

SCHOOL REPORT

ECCS DIFFERENCE
FUTURE FORECAST 2036
Soaring into the Next Decade

What should learning look like for a child who starts kindergarten in Eastern Carver County Schools ten years from now? That is the question at the heart of Future Forecast 2036, and our community has answered it with more energy and honesty than we could have hoped for.

It is rare for a school district to pause and ask, "What could we become?" Most of the time, we plan year to year. Future Forecast 2036 gives us the chance to plan boldly for the next decade: moonshot thinking with both feet on the ground, anchored in our enrollment trends, our five-year budget, and the realities of our buildings.

A community dreaming together
A Future Forecast Input Team of 90 parents, staff, students, and community members has worked alongside the district design team to study our schools and shape early concepts for the decade ahead.

Through ThoughtExchange, more than 200 people have shared what they value most and given feedback on the concepts, adding hundreds of rankings of each other's ideas.



The Input Team has studied enrollment projections, toured our buildings, and named the values that should guide our planning. The Design Team has turned those ideas into concepts and tested each one against what our budget and facilities can support. Together, they have made sure that what the community says shapes what the district builds.

What we are hearing

Pride in our schools
Families care deeply about their buildings, programs, and the close-knit feel of their school communities.

Values first
People want decisions guided by what is best for students and by keeping communities connected.

Early learning matters
There is strong interest in preschool and the support we offer our youngest learners.

Wise financial stewardship
Many asked us to care for our buildings and use taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Keep us involved
People appreciated being asked to dream and want to stay part of the conversation.

What comes next
In January, we will narrow the concepts down to two or three possible scenarios shaped by this feedback, and the Input Team will meet to weigh in on them. We will begin another round of community feedback on the next set of scenarios. We hope to come to a decision in the spring of the 2026–27 school year, followed by a full year of planning in 2027–28, giving families time to prepare for any change.

Thank you to everyone who has shared a thought, ranked an idea, or asked a hard question. Your voice is shaping the next decade of ECCS. Stay involved at **eccs.mn/futureforecast** or use the QR code to connect.

FUTURE FORECAST

ECCS CONTINUES TO OUTSCORE MANY NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS IN MCA TESTING

MCA Math scores have remained stable over the past four years across the state of Minnesota. Eastern Carver County Schools continues to buck the state trend as math scores have continued to climb since 2021 by 11 percentage points, now at 63% proficient and have exceeded 2019 scores for the second year in a row.

Eighth graders in ECCS scored 69% proficient, 27 percentage points higher than the state average for the grade.

In reading, which cannot be compared to past years because it is a new test, ECCS scored at 63% of students across the district in the proficient range, putting the district in the top 6% of districts and charters across the state. At third grade, ECCS outperformed the state average by 18 percentage points.

2026 Math MCA - Neighboring and Similar Districts

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	percent change 2021-26
ECCS	**52%**	**55%**	**60%**	**61%**	**62%**	**63%**	**21%**
White Bear	45%	48%	49%	47%	48%	49%	9%
Stillwater	53%	56%	55%	58%	58%	58%	9%
Minnetonka	68%	73%	76%	75%	75%	73%	7%
Prior Lake	56%	60%	59%	58%	58%	60%	7%
Lakeville	57%	57%	57%	58%	59%	59%	4%
Farmington	42%	44%	41%	40%	40%	39%	-7%
Eden Prairie	61%	59%	59%	58%	59%	56%	-8%

MCA Reading
All Grades Tested

Top 5%
in the state

MCA Math
All Grades Tested

Top 6%
in the state

CELEBRATING THE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Earlier this fall, our Spanish Immersion families came together for a fun evening at the Chaska-Chan soccer game in celebration of both the immersion program and Hispanic Heritage Month. The event was a wonderful opportunity to connect outside the classroom, celebrate the cultures and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world, and build relationships across our immersion community. With the excitement of the game and the energy of families cheering together, the evening reminded us that our program is about more than language learning—it is about belonging, shared experiences, and celebrating the diverse cultures that enrich our community.











SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Newcomer Tracy Rundell joined incumbents Tim Klein, Ellie Krug, and Jenny Stone in securing positions on the school board on November 3. The four candidates were among nine residents on the ballot. They join Rachel Berg Scherer, Angela Erickson, and Sean Olsen on the school board in 2027.


Tracy Rundell


Tim Klein


Ellie Krug


Jenny Stone

EYE ON ECCS: FOLLOWING IN THE FAMILY FOOTSTEPS

Across ECCS, a growing number of second-generation educators are finding their way into the district, into the classroom, and often into the very same school buildings where their parents built their own careers. In this *Eye on ECCS*, we catch up with four newer teachers who were inspired by the impact their parents made on students, and who are now carrying on that legacy of learning and community.



