:

- When asked to grade ISD 199 on quality, 76% of respondents who graded the district gave it an A or B. This result is far above the national benchmark of 54% A's and B's.
- About 73% of respondents supported an increase of the operating levy to minimize budget cuts and expand safety.
- 75% supported a levy increase to hire an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) from the Inver Grove Heights Police Department.
- 75% supported a levy increase to prevent increased class sizes and maintain current programs and staffing.

Visit *www.isd199.org/referendum* for more information about the referendum and to view the Morris Leatherman presentation of community survey results.

Alum Meets Junior Who Broke His 1980 Track Record



Simley High School junior Isaiah W. broke the school record for the 110 high hurdles this spring. Simley Class of 1981 alumnus John Bertsch set the record more than 40 years ago. Upon hearing the record had finally been broken, he visited Simley to meet the new record holder.

Isaiah and Mr. Bertsch discussed their experiences and discovered that some things haven't changed, like how athletes learn the cadence for hurdles in the Simley hallways. Mr. Bertsch also met Boys Track and Field Head Coach Dan Gerber. They discussed Simley Track and Field, then and now. The current Track and Field team is thriving with more than 100 athletes on the girls and boys teams. Mr. Bertsch mentioned that, while he was on the team, they were lucky to have 25.

The Simley Sports Broadcasting class also took the opportunity to interview Mr. Bertsch and Isaiah for their Instagram account, *@Simley_Overtime*. Mr. Bertsch revealed that, although his 110 high hurdle record has been broken, his 300 record remains.

Thank you to Mr. Bertsch for visiting Simley, and congratulations to Isaiah on breaking the long-standing record! Visit and follow *www.instagram.com/simley_overtime* for more Simley news and interviews.

Inver Grove Heights Schools does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities, including vocational opportunities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, membership or activity in a commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age. Inver Grove Heights Schools provides equal access to designated youth groups. Student-related inquiries about non-discrimination policies should be sent to Abel Riodique at 2990 80th Street East in Inver Grove Heights, RiodiqueA@isd199.org, or 651-306-7828. More information is available at www.isd199.org/nondiscrimination.

ISD 199 Earns School Finance Certificate of Excellence for 19th Year in a Row

After a thorough review process, Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended 2023. The certificate from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) recognizes school districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency. This is the 19th year in a row that the district has earned this recognition.

To qualify for the certificate, ISD 199 had to submit its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to ASBO. A team of professional auditors reviewed the report and provided feedback. ISD 199 earned the Certificate of Excellence by showing that it has used ASBO's feedback from the previous year to increase transparency and the quality of its reporting.

"For over half a century, ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting has been the gold standard in promoting and recognizing excellence in financial reporting," ASBO International Executive Director Jim Rowan, CAE, SFO, said. "Communicating the financial and economic state of a district is so important when engaging with the school community and building their trust. Districts that receive the Certificate of Excellence Award have demonstrated their ability to do that at the highest level."

ISD 199's streak of earning the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting demonstrates the district's continuous work to support student achievement with the most effective resource management and improve its accountability.

ISD 199 Earns Historical Society Grant to Document & Preserve History

Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) applied for and received a Minnesota Historical Society Grant to build a history wall and accompanying digital archive. The wall and website will document and celebrate the school district's history. Alumni staff and students are invited to contribute their own stories and artifacts with the opportunities listed at *bit.ly/199historyharvest*.

The idea for a history wall and digital archive started with an AP U.S. History class at Simley High School. In May of 2022, after taking their AP exams, Tom Goetz's class began researching the history of Inver Grove Heights under the guidance of Simley alumnus Cory Haala. In addition to being a graduate of Inver Grove Heights Schools, Dr. Haala is an Assistant Professor of History and the Museum Studies Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and a published historian.

Students chose to research historical topics that carried a personal connection or involved their interests. They found primary texts, collected artifacts, and conducted interviews to document oral histories. Their work resulted in the digital archive at *www.InverGroveHistory.org*. The ISD 199 History Project is an expansion of that archive, which continues under Dr. Haala.

"Every teacher, student, program, game, class, and event from our district's past prepared someone for the future and shaped who they are today," ISD 199 Superintendent Dave Bernhardson said. "We look forward to honoring our alumni, community, and employees, past and present, and immortalizing their stories for the future."

Visit *www.InverGroveHistory.org* to browse the archive and get updates about the project.

