

Spotlight

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

Summer 2025 | Volume 65 • Number 4



DISTRICT196
One District. Infinite Possibilities.



We're celebrating the Class of 2025. More than 2,100 strong, these graduates join a long tradition of Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools alumni with infinite possibilities ahead. (See more photos on Pages 8-9.)

Welcome to District 196: Enroll Your Child Today!



New to our community? Welcome! Enrolling your child in school is easy and can be completed online. Enroll now to start your child's educational journey to success. Here's how to get started:

1. **Find Your School:** Use our school attendance area locator to find your child's designated school. Input your address. Find your school.
2. **Online Pre-registration:** Begin by pre-registering online. Use the QR Code to access our enrollment page, review instructions, and complete the form through Infinite Campus.
3. **Complete Required Documents:** After pre-registering, your child's school will contact you to schedule a time to visit the school and bring in required documents, including a birth certificate or proof of age, immunization records, early childhood screening (if applicable), and any needed childcare information. Learn more on our enrollment page.

In District 196, you will find a welcoming and inclusive community. Our school offices are open all summer to assist you. Please

share this information with friends or neighbors who are new to the area. Enroll early to be sure you receive important communication all summer long. Let us know how we can make your transition a smooth one. We're excited to welcome you!



Translations: Read Spotlight in your preferred language at district196.org/spotlight

Traducción: Lea Spotlight en su idioma preferido en: district196.org/spotlight

Turjumaada: Akhri warsidaha Spotlight oo ku qoran luqadda aad doorbideyso district196.org/spotlight

Reflecting on a Year of Partnership and Progress

By **Michael Bolsoni**, superintendent

With the close of the school year, I am filled with gratitude. It has been a remarkable year in District 196 – one marked not just by student achievement, but by the powerful relationships, tireless dedication, and steadfast community support.

Our focus has been on our mission to develop, educate, and inspire in classrooms and gymnasiums, on stages, and in science labs. We see evidence across the district.

Let's begin in our classrooms. This year, we launched new K-5 curriculum programs in literacy, math, and science – key steps aligned with our Strategic Roadmap. Over 90% of elementary teachers completed the intensive training required for effective instruction in the science of reading. Secondary teachers will begin similar professional learning next year as part of our districtwide investment to ensure foundational literacy skills in every student for lifelong learning.

At the high school level, more students than ever before are enrolling in Advanced Placement and College in Schools classes – 3,278 students (9-12) enrolled in 6,306 college-level courses. We had 287 seniors earn Minnesota Bilingual Seals and certificates, earning 722 semester credits for college-level language courses.

We've also strengthened our academic and career technical partnerships with businesses and industry, especially in STEM. With local partnerships, including Park Chrysler Jeep and the University of St. Thomas Schulze School of Entrepreneurship, we support STEM innovation frameworks for students. High school internships and field experiences with companies like Collins Aerospace, Pittsburgh Paints, SFM Mutual, and Genesys Works open doors to high-demand careers.

Embracing our Triple A philosophy of *excellence in academics, arts, and athletics*, our students continue to thrive in speech and debate, robotics, computer science, business, FACS competitions, and more. A team of high school students produced an

award-winning public service announcement to discourage vaping, and our future health services professionals clubs have also claimed leadership awards. More than 25 health services students finished top three in their state competitions. (See Pages 10-12 for photos.)

Triple A Success

District 196 is proud of its continued performing and visual arts success. From the Dakota Valley Choral Festival and marching band shows to compelling theater performances and art showcases, our students dazzled audiences. We will continue to inspire and be inspired by the talent, creativity, and ideas students express through the arts. A sincere thank-you to everyone in the community who attended shows and participated in District 196 performances throughout the year. (See Pages 10-12 for more details.)

Our student-athletes also found great success. Of the 37 Minnesota State High School League sports we support, District 196 sent 34 teams to state tournaments this year. Our legacy of athletic success comes from a commitment to hard work, dedication, and collaboration. Coaches not only focus on skills and knowledge, but also teamwork and steady improvement. Winning or not, there is value in athletic participation – being active, developing skills, building relationships, meeting challenges, and having fun. We want to thank our many fans and families who show up week after week, supporting from the sidelines and behind the scenes.

At the heart of all this achievement is something quieter, but just as powerful: relationships. Excellence doesn't grow in isolation. It takes trust between students and teachers, respect between colleagues, and collaboration across classrooms, campuses, and communities. It's built when parents partner with educators, alums return to mentor, and the

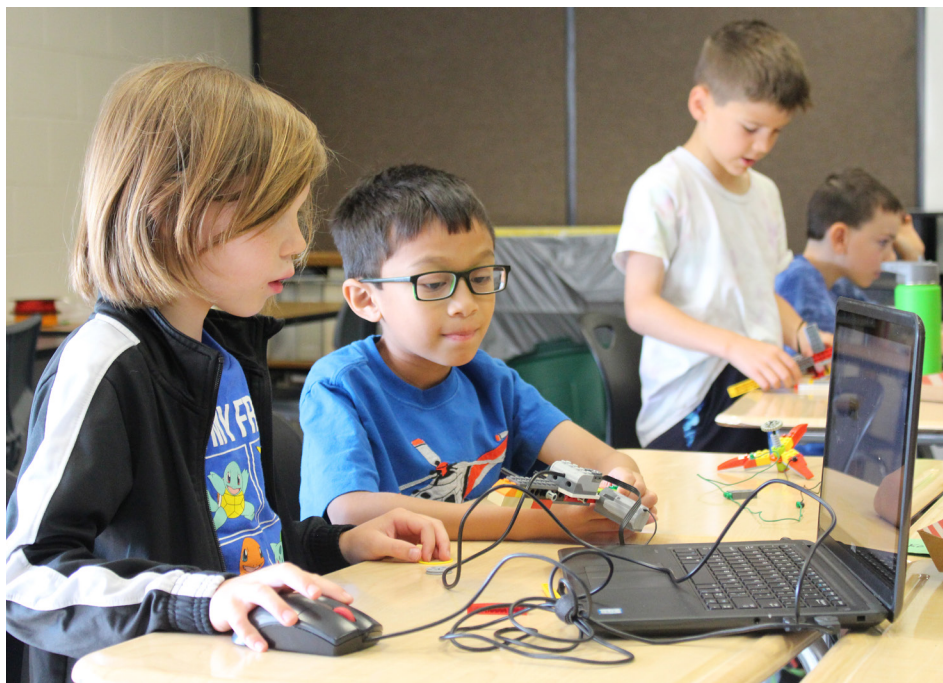


broader community invests in our shared future.

This year, I visited many schools and saw student learning firsthand, ranging in age from our early childhood learners experiencing nature play activities to adult learners building and practicing language skills. In our schools, students used phonics to learn how to sound out words, solved problems in STEM labs, wrote and read poetry, broadcast school news reports in recording studios, and more. These moments culminated in celebrating this year's graduates – multiple ceremonies of joy and accomplishment. We cherished the opportunity to celebrate with students and their families.

As we head into summer, I want to thank you – our families, community members, and staff – for believing in what's possible and living our mission to educate, develop, and inspire. The world our students are stepping into is full of challenge, change, and promise. Our graduates are ready to navigate, connect, and lead. Here's to a year well spent – and to the infinite possibilities ahead.

Tech Skills Prepare Students for Digital Future



In 2015, voters in District 196 approved dedicated funding for technology tools to personalize learning. Early on, educators developed a clear digital learning framework with a balance between books, paper-pencil, project-based, and technology tools. Ten years later, students use technology to enhance academics and build critical thinking, creativity, and lifelong digital citizenship skills.

Launching Students Into the Digital World

In our high schools, technology tools are deeply integrated to inspire critical thinking, collaboration, and career preparation.

"Teaching and learning has changed tremendously in the last decade," career development instructor **Tabitha Senty** said. "Technology allows us to make sure kids get what they need, when they need it, and how they need it."

Students actively access, create, and analyze information. Some are learning coding languages and designing their own apps.

Early exposure to technology careers can change lives. Senty shared that several alums have reached out to

say that skills learned in high school classes led them to careers in cybersecurity and other tech fields.

Across the district, the goal is to ensure that students graduate with not just academic knowledge but also the digital skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

"We are trying to produce students who can step out of the school system and be productive," science teacher **Joe Christman** said. "When they step outside our doors, no matter where they go, they're entering a digital world."

Fostering Independence and Citizenship

Technology also plays a critical role in helping students become more independent learners.

"We're trying to foster more and more independence," said sixth-grade English language arts teacher **Sarah Trudeau**. "They need to start learning how to think critically and problem-solve on their own," beginning in middle school.

Technology also enables teachers to meet a variety of learning styles. **Brianna Dawson**, who teaches seventh-grade U.S.

studies, said technology helps every learner engage with the material through words, images, movies, and interactive lessons.

Beyond technical skills, teachers focus on building digital citizenship to enable students to be critical consumers and positive contributors online.

"Collaboration through tech is useful, and it allows students to share their voice, creativity, learning, and understanding in real time," Dawson said.

Sparking Curiosity Early

In elementary classrooms, technology supports learning and encourages curiosity. Teachers use tablets and apps to make lessons more interactive, provide real-time feedback, and focus on individual student needs.

Rather than replacing traditional learning, technology complements it. Teachers like **Taryn MacGibbon** display lessons from their iPads, allowing students to follow along closely. Self-graded online quizzes save time and quickly give teachers insights into student understanding.

"There are also a lot of opportunities for students to create on their iPads," **MacGibbon** said. Students use programs like Book Creator and iMovie to show their creativity.

"Learning with technology has definitely sparked curiosity," said parent **Megan Wall**. "Kids are more apt to find answers for themselves."