Mallory Bowman | Language Arts, Chaska High School
For Mallory Bowman, teaching was always in the back of her mind. Initially planning to pursue a career in publishing, Mallory quickly realized corporate life wasn't for her.

Now in her first year as a Language Arts teacher at Chaska High School, Mallory works in the same building as her father, Corey Bowman, a science teacher at CHS since 2009 and a long-time football coach in the district. While Mallory student-taught just three doors down from her dad, the two are now on opposite ends of the high school building—though Corey still checks in and offers the occasional word of advice.

Mallory sees firsthand the respect students have for her father both in the classroom and on the field. "I can see the impact he has on these kids. It feels good to see both sides of it—that we are making a positive impact on these students," she said.



Sophie Flom | Second Grade, Clover Ridge Elementary
Raised by two educators, Dave and Nancy Flom, it seemed almost inevitable that Sophie would choose a career in education.

"When I was a kid, I always wanted to be a teacher because I saw both of my parents doing it," Sophie recalled. "You see that it's a hard job, but I also saw the fun stuff—the connections with kids."

After starting her career at Bluff Creek Elementary, Sophie is now teaching second grade at Clover Ridge Elementary, where she finds joy in helping young students learn to read.

Whenever she needs advice, her parents are only a conversation away. "My dad gets the elementary side of things, and my mom knows what it's like to teach in this district," Sophie said. "Seeing the difference they've made in their students' lives really motivates me. I'm excited to one day be at a point in my career where my former second graders invite me to their high school games."



Jordan Mattson | Social Studies, Chanhassen High School
When Jordan Mattson joined the social studies department at her alma mater last fall, walking into Chanhassen HS felt like a reunion. Many of her new colleagues were teachers she had in class just a few years prior.

"It was weird at first, but as time has gone on, it's really fun to see them on a different level and have a whole new level of respect for what they do," Jordan said.

Jordan was also no stranger to the hallways growing up; her father, Chad Mattson, has been a school counselor at Chanhassen High School since it opened in 2009, as well as a coach for the Storm football team.

"When he had football practice, I would go sit in his office," Jordan shared. "What I love is that he is really good at connecting with kids. He's very much an inspiration for me to make sure students know they are a person first, then a student."

Teaching world history, Jordan takes pride in bringing a fresh perspective to the department. "I'm really lucky that there are more women in the social studies department here at Chan," she said. "I love that, and I feel very empowered as a female history teacher."

Katelyn Powers | Science, Pioneer Ridge Middle School
Katelyn Powers is in her third year teaching science at Pioneer Ridge Middle School, but her roots in ECCS run deeper. Her father, Mike Powers, is one of the longest-tenured teachers in ECCS, having taught technology and industrial arts since 1990.



After starting her career outside the district, she found her way back to Chaska. Today, she works in the same building as her dad, while her sister, Michaela, serves as a paraprofessional and lunchroom supervisor at Chaska Middle School West.

Like her father, Katelyn prioritizes hands-on, memorable learning experiences in her classroom—and she inherits more than just a teaching philosophy from him.

"I think with our content areas, both of us are very hands-on. That's the thing that kids remember is making a gumball machine or doing labs in here, and so trying to give kids experiences where they can actually do stuff that's engaging and that's more memorable, I do prioritize that," Katelyn said.

For Katelyn, returning to ECCS has come full circle. "It's really cool to connect with the kids and tell them I had the same great school experience that they are having now."

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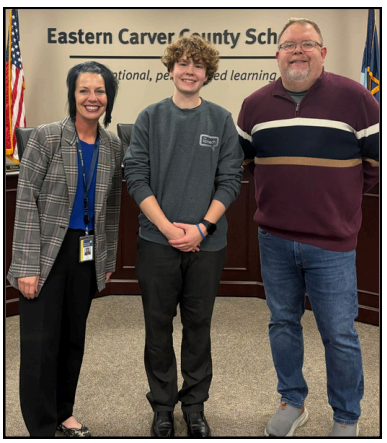
ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

Honor Dapp of Chanhassen High School and **Braeden Johnson** of Chaska High School have been named National Merit Semifinalists for 2027, joining an elite group of around 16,000 students nationwide recognized for exceptional academic achievement.



The Eastern Carver County School Board welcomed **Chris Wagner** as its next student representative at a September meeting. Wagner is a junior at Chaska High School. He joins senior Boden Brown from Chanhassen High School. The Board has a long tradition of inviting high school students to serve as student representatives on the Board. The student reps sit with the Board at all meetings, providing a student perspective on the issues facing the Board. The students are invited to update the Board at each meeting concerning student activities and issues.

ECCS Community Education received two Project Awards from the Minnesota Community Education Association. Hooked on Books was honored for 20 years of inspiring a love of literacy and the arts throughout Eastern Carver County. Early Childhood Screening's video starring Skylar the StormHawk was recognized for its creative approach to helping families learn about screening.



ECCS was well represented at the Class AAA State Cross Country Meet on Nov. 7 at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake. State qualifiers were junior **Connor Heltemes** and senior **Isaak Feuerhelm** of Chanhassen, and junior **Rebecca Ross**, and seniors **Ivan Peterson and Joshua Eickhoff** of Chaska. Heltemes was the Section 2AAA boys champion.


Isaak Feuerhelm
Chanhassen HS


Connor Heltemes
Chanhassen HS


Rebecca Ross
Chaska HS


Joshua Eickhoff
Chaska HS


Ivan Peterson
Chaska HS

SCHOOL SPIRIT















Stay Connected

Bluff Creek Elementary: 952-556-6600
Carver Elementary: 952-556-1900
Chanhassen Elementary: 952-556-6700
Clover Ridge Elementary: 952-556-6900
Jonathan Elementary: 952-556-6500
La Academia: 952-556-6300
Victoria Elementary: 952-556-3000

Chaska Middle School East: 952-556-7600
Chaska Middle School West: 952-556-7400
Pioneer Ridge Middle School: 952-556-7800
Chanhassen High School: 952-556-3500
Chaska High School: 952-556-7100
Integrated Arts Academy: 952-556-6200

STAR: 952-556-6120
Family Learning Center: 952-556-6400
Community Education: 952-556-6400
Welcome Center: 952-556-6100
Transportation: 952-556-6160
Nutrition Services: 952-556-6145

www.district112.org **facebook.com/isd112** **ecarvercoschools**

ENROLL NOW



Learn more about kindergarten and enroll today: eccs.mn/enroll

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Is your child turning five by September 1, 2027? If so, it's time to enroll for your student in kindergarten.

At Eastern Carver County Schools, we don't just teach - we promise a safe, inclusive, and exciting environment where your child's unique talents are celebrated every day.

Choose the Path That Fits Your Child
Every learner is different. That's why ECCS offers three distinct kindergarten programs:

- **Neighborhood Schools**: A robust, well-rounded start focused on reading, writing, and social growth right in your community.
- **La Academia Spanish Immersion**: Our proven two-way immersion program where students learn the full curriculum in Spanish.
- **Kinder Academy**: A full-day kindergarten program perfect for "young" five-year-olds who may need a more flexible pace before moving on to first grade.

Kindergarten is when children meet friends, gain healthy independence, and learn fundamental lessons that they will carry throughout their lives. It is Eastern Carver County Schools' promise to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for each child. We know that each child comes to us with a unique set of talents and needs. We value those differences, and we're eager to make kindergarten an exciting and positive learning experience.

Our kindergarten program develops children academically, socially, and emotionally. Students are introduced to reading skills, writing, problem-solving, and are provided personalized instruction and support as they progress. We have integrated S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts into our rich curriculum, and technology is used in the classroom to enhance learning experiences for students. Students also attend specialist classes such as Physical Education, Music, Media, and Art.

To determine your neighborhood school, visit the school finder at eccs.mn/attendance.

Bluff Creek Elementary
2300 Coulter Boulevard
Chanhassen

Carver Elementary
1717 Ironwood Drive
Carver

Chanhassen Elementary
7600 Laredo Drive
Chanhassen

Clover Ridge Elementary
114000 Hundertmark Road
Chaska

Jonathan Elementary
110300 Pioneer Trail West
Chaska

Victoria Elementary
9300 Red Fox Drive
Victoria

La Academia Spanish Immersion
1800 N. Chestnut Street
Chaska

Kinder Academy
1800 N. Chestnut Street
Chaska

READY FOR A CHANGE?

Whether you are brand new to the area or considering a school enrollment change for your child, now is the perfect time to plan for next year.

- **Find Your School:** Use our school finder at **eccs.mn/attendance**.
- **Take a Tour:** Meet our leaders and see our classrooms in action! Schedule yours at **eccs.mn/tour**.
- **Enroll Online:** Registration is now open for all grade levels at **eccs.mn/enroll**.

LEARN MORE

Enroll online at eccs.mn/enroll or in person at the ECCS Welcome Center located at 11 Peavey Road in Chaska.

Hours: 7:30-4:00
Phone: 952-556-6112
Email: welcomecenter@district112.org



Whether you'll be cheering
Roll Storm or Soar Hawks,
we would love to welcome you to one of our outstanding schools.