

199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SPRING 2018

IGH Middle Works Toward Whole-Student Development

Middle school is an exciting time for families and students. The transition means new friends, a larger building, different teachers and subjects, new opportunities, and greater independence and responsibility. During the November 27 ISD 199 School Board meeting, Inver Grove Heights Middle School Principal Jodi Wendel talked about the school staff's focus on how they approach social and emotional development, core life skills, career and college readiness, and academics to prepare all students for graduation and beyond.

Social-Emotional Development

Adolescence is a critical time to invest in our students' social-emotional development, which is essential for success in school, work, and civic life. The middle school staff is focused on the students' unique developmental needs in order to support their search for purpose and identity, develop their attitudes toward themselves and others, and build interpersonal skills. As a result, the school has implemented programs like Where Everyone Belongs (WEB). The peer mentoring, transition, and orientation program trains 8th graders as mentors for new 6th graders to create a more positive school culture, reduce discipline, and increase school safety.

Core Life Skills

IGH Middle is supporting student skills and behaviors for academic success through schoolwide Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies. AVID's research-based teaching practices help prepare each student for college and beyond through a focus on goal setting, critical reading, inquiry, writing, organization, and advanced study skills as well as collaboration and communication. Core life skills are developed throughout all three years of middle school as students grow in their abilities to work together, problem-solve, persevere, and build relationships.

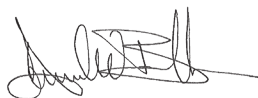
Career and College Readiness in Academics

The middle school staff has recalibrated how rigorous coursework is offered. The recalibration efforts are focused on expanding rigorous coursework opportunities to every student. Students will be able to challenge themselves with advanced coursework in core classes, and more opportunities will be available for academically gifted students through the addition of clustered subject acceleration options. Advanced coursework and accelerated options started with math this year and will expand to English next year. They are focused on:

- Tailoring learning to each student and his/her needs for support or challenge
- Providing curricular options at standard, advanced, and accelerated levels; and
- Preparing all students to take their choice of advanced and concurrent enrollment courses in high school

The guiding principle for the recalibration is not to offer less to any student than what we currently provide. While the honors title may be different, the rigorous work all students can do will be even more extensive than it is now.

The Inver Grove Heights Middle School staff has accepted the challenge of recalibrating learning to better meet the needs of all students, both academically and social-emotionally. The middle school recalibration efforts are a process that will be phased in and strengthened over time as we continue to focus on providing every student with the opportunity to learn, to be challenged, and to be supported in their efforts. We are committed to ensuring that every child and family has the very best that ISD 199 offers.



Dave

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

Elementary and Middle School Summer Academy 2018

Elementary Summer Academy for current kindergarten through 5th-grade students and Middle School Summer Academy for current 6th-through 8th-grade students provides opportunities to build academic, social, and emotional skills for the next school year. Students who are invited and who register by March 23 will receive free busing, breakfast, and lunch.



Elementary Summer Academy (Grades K-5)

Monday, June 18 - Tuesday, July 17 (No class Fridays and July 4 and 5)
from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

at Hilltop Elementary School (3201 68th Street East in Inver Grove Heights)

For questions, please contact Michelle Austin at AustinM@isd199.org or 651-306-7469 or Sarah Zaiser at ZaiserS@isd199.org or 651-306-7454.

Middle School Summer Academy (Grades 6-8)

Monday, June 18 - Tuesday, July 17 (No class Fridays and July 4 and 5)
from 7:20 AM – 11:40 AM

at Inver Grove Heights Middle School (8167 Cahill Avenue in Inver Grove Heights)

For questions, please contact Jessica Hallin at HallinJ@isd199.org or 651-306-7298.

Students are recommended to these summer programs based on a variety of criteria. If your child is recommended, an invitation and registration were delivered at conferences or will be mailed home. Elementary Summer Academy registration forms should be returned to your child's teacher. Middle School Summer Academy registration forms should be returned to the middle school main office. **Registration forms must be turned in by March 23, 2018.** Information is also available at www.isd199.org/parents/summer_school.

199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

2990 80th Street East
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www.isd199.org

The 199 Reporter is a quarterly publication mailed to every household in District 199 to inform the community and parents about district news and events.