Teachers emphasize that while technology is powerful, it's important to learn balance. "It's very beneficial to have students experience a proper way to use technology where it's not consuming their lives and not relying on it completely," **MacGibbon** said. "It's all about balance."

Across District 196, access to technology tools inspires research, independence, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving – preparing students to be the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

New Human Resources Director



District 196 welcomes **Joel Milteer**, MBA, SPHR, as its new director of human resources, following the retirement of **Shelly Monson**,

who has served the district for 23 years.

Milteer brings more than two decades of experience in human resources, including 17 years in public education. He currently leads South St. Paul Public Schools' human resources and previously held leadership roles in

Osseo, Richfield, and Anoka-Hennepin school districts. His background includes corporate experience with Target and the University of Minnesota Physicians.

"I was drawn to District 196 because of its strong commitment to equity, excellence, and continuous improvement," Milteer said. "I believe in servant leadership and hope to be a supportive and strategic partner for staff."

Superintendent Michael Bolsoni praised Milteer's clear communication, proactive leadership, and student-centered focus.

Highland Elementary



Mark Aronson will lead Highland Elementary School. He has served as the assistant administrator for the last two years and

succeeds **Chad Ryburn**, who is moving to Emerald Trail Elementary.

"I have been honored to work at Highland in various capacities over the last decade," said Aronson.

"What makes Highland truly special is the people. There is a palpable sense of community the moment you walk through the doors, which is a true testament to this great school's students,

staff, and families. I look forward to continuing Highland's record of excellence and maintaining an inclusive, welcoming, high-performing school environment."

"Mark is highly respected in our district as an educator and leader," said Bolsoni. "Mark volunteered for our learning management system review committee early in his career with District 196. Then, within a few short years, he was leading technology integration at the district level. He has a strong understanding of instruction and achievement, along with his strong commitment to the Highland Elementary community. His interests in math, technology, assessment, and data position him well to lead Highland into the future."

Southview Elementary



Sara Stratton will join District 196 as the next principal of Southview Elementary School. She will succeed **Christine Evans**, retiring at the end of this school year.

Stratton currently serves as principal at Lino Lakes Elementary STEM School in Forest Lake Public Schools and brings 13 years

of experience in education. She is known for her collaborative leadership, student-centered approach, and commitment to cultivating a positive school culture.

"I am excited to begin this journey with you all," Stratton said. "Southview has a strong tradition of academic excellence and whole-child development. I'm passionate about building a school culture where relationships come first and everyone feels valued and supported."

Bolsoni noted that Sara stood out for her energy, visibility, and strong instructional leadership. "She is committed to shared leadership and continuous improvement," he said.

Stratton began her career in physical education and held various leadership roles before becoming a principal.

New Principals at Five Elementary Schools

Greenleaf, Highland, Southview, Westview, and Woodland elementary schools will welcome new principals beginning July 1. Each leader brings a unique blend of experience, enthusiasm, and a commitment to student success.

Greenleaf Elementary



Mandy Hill will serve as principal of Greenleaf Elementary School. Hill previously served as the assistant administrator at Diamond Path Elementary School since 2020.

"Mandy is a dynamic leader. Her enthusiasm, leadership, and experience in our district have prepared her

well to be a principal," said Superintendent **Michael Bolsoni**. "She has actively volunteered for committee assignments, leadership opportunities, and professional development since joining the district over a decade ago, always looking for growth opportunities."

"I have been honored to work in District 196 for 12 years," said Hill. "My experiences have allowed me to learn, collaborate, and lead student-centered, inclusive, and culturally responsive initiatives. I am incredibly excited to join the Greenleaf community."

Hill started her career teaching fifth grade at Oak Ridge Elementary School. She has served as a grade-level math lead, on the MCA Science Review Committee, on the magnet school leadership team, on the Oak Ridge Core leadership team, on the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook working group, elementary curriculum review committee, student behavior expectations and response committee, and as a vertical team lead for the District Learning Leaders council.

Westview Elementary



Donzell Dixon will succeed Principal **Tami Staloch-Schultz**, who is retiring after 38 years in District 196.

Dixon currently serves as assistant administrator at Greenleaf Elementary, where he has spent the last three years fostering academic excellence, supporting staff, and

building a strong school culture. A former senior business analyst and software developer at Target, Dixon brings a unique blend of corporate and educational experience. His business background enhances his work in school leadership, from using data to inform instruction to managing resources strategically.

"I'm honored to join the Westview community," said Dixon. "Westview has a strong foundation and a dedicated team. I'm excited to build on that great work with students, staff, and families."

Bolsoni described Dixon as "a listener and bridge-builder who brings calm, joy, and visibility to his leadership. He understands the power of relationships and leads with a student-centered, inclusive mindset."



Woodland Elementary

Kristine McGuire will be the next principal of Woodland Elementary, succeeding retiring Principal **Lisa Carlson**.

