

# 199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | WINTER 2018

## Referendum Outcomes Take Shape in 2018-2019 School Year

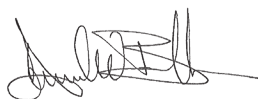
Inver Grove Heights Schools put two questions on the ballot last November, a levy increase to maintain current programming and a capital projects levy to increase student opportunities. Nearly 60% of voters helped pass both questions. After a year of careful planning, the district is excited to be implementing the resources our community has helped to provide.

This summer, ISD 199 was able to hire a group of talented educators in key student support positions. A districtwide behavior intervention specialist is helping teachers and staff effectively address behavior and mental health needs in the classroom. A districtwide gifted and talented education specialist is focused on expanding opportunities for the district's academically gifted and high-achieving students. Referendum funds have also placed a social worker at every school to directly support students.

The levy increase has provided high school students with new career exploration opportunities. Simley High School students can now develop professional skills on-site at local businesses and potentially earn internships there, thanks to the referendum's passage and a TriDistrict partnership with Henry Sibley High School and South St. Paul Secondary. Simley has also been able to add a Certified Nursing Assistant class. The operating levy and capital projects levy have helped the class purchase vocational-technical materials, such as surgical gowns and CPR manikins, to teach students the skills they need for certification. The new careers programs are helping students graduate career and college ready. Students will graduate with a better understanding of their career goals and those who get certified as nursing assistants or who earn internships will also be able to earn employment and experience in the field immediately after high school graduation.

In addition to curriculum materials, the capital projects levy has helped the district purchase textbooks with current information, updated classroom furnishings, and large musical instruments for every level's band program. All of these new items are helping students fully understand their lessons. The levy includes funds for digital content, computers, and software as well, which will boost personalized learning. Along with the new technology, the district hired an instructional technology specialist to train teachers on incorporating technology into lessons in effective and creative ways, helping students learn in ways that work best for them.

Thank you to all of the voters and to all of the community members who supported the referendum, making the district's current programming possible. While many resources have been established this school year, we look forward to refining and expanding learning opportunities so levy funds are used responsibly to achieve quality education that is accessible to all Inver Grove Heights students. As we move forward, we will keep our referendum promises in mind and make sound financial decisions in honor of the community's vote. Thank you for partnering with us, and thank you for helping us Inspire 199!



Dave

### OPERATING LEVY INCREASE

- Maintain class sizes
- Increase support for struggling students
- Increase support for students with behavior and mental health needs
- Maintain and increase career and college prep opportunities

### CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY

- Provide access to digital content, vocational-technical tools, computers, and software
- Replace worn and outdated large musical instruments, furnishings, textbooks, and curriculum materials

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

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www.isd199.org

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

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CONNECT WITH US

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GET INVOLVED

ISD 199 is seeking community members for district-level committees and advisory councils. Provide perspective and feedback on decisions to help the school district move forward. If interested, please visit www.isd199.org/community/give and, in the sidebar, click "Committee Signup."

District Office Hours
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Kindergarten Registration: Monday, January 7, 2018

Kindergarten Registration will be held Monday, January 7, 2018, 4:30-6:30 PM, at all ISD 199 elementary schools. Incoming kindergarten families in the district should receive an enrollment packet in the mail in December. Families can also pick up a packet at the ISD 199 District Office, 2990 80th Street East, during regular business hours.

Before registration, make sure:

- you have a copy of your child's birth certificate or the original, which staff can copy
- your child has received all required immunizations, and you have the records
- your child has completed an early childhood screening. Appointments: 651-306-7520
- your child has practiced independent skills, such as tying shoes and zipping coats

Simley Student Recognized as National Merit Semifinalist



Ben has represented Simley as an outstanding student athlete throughout his high school career. A captain of the school's boys cross country, Alpine skiing, and golf teams, he has earned honorable mentions in golf every year since starting high school. He is also a member of Student Council, has been inducted into the school's National Honor Society, and has volunteered as a peer tutor.

Ben was pleasantly surprised to find out his PSAT score had qualified him as a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. He said a National Merit Scholarship would be helpful, especially as he looks into studying political science or economics at Yale University.

Ben is now in the process of writing an essay and gathering recommendations and academic records to apply to become a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Congratulations and good luck to Ben!

Last school year, more than 1.6 million students took the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and were entered to become candidates for National Merit Scholarships. This fall, the candidates were narrowed to 16,000 semifinalists across the United States, including 300 from Minnesota. Simley High School senior Ben Borchard is one of those semifinalists. He is now taking steps to apply to become a finalist for one of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships, which total \$31 million.

Use of E-learning Days Approved for Winter Weather Closings

The state of Minnesota establishes the minimum amount of time students must be in school each year. School cancellations due to weather conditions provide a challenge to meeting the minimum requirements. The 2017 Minnesota Legislature amended Minnesota Statute § 120A.41, which determines the length of the school year and the required number of instructional hours for all schools in the state. The amendment allows schools to use e-learning (electronic learning) days to reach the required school year length and instructional hours when faced with inclement weather.

E-learning days allow teachers to provide students with school work they can complete at home when severe weather closes school buildings. According to statute, e-learning days:

- can only be used when schools are closed due to inclement weather
- can be used for up to five days per school year
- are each counted as an instructional day and included as hours of instruction

The Inver Grove Heights School Board has approved the use of e-learning days for school closings due to weather. E-learning days will be used at the district's discretion to alleviate the potential of school make-up days. During the weeks ahead, the school district will put together a plan for e-learning days. As we get closer to winter weather, additional information about the potential of e-learning days will be emailed to enrolled families and available on the district website, www.isd199.org.

## School Board Approves Flipped Schedule for 2019-2020



Over the past two years, the ISD 199 School Start and End Time Review Committee has been compiling sleep research and community feedback to determine if a school start and end time change could significantly benefit student learning while maintaining student safety. After receiving a recommendation from the committee, the ISD 199 School Board approved a school start and end time change that will flip the current elementary and secondary school schedules. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the school schedules will be:

**Elementary schools: 7:50 AM - 2:30 PM**

**Secondary schools: 8:30 AM - 3:20 PM**

In recent years, more and more research has suggested that school start times of 8:30 AM or later significantly benefit students going through puberty in terms of learning, safety, and decision-making. Many studies and experts have also suggested that earlier start times did not have a significant effect on younger children. In 2016, ISD 199 assembled a School Start and End Time Review Committee of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. The committee aimed to determine if a school schedule change would significantly benefit learning and maintain or increase opportunities for students while maintaining student safety.

Committee members heard from sleep science experts about how the different sleep cycles of young children, adolescents, and adults affect their brain function and learning. The district also invited the community to learn about the research and provide feedback in informational sessions, surveys, and a special board meeting for public comment. Through these opportunities, the committee and school board gained a better understanding of the impact a school start and end time change could have on families and the committee developed the most workable school schedule options.

The committee chose to recommend a flipped schedule to the school board this spring. The flipped schedule, which the school board approved on October 22, will have ISD 199 elementary schools start at 7:50 AM and end at 2:30 PM and have the secondary schools start at 8:30 AM and end at 3:20 PM, beginning at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. During the months before the new start and end times go into effect, ISD 199 will work on a transition plan to help students, parents, and staff adjust. Look for updates on the transition plan in the coming months on the Start Time Review webpage, [www.isd199.org/district/start\\_time\\_review](http://www.isd199.org/district/start_time_review). Families and community members can also visit the webpage to learn more about the research and surveys behind this school board decision.

## BE PREPARED FOR WINTER SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYED STARTS

Winter weather is on its way, and every year, it brings the potential for emergency school closings and delayed school starts. Families, please take a moment to check that your contact information in Infinite Campus is correct and that your preferred email and phone number are marked for "Emergency" and "General Notification." The district will send information about school closings, emergencies, and other important matters to any phone number and email address marked for "Emergency" and "General Notification."

### How to Verify and/or Update Your Household Information

1. Log in to Infinite Campus.
2. In the side menu, under the "Family" header, click "Household Information."
3. In "Household Information," use "Update Phone Number" and "Update Household Address" to update phone number and address.
4. Click "Send Update" after each update.

### How to Verify and/or Update Your Contact Preferences

1. In the side menu under the "User Account" header, click "Contact Preferences."
2. In "Contact Preferences," you can verify and/or update your email addresses and make changes to the preferences for each number or email address. The district will use any phone numbers and email addresses you mark for "Emergency" and "General Notification" to contact you about school closings, emergencies, and other important information.
3. Click "Save" after updating.

In addition to outbound calls, information about school closings or delays will be available in the following places:

- **DISTRICT WEBSITE:** Visit [www.isd199.org](http://www.isd199.org) for detailed information about any closings or delays
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Follow **Inver Grove Heights Schools** on Facebook or **@isd199** on Twitter for updates
- **TV:** Watch **Twin Cities television network affiliate stations**, and look for Inver Grove Heights Schools in the news crawl
- **RADIO:** Tune in to **WCCO-AM 830** and listen for Inver Grove Heights Schools
- **DISTRICT WEATHER LINE:** Call **651-306-7875** for a recorded message about any emergency school closings or delayed starts

Please visit [www.isd199.org/parents/emergency\\_closings](http://www.isd199.org/parents/emergency_closings) to learn more about how school closings and delays are determined.

## Simley Students Earn High Honors as AP Scholars

Advanced Placement (AP) classes challenge students with college-level coursework and provide an opportunity to earn college credit before graduation. Students take exams at the end of the year, which are scored on a 0-5 scale, to qualify for college credit. Each year, students are recognized for earning outstanding scores of 3 or higher on multiple AP exams. Simley High School had 81 students earn AP Scholar Awards in four categories, including the National AP Scholar Award. To qualify for the National AP Scholar Award, students must earn an average score of 4 or higher on all of their AP exams and score a 4 or higher on eight or more of those exams. Great job, AP Scholars!

### AP Scholar Award

Kayla Anderson  
Sabrina Ball  
Sylvia Ball  
Jacob Binley  
Kendall Borrowman  
Benjamin Briguet  
Felicia Buysman  
Chase Campbell  
Destiny Carter-Wleh  
Hanna Curtis  
Emanuel Diaz  
Tristan Diaz  
Sarah Evanson  
Cole Ganske-Espe  
Makayla George

Hannah Giese  
William Hackerson  
Samuel Hatfield  
Nathan Hostager  
Trevor Howe  
Jazzmin Johnson  
Jacob Juers  
Jocelyn Leafblad  
Kissme Leenhiavu  
Tristyn McMillen  
Jonah Milbrandt  
Rebecca Molstad  
Nicole Muller  
Jimmy Nguyen  
Camille Otto  
Isabelle Pippert

Brittany Raab  
Crystal Rodriguez  
Matthew Roster  
Elizabeth Roubik  
Asha Saraswate  
Charles Sayner  
Samuel Segura Escoto  
Angela Sell  
Noah Sticha  
Zoe Stone  
Erin Sweeney  
Benjamin Tinucci  
Ruben Turrubiarres  
Ntomoo Yang  
Yeemeng Yang

### AP Scholar with Honor Award

Sarah Anaya  
Grace Bezek  
Jordan Boswell  
Anna Engleson  
Sophia Fenske  
Lukas Mundt  
Jakob Myers  
Emmit Nelson  
Kyle Roche  
James Schmotter  
Kylie Seeling  
Mackenzie Sullivan  
Rachel Wanger  
James Warrick

### AP Scholar with Distinction Award

Matthew Baumann  
Alisabeth Birkeland  
Brandon Birkelo  
Bailey Blomquist-Dege  
Benjamin Borchard  
Sophia Dahlke  
River Erickson  
Austin Heimerl  
Zachary Johnson  
\*Mindy Kolodziejski  
\*Eric Miers  
\*Nicholas Molstad  
Jordan Pesek  
Han Phung

Ellen Rabe  
Hannah Reckinger  
Robert Skoglund  
Abigail Stein  
Sebastian Torres-Gonzalez  
Danielle Ungurian  
Michaela Vondrum

### National AP Scholar Award

\*Mindy Kolodziejski  
\*Eric Miers  
\*Nicholas Molstad

\*Earned both the AP Scholars with Distinction Award and the National AP Scholar Award.

## Initiative Helps ISD 199 Food Service Move Toward Homemade



continuing their improvement plans this year by participating in the Minnesota School Food Initiative. As part of the initiative, the district is partnering with the Life Time Foundation and the Chef Ann Foundation. The organizations will provide resources and guidance so ISD 199 can maximize nutrition, remove potentially harmful ingredients, and make meals that students love.

This October, ISD 199 Director of Food Service, Glen Ritter, and Assistant Director of Food Service, Dorie Pavel, attended the Chef Ann Foundation's Get Schools Cooking Workshop in Boulder, Colorado. Participating districts attended sessions on strategies for transitioning their food service operations to produce healthier school meals. They were also able to see the transformation of Boulder Valley School District's food service operations first-hand.

The Chef Ann Foundation has also visited ISD 199 to observe its food service's daily operations in order to make recommendations for improvements. Chef Ann Foundation staff will continue to help the food service department plan for and move forward with its transition to healthier meals over the next few years. After the district develops

an action plan for its transition, ISD 199 Food Service will receive support from the Chef Ann Foundation to start its transformation.

The Life Time Foundation is also partnering with ISD 199 as part of the Minnesota School Food Initiative. The organization is focused on removing ingredients identified as "The Harmful 7" from school meals in order to completely nourish every student's body and brain. The harmful ingredients include:

- Trans Fats and Hydrogenated Oils
- High-fructose Corn Syrup
- Hormones and Antibiotics
- Processed and Artificial Sweeteners
- Artificial Colors and Flavors
- Artificial Preservatives
- Bleached Flour

Through the Minnesota School Food Initiative, ISD 199 will work with Life Time to reduce, if not eliminate, "The Harmful 7" ingredients in its meals.

"There are a large number of medical issues that are related to poor eating habits," Mr. Ritter said. "My goal is to create a culture of adventurous eaters in Inver Grove Heights where lifelong proper eating habits will be developed and cultivated every day within our school meal program."

The Minnesota School Food Initiative will take a total of four years. While ISD 199 Food Service gradually transitions to its improved, sustainable operations, students will have time to adjust to new recipes, offer feedback, and grow into the healthier menu.



## Students Tour Their New Classrooms at Local Companies



Over the past three years, the Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, and West St. Paul – Mendota Heights – Eagan school districts, which make up the TriDistrict, have been collaborating with each other and local business partners to bring more hands-on career opportunities to students. On August 30, students and parents got their first look at the TriDistrict Career and College Readiness courses, Careers in Transportation Business and Technologies and Healthcare Careers and Medicine, while touring the company sites where classes take place.

Students enrolled in the Careers in Transportation Business and Technologies visited North American Trailer in Inver Grove Heights in August. While the high school instructors talked about class projects and how the course would be set up, North American Trailer staff shared their goals with the group, including a project that would allow students to tear apart an old truck and rebuild it into a functional grill truck.

Students enrolled in the Healthcare Careers and Medicine course toured Twin Cities Orthopedics in Eagan. The new Viking Lakes location, where classes will be held, is near the Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center and TCO Stadium used by the Minnesota Vikings. The building, which opened in June of 2018, gives students an opportunity to learn about advanced equipment and the newest techniques in physical therapy, hand therapy, imaging, and surgery.

While the first half of each course will focus on building professional skills, students may also have an opportunity to work as interns through the program. The TriDistrict is excited for the new opportunities in its pilot classes but looks forward to expanding career learning through partnerships with more local businesses. Potential business partners, local professionals, and anyone else interested in the TriDistrict College and Career Readiness courses is encouraged to visit the TriDistrict Program website at [www.CareerCollegeReady.org](http://www.CareerCollegeReady.org) or contact TriDistrict Lead Designer and Program Coordinator Ben Kusch at [BKusch@TriDistrictCE.org](mailto:BKusch@TriDistrictCE.org) for information and ways to get involved.

## Pine Bend and Simley Receive State Grants to Update Security Measures

This summer, the Minnesota Department of Education collected applications for \$25 million in school safety grants. The grant money was reserved for facilities improvements related to violence prevention and facility security. While the state hoped to distribute funds to at least 50 schools around the state, more than 1,000 schools applied with requests totaling \$255.5 million. Inver Grove Heights Schools put in applications for all of its school buildings. Pine Bend Elementary School and Simley High School were randomly selected to receive improvements totaling \$175,000.

Both Pine Bend and Simley applied for funds for a visitor management system and visual notification equipment. Pine Bend's application also requested funds for FOB access and Simley's application additionally asked for door alarm funds.

While the FOB access and door alarms will fill in any security gaps that may exist due to building age or renovations, the district looks forward to piloting visitor management systems and visual notification equipment at Pine Bend and Simley. If an emergency were to occur, the visual notification equipment will help staff and students identify the type of emergency, whether it is inside the building or outside, and respond to the emergency accordingly. While announcements can be made over the school PA systems, visual notifications will help inform everyone in the building, even if they are in a loud area such as the cafeteria or gym.

The visitor management systems will be especially helpful in preventing emergencies before they occur. Electronic visitor sign-in will allow front office staff to view a visitor's check-in history at the school and include a printed photo of the visitor on their temporary badge. The visitor management system will also allow staff to track visitors in real time so staff know who is in the building in case of evacuation or if issues arise.

Though the grant is focused on helping Pine Bend and Simley secure their grounds, the district will look to add similar systems and updates to each of its schools. The updates will help prevent emergencies and provide systems to best handle a variety of scenarios, from weather-related causes to intruder threats.

## SIMLEY TO REVIEW TOP 10 RECOGNITION

Each year, Simley High School recognizes Top 10 students by grade, including recognizing the Top 10 seniors at graduation. Currently, the Top 10 are students chosen for academic recognition based on GPA. Many high schools have been reviewing their academic recognition procedures recently to make sure they acknowledge academic accomplishments while providing a path toward future learning opportunities.

Simley leadership and staff are holding their own review of the school's Top 10 Recognition and invite feedback from Inver Grove Heights Schools parents at a **Top 10 Feedback Meeting on January 10, 2019, at 6:00 PM in the Simley High School Spartan Center**, 2920 80th Street East in Inver Grove Heights. Any changes to the Top 10 procedure will be implemented for the incoming 9th grade class following the decision. It would not affect any student enrolled in high school at the time of the decision.

### Intra-District Transfer Policy

The Inver Grove Heights Schools Intra-district Transfer Process for elementary schools provides the opportunity for District 199 families to request to have their students attend a school other than the one assigned by attendance boundaries. Parents can apply for an intra-district transfer for their student by June 30 for the following school year.

Transfers are accepted based on a number of factors. Students whose siblings are enrolled at the desired elementary school and students who have verified daycare located in the desired school’s attendance area are given priority.

Intra-district transfers are only accepted when space is available. If there are more transfer requests than spots available, students

without siblings at the desired elementary and without daycare in the area will be selected through random drawing. Once available space is filled, students will be put on a waiting list.

If approved, transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the parent. The Intra-district Transfer Policy does not apply to students who qualify for and accept enrollment in the Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program. Atheneum students receive district transportation.

Intra-district Transfer is only for students who live within ISD 199 attendance boundaries. Non-resident students who want to attend an ISD 199 school must apply for Open Enrollment.

### Buddy Benches Connect Students at Recess

Five years ago, a Pennsylvania elementary student, Christian, came up with a way to include more students at recess. He asked his school to put a bench by the playground so students looking for a friend could sit at the bench and other students could ask them to play or go talk to them. The benches, named Buddy Benches, have popped up at playgrounds across the country to connect more students. This summer, Hilltop Elementary School student Tommy Lounsberry started organizing to bring Buddy Benches to Inver Grove Heights Schools for elementary students. Before the start of school, four Buddy Benches were installed thanks to Tommy’s work and the community’s generosity.

Tommy worked with local businesses, including Hometown Meats, to get the word out about his fundraiser, collect funds, and explain how a Buddy Bench works. In a letter to the community, Tommy said he doesn’t like people being left out and that a Buddy Bench could help students identify others who are feeling lonely and ask them to play.

With the community’s support, Tommy raised enough funds for each elementary playground in less than three months. Students at Pine Bend Elementary School’s playground, Salem Hills Elementary School’s playground, and Hilltop’s K-2 and 3-5 playgrounds can now use the benches to signal that they’re looking for a friend to play with or someone to sit and talk with. The benches will be available for years to come thanks to Tommy and the community’s support! See Tommy’s “Buddy Bench” interview with Town Square Television at [facebook.com/TownSquare.TV/videos](https://www.facebook.com/TownSquare.TV/videos).

### Spartan Kids’ Care Raises Funds for St. Jude’s with Student-run Carnival

During the summer, Spartan Kids’ Care hosted a carnival to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Students built and ran carnival games and sold refreshments to raise nearly \$750. Spartan Kids’ Care plans to continue its fundraising for the hospital this winter by selling rice crispy treats. If the students reach their fundraising goal, “Spartan Kids’ Care” will be engraved on a brick on St. Jude’s Kay Research and Care Center pathway to commemorate their donation. Watch for the bake sale at all Spartan Kids’ Care locations.

### Boche Memorial Monument Returns for Homecoming



Just in time for Simley High School’s Homecoming football game, the monument marking Timothy Boche Memorial Field has returned to Spartan Stadium. The monument,

which has been part of the high school’s football field for more than 50 years, was stored to keep it safe during Spartan Stadium’s renovation, which began in 2014. Its placement is the finishing touch on the updated stadium and a continuation of the school’s history and tradition.

In 1966, Timothy Boche, a three-sport student athlete, went swimming in Simley Pond after football practice and drowned. The

small school community was deeply affected by the tragedy, and the next year, the Letterman’s Club raised funds to put up a monument in Timothy’s memory. It was originally placed on its namesake football field, Boche Memorial Field, but was moved off-field this year for the safety of students and the structure.

The monument now stands beside the ticket window in front of the stadium so all visitors can see it as they arrive. The monument also has a new display, thanks to the creative work and generosity of Simley alumnus Jon Dietrich and his company, Hardline Concrete and Masonry. The display gives the monument new life while continuing the legacy of the community, school, and district.

Inver Grove Heights Schools celebrated the return of the Timothy Boche Memorial Field monument at the Simley High School Homecoming football game. The Boche family was present during halftime for the rededication.

**Fall Sports Recognitions**

**Bowling**

All Conference

- Alec Frederick
- Brooke Salzman
- Cole VanKempen

Honorable Mentions

- Mitchell Carlson
- Nathan Lanahan
- Jose Lopez
- Emily Miles
- Brianna O'Brien
- Anna Olson
- Ashley VanKempen
- Matthew VanKempen

**Cross Country**

All Conference

- Gabe Alvear
  - Sarah Anaya
  - Grant Dilla
  - Brekken Grathen
- Honorable Mention
- Simone Lorentz

**Football**

Lineman of the Year

- Cole Tschida
- Mitch Tschida

All District

- Cole Tschida
- Mitch Tschida
- Nolan Wanzek

Honorable Mention

- Esiquio Diaz
- Alec Frederick
- Evan Johnson
- Freddy Rivera

**Boys Soccer**

All Conference

- Ezequiel Dominguez
- Marin
- Davis Provost

Honorable Mention

- Alex Binley
- Aiden Garcia
- Andrew Jeffers

**Girls Soccer**

All Conference

- Cally Cunningham
- Natalie Leeder
- Megan O'Connor
- Lexi Reichenbach

Honorable Mention

- Zoe Boughton
- Annabelle Eddy
- Avery Schwark

**Girls Swimming and Diving**

All Conference

- Sydney Bohn
- Sophia Fredeen
- Alaina Friske
- Sawyer Grathen
- Erin Orn
- Jill Wilhelmson

Honorable Mention

- Emily Hageman
- Kjerstin Iverson
- Keegan Puariea

**Girls Tennis**

All Conference

- Anna Ahern
- Cayla Friemann
- Shelli Muller
- Catie Thoemke
- Clara Thoemke

Honorable Mention

- Jenna Bezek
- Erin Borchard
- Sara Borchard

**Volleyball**

All Conference

- Adara Kellogg
- Rachel Wanger

Honorable Mention

- Tiwaah Danso
- Emma Heimerl
- Ravyn Miles
- Sydney Stensgard

**2018-2019 Student Advisory Council Chosen to Lead for Students**



Every year, Inver Grove Heights Schools selects students from grades 4, 7, and 11 to represent all of the district schools on the ISD 199 Student Advisory Council. The purpose of the council is to make sure student voices are included in district decisions while providing leadership training for the students involved. The 2018-2019 council met for the first time this October to brainstorm topics of interest to all students for their next meetings.

Superintendent Dave Bernhardson led the group in discussing current topics before small groups of students from all schools and grade levels worked together to narrow the list. One of the topics that came up was flexible furniture in classrooms. Advisory council students visited Simley High School to see a few classrooms that had some flexible furniture options. Afterward, students discussed how each option could be used at different levels and during different lessons. During the school year, the students will learn more at their meetings and school board meetings about the topics they choose, and they will have a chance to provide a student perspective to the district. Their next meeting will take place in January.

**Simley Marching Band Earns Highest Scores in Program History**



Each year about 30 high school marching bands from around the state compete in the Minnesota State Fair Daily Parade. Student performances are scored by trained judges from Tri-State Band Judging. The judges score areas such as marching and music execution along with overall visual effects. On August 28, the Simley High School Marching Band competed against four other high schools: Crookston, Farmington, Fergus Falls, and

Lakeville South. Not only did the Simley Marching Band earn the top score, they earned the highest score in program history.

"I'm very proud of the hard work this group has put in over the [summer]. We are peaking at the right moment," Simley High School Band Director Kevin Robinson said. "These students are proud to represent the school and community."

The marching band also marched in the Osseo Lions Roar Days Parade and Northfield's Defeat of Jesse James Day Parade in September. They competed against six other bands in the Northfield Parade and earned first place as Grand Champion in the contest.

**Simley Spartan Superheroes Visit Elementary Schools**



This November, Simley High School Marching Band and Hockey visited ISD 199 elementary schools as part of the Spartan Superheroes program. The program brings high school students from different activities to the elementary schools to provide role models for younger students and leadership experience for the older students. Spartan Superheroes

present on their activity and give elementary students an idea of what opportunities await them.

The Simley Marching Band visited Salem Hills to play for students, talk to them about being in the marching band, eat lunch with them, and play with them at recess. Hockey players visited Pine Bend kindergarteners to talk to them and read them a story. Thank you to all of the Spartan Superheroes for connecting with younger students and being excellent role models.

**Pine Bend School Garden Lunch**

After a season of careful planting and maintenance, Pine Bend Elementary School served vegetables from its school garden this October. Garden Club students prepared peppers, cabbage, carrots, and onions into a salad to be served in the school lunch line. Garden Club students were also able to taste-test the fresh veggies before serving them.



**District Fast Facts**

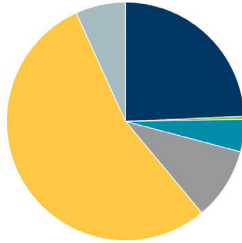
Stay informed of the current issues , challenges, and changes facing the Inver Grove Heights School District.

**#1. ENROLLMENT**

The 2018-2019 school year enrollment on October 1 was 3,470 students. October 1 enrollment establishes the base for educational funding for the school year.

**#2. DEMOGRAPHICS**

- Hispanic or Latino ..... 24%
- American Indian or Alaskan Native ... 2%
- Asian ..... 5%
- Black or African American ..... 10%
- Native Hawaiian or  
Other Pacific Islander ..... 0%
- White ..... 53%
- Two or More Races ..... 6%



English Learner ..... 9.65%	Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligible .... 44%
Special Education ..... 12.9%	Homeless ..... 0.8%

**#3. EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed in December 2015 as the nation’s new preschool-grade 12 federal education law. ESSA replaces the act known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). ESSA empowers states to develop systems and policies that focus on equity and continuous improvement for all students. It also ensures that all students have what they need to succeed and that all teachers and administrators have support in place to deliver on that promise.

**#4. EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) defines Educational Equity as the condition of justice, fairness, and inclusion in our systems of education so that all students have access to opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

**#5. GENERAL FUND & STATE FