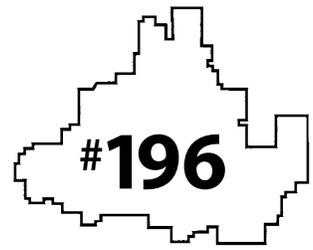




Spotlight



Spring 2017

District196.org

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New elementary school has attendance area, principal and a name

In November, the School Board established an attendance area for the district's newest elementary school and hired the school's first principal, and in December, the school that had until then been known simply as "Elementary 19" was given a name: East Lake Elementary School.

East Lake was suggested 25 times among the more than 1,000 suggestions that were submitted on the district website

last fall by students, parents, staff and others. East Lake is a 40-acre wetland located just west of where the new school is being built at the southwest corner of Diamond Path and County Road 46 in Lakeville. East Lake Community Park, a city of Lakeville park, surrounds the lake, which will be visible from parts of the school when it opens this fall for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

East Lake was one of three possible names selected by a committee of parents whose children will be attending the school. The other two possibilities, Eagle Ridge and Eagle View, were not recommended by the administration because there are schools by the same name in the Burnsville-Eagan Savage School District and the New Prague School District. There

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Magnuson re-elected School Board chair



For the 10th time in her 28 years on the District 196 School Board, **Jackie Magnuson** was elected chairperson by her fellow board members. The vote was taken at the board's

annual organization meeting Jan. 9.

Magnuson, who lives in Rosemount and teaches in Northfield, was first elected to the board in 1989. She was first elected chairperson in 1994 and again in 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2016. Her current term as chairperson runs through December 2017.

"It's been such a privilege to represent the people of this great district for so many years and to watch so many talented teachers and staff positively impacting the lives of our children each day," Magnuson said. "I am committed to continuing our work together to provide students with the best education possible with the resources

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Excited about science

Students were awed by a fiery demonstration of combusting a hydrocarbon during a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) night held at Apple Valley High School in November. The event featured STEM-related activities for students of all ages and provided parents with information about the district's K-12 STEM pathway of schools. The pathway includes Cedar Park and Echo Park at the elementary level, Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley High, which has a fully functioning fabrication lab.

Legislative priorities focus on stable funding p.3

District earns Meritorious Budget Award p.4

Apple Valley junior wins state debate title. p.7

District maintains high 'capture rate' among resident students

Eighty-seven percent of school-aged children who live in District 196 are attending District 196 schools this year.

There were 29,470 students in kindergarten through grade 12 living in District 196 when the district's official enrollment report was calculated in October. Of those children, 25,675 are attending District 196 schools this year, giving the district an 87.1 percent "capture rate" among resident students. Anything over 80 percent is considered high for a school district in the Twin Cities area, according to former state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt** of Hazel Reinhardt Consulting. She says capture rate is a reflection on the quality of local public schools, as well as the presence of charter schools, nonpublic schools and other educational alternatives in the area.

The number of children living in District 196 who are home schooled or attend traditional non-public schools remained at 7.4 percent. The other 5.4 percent of school-aged children living in District 196 attend charter schools or public schools in other districts. Students who open enroll into the district are not included when calculating capture rate.

Independent School District 196

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

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Spotlight is a quarterly publication mailed to every household in District 196 to inform parents and other residents about district news.

Send comments on *Spotlight* to
Tony.Taschner@District196.org

District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities 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 local human rights commission, disability, sexual orientation, age or genetic information. District 196 provides equal access to designated youth groups. The Director of Human Resources (651-423-7859) has been designated to respond to employment-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. The Director of Elementary Education (651-423-7782) and the Director of Secondary Education (651-423-7712) have been designated to respond to student-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. The Director of Special Education (651-423-7629) has been designated to respond to inquiries concerning the rights of a student with a disability. The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068.



Students honor local veterans

Eagan High School students posed with a group of veterans during a breakfast that preceded an all-school Veterans' Day assembly at the school in November. The event featured speakers, recognition of local veterans and a performance of the "Armed Forces Salute" by the Eagan High Wind Ensemble. Eagan and Apple Valley high schools have both hosted Veterans' Day observances for several years.

School Board

continued from front page

the public has entrusted with us."

At its annual organization meeting, the board also re-elected **Gary Huusko** of Eagan vice chairperson, **Joel Albright** of Apple Valley clerk and **Bob Schutte** of Apple Valley treasurer for this year, and approved assignments to the following board committees:

- Audit and Finance - Schutte, chairperson, Huusko and **Sachin Isaacs** of Burnsville;
- Curriculum and Instruction - Magnuson, chairperson, Albright, Schutte and **Art Coulson** of Apple Valley;
- Legislative - Coulson, chairperson, Huusko and Magnuson, and
- Policy Review - Albright, chairperson, Huusko and **Mike Roseen** of Apple Valley.

Together, the seven current School Board members have a combined 106 years of experience serving the residents of District 196 on the board: Magnuson, 28 years; Roseen, 26 years; Schutte, 24 years; Albright, 13 years; Coulson, nine years; Huusko, six years, and Isaacs, who was elected last November and joined the board in January.

The week of Feb. 20-24 is School Board Recognition Week in Minnesota, which was established by the Minnesota School Boards Association to build awareness and understanding of the vital role elected School Board members play in our society.

The board meets on the second and/or fourth Monday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m., at Dakota Ridge School in Apple Valley. Regular board meetings for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year are scheduled for March 13, April 10 and 24, May 15 and June 12 and 26.

Si usted habla español y tiene preguntas, favor de llamar al teléfono (952)431-8993.