McGuire brings 17 years of experience in education and

currently serves as principal at Chatfield Elementary in Belle Plaine. She has also served as assistant principal in Lakeville and as a teacher and dean of students in Shakopee, Fargo, and Lisbon, teaching grades 1-3.

"I am thrilled to join District 196 and the Woodland community," said McGuire. "Woodland's focus on academic excellence, strong relationships, and whole-child development aligns with my values as an educator. I look forward to partnering with students, staff, and families to create joyful, meaningful learning experiences."

Bolsoni praised McGuire's collaborative mindset and student-centered approach. "She is a systems thinker and a relationship builder. Kristine is visible, approachable, and committed to creating environments where students and staff can thrive."



Echo Park Elementary School Receives National Award

Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering, and Technology has earned the President's Award from Magnet Schools of America – one of the nation's top three magnet schools of excellence this year.

"This award is an incredible honor for our entire school community," said Principal **Logan Schultz**. "It is a reflection of the dedication of our educators, the remarkable accomplishments of our students, and the strong, ongoing partnership we share with our families."

"It affirms our deep commitment to academic excellence, closing opportunity and achievement gaps, and providing inclusive, engaging learning experiences through our magnet themes of leadership, engineering, and technology," Schultz added.

The President's Award is the third-highest honor given by Magnet Schools of America and is bestowed on behalf of all current and past presidents of the organization.

School Board Election in November, Filing Period is July 29 - Aug. 12

Four of the seven at-large positions on the District 196 School Board will be decided in two separate School Board elections on Nov. 4, 2025. First, three School Board seats are up for election in the General School Board Election. The terms of **Robin Cerio**, **Leah Gardner**, and **Sakawdin Mohamed** will expire on Jan. 5, 2026. Each of these three open positions has a four-year term, running from Jan. 2026 to Jan. 2030.

Concurrently, a Special Election will be held to fill the remaining two years of the term of former School Board member Sachin Isaacs, who resigned his seat in Oct. 2024. The School Board appointed **Catherine Diamond** to fill the vacancy until a special election is held. The term expires in Jan. 2028.

The candidate filing period is Tuesday, July 29, through Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 5 p.m. When filing, candidates must choose to run in the general election (three open positions with four-year terms) or special election (one open position with two years remaining).

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed during office hours (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday) in the Superintendent's



Office of District 196, 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount. There is a \$2 filing fee or a petition with at least 500 signatures of eligible voters may replace the filing fee.

For more information, visit district196.org/elections or call 651-423-7736.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Explore employment opportunities at our hiring events:

FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION

JULY 9, 2025, 4-6 P.M., EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Positions available: Custodian, Chaperone, Bus Driver

SPECIAL EDUCATION & NUTRITION SERVICES

AUGUST 4, 2025, 3-6 P.M., APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Positions available: Special Education
Paraprofessional, Nutrition Services Associate



- ✓ On-the-spot Interviews
- ✓ Informative Presentations
- ✓ Application Support

DISTRICT196.ORG/EMPLOYMENT

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

District 196 does not discriminate in admission, employment or in any of its education programs and activities, including nutrition services and vocational opportunities, on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, national origin, marital status, familial status, disability, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, gender identity, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, age or genetic information. For more detail, visit district196.org/notices

Students Honored with Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Awards

Three remarkable young women from District 196 were honored by the Minnesota Aspirations in Computing awards for their innovation, leadership, and passion for STEM.

Bethelehem Kebede, a senior at Rosemount High School, is leveraging machine learning to advance sign language translation. A dedicated teacher at Kids for Code, Beth plans to pursue Biomedical Engineering on a pre-med track and will be interning at General Mills this summer.

Laasya Pandari, a sophomore at Rosemount High School, found her spark for STEM during an internship with Optum, where she collaborated with UX designers. A two-time state DECA qualifier and debate quarterfinalist, she is deeply engaged in student leadership and will be interning at Land O'Lakes this summer.

Advika Chaudhari, a junior at Eastview High School, is captain and software lead for the Eastview FIRST Robotics team. Advika also founded Her First, a global resource supporting girls in robotics. She actively champions programs like Girls Who Code and Technovation, interns in IT at Securian Financial, and serves on the District 196 Gifted and Talented Advisory Board—all while also being a debate team member.



The Minnesota Aspirations in Computing program connects students with mentorship, scholarships, and hands-on tech opportunities to support future careers in STEM.



Farm to School Program Award

District 196 Nutrition Services received Golden Drumstick Honors from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) 2025 Minnesota Grown Awards for Farm to School. The award promotes awareness and pride for serving foods grown and raised by Minnesota farmers.