If you have questions about this publication, please contact:

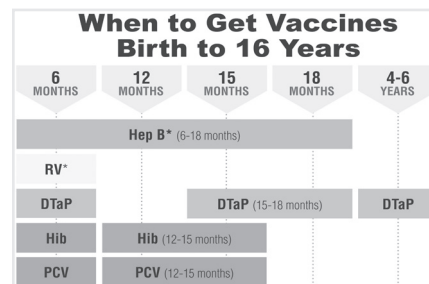
Katie Sheridan

Communications & Marketing Coordinator
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651-306-7105

District Office Hours

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

Immunization Requirements



Minnesota state law requires that students receive vaccinations to enroll in child care, early childhood programs, and school. Parents must submit written proof of vaccinations before enrolling. Please make sure your child has the proper immunizations at every age.

For everything you need to know about required immunizations, please visit:

www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

Parents can use this website to learn more about which immunizations are necessary at specific ages.

Kindergarten Registration



Incoming kindergarten families can still register for 2018-2019 kindergarten at Inver Grove Heights Schools. Parents and guardians can complete their student's enrollment at the ISD 199 District Office:

2990 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Open for registration Monday-Friday
between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

To download enrollment forms and see requirements for incoming kindergarteners, visit www.isd199.org/district/enroll.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news, events, photos, and videos, follow ISD 199 on social media! Also use #inspire199 to show your school and district pride.

 facebook.com/isd199

 @isd199

 vimeo.com/isd199

Community Helps Metro School Districts ‘Reimagine Minnesota’



More than 40 Twin Cities metro area school districts have come together to develop a collective education plan to address integration, access, opportunity, and educational achievement. This effort, “Reimagine Minnesota,” is a commitment to recognize every student’s unique attributes and challenges and adjust learning so all children can reach their full potential.

Last year, Inver Grove Heights Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools, and South Washington County Schools heard from more than 200 of their community members during a public meeting. Participants provided feedback through focus questions facilitated by student leaders. The resulting suggestions for schools were grouped into three themes:

See All: Effective, diverse stakeholders who use trusting relationships to create welcoming classrooms, schools, and communities that meet the needs and goals of all students and families.

Serve All: Personalized, relevant education for all students that guarantees access to rigorous learning and eliminates predictability based on race.

Support All: Equitable resources, such as time, talent, and funds, aligned to student needs and goals that enable every district to “see all” and “serve all.”

The districts committed to the following strategies to carry out stakeholders’ suggestions:

- Prioritize and ensure personalized education with emphasis on acceleration versus retention
- Eliminate disproportionality due to adult behaviors and policies; provide growth-orientated student support
- Elevate student voice and leadership; improve and ensure inclusiveness in the school culture and environment
- Develop teacher preparation, recruitment, and retention for staff of color
- Develop, sustain, and evaluate cultural competence for teachers
- Develop and implement culturally inclusive standards, curriculum, and a comprehensive system of assessment
- Create and sustain continuous and consistent shared understanding of equity and a high level of skill application for leaders at all levels; statewide funding that ensures equity, access, and opportunity for all students
- Build bridges between school and community



The Inver Grove Heights Schools Strategic Plan is rooted in the themes and strategies that have evolved from “Reimagine Minnesota.” The “Reimagine Minnesota” work will strengthen our plan and collective goal to see all, serve all, and support all students.

District Food Service Takes Fresh Steps Toward Goals



This year, ISD 199 Food Service is continuing its mission to use more fresh ingredients, provide a variety of fruits and vegetables, and buy from local farms to make school lunch even more beneficial for students. Recently, the schools have been providing more fruit and vegetable options so every student can get the nutrients they need in a food they like. In their menus, Food Service has also highlighted Minnesota-grown foods like apples and wild rice from local farms.

The efforts to provide better ingredients has also led to more menu items being made from scratch. The high school and middle school’s Cahill Court kicked off the year with lasagna from scratch, a homemade spice blend and tzatziki sauce for gyros, and a veggie-packed noodle soup. ISD 199 Food Service plans to continue incorporating more fresh, quality ingredients and offering more nutritional options to build healthy habits and keep students ready to learn.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES 2018-2019 CALENDAR

The ISD 199 School Board approved the 2018-2019 academic calendar on January 22, 2018. The calendar is available online on the district website at www.isd199.org/news_events/district_calendar. A 2018-2019 calendar will be included in the Back-to-School edition of the 199 Reporter, which will be mailed before the start of the next school year.

ISD 199 Start/End Time Conversations for the 2019-2020 School Year

Last school year, the Start/End Time Review Committee determined that more conversation was needed about changing school start and end times at the elementary and secondary levels. The ISD 199 School Board and Superintendent Dave Bernhardson have decided to reconvene the committee to review new information and move forward with a final recommendation by the fall of 2018 to conclude the conversation and determine its impact on the Inver Grove Heights Schools community.