HADDI ADD SOMAAALI TAHAY OO AAD QABTID WAX SUAAL AH FADLAN LA SOO XIRIIR FAISAL MADAR (952)769-7625

إذا كنت تتكلم اللغة العربية و كانت لديك أسئلة حول المدرسة الرجاء الإتصال بفيصل مطور (Faisal Madar) و رقمه 769-7625 (952)

If you speak (Spanish/Somali/Arabic) and have questions, call...



Legislative priorities focus on stable funding

By Jane K. Berenz, superintendent

Stabilizing state funding for E-12 education is our district's top priority for the 2017 session of the Minnesota Legislature. The priorities were developed by citizen and staff members of our district's Legislative Advisory Council (LAC), with input from members of the Budget Advisory Council (BAC), and were approved by the School Board in December.

All three priorities below focus on funding issues in what is a budget-setting session for the legislature. The state is

responsible for the majority of all revenues school districts receive. While thankful for recent inflationary increases and program improvements like full-day kindergarten and preschool scholarships, if we do not continue to receive at least inflationary increases to the general education formula, we can expect more budget cuts and local levy referendum elections in the very near future.

In early February, a delegation of approximately 20 LAC, BAC and School Board members visited the Capitol to

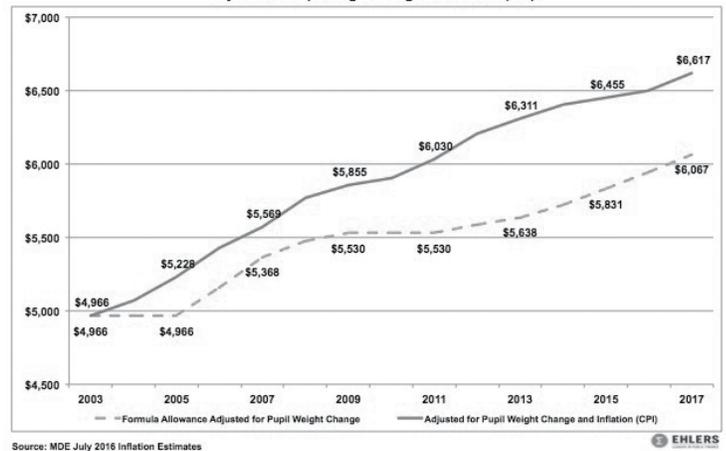
present our priorities to the 14 local legislators who represent residents of District 196 and the chairs of the education committees in the Senate and House of Representatives. Please consider contacting your senator and representative during the session to share your thoughts on education funding and other issues that are important to you.

1. Stabilize state funding for education by increasing the general education formula allowance and reducing the special education cross-subsidy

The general education formula allowance is the single largest source of funding for all school districts in the state. All districts receive the same amount of general education funding per pupil. Increases to the general education formula have lagged inflation for more than a decade, resulting in program cuts, property tax increases and a growing disparity in the educational opportunities available to students from one district to the next. If the general education formula had just kept pace with inflation since 2003, it would be \$550 per pupil more than it is today (\$6,067 actual compared to \$6,617 adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index, see graph).

The state and federal governments mandate special education services but fund just 59 percent of what it actually cost District 196 to deliver those services in the 2015-16 school year. The other 41 percent or \$25.8 million in unfunded special education costs, known as the cross-subsidy, were paid for out of the district's general fund last year. All Minnesota school districts would benefit from a reduction in their special education cross-subsidy.

General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2017
Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



2. Increase equalization aid to reduce taxpayer and funding disparities

Homeowners in districts with more commercial/industrial property wealth pay less than homeowners in districts with less commercial/industrial property wealth to raise the same amount of tax dollars for their local schools. Equalization aid was established by the legislature to help balance the impact of school taxes; those with less commercial/industrial property wealth, like District 196, receive equalization aid. Unfortunately, the factors used to calculate equalization aid have not kept pace with the growth in overall property values over time and no longer provide the intended level of equalization or taxpayer fairness.

3. Make supplemental compensatory funding permanent for more districts

School districts receive "compensatory funding" to help meet the educational needs of students living in poverty. Regular compensatory funding is based on a school's concentration of students living in poverty; higher concentration equals more funding. The Compensatory Revenue Pilot Project was enacted by the legislature in 2005 to provide supplemental compensatory funding to districts with a high number of students living in poverty spread evenly across the district. Only seven districts are included in the pilot project and District 196 is not among them, despite having a higher number of students living in poverty than four of the seven districts currently receiving this funding. Establishing a formula to make supplemental compensatory funding permanent would better serve students in districts like District 196 with high numbers (but not a high concentration) of students living in poverty.

Board approves levy for payable 2017 taxes

In December, the School Board approved the district's 2016 (payable 2017) property tax levy at \$88.9 million, approximately \$3.3 million (3.9 percent) more than last year's levy of \$85.6 million.

The approved levy is just slightly higher than the preliminary levy approved by the board in September and represents the maximum amount, as determined by the state. Finance and Operations Director **Jeff Solomon** said the three biggest reasons for the increase this year include the voter-approved annual inflationary increase on the district's 2013 operating levy, a reduction in state equalization aid that has shifted funding responsibility from the state to the local levy, and enrollment growth.

According to information from Dakota County, the average home in District 196

experienced a 2.5 percent increase in valuation in the last year. Meanwhile, Solomon said the average-valued home in the district (currently \$264,000) will see an increase in school taxes of approximately 1.6 percent for the year.

School district taxes make up part of total property taxes, along with levies approved by the county, cities and other taxing agencies.

Local property taxes represent approximately 20 percent of total revenues District 196 will receive this year. The other sources are state aids and credits (61 percent), federal aid (4 percent) and the remaining 15 percent from other sources such as self-insurance, gifts, donations and miscellaneous revenues such as food service fees, activity fees and admissions.