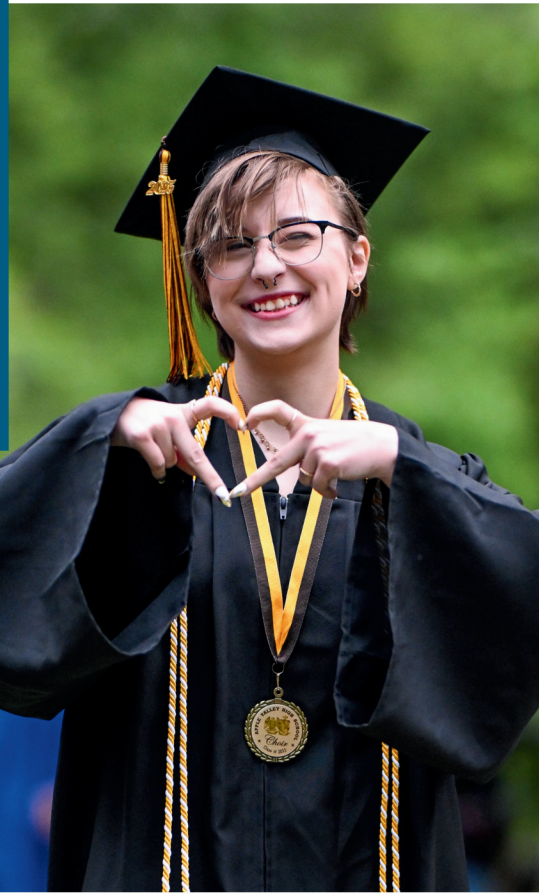
School Calendar 25-26

(Non-School Days)

Aug. 29	No School Day
Sept. 1	Labor Day
Sept. 26	Staff Data Analysis
Oct. 10	High School Conferences (9-12)
Oct. 16-17	MEA Break
Oct. 30	Elementary/Middle Conferences (K-8)
Oct. 31	High School Staff Development
Nov. 26	Staff Development
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22	Staff Data Analysis
Dec. 23	Staff Development
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 23	High School Conferences (9-12)
Feb. 5	Elementary/Middle Conferences (K-8)
Feb. 6	High School Staff Development
Feb. 16	President's Day
March 6	Staff Development
March 20	Staff Data Analysis
March 23-27	Spring Break
April 10	Staff Development
May 1	Staff Development
May 25	Memorial Day

CONGRATS Class of 2025!

The 2025 commencement ceremonies celebrated the hard work and determination of more than 2,100 students who reached this significant milestone. Their achievement is a testament to our shared mission of educating, developing, and inspiring students for lifelong success.





RELIVE THE EXCITEMENT!

View or purchase photos:



Photo credit:
Paul Allen
Allen Photo Works



Photo credit:
Monica Lopez
MoLo Photography



AVHS Spotlight Star Headed to New York City

Singing, dancing, and acting well are known as a triple threat in the entertainment industry. Apple Valley High School Theatre junior **Aniya Bostick** is just that. The Sister Act lead will represent Minnesota in the 2025 Triple Threat New York Experience following her selection during the Spotlight Theatre Awards at the State Theatre in June. Triple Threat winners receive a trip to New York and participate in theatre workshops leading up to The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® or the Jimmy Awards®.

The AVHS Theatre Sister Act cast also performed at the Spotlight Theatre Awards earlier this month. Don't miss their next performance: Hadestown Teen Edition this fall.



Speech Teams Earn 22 State Medals

Students from all four District 196 high schools earned medals at the 2025 State Speech Tournament, bringing home 22 medals in 12 events, including four state champions. **Sahiti Atluri** (EVHS) won her third consecutive state championship in Creative Expression; **Joseph Panikkar** (EVHS) took the championship in Great Speeches; **Isra Yasin** (AVHS) won Original Oratory; and **Mahlet Samuel** (AVHS) won Serious Interpretation of Prose.

In team competition, Eastview High School finished second and Apple Valley third. Eleven seniors were named to the All-State Speech Team for their excellence, leadership, and service.



Eastview Chess Team Wins First in Historic Three-Way Tie

The Eastview High School Chess Team has earned its third consecutive state title at the Minnesota State Chess Association Scholastic State Tournament. This year's tournament made history, as Eastview finished in a three-way tie for first place – the first time in the event's 60+ years that the title has been shared.



Dakota Hawks Capture Softball Titles

The Dakota Hawks dominated the State Adapted Softball Tournament, winning both the CI and PI state titles. The PI team earned its fifth straight title and extended its win streak to 61 games.



Health Occupations of America Leadership Awards

Students from Eagan, Eastview, and Rosemount High Schools finished in the top three at the state Health Occupations of America Leadership Conference. District 196 Advisor **Jim Lynch** was honored as the state's HOSA Advisor of the Year.

Standout Season for DECA Scholars

Five District 196 students earned Top 10 honors at the 2025 DECA International Career Development Conference, which drew 22,000 competitors. From Rosemount High School, **Max Kowalski, Alexis Olson, Grace Mensic, Sylvia Atkinson, and Sarah Labarere** achieved Top-Ten finishes. Twenty-three Eastview, Apple Valley, and Rosemount students qualified for the International DECA Conference, which fosters leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship, preparing students for future academic and career success.