The district plans to conduct a final survey and schedule community meetings to gather feedback from stakeholders to make a final decision for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition to updating the community via district publications, information will also be posted on the district's Start Time Review webpage, www.isd199.org/district/start_time_review.

Hour of Code Makes Computer Science Fun and Accessible for K-5



ISD 199 elementary schools participated in this year's international Hour of Code. The annual event aims to introduce every student to computer science in a way that is engaging and easy to understand. Participating students use applications from www.code.org that coincide with lessons in every subject area, from math to music, or do offline activities that show them how coding sets a pattern that a program must read and follow.

Hilltop Elementary School heard from special guest and ISD 199 School Board member Lynette Stensgard to kick off its Hour of Code events. Mrs. Stensgard, who is a senior business analyst/project lead for Delta Air Lines, taught students how code is used in unexpected places, like routing passenger baggage to the correct airplane.

For the rest of the day, students at every elementary school had an hour to use the code.org applications or do offline coding activities. Each grade level learned computer science vocabulary, built and reworked coding sequences to complete objectives, and even explained coding to the adults in their classroom.

Pine Bend 5th Graders Engineer Solar Power System

Pine Bend Elementary School 5th graders in Heath Anderson's English Language Learners class started a unit called "Energy of the Future" in December. The unit focused on introducing students to alternative energy systems and showing them how they work. The class worked together to build a solar power system and use its energy to light their classroom.

Groups of students not only showed that they could assemble the solar power system, they designed diagrams and wrote an accompanying piece on how the components worked together to produce solar power. Students learned and applied new science and engineering vocabulary to show their understanding of the alternative energy system.



GRANT BRINGS HANDS-ON STEM TO SIMLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION

Last summer, Simley High School special education teacher Colleen Parker was chosen as one of only 48 National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Global Learning Fellows nationwide. The opportunity has provided a full year of professional development to help her and other participants develop students into global citizens. The Global Learning Fellow opportunities inspired Ms. Parker to develop a unit that would help students learn beyond the classroom.

She said, "I had been thinking about how to incorporate more STEM into classes offered at Simley for special education students with a global perspective."

She found her opportunity at the state fair while learning about Urban Boatbuilders, an organization that helps students "learn, practice, and apply academic concepts in a challenging and innovative hands-on environment," according to its website. Ms. Parker applied for an NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grant to fund the organization's visit, and her project was selected this January.

The Student Achievement Grant focuses on projects that help students gain 21st century skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving. Its goal is to provide educators with the resources they need to engage students and give them experiences that will build lifelong skills.

With a focus on many of the same goals, Urban Boatbuilders will be a great opportunity for special education students. The organization teaches leadership, social-emotional skills, and hands-on STEM lessons while they engage students in building their own boat. Students will measure and construct the boat, learn about the chemical properties that make their boat waterproof and durable, and launch the finished product in Simley Pond at the end of the project.

Simley Students Start Careers in the Classroom with Career and College Readiness Courses

Simley High School aims to give students the tools they need to graduate and be successful throughout their lives. The school recently began collaborating with South St. Paul Secondary School and Henry Sibley High School as part of the TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative. The initiative brings the schools together to share resources and develop curriculum that will prepare every student for success after high school. The schools reached a milestone in development this winter, adding immersive career and college readiness programming with the help of several local businesses. Students who enroll in the Healthcare Careers and Medicine course or Careers in Transportation Business and Technologies course for the 2018-2019 school year will have the opportunity to work alongside numerous professionals at the Twin Cities Orthopedics and North American Trailer facilities in Eagan and Inver Grove Heights.

Real-world Career Exploration

After researching workforce projections and talking to students, parents, teachers, and employers, TriDistrict leaders saw a need to engage students in hands-on career exploration activities. They reached out to local businesses to find out who might be willing to host a classroom on site that would coincide with different career paths. Twin Cities Orthopedics offered its new facility in Eagan to show students interested in healthcare what the day-to-day responsibilities are for a variety of positions. North American Trailer offered its site in Inver Grove Heights to work with students interested in everything from logistics to human resources within the transportation technologies industry.