District earns Meritorious Budget Award again

For the second year in a row, the District 196 Finance Department has received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International.

The Meritorious Budget Award program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation. The award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria, following a rigorous review by professional auditors. Last year, District 196 was one of only two districts in Minnesota and 150 nationwide to receive the Meritorious Budget Award. This year's award, which runs through June, is for the 2016-17 budget year.

"The budget is a fine document, which includes a wealth of information in graphic and narrative form," the reviewers commented. "It is user-friendly for the average taxpayer with lots of data presented in different forms to meet the needs of varied



users. It demonstrates the district's commitment to fiscal transparency."

The preliminary and final budgets for 2016-17 are available

on the Finance Department page of the district website at www.District196.org/Finance, along with budgets and finance documents for the previous nine years. The Meritorious Budget Award is based on the district's preliminary budget.

The Finance Department has also received ASBO's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 14 years in a row for the preparation and issuance of the district's comprehensive annual financial report.

Reach parents through ad on district website

Local businesses interested in reaching potential customers in the state's fourth largest school district are encouraged to partner with District 196 by purchasing an advertising sponsorship on the district website.

Three sponsorship options are available, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and are prorated from the start of the school year. All three options include a

logo ad that rotates on the front page of District196.org for the entire school year and a larger ad on a dedicated sponsor page with links to the sponsors' websites.

For more information, go to District196.org/District/Departments/Advertising. To place your ad, contact **Tony Taschner**, district communications director, at 651-423-7775 or tony.taschner@District196.org.

Good jobs available for people who enjoy working with children

District 196 has immediate openings for quality individuals who enjoy working with children. There are positions open for substitute teachers, clerks/paraprofessionals and nurses, as well as bus drivers, chaperones and food service associates. For more information and to apply online, go to District196.org and click on "Employment."

Substitute teacher pay rates are \$120 for a full day and \$70 for a half day. To be a substitute teacher in District 196, applicants must have a current Minnesota teacher's license or have a four-year degree, obtain a short call substitute license from the state and attend a week-long training workshop.

The **substitute clerical** pay rate is \$11 per hour and **substitute paraprofessional** pay rate is \$12.25 per hour. Interested individuals must be available Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. most weeks; be willing to work as a special education paraprofessional at multiple schools; have a high school diploma or GED; complete online Personal Care Assistant training, and attend a clerical orientation session.

The **substitute school nurse** pay rate is \$22 per hour. Applicants must be a licensed LPN or RN (preferred), be available weekdays during the school year and attend a substitute nurse orientation.

Part-time **bus driver and chaperone** positions are available. The district prefers individuals who are available for both morning and afternoon routes. Applicants must enjoy working with children. Bus driver applicants must also have a Minnesota driver's license with a good driving record and be able to lift/drag up to 125 pounds. The district provides training to obtain necessary licensure. The pay rate is \$16.70 per hour for bus drivers and \$13 per hour for chaperones. Benefits are available to employees who work 24 or more hours per week.

The pay rate for **food service associates** is \$14.95 per hour (\$13.20 per hour starting wage for substitutes) plus a complimentary meal each shift. Regular and substitute positions are available, three to five hours per day. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and be able to safely lift up to 40 pounds. Responsibilities include food preparation, meal sales and service, and clean-up.

Construction increases as work begins on more bond projects

Several projects are underway and construction will begin this spring on several more that are part of the \$180 million in bond and capital projects levy referendum improvements approved by district voters in November 2015. The bond projects will provide improved safety and security at all schools, as well as additional space for learning. The capital projects levy is providing funding to increase access to technology for all students districtwide.

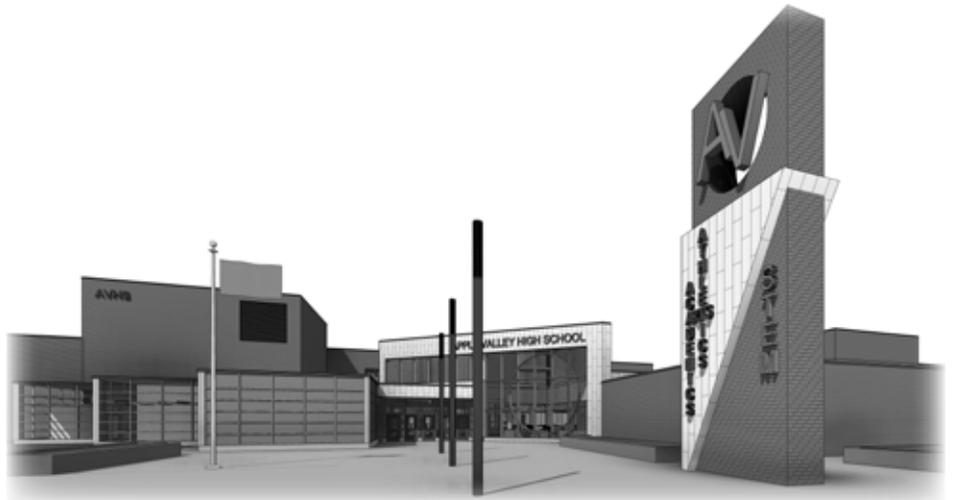
The single biggest project, construction of the new East Lake Elementary School at the intersection of Diamond Path and County Road 46 in Lakeville, is on schedule to be completed this fall in time for the start of the 2017-18 school year. In November, the School Board approved an attendance area for East Lake and hired the school's first principal (see related article on front page).