Top 10 at National Business Competition

Eagan and Eastview High School students excelled at the 2025 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. Six students earned Top-Ten national finishes: **Megan Burri** (EVHS) in ethics and professionalism, **Rishik Kondadadi** (EVHS) in medical coding, and the Eagan High School team of **Noah Claude, Muaz Diwan, Kinuthia Kinuthia, and Rahim Qureshi** in economic research. Nearly 7,000 students from around the world competed at the event.



Lucas Gerten: 4-Time State Champion Diver

Rosemount High School's **Lucas Gerten** is a standout student-athlete with a 3.996 GPA and four consecutive Class AA state diving titles. A six-year varsity letter winner and All-American, Lucas now heads to the U.S. Air Force Academy, leaving a legacy of excellence.



Makayla Moran



Ava Ligtenberg



Gracie Puit



Sophie Stramel

2025 Athena Awards

One female athlete from each high school is honored annually with Athena Awards for excellence in athletics, leadership, and academics.

- **Makayla Moran** (Apple Valley) earned 10 academic letters and holds school hockey records; she will play Division I hockey at MSU-Mankato.
- **Ava Ligtenberg** (Eagan), a three-sport captain and 2024 Ms. Soccer finalist, will attend NDSU on a track scholarship.
- **Gracie Puit** (Eastview), an Academic All-State athlete in cross-country, track, and Nordic skiing, will run for the University of Alaska Anchorage.
- **Sophie Stramel** (Rosemount), a standout hockey player and leader, will also play at MSU-Mankato.

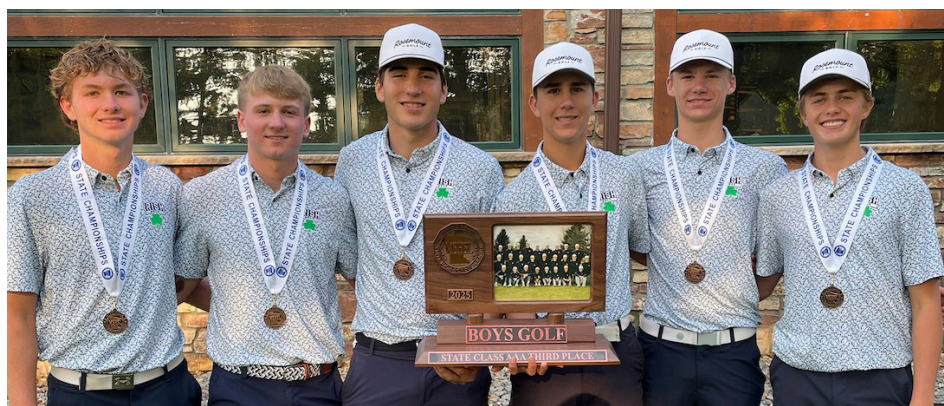


Boys Volleyball Heads to State in Historic First Season

In their first year as a sanctioned MSHSL sport, the Eastview boys volleyball was the undefeated Conference Champion. Sweeping the section tournament without dropping a single set, they advanced to the state tournament and finished third.

Students of the Year

District 196 proudly recognizes the 2025 "Student of the Year" award recipients from each academic and elective department at Apple Valley, Eagan, Eastview, and Rosemount high schools. Selected by their teachers, this award honors leadership, dedication, and excellence in their respective areas of study. View the full list of names at district196.org.



Boys Golf State Qualifiers

Rosemount High School boys golf finished third in state this year.

Striking a Chord With Elementary Music

District 196 was well-represented at this year's Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) state conference, with 45 students from Rosemount, Eastview, Apple Valley, and Eagan High Schools performing in the All-State Band and Eagan's Wind Symphony taking the main stage. However, musical development begins in the primary years. So, Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences showcased its first-grade Generation POUND® group and fifth-grade band at the state conference this year.

District 196 supports music specialists in each elementary school, and fifth-grade band is a highly anticipated milestone. It reflects a long-held belief: When students have access to music, the impact resonates beyond the stage.

Universal Access

"Starting band in fifth grade is a huge asset," said **Bojan Hoover**, Oak Ridge's instrumental music teacher. "It gives students access without barriers and lays a strong foundation."

Supported by Band for All, a District 196 Foundation initiative started by retired Oak Ridge music teacher Angie Wyatt to eliminate financial barriers by providing instruments, District 196 works to ensure all students can experience the lifelong benefits of music education.

At Oak Ridge, every fifth grader signed up for band this year.

Hoover, who has taught music at every level, emphasized the importance of the learning journey. "Performing arts isn't just creating a product – it's a process. Those small victories and daily achievements matter," he said. "Gratification isn't always instant, but students learn to value the journey."

Oak Ridge has integrated band into the regular school schedule, removing time-based participation barriers. "Not everyone can make it to school early or stay late," said **Micah Boudinot**, general music teacher. "Since everyone's here, everyone can participate."

From Movement to Music

Boudinot is a certified Generation POUND instructor, a youth fitness program combining movement, rhythm, and music. The energetic sessions build physical coordination and confidence while teaching musical patterns.

"It takes a lot of brainwork for students to recognize patterns in Generation POUND," Boudinot said. "Once they get it, the next one comes easier. It brings joy and builds community."

Boudinot's creative approach has energized students and families. One highlight came when first graders performed at MMEA.

"Micah Boudinot's musical expertise and passion have made a powerful impact on my granddaughter," said Naomi Paulsen. "Tatum had an epic experience at MMEA and will soon perform Frog and Toad stories at Lebanon Hills. Kudos to Micah for the magical experiences she provides."

A Lifelong Journey

Oak Ridge's approach to music is comprehensive. Students sing, play instruments, and learn to read music – both traditionally and creatively. Research shows music education enhances learning, especially in vocabulary, symbolic understanding, sequencing, and auditory development.

Collaborations with hip-hop artists like Tall Paul and Rosemount High School alum Nur-D have deepened learning experiences. Fifth graders even composed and performed an original rap song with Nur-D, learning music begins long before the performance.

During Earth Day, second grade students performed outside alongside Tall Paul, who added a custom verse to "Garden Song" in harmony with Oak Ridge's environmental theme.



In a poetic moment, an eagle circled overhead as students sang "Love lift us up where we belong ... where the eagles cry," from a pop song that parallels the Seven Grandfather Teachings, where the eagle symbolizes love.

Building Skills and Confidence

Beyond musical ability, students develop resilience, teamwork, and perseverance. They learn to take feedback, overcome challenges, and celebrate growth.

"Elementary students sometimes get overlooked," said Hoover. "We often celebrate high school achievements – as we should – but younger students are just as passionate and deserving of praise."

The success at Oak Ridge reflects a broader District 196 focus on developing the whole child through academics, arts, and athletics. Students at Oak Ridge also see music as a lifelong endeavor, inspired by an adult band composed of staff, parents, and grandparents.

"When students see adults in their lives making music, it strengthens community and shows music can be a lifelong joy," Hoover said.

From first-grade ukuleles to full fifth-grade bands, District 196 ensures every student has the chance to discover their rhythm – and perhaps a lifelong passion.



Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook

In mid-August, District 196 families will receive an email to access the Overview of Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the 2025-26 school year. Families are encouraged to review this handbook with their student to understand district policies and student behavior expectations. The handbook is updated annually to comply with state and federal requirements. All changes are approved by the School Board. Printed copies are available at each school.

Cell Phone Policy

As Minnesota law requires, the District 196 School Board has adopted a Cell Phone policy (Policy 503, Section 7). The purpose of the policy is to improve academic focus and attainment, minimize the negative impact of cell phones on student behavior and mental health, and create a distraction-free learning environment that fosters stronger student-teacher and student-to-student relationships. District 196 limits student possession and use of cell phones in schools. Students also are prohibited from using a cell phone to engage in conduct prohibited by school district policies including, but not limited to, cheating, bullying, and harassment.

Homeschools Are Required to Report to District

Families living in District 196 who plan to homeschool their children for the 2025-26 school year must submit a completed Compulsory Instruction Report to the director of Community Education by Oct. 1.

Information about the report and other programs and services will be addressed during a virtual meeting Aug. 19 at 3:30 p.m. Families who are already registered as a homeschool will get an email invitation to participate. If you are not already registered as a homeschool and would like to be invited to the meeting, please call 651-423-7722 with contact information.

More information is available at District196.org, under Academics, Homeschool and Nonpublic Education, or call 651-423-7722.

Summer Meals: Meal Site Locations and Times

District 196 hosts Free Summer Meals, June 9 through Aug. 8, 2025, Monday through Friday, excluding July 3-4. This USDA program provides free breakfasts and lunches to all children 18 years old and younger, with no income eligibility or registration required.

Meals must be consumed on-site. Both hot and cold options will be available. Service times and locations include:

- Apple Valley High School
Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
14450 Hayes Road, Apple Valley
- Dakota Ridge
Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
4629 144th Street West, Apple Valley
- Diamond Path Elementary
Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
14455 Diamond Path, Apple Valley
- Echo Park Elementary
Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
14100 County Road 11, Burnsville
- Falcon Ridge Middle School
Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
12900 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley
- Oak Ridge Elementary
Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
4350 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Eagan
- Southview Elementary
Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
1025 Whitney Drive, Apple Valley

Mobile Meal Sites in Partnership with Open Door Mobile Lunchbox

Meals will also be distributed through mobile service at the following community sites:

- 360 Communities – 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
3810 145th St. W, Rosemount
- Cedar Knolls – 11-11:30 a.m.
Mobile Home Community near pool,
12571 Garland Avenue, Apple Valley
- Rosemount Woods – 12:30-1 p.m.
13925 Bunratty Avenue, Rosemount
- Thomas Lake Elementary – 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
4350 Thomas Lake Road, Eagan
- Walnut Trails Apartments – 11-11:30 a.m.
1813 Trailway Drive, Eagan (by the playground)

Building Our Future: Bond Construction Progress

Across Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools, 11 major construction projects are underway. Approved by voters in May 2023, these improvements reflect our community's strong commitment to preparing for enrollment growth, addressing safety and security, and ensuring an equitable educational experience across the district.

- **Emerald Trail Elementary: On Track and On Time**
Emerald Trail Elementary (#20) will welcome its first students this fall. Using the same floor plan as East Lake Elementary, the district saved on architectural and design costs, stretched bond funds, and accelerated the construction timeline.

This summer, the district is working closely with the city of Rosemount to develop a school traffic safety plan for the site. This includes a one-mile bus zone so students won't have to cross Bonaire Path walking to school. The school property will also be seamlessly connected to the city's trail system, allowing neighbors and adults to use the property for daily walking routines. The traffic plan also includes additional crosswalks and the creation of a school speed zone on Bonaire Path. Watch for more information in August.

- **Rosemount Middle School: A New Chapter Begins**
Just a few miles away, the walls are going up at the future site of Rosemount Middle School. The building's footprint is now visible on the land formerly owned by the University of Minnesota and UMore Park. Slated to open in fall 2027, this new middle school will replace the district's oldest school building, initially built in 1918.

- **Activity Centers: Expanding Recreation and Wellness**
We have officially broken ground on new activity centers at Apple Valley and Eastview High Schools. Families and visitors should be aware that site access and parking will be limited during the coming months as crews work to bring these long-awaited facilities to life.

When completed, all four activity centers—one at each comprehensive high school—will greatly expand community recreational opportunities, increase gym availability, and provide much-needed indoor space for wellness activities, youth sports, and extracurriculars. These aren't just school improvements—they're community assets that will serve the broader public for decades.

- **Next up: Rosemount and Eagan High Schools**
Looking ahead, Rosemount High School's construction project has moved into the bid phase, marking an important step toward transforming and expanding the existing facility. Meanwhile, the Eagan High School Activity Center is currently in the design phase.

Projects are also underway at Falcon Ridge, Scott Highlands, and Valley Middle schools. At Thomas Lake Elementary, a new dedicated bus loop and expanded parking will improve traffic flow. Districtwide, additional security cameras are being installed to enhance visibility and monitoring at all sites.



Emerald Trail Elementary



Rosemount Middle School



Apple Valley HS Activity Center



Eastview HS Activity Center

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
 3455 153rd Street West
 Rosemount, MN 55068

School Board

Cory Johnson, chairperson
 Anna Williams, vice chair
 Sakawdin Mohamed, clerk
 Leah Gardner, treasurer
 Robin Cerio, director
 Catherine Diamond, director
 Jackie Magnuson, director

Michael Bolsoni, superintendent
 Janet Swiecichowski, communications director

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

Postal Patron

Time Value Material
 Please Deliver Promptly

Community Education

Adult Lap Swim and Water Exercise Classes

Adults can enjoy a summer full of indoor swimming opportunities through our Adult Lap Swim or Water Exercise classes. Sign up for an entire session or pay-as-you-go. Seniors receive a 10% discount. To learn more, visit ce.district196.org/swim, email aquatics@district196.org or call 952-431-8777.



Mat Pilates (16+)

Enjoy a total body, low impact workout focusing on core muscles using slow controlled stretching suitable for all age-groups. Focus on stretching, breath, technique to build strength, and tone muscles for better posture and efficient movement. Bring a Pilates mat/thicker Yoga mat. Dress comfortably and bring your water bottle.

Wed | Jul 9-30 | 6:30-7:15 p.m. | \$49 | BHMS

Adult Graduates

Eighty-four adults have earned their high school diploma or successfully completed the GED exam this year! You too can begin to achieve your educational goals with the help of our caring and patient teachers.

Summer session begins July 7.
 Visit ce.district196.org/abe, call 952-388-1980 or email abe@district196.org to learn more.



Celebrate Summer with Early Childhood Family Education | ECFE

ECFE offers a variety of classes designed to strengthen families through interactive play and relevant parent education. The summer schedule is a sample of the classes available throughout the year.

Visit ce.district196.org/ecfe



Fostering a Play-Based Childhood

In an age where screen use dominates, daily schedules are hectic and families are overwhelmed, play might be getting lost. Research shows that children who have dedicated time for unstructured, child-directed play experience positive social and academic outcomes. Join us and take the first step towards making play a central part of your child's learning journey.

Ages Birth-Prekindergarten (Separating)

Wed | Jul 9-30 | 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Summer Fee | 517-116

Ages Birth-7 Years (Separating)

Wed | Jul 9-30 | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Summer Fee | 517-216

Get Moving with Project Explore!

We have a variety of ways to get outdoors, stay active and have fun with friends this summer. There's mini-golf, hikes, stroll & rolls, open swims, bowling leagues and pickleball.

Visit ce.district196.org/projectexplore, call 651-423-7931 or email projectexplore@district196.org to learn more.