On-site Classroom Learning

Students who register for the healthcare or transportation technologies career courses will still have lessons that meet Minnesota state standards. The company staff will work alongside school staff to ensure a

full learning experience for every student. Students in the career courses will have the added advantage of furthering their classroom learning on company grounds, immersed in real-world projects.

career path they choose after high school. Juniors and seniors should talk to Simley counselors to register for the Healthcare Careers and Medicine course or Careers in Transportation Business and Technologies course and to understand the best fit for them. Students in lower grades can see the “Career Fields, Clusters, and Pathways at Simley” section of the 2018-2019 Simley Class Registration Guide and talk to their counselors about recommended prerequisites for current and upcoming career courses.

Interested Businesses

The TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative developed the career courses with students and the community in mind. While students prepare for graduation and beyond, our business partners will have the unique opportunity to teach tomorrow’s workforce.

Local professionals and companies can get involved in a variety of ways:

- Participate in an industry advisory panel
- Become a student mentor
- Represent your company at a career fair
- Host a site visit for a class or a job shadowing opportunity for a student
- Offer an internship

Businesses and individuals interested in offering opportunities for students through the TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative should contact Lead Designer, Ben Kusch, at bkusch@tridistrictce.org or 651-403-7038. Also, those interested can visit www.careercollegeready.org for more information.



Enrolled students will report to the host business’s site each afternoon throughout the year. During the first part of the school year, students will learn about the industry and the professional skills it requires. During the second part of the school year, students will serve as interns, working directly with local businesses and mentors to continue developing and applying professional skills and collaborating on projects. Internship placement will be competitive to find a good fit for every student.

At the end of the year, students will have a better idea of what different positions do and a better understanding of whether a position in the industry is right for them.

2018-2019 Class Registration

Simley High School students have the opportunity to sign up for the in-depth career exploration that the TriDistrict Career and College Initiative classes offer. Students who are interested in any part of the healthcare or transportation technologies industries will have an opportunity to see those careers in action and develop skills that will benefit them regardless of what

Volunteer Spotlight: Cleone Sayers



After 43 years of teaching, Cleone Sayers still enjoys working with students. A retired reading specialist, Mrs. Sayers has volunteered any place she landed after retirement, including Inver Grove Heights. When she applied with the Inver Grove Heights Schools Volunteer Corps, she was matched up with Salem Hills Elementary School, where she has volunteered for three years since.

Mrs. Sayers dedicates every Monday and Thursday to helping students one-on-one with reading. Her work benefits struggling students who may not qualify for certain supports. Not only does Mrs. Sayers like her volunteer work, she says she views it as a sort of payback.

“Teaching has been good to me, and I enjoy it,” she said. “So when I retired, I thought ‘Why not support local schools?’”

She has also been able to see student progress over the years as a member of the Friends of the Inver Glen Library. She has seen some of her students at the organization’s book sales and heard about their progress from parents.

“Some of the students just need to learn reading strategies,” she said. “Once they understand those strategies, reading finally makes sense to them.”

Her Salem Hills students have found a place in Mrs. Sayers’ heart. Even as she thinks about her future plans, she admits that one of her first thoughts is, “What about the Salem Hills students?”

Volunteers like Mrs. Sayers make a huge impact on Inver Grove Heights Schools students every day. Without her generosity and the commitment of volunteers throughout the district, students may have otherwise fallen through the cracks.

“Our students have really benefitted and continue to benefit from Mrs. Sayers’ service,” Salem Hills Title I Teacher and Coordinator Kelly Goodnature said. “She’s someone to be thankful for.”

For more information about the ISD 199 Volunteer Corps, those interested can visit www.isd199.org/community/give/volunteercorps.

Pine Bend Students Help the NFL Give Back to the Community

Several Pine Bend Elementary School students worked with the NFL, the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee, Verizon, Braemar Field, the City of Edina, the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, and hundreds of other Minnesota students to sort donations for underserved children in the greater Twin Cities area. The NFL holds the donation event, Super Kids-Super Sharing, as a Super Bowl project to benefit the host city each year.

Students sorted donated books, school supplies, sports equipment, and games; attended a ceremony to thank volunteers; and participated in a Play 60 camp with the Minnesota Vikings. Students had the opportunity to meet Viktor the Viking, former Vikings players, and Vikings cheerleaders while they gave back to their local communities and participated in the once-in-a-lifetime event.



The Broadway Boys Visit Simley to Provide Guidance for Musical Theatre Students



The Broadway Boys is a group of tenors from different Broadway shows who perform musical theatre classics with elements from other genres, such as pop, jazz, and folk. The group debuted at Ordway Theatre this February and stopped by Simley High School to give musical theatre students some tips.

Group members John Brink, Jason McCollum, Michael Evan Williams, and Gabe Violett listened to a few Simley student solos and gave them feedback on their performances. Afterward, they talked to students about how they got into Broadway and answered questions about education, auditions, and their favorite musical theatre character.

American Heart Association Names Pine Bend Teacher a Volunteer of the Year



Pine Bend Elementary School Physical Education teacher Kelly Darrow recently earned the American Heart Association's Volunteer of the Year Award. Ms. Darrow has organized Jump Rope for Heart events at Pine Bend for several years. The events help teach students about heart health and fitness while they raise funds for research and support for children with heart conditions.

Ms. Darrow has raised more than \$400,000 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart events. Congratulations to Ms. Darrow on her recognition.

IGHMS and Simley Percussionists Learn from Steve Miller Band Rocker

This December, Simley High School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School put some rock 'n' roll into their learning. Percussionists in grades 6-12 improved their skills under the direction of Steve Miller Band drummer, Gordy Knudtson. The rocker led a percussion clinic for the students to teach them the techniques he has used and perfected over three decades.

Mr. Knudtson headed the percussion department at the McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul and developed curriculum for it since the school opened. He brought his lessons to ISD 199 students to teach them how to balance their drumsticks for better control. He explained why different techniques and forms did or did not work to help students understand how to drum better. He also talked about his life growing up in Minnesota, his music education, and his career performing with the Steve Miller Band and alongside other popular groups, such as Journey and Santana.



Student Advisory Council Gives Staff a Student Perspective on Education



The ISD 199 Student Advisory Council regularly meets to provide a student perspective on various aspects of the school day. This January, students met to discuss education and classroom learning.

Students in grades 4, 7, and 11 worked together to brainstorm ways that school staff could further facilitate student learning and engage students. Groups presented their ideas to help staff understand how students prefer to learn and develop an understanding of education from a student's point of view.

20 SIMLEY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR TOP PERFORMANCES



This January, 20 of Simley High School's top music students were selected for honors performances. Seven Simley choir students were chosen to perform in this year's Metro State Choir. Emre Acikgoz, Josue Barrera-Ramirez, Chandralysa Bradley, Kayla Durham, Janelle Hamilton, Emily Sullivan, and Omar Vargas worked alongside students from eight other high schools to learn advanced choral pieces. Dr. Theeres Hibbard, professor and conductor at St. Olaf College, directed students for the performance at Mahtomedi High School.

Thirteen Simley band students were chosen to play in the Metro East All-Conference Honors Band. Flutes Kissme Leenhiavu, Brittany Raab, and Abby Stein; clarinets Kiri Ferguson and Danielle Ungurian; bass clarinet Taylor Riess; tenor saxophone Nikki Muller; trumpets Carter Bollmann, Ben Bourchard, and Daniel Williams; French horns Curtis Hance and Josiah Tuione; and percussion Rob Skoglund performed.

Three ISD 199 Teachers Selected as Teacher of the Year Candidates, One Moves on to Semifinals



John Dorfner



Lori Haak



Stephanie Maybee

ISD 199 is filled with outstanding teachers who make education meaningful and engaging. So it's no wonder Education Minnesota chose three Inver Grove Heights Schools teachers as candidates for Teacher of the Year 2018. Inver Grove Heights Middle School social studies teacher John Dorfner, Simley High School science teacher Lori Haak, and Salem Hills Elementary School music teacher Stephanie Maybee were chosen alongside 164 other noteworthy educators across the state. The organization recently narrowed the 167 candidates to 43 in the semifinals round, choosing Ms. Maybee to continue her candidacy.

Each year, Minnesota's education, business, and government leaders review teacher portfolios and conduct interviews to choose the state's best representative. The Teacher of the Year 2018 will be announced May 6, and the winner will become an advocate for education and a spokesperson for teachers over the next year, talking to policymakers, presenting to key groups, and meeting with stakeholders to drive education forward.

Inver Grove Heights Schools is thrilled that Education Minnesota and the Teacher of the Year selection panel recognized John Dorfner, Lori Haak, and Stephanie Maybee as excellent representatives of the ISD 199 elementary, middle, and high schools. Great job to all three nominees, and good luck to Ms. Maybee as she prepares for the finalist round in the coming months.

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS WEATHER UPDATES: WWW.ISD199.ORG



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