Construction began in November on the first phase of additions at the district's five elementary magnet schools, which will increase elementary capacity and school choice options for families. Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology is getting a classroom addition, space to support the magnet theme, a secure entrance and new office area adjacent to the entrance. Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences is also receiving a classroom addition, magnet theme space and a modified entrance that will direct visitors into the existing office. The improvements at both schools are scheduled to be completed this fall.

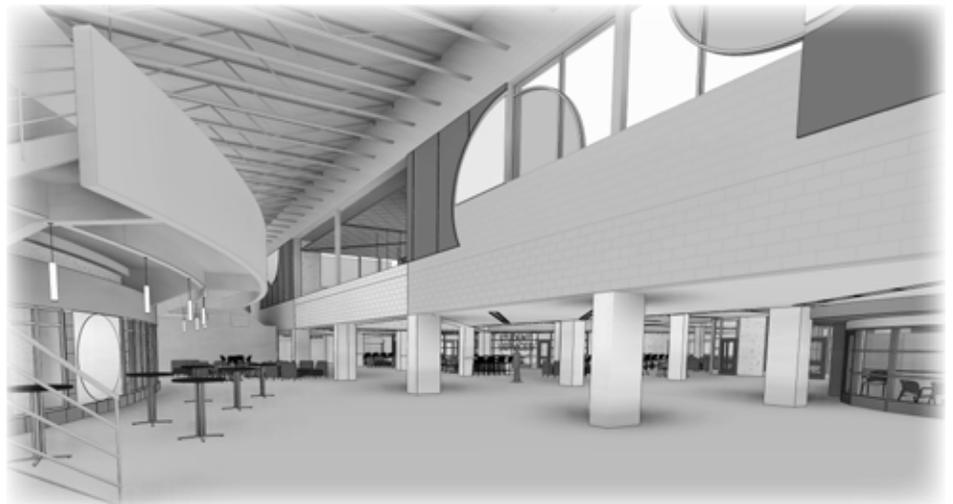
Construction has also begun on the addition of secure entrances at Deerwood and Woodland elementary schools, which share the same design. Both schools will also receive new offices that will be built adjacent to the entrances; completion is scheduled for this fall.

When this issue of *Spotlight* went to press, final design work was nearing completion on projects at Southview Elementary School, Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley High School. At Southview, there will be a new secure entrance and office constructed on the north side of the building next to the courtyard area that separates Southview and Valley Middle. A new parking lot will be added on the west side of the school for student drop-off/pick-up and the current entrance on the south side of the building will be reserved for buses only.

Valley Middle and Apple Valley High



The center of this drawing shows a two-story addition that will be built in the courtyard area in front of the existing main entrance to Apple Valley High School.



A large, open commons area will be created inside the entrance to Apple Valley High School. The student services offices will also be relocated to the addition at the entrance to the building.

are two of the most extensive renovation projects in the bond. Construction on both schools will begin this spring and won't be completed until fall 2018. Valley Middle will get improvements inside and out, starting with the parking lot, which will be divided into a north lot for parent parking and student drop-off/pick-up, and an east lot for buses. The main entrance will be bumped out with the addition of a new office area and STEM lab. Demountable walls will be removed throughout the school and replaced with permanent walls. The design includes "neighborhoods" of classrooms, each with four walls and a door, and a "main street" corridor will improve the flow of pedestrian traffic through the school.

Apple Valley High will get a two-story,

triangular-shaped addition that will be built in the courtyard area in front of the existing main entrance. The 8,200 square-foot addition will house the student services offices, including attendance, counselors and career guidance, and will provide a large, open commons area for people to gather just inside the entrance to the school. The cafeteria and areas surrounding the auditorium will be renovated. The other major renovations will take place in the media center, which will be filled in and a large stairway will be added leading up to the existing mezzanine level. Additional stairways will be added connecting the mezzanine to the second floor and there will be student workstations on all three levels.

New school

continued from front page

are East Lake elementary schools in other states, but none currently in Minnesota.

East Lake will become the nineteenth elementary school in District 196 and the first new elementary since Red Pine opened in 1995. Funding for the school was included in the bond referendum approved by district voters in November 2015.

Construction of the new school was identified as the top priority among bond projects to provide relief for overcrowding at adjacent elementary schools due to the addition of full-day kindergarten two years ago, the expansion of school-based pre-school and continued housing growth in the southern part of the district.

The attendance area for East Lake was established by a committee of staff and parents of children enrolled in the elementary schools that are adjacent to the site of the new school. It includes parts of the current attendance areas of Diamond Path, Highland, Parkview, Rosemount and Shannon Park elementary schools. Enrollments at all five of these schools are currently above building capacity and are projected to be slightly below capacity



Wold Architects and Engineers' rendering of East Lake Elementary School, looking southwest from the intersection of Diamond Path and County Road 46 in Lakeville. The school is scheduled to open this fall for the start of the 2017-18 school year.



ity after East Lake opens this fall.

East Lake's first principal will be **Miles Haugen**, who is currently the principal at Deerwood Elementary School.

Haugen started teaching in District 196 in 1984 and has been principal at Deerwood since 2004.

He will continue at Deerwood through the end of the current school year and has already started the process of hiring staff, communicating with parents and planning for the opening of East Lake Elementary.

New finance coordinator hired to replace Johnson

The district's new Coordinator of Finance **Christopher Onyango-Robshaw** started in January. He replaces **Stella Johnson**, who is retiring in February after a 24-year career in District 196.



years and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past 14 years.

Onyango-Robshaw was most recently the fiscal operations director for Robbinsdale Area Schools. From 2008 to 2014, he was the controller for Eden Prairie Schools and from 2002 to 2008 he worked for School Business Solutions, a St. Paul company that offers business management services to Minnesota school districts and charter schools.

Onyango-Robshaw has a bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., where he majored in economics and information systems, and recently earned his master of business administration from the University of St. Thomas.

Under the leadership of Johnson and Director of Finance and Operations **Jeff Solomon**, the district has consistently earned state and national recognition for budgeting excellence and fiscal transparency from the Association of School Business Officials International, including the Meritorious Budget Award the last two

Tax credit, subtraction for qualifying expenses

All Minnesota families with dependent children in grades K-12 in public, private or home schools may qualify for a state K-12 education credit and/or subtraction for educational purchases in 2016.

The **K-12 education subtraction** is available to all Minnesotans, regardless of income, who have children in grades K-12. Families can take a deduction of up to \$1,625 per qualifying child in grades K-6 and up to \$2,500 per qualifying child in grades 7-12, for qualifying educational expenses.

The **K-12 education credit** is a refund (75 percent of paid and documented qualified expenses up to the maximum amounts) for families with federally adjusted gross household income below a certain limit for the year.

For information on what educational expenses qualify and the household income limits for the education credit, go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue website at www.revenue.state.mn.us and search K-12 education subtraction and credit or call 651-296-3781.

Did You Know?

It costs just \$130 to help a child facing hunger issues right here in District 196. For \$130, a child in need receives a nutritious bag of food to take home every weekend during the school year. To donate, mail a check to: District 196 Foundation, 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068 (write "The Sheridan Story" in the memo line). For more information, call 651-423-7721.

Apple Valley junior wins state title in Lincoln-Douglas debate

Apple Valley High School junior **Kenan Anderson** (pictured) won the state championship in Lincoln-Douglas debate and 11 other District 196 students made it to the final rounds of the state debate tournament in January.

Anderson advanced out of the preliminary rounds of competition and defeated students from Edina and Cooper high schools by scores of 2-1 and 4-1 in the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds. In the championship match, Anderson earned a 7-0 win over the runner-up from Visitation School. Apple Valley senior **John Boals** advanced to the semifinal round before losing. This year's Lincoln-Douglas resolution was, "Resolved: Public colleges and universities in the United States ought not restrict any constitutionally protected speech."

In policy debate, the Eagan High School team of **Madeleine Roberts** and **Brandon Wilary** defeated Eagan classmates **Elizabeth Sabel** and **Linnea Stanton** in the quarterfinal round to advance to the semifinals, where they were defeated by the eventual state champions from Edina. This year's policy resolution was, "Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic and/or diplomatic engagement with the People's Republic of China."



In public forum debate, the Eastview High School teams of **Ross Abram** and **Osman Mansur**, and **Dante Fornizy** and **Suhail Rizvi** advanced to the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, respectively, before they were both defeated by the eventual state champions from St. Paul Academy. The Eagan team of **Raj Purohit** and **Rylee Smith** also advanced to the quarterfinal round before they were defeated.

This year's public forum resolution was, "Resolved: In order to better respond to international conflicts, the United States should significantly increase its military spending."

A total of 21 District 196 students qualified for state at the Section 3 debate tournament in early January and 12 advanced to the final rounds of competition at state.

Zach Prax, an assistant coach for Eastview, was named Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association. The annual award recognizes coaches for their work in developing well-balanced debate programs at their schools and admirable qualities in the students who participate in debate. The head coaches for debate in District 196 are **Rick Brundage** at Apple Valley, **Chris McDonald** at Eagan, **Todd Hering** at Eastview and **Cort Sylvester** at Rosemount.



This was the 116th annual state debate tournament, the longest-running event of the Minnesota State High School League.

Teachers recognized as leaders for integrating technology with learning

Eagan High School English Teacher **Drew Hammond** and Woodland Elementary School Technology Teacher **David Lostetter** are this year's recipients of the TIES Exceptional Teacher Awards in District 196.

Sponsored by the education technology cooperative TIES, the annual awards honor teachers in member districts who effectively integrate technology into the learning process. Hammond and Lostetter were recognized along with other recipients during the TIES Annual Conference in December.



Drew Hammond uses his creativity and passion to motivate students to do amazing things in his classroom and technology is one of the secret ingredients to his success, according

to colleagues who nominated him for the award.

"He can look at a classroom activity and know what technology will work best for it," the nomination read. "As a second-year teacher, he is a sponge for curricular ideas and analysis, but can always offer his own tech twist to things many veteran teachers have done for years." On an assignment about advertising fallacies, for example, instead of the past practice of having students watch commercials and answer questions, Hammond has his students use technology to create their own ads incorporating one of the fallacies shown in the examples.

"Drew has become an innovative and enthusiastic advocate for our technology vision at Eagan High."

David Lostetter is actively involved in integrat-



ing technology throughout the school, at all grade levels, and is constantly trying new tools and ways to engage students in their learning.

"(David) started Woodland's Makerspace program by asking parents to clean out their garages for things like screwdrivers, pliers, drills, saws and more," his nominators wrote. "It has become a fully functioning Makerspace and STEM lab that exposes students to scientific concepts, technology, engineering and design, and math."

Lostetter frequently provides colleagues with professional development opportunities on different technologies, programs and applications for the classroom, and helps with communication on the school's website and social media channels. In addition, he serves on Woodland's leadership team and PTO, the district Technology Steering Committee and is part of the planning team for the district's new elementary school, East Lake, which is scheduled to open this fall.

Middle school students fare well in Future City competition

A team of students from Scott Highlands Middle School finished runner-up and won a special award at the Future City Minnesota regional competition Jan. 21 at Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis. Four other District 196 middle school teams also won special awards at this year's competition, which marks the 25th anniversary of Future City. This year's theme was The Power of Public Space.

Sponsored by the National Engineers Week Foundation, Future City is a national, project-based learning experience where middle school students imagine, design and build cities of the future. Students work as a team with a teacher and engineer mentor to plan cities using SimCity™ software; research and write solutions to an engineering problem; build tabletop scale models with recycled materials, and present their ideas before judges at a regional competition. Regional winners represent their region at the national finals held in Washington, D.C. each February.

The Étoile team from Scott Highlands finished in second place overall and won a special award for Most Environmentally Friendly Power Source, given to the team that designs an outstanding system to deliver power to a community in an environmentally friendly way. Members of the team are **Nicholas Adelmann, Vikash Giritharan, Shanmukha Kotaru, Ritisha Senapati, Ian Young and Grady Jacobson**.

The Nitor team from Scott Highlands won the award for Best Virtual City, given to the team that creates the best virtual city using the computer simulation game SimCity4 Deluxe. Team members are **Bianca Dargis, Henry Johnson, Hudson Labno, Josephine Nutting, Rhea Rajvansh, Sullivan Labno and Kyle Nelson**. Teacher **Theresa Back** is the advisor for both teams from Scott Highlands and 3M Engineer **Jim Kotsmith** is their mentor.

The Aquaeta team from Valley Middle School of STEM finished in fifth place overall and earned the Student Choice Award, given to the team selected by students at the regional finals. Members of the team are **Marissa Loppnow, Cassandra Loppnow, Morgan Gallagher, Martin Brean and Kyle Olson**. Teacher **Sheri Gedlinske** is the team advisor and mentors are engineers **Brandon Anderson** of the City of Apple Valley and **Krista Anderson** of WSB.



The second-place Étoile team from Scott Highlands Middle (left to right): **Nicholas Adelmann, Ritisha Senapati, Shanmukha Kotaru, Vikash Giritharan and Ian Young**. **Grady Jacobson** not pictured.

Team Basabillion, representing Black Hawk Middle School, won the Building Quality Communities Award, given to the team that demonstrates how a city government can improve the quality of life for its citizens. Members of the team are **Olivia Noll, Braeden Puzder, Kayli Breen, Sophia Trac, Shelley Trac, Kalina Montesinos, Gayathri Gajjela, August Krahn, Benjamin Rieffer, Alexandra Eernisse, Laura Breed and Shreya Takkella**. Teacher **David Herem** is the team advisor and Engineer **Russ Matthys** of the City of Eagan is their mentor.

The Tectopia team from Rosemount Middle School won the Best Land Surveying Practices Award, which recognizes the design that employs the best land surveying practices, taking into consideration the high standards used by surveyors to help protect the public's safety and welfare. Members of the team are **Ryan Leska, Olivia Dalton, Summer Jensen and Jacob Zabel**. Teachers **Andrew Preston** and **Alyssa Simmers** are advisors and mentors are engineers **Steve VanderWiel** of IBM and **Will Grunewald**.

Rosemount High to celebrate 100 years this fall

Rosemount High School students, staff and alumni are busy planning for the school's centennial celebration, which will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22 and 23, 2017.

Friday's celebration will include homecoming dances for current students and alumni. Saturday will feature tours of the school, displays of memorabilia, a history of RHS video, a fun run, pig roast, band and choir performances by current students and alumni groups, and athletic events throughout the day, capped off with

the varsity football game at 5 p.m.

During first trimester, students in English Teacher **Heather Traeger's** College Writing and Research class created presentations that help tell the history of Rosemount High, including homecoming traditions, fashion and hairstyles, specific events and activities, and how opportunities for women have grown through the years.

For more information about the celebration, go to www.District196.org/rhs/alumni/.

State tests provide important measures of student progress

The state tests students take each year provide a measure of their achievement and growth, as well as data the district uses to make decisions regarding curriculum and instruction. The tests are required by state law and students are encouraged to take them seriously and do their best.

Parents are encouraged to mark state testing dates on their calendars and help prepare their children to do well by making sure they get enough sleep the night before tests and a good breakfast the morning of each school day, especially testing days. Each school's testing dates are posted on their website

Students in grades 3-8, 10 and 11 will take the standards-based accountability assessments, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) or an alternate assessment called the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS). These state tests help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards. Students take one test in each subject. Most students take the MCA, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements may take the MTAS instead.

2017 Testing Dates

GRADES 3-8 and 10

- MCA Reading (online) – March 6–May 5 testing window

GRADES 3-8 and 11

- MCA Math (online) – March 6–May 5 testing window

GRADES 5, 8 and high school

- MCA Science (online) – March 6–May 12 testing window

Did You Know?

All four, four-year high schools in District 196 made Newsweek's ranking of "America's Top High Schools" for 2016 based on a review of student achievement and college-readiness data. All four schools also made the magazine's "Beating the Odds" list after factoring in local poverty rates.



Thinking globally, acting locally

Fourth-grade students at Cedar Park Elementary STEM School packed enough meals to feed 174 children for a year at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan in December. It was one part of their exploration class activities focused on learning what means to be a member of a school, state and world community. The students also made 19 fleece-tie blankets that were donated to Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville for pediatric patients and knitted 51 hats that were donated to Mary's Place homeless shelter in Minneapolis.

Assessments for early entrance to kindergarten

In spring or early summer, District 196 will assess children for early entrance to kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Children born between Sept. 2 and Oct. 31, 2012 are considered best candidates for this optional assessment. Children who turn 5 before Sept. 2 do not have to be assessed in order to attend kindergarten in the fall.

The early entrance assessment is designed to select students who demonstrate superior development in all areas.

Typically, a small number of students are recommended for early entrance.

Payment of the non-refundable \$200 fee must be made prior to the assessment. Scholarships are available for parents who qualify based on federal guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals.

For more information or to register for the assessment, call **Ruth Pryor**, secretary to the director of Elementary Education, at 651-423-7739.

Services available to homeschool students

Textbook reimbursement for 2016-17 – The submission deadline for District 196 homeschool families who registered for textbook reimbursement is April 30; call 651-423-7722.

Shared-time courses in 2017-18 – All students who wish to participate in shared time must register annually. Homeschool students in grades 6-12 may enroll in a maximum of two courses per grading period. Band is also available for students in grade 5. Students attend

the school in their attendance area. The deadline to register for shared-time courses offered in 2017-18 is June 1; call 651-423-7722.

Cocurricular Activities in 2017-18 – All students who wish to participate in cocurricular activities must register annually. State law allows homeschool students to participate in cocurricular activities at the public school in their attendance area; call 651-423-7722.

Congratulations!

A sampling of recent student and staff achievements throughout District 196

Eight District 196 juniors were nominated for the Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Award for the 2016-17 school year. Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, the ExCEL Awards recognize high school juniors who are active in fine arts and athletic activities, who demonstrate leadership qualities and who are model citizens in their community. Each high school in the state can nominate one junior boy and girl for the ExCEL Awards. This spring, two recipients will be selected from each of the eight competitive regions in the state for both Class A and AA schools. The ExCEL nominees from District 196 are **Molly Moynihan** and **Spencer Rolland** of Apple Valley High School; **Emily Albert-Stauning** and **Christopher Weinberger** of Eagan High School; **Sarah Most** and **Ross Abram** of Eastview High School, and **Tess Grunklee** and **Jason Senthil** of Rosemount High School.

Eight District 196 seniors were nominated for the Academics, Arts and Athletics (Triple A) Award for the 2016-17 school year. The Triple A goes to nominated seniors with a 3.0 or higher grade-point average who participate in athletic and fine arts programs, and exhibit exemplary citizenship and the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct. Each high school in the state can nominate one senior boy and girl for the award. Section and state Triple A Award recipients will be selected this spring from the list of nominees. The Triple A Award nominees from District 196 are **Amy Breckner** and **Ethan Elumba** of Apple Valley High School; **Lauren Markowski** and **John Streed** of Eagan High School; **Haley Challengren** and **Sean Mather** of Eastview High School, and **Jenna Eichten** and **Jacob Smith** of Rosemount High School.

The **Rosemount High School girls' soccer team** finished runner-up in the Class AA state tournament in November.

The **Dakota United Hawks physically impaired soccer team** took third place in their state tournament in November.

Twenty District 196 middle school students were selected by the American Choral Directors' Association of Minnesota to be part of this year's state honor choirs for grades 7 and 8, which performed Nov. 19 at St. Andrew's Church in Mahtomedi. They are **Hanna Olson**, **Seamus Halligan** and **Gabe Waltzer**



Eagan volleyball repeats as state champion

*The Eagan High School volleyball team defeated Champlin Park in the championship match of the Class AAA state tournament in November. It was Eagan's third consecutive trip to the title match and second straight state championship. Team members are **McKenna Melville**, **Kennedi Orr**, **Taylor Olstad**, **Hannah Hegwer**, **Brie Orr**, **Peyton Rude**, **Alyssa Doucette**, **Christine Jurgens**, **Anne Wong**, **Ally Murphy**, **Ellie Husemann** and **Emma Slaikeu**, and the student manager is **Ben Putman**. The head coach is **Kathy Gillen**, who was named Section 3AAA Coach of the Year, and her assistants are **Steve Elliott**, **Kelly Schlagel**, **Celia Bertsch**, **Alix Putman** and **Suzi Heilman**.*

of **Black Hawk Middle School**; **Ariana Brennhofner**, **Ella Erdahl**, **Svea Hagen**, **Isabelle Mullenbach**, **Anne Warren**, **Thor Reimann**, **Alex Sulistyo** and **Davey Wright-Walstrom** of **Falcon Ridge Middle School**; **Guyal Buckley**, **Joshua Cobian** and **Joey Hall** of **Rosemount Middle School**, and **Ugne Jakucionyte**, **Hanna Laursen**, **Meena Thakurdial**, **Ella Douma**, **Lucas Novack** and **Leon Williams** of **Scott Highlands Middle School**.

Twenty District 196 high school students were selected by the American Choral Directors' Association of Minnesota to be part of this year's state honor choirs for grades 9 and 10, which performed Feb. 16 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. They are **Amanda Jackson**, **Christina Monsen** and **Uzoma Ngwu** of **Apple Valley High School**; **Mara Currens**, **Maria Coughlan** and **Meg Forse** of **Eagan High School**; **Christopher Hahn**, **Casey Hubbs**, **Charlotte Krekeler**, **Taylor McMahon**, **Jordan Arntz**,

Cienna Becker, **Campbell Bernstein**, **Mackenzie Donais** and **Payton Seacrist** of **Eastview High School**, and **Zach Corbett**, **Michelle Quan**, **Jose Santos**, **Wylie White** and **Cecilia Adams** of **Rosemount High School**.

Former middle school social studies teacher **Patricia Bauer** was selected to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. Bauer retired last year after a 35-year career in District 196, most recently at **Black Hawk Middle School**. The award recognizes Bauer for her passion for history and her ability to create memorable learning experiences for her students through the use of artifacts, field trips, guest speakers and interactive experiences. Bauer's role as an educator has extended beyond the classroom, including working as a costumed interpreter at historic sites across the state, developing a summer camp program at **Fort Snelling**, presenting at state conferences and authoring *B is for Battle Cry*, a children's book about the Civil War.

Eagan High School Presents

COLE PORTER'S
ANYTHING GOES

Directed by Josh Campbell

April 28, 29, May 4, 5 and 6 at 7 p.m.
April 30 at 3 p.m.
Senior Citizen Free Preview April 26 at 3:30 p.m.
\$9 adults - \$7 seniors - \$5 students
Call 651-683-6964 • www.eagan.k12.mn.us

Apple Valley High School Presents

Twelfth Night
or *What You Will*
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Mary Sue Adey

April 27, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m.
April 30 at 2 p.m.
Senior Citizen Free Preview April 26 at 3 p.m.
\$7 adults - \$5 seniors - \$5 students
Call 952-431-8208 • www.seatyourself.biz/avhs

Eastview High School Presents

**BRAVO 2017:
VIVA LAS VEGAS**

Directed by Greg Douma and Amy Jo Cherner

April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m.
April 23 at 2 p.m.
Senior Citizen Free Preview April 18 at 3:30 p.m.
\$9 adults - \$7 seniors - \$5 students
Call 952-431-8955
<http://www.evperformingarts.com/ticket-info/>

Rosemount High School Presents

ONSTAGE 2017:
WORKIN' FOR A LIVIN'

Directed by Steve Albraugh

April 27, 28, 29, May 5 and 6 at 7 p.m.
April 30 at 2 p.m.
Senior Citizen Free Preview April 26 at 3:30 p.m.
\$9 adults - \$7 seniors - \$5 students
Call 651-423-7540
www.District196.org/rhs/theaterarts/tickets

Coming Events

Apple Valley High

- Band Concert, March 13, 7 p.m.
- Masterworks Choir Concert, March 21, 7 p.m.
- Jazz Singers Concert, May 3, 7 p.m.
- Jazz Ensemble Concert, May 8, 7 p.m.
- Danceworks, May 18-20, 7 p.m.

Eagan High

- Showcase Choir Concerts, Feb. 28, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Band Concert, March 21, 7 p.m.
- Jazz Band Concert, March 22, 7 p.m.
- Just Desserts Choral Concert, March 20, 7:30 p.m.
- Magical Moments (speech), April 5, 7 p.m.

Eastview High

- Spotlight Speech Showcase, March 7, 7 p.m.
- Band Concerts, March 6, 6 & 8 p.m.
- Choir Concerts, March 13, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Jazz Showcase, March 14, 7 p.m.
- Spring Dance Shows, May 20-21, 7:30 p.m.

Rosemount High

- Jazz Band Concert, March 2, 7 p.m.
- Wind Ensemble Concert, March 5, 4 p.m.
- March Madness Band Concerts, March 6, 6 & 8 p.m.
- Percussion Ensemble Concert, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
- Modern Dance Company Performance, May 19, 7 p.m.

**Independent School District 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools**

3455 153rd Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068

School Board

- Jackie Magnuson, Chairperson
- Gary Huusko, Vice Chairperson
- Joel Albright, Clerk
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Community Education

engage • inspire • enrich our youngest learners

Family School

This year we added a third Family School classroom and are currently serving 62 children and 38 families (an increase from last year of 45 children and 33 families). In Family School, children learn skills for kindergarten preparation, while parents can improve their language and academic skills. For more information, visit www.District196.org/abe, email abe@District196.org or call **952-388-1980**.



STEM | Science Technology Engineering & Math for 4 to 6 year olds!

Build models that move. Explore gear actions, in addition to swinging, spinning, rotating and linear motion. Engage your learning with 2D models and progress to 3D models. Using Kid Knex® educational kits, learn about motion you see every day in *Basics to Building: Models that Move* on Saturday morning, Feb. 25. Or, examine simple machines and discover basic concepts of physical science, math and engineering through building with LEGO® bricks. Working in pairs, learn about gears, levels and more in *Little Engineers* on Saturday morning, March 4. Visit www.District196.org/ce, email communityed@District196.org or call **651-423-7920** for more information.

ECFE
Early Childhood Family Education spring classes begin April 3!
Find out more at www.District196.org/ecfe

**Be water smart ...
It's never too early to start!**

Water is all around us and the earlier you can introduce your child to swimming and water safety skills the better. We offer swim classes for parents and children as young as six months. Our caring and dedicated instructors are Red Cross-trained to help you and/or child enjoy a positive learning environment.



Visit www.District196.org/swim, email aquatics@District196.org or call **952-431-8777**.

Calling all three and four-year olds!

Preschool is a time of great discovery, and in Connections Preschool, children will develop relationships with others while learning important developmental and prekindergarten skills. The preschool curriculum is aligned with District 196's K-12 curriculum and the state of Minnesota's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. All of our teachers are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Education in early childhood education. Connections Preschool classes are offered at most District 196 elementary schools in both morning and afternoon sessions with two-, three- and five-day options. A brochure and registration information will be sent in March to all district households with children who will be three or four on or before Sept. 1, 2017.

*Out-of-district families based on a sliding fee scale



Tenth Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance

Enjoy a magical night out with that special little girl in your life! Dad not available? Invite your

grandpa, uncle or favorite guy as your escort. Register early, as space is limited. Funds raised are applied toward Community Education youth enrichment class scholarships. For more information, visit www.District196.org/ce or call **651-423-7920**.

Free!
Babies Class (parents and babies birth to 6 months)
Relax, slow down and enjoy your infant! Learn fun games and songs.
Mondays, Feb. 27 through March 20, 3-4:30pm.

Visit www.District196.org/ce for more!



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