Simley Graduates Say Farewell With Grad Walkthrough Tradition



The Simley High School Class of 2024 put on their caps and gowns and walked the hallways of their former schools on the last day of school for seniors. The grad walkthrough is part of a years-long Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) tradition.

Seniors posed for a photo around the Great Seal in Simley's foyer before walking the halls of Inver Grove Heights Middle School. The halls were lined with middle school students and staff ready to high-five and cheer on seniors. The graduates said tearful goodbyes to former teachers and younger students as they passed. Seniors then headed to their former elementary schools where the scene was repeated with emotional farewells and hugs as elementary students applauded.

The walkthroughs gave seniors a chance to say goodbye and to thank all of the people who helped them reach the milestone of graduation. At Salem Hills Elementary School, seniors who were former students at the school were paired up with graduating kindergarteners in a symbolic "passing of the torch" from those graduating from the district to those just beginning. The event highlighted the connections that students and staff have developed throughout each senior's time at ISD 199.

Congratulations to the Simley Class of 2024, and good luck to them as they take their next step into the future!

Simley Announces Next Assistant Principal & Assistant Administrator



After 17 years of service to Simley High School, current assistant principal Heidi Klukas joined another school this July. Cullen Berg, who was the assistant administrator and Student Success Coach at the time, was selected as Simley's next assistant principal. To take his place, Miles Webb was chosen as Simley's next assistant administrator.

A graduate of Simley, Mr. Berg started his career at Inver Grove Heights Schools as a teacher. After teaching language arts and AVID at the middle and high school levels, he took on the role of Simley's Student Success Coach. He provided direct support to students and families and fostered strong relationships between home and school. Throughout his time at Simley, his work has been integral to creating a positive school culture and ensuring that students feel welcome.

Mr. Webb, as assistant administrator, will now provide crucial support for the personal development and academic success of students throughout Simley. Mr. Webb joins Simley from Park Center High School where he worked as the school's Student Management Specialist. He has more than 15 years of experience in the education field. During that time, he has worked with a variety of students and needs. He has held positions as a special education teacher's assistant, intervention specialist, and cultural liaison. Mr. Webb earned his master's degree in Educational Leadership from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and his K-12 Principal License from Concordia University in St. Paul.

Mr. Webb is dedicated to creating a positive educational experience for students. His past experience in coaching and in the classroom have built his skills in guiding youth and providing effective interventions.

Simley said goodbye to Ms. Klukas this July. Over her 17 years of service at Simley, Ms. Klukas has lifted up student voices and transformed students into leaders. She will be greatly missed among students, staff, and the community, but the important work she has done to help all students find success will continue. Simley wishes the best of luck to Ms. Klukas and welcomes Mr. Berg and Mr. Webb into their new positions!

SRO BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS TO IMPROVE SAFETY • • • • • •



Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) will hire an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) if voters approve a levy increase on the November 5 ballot. The district's current SRO position has been so effective in building positive relationships with students that the district would like to hire a second SRO to more fully serve its thousands of students and staff through prevention. The addition would help keep the schools and the Inver Grove Heights community even safer.

School districts across the country employ SROs to assist with investigations and be present in case of an emergency. ISD 199 and the Inver Grove Heights Police Department have partnered for 14 years to create a highly effective SRO position that is also focused on prevention. However, as ISD 199's SRO has become more of a resource for students and staff, the position's responsibilities have grown.

"As an SRO, my first responsibility is the safety of everyone," ISD 199 SRO Ericka Eid said. "But one of my favorite responsibilities is being able to build relationships with the students and staff."

Whether she's reading to a class, handing out meals in the community, or cheering on the Simley Spartans, Officer Eid is getting to know kids and building trust. That trust translates into students who are comfortable sharing their concerns with her and reporting anything that makes them feel unsafe.

"I feel blessed that I have been a trusted person for many of our youth in hard times and that students can feel safe in my presence, no matter the circumstances," she said.

These positive relationships help prevent problems and, many times, catch them before they affect the school or broader community. However, one officer serving seven buildings and thousands of students and staff is a hardship.

"With two SROs, we could be available to more students and situations, especially when an SRO's skills are needed in multiple places at once," Officer Eid said. "Plus, two SROs means twice as many positive relationships being built! We would be better equipped to support the ever-growing student body we work with to foster safe, positive, and educated youth in our community."

In a district the size of ISD 199, it is typical to have two SROs to fully meet the needs of the district. ISD 199 is asking voters to approve a levy increase on the November 5 ballot, in part, to hire an additional districtwide SRO.

Thank you to Officer Eid for everything she does for students and to the IGH Police Department for their continuous partnership. Visit *www.isd199.org/referendum* for referendum information.

Hilltop Welcomes Interim Principal for 2024-2025



Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) is pleased to welcome Leah Byrd as the interim principal of Hilltop Elementary School. The position will be interim for the 2024-2025 school year to ensure that Hilltop is fully prepared for staff and students by the end of the summer.

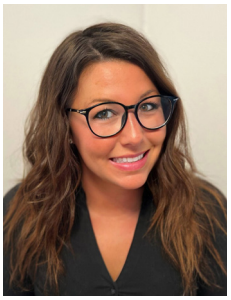
Ms. Byrd comes to ISD 199 from Edina Public Schools where she was the Early Childhood Program Coordinator for eight years. She has nearly 25 years of experience in education. She started her career as a Title I teacher and classroom teacher. After 11 years of teaching and after earning her master's and administrative license from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, she became an elementary school assistant principal and then a preschool administrator before leading Edina's Early Learning Center.

As the center's coordinator, Ms. Byrd improved the program for families. She implemented culturally responsive practices, increased staff diversity, increased enrollment, and maintained high literacy, numeracy, and social emotional scores. In the community, she built partnerships with local organizations to provide cross-generational opportunities and outreach to families and neighbors.

Ms. Byrd is passionate about working in partnership to positively impact students. "I am excited to join Inver Grove Heights Schools, and I look forward to meeting and working with the students, staff, and families at Hilltop," she said.

Welcome, Ms. Byrd!

ISD 199 Announces New Director of Facilities & Safety



Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) is excited to announce Lindsay Elwell as its Director of Facilities & Safety. Ms. Elwell has 12 years of experience in school district operations and health and safety. She worked for 10 years at ISD 199 as the Facilities/Health and Safety Specialist. She developed health and safety trainings and security programs like the district's current Emergency Response Plan. Most recently, she advanced her skills as the Facility and Grounds Manager for ISD 196 in the Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan area. She directed the operations of their 39 buildings and 250 Facilities & Grounds staff. She also helped supervise a $500 million bond project for ISD 196.

As she returns to ISD 199, Ms. Elwell said, "I am thrilled to return to the district and am eager to collaborate on the impactful work ahead."

Ms. Elwell's return to ISD 199 coincides with the retirement of Director of Buildings & Grounds Kevin McNamara. Mr. McNamara retired after 34 years of providing excellent care and expertise to the district. Thank you, Mr. McNamara, and welcome back, Ms. Elwell!

ISD 199 Announces Director of Learning



Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) is pleased to announce Megan Blazek as its new Director of Learning. Ms. Blazek's career of nearly 20 years has focused on education. She holds multiple degrees and licenses, including a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, a specialist's degree in Educational Leadership, and a K-12 Principal License. She started her career as a middle and high school science teacher. She then held positions as dean, assistant principal, and principal before becoming the Director of Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Lakeville Area Schools.

"I have had the opportunity to be part of redesign teams, implement competency-based, personalized learning, and most recently, provide oversight on the implementation of Minnesota's MTSS continuous improvement grant," she said.

As the Director of MTSS, Ms. Blazek was responsible for developing and improving learning for students that would support their academic and personal success. She worked closely with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), targeted services, and other programs similar to those that ISD 199 offers.

"I am eager to be part of making ISD 199's vision for the future a reality," she said. "First and foremost, I value relationships and believe they need to be at the center of everything we do in education. I look forward to developing relationships and meeting all of the wonderful people that make up the ISD 199 community."

Welcome, Ms. Blazek!

IGH Fire's Explorer Program at Simley Wins Award



The Inver Grove Heights Fire Department recently won a national award for Junior Firefighter Program of the Year through the National Volunteer Fire Council. Deputy Chief Eric Bergum and Lieutenant Dan Bernardy worked with Simley High School to bring a firefighter career pathway to students.

The joint Fire Explorer Program provides a hands-on learning experience for freshmen and sophomores. Deputy Chief Bergum and Lieutenant Bernardy expanded the program so juniors and seniors could continue in the firefighter career pathway. The Cadet Pathways Program offers juniors and seniors an opportunity to get Firefighter 1-2 and HazMat Ops training from the Northern Dakota Training Academy. The training gets students one step closer to completing the training and professional certification required to work in emergency services immediately after graduation.

The Fire Explorer Program and the Cadet Pathways Program are engaging new talent for the community's fire department, but they are also providing hands-on career classes that can help students find the right post-graduation plan for them. Congratulations to the IGH Fire Department and thank you for partnering with Simley to offer this outstanding opportunity for students!

CAPS Careers Students Reflect on Immersive Courses



After completing their internships, students in the TriDistrict Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) program presented at the TriDistrict CAPS Spring Showcase. Simley High School, South St. Paul High School, and Two Rivers High School students presented their experiences in class and in the field to the teachers, administrators, family members, local professionals, and post-secondary staff in attendance.

The TriDistrict CAPS classes – Business and Entrepreneurship, Computer Science and IT, Healthcare, and Transportation and Skilled Trades – are open to all incoming juniors and seniors. Students took classes that fit with their future goals and classes that gave them brand-new experiences.

Students held internships at hospitals, marketing firms, animal clinics, automotive repair shops, and many other local businesses that gave them a first-hand look at daily responsibilities. While some TriDistrict CAPS experiences reinforced students' career aspirations, other students discovered that certain careers weren't for them.

Students completed the class with professional experience that will give them an advantage when they enter the workforce. They also gained an understanding of what they want for their future, using their experiences in the risk-free TriDistrict CAPS classes to inform their decisions about college and career.

To learn more about the TriDistrict CAPS program, visit *www.CareerCollegeReady.org*. Simley, South St. Paul, and Two Rivers juniors and seniors can also talk to their counselor about enrolling.

Local employers, TriDistrict CAPS is always looking for more business partners to influence and help teach the next generation of employees. Visit *www.CareerCollegeReady.org* or contact TriDistrict CAPS Director Ben Kusch at *BKusch@tridistrictce.org*.

Spotlight Education Awards



Spotlight Education is a program of Hennepin Theatre Trust that advocates for musical theatre education and its influence in developing creative and innovative leaders.

Each year, the program sends trained theater professionals and educators to assess school theatre productions throughout Minnesota. This year, Simley Theatre's "Once Upon a Mattress" and its cast and crew earned 17 recognitions for their work.

Individual Awards

Outstanding in Technical Leadership
Stage Manager Tommy Carroll-Forsberg
Deck Captain Carter Klein

Honorable Mention in a Leading Role
Abbie Tabor as Fred
Jazlyn Nelson as Queen

Honorable Mention in a Featured Role
Rin Reed as Nightengale
Arriana Foster as Ballet Princess/Knight/ Lady Maybelle

Honorable Mention in Technical Leadership
Costumer Skylar Kiehl

Evaluator Shout-Out
Peder Early
Jaya Kellogg
Jon Scopatz
Ensemble Vocal Performance
Overall Ensemble Performance
Overall Technical Production

Honorable Mention
Ensemble Acting Performance
Run Crew
Sound Crew
Overall Technical Team

Shout-outs are a distinction to recognize those who caught the attention of the evaluators.

Congratulations, students!

Apollo Award Winner Exemplifies a Student-athlete



Senior Cash Raymond was chosen as Simley High School's 2024 Apollo Award winner. The award recognizes a student athlete for their impressive achievements in athletics, academics, and leadership throughout high school. Cash was selected for his outstanding achievements in football, baseball, and wrestling.

Although Cash only played football during his senior year, he left his mark. He was a letter winner and a starter. He also earned an All District Honorable Mention.

"We wish he had played more," Simley Football Head Coach Chris Mensen said. "Cash was an integral part of our team and a phenomenal leader."

Baseball Head Coach Jon Heiderscheit also praised Cash as an athlete and a leader, saying, "Cash is the epitome of what a coach wants in a student-athlete. He is an exceptional athlete who has started for the baseball team for three years. For as good of an athlete as Cash is, he is an even better person. He has done so many great things for kids who needed someone in their corner."

In baseball, Cash was a three-time letter winner and a captain. In 2022, he earned Most Improved Athlete.

Cash's hard work as a football and baseball player is evident, but his wrestling record is especially impressive. A five-time letter winner and State qualifier, he has been a Section 4AA Champion and State Team Champion five times as well. He has earned All State and All Conference recognitions five times, and he has been an Indy State Place-winner five times, earning runner-up three times and 3rd place twice. As a student-athlete, he has been named a James Short Wrestler of the Year, and he has been named to the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association All Tournament Team and the Academic All State Team.

Cash will attend Augustana University this fall. Congratulations, Cash!

Simley Adapted Bowling Impresses at State

Six Simley High School athletes competed in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Adapted Bowling State Tournament this spring. Students qualified in all three divisions and for the singles and doubles tournaments.

Sita D. competed in the Girls Singles category. Sita had a top 20 average over her entire season and was named to the All-State Team in her division. She also competed alongside Daniel D. in the Doubles category of her division.

Two students placed at the state tournament. Maggie Y. earned 8th place, medaling in the Girls Singles category of her division. Rafe S. earned 2nd place, medaling as the runner-up in the Boys Singles category of his division! Both students faced more than 30 competitors from across the state.

Congratulations to the Simley Adapted Bowling Team on an impressive season and state tournament!

SPRING SPORTS AWARDS

Baseball

All Conference
- Brenden Koester
- Tapio Niemioja

Honorable Mention
- Joseph Anderson
- Isaac Mens
- Cash Raymond

Boys Golf

All Conference
- Charlie Martin
- Justin Orn

Girls Golf

All Conference
- Reese McCauley

Boys Lacrosse

All Conference
- Parker Davis
- Leonardo Flores

Honorable Mention
- Jamie Kennedy
- Cole Pawlenty
- Colin Pedersen

Girls Lacrosse

All Conference
- Valerie DuVal
- Josie Johnson
- Courtney Kurowski
- Hannah Kurowski

Honorable Mention
- Emma Colwell
- Avery Renslow
- Madi West

Softball

All Conference
- Taylor Gallahue
- Charli Raymond
- Emma Seelhammer

Honorable Mention
- Kayla Buck
- Alyssa Downhour
- Bailey Frank

Boys Tennis

Honorable Mention
- Cameron Rieck
- Rachael Scufsa

Track

All Conference

1600 & 3200
- Niklas Abrahamson

Triple Jump
- Tavon Franklin-Evans

100 & 110 Hurdles
- Isaiah Wilson

Honorable Mention

Long Jump
- Tavon Franklin-Evans

4x100 Relay
- Jerrod Jones
- James Kelly
- Rodrigo Meza Rojas
- Isaiah Wilson

Shot Put
- Isaac Shannon

Find all Simley game schedules at *www.MetroEastConference.org.*

JOB OPENINGS

In Inver Grove Heights Schools, we are lucky to have so many caring and experienced educators and volunteers in our community. As we approach the start of this school year, please consider applying for some of our open positions and joining our outstanding team.

Visit *www.isd199.org/careers* to apply and browse full-time, part-time, and substitute job openings.

FAST FACTS • • • • • • • • • • • • INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

Stay informed of the current issues, challenges, and changes facing the Inver Grove Heights School District.

#1. BOARD LISTENING SESSIONS

If you have questions or concerns related to Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) that you would like to share with our school board, consider signing up for a public listening session. Listening sessions are informal meetings held 5:10-5:25 PM before regular school board meetings. Two board members and the superintendent will be available during each session to hear issues from residents.

If you are interested in attending a public listening session, please visit *www.isd199.org/BoardMeetings* to complete a Public Listening Session Form.

#2. NEWSLETTER MAILING: ANSWER

In the Summer 2024 edition of the 199 Reporter, Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) asked readers what they thought it costs to both print and mail this quarterly newsletter. Only 10% of those who took the quiz correctly guessed that it only costs 61 cents to print and mail a 199 Reporter newsletter.

The low cost is certainly surprising, considering that, as of July 2024, one stamp costs 73 cents! So how does ISD 199 make the 199 Reporter as cost-effective as possible?

The district sends the 199 Reporter to all residents, whether they have school-age children or not, because public schools are everyone's business. In order to fulfill the district's obligation to inform the whole community, this newsletter is sent through the U.S. Mail.

To get the best price for this large but necessary mailing, it is printed using updated methods that also allow the district to print in color at no extra cost! The size of the print job also makes it more cost-effective. As for mailing, ISD 199 prepares the newsletter to make it easy for the post office to process. All of these factors add up to the best price to effectively inform the community.

Thank you, readers, for being invested in your local schools!

#3. SCHOOL EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

Looking for fun, free or low-cost events near you? Follow the Simley Athletics schedule at *www.MetroEastConference.org* to cheer on your Spartans, visit *www.SimleyTheatre.com* to get tickets for the next school production, or check out your local school's homepage calendar via *www.isd199.org/schools* for free performances, exhibits, and community events.

• REFERENDUM QUESTIONS? WWW.ISD199.ORG/REFERENDUM •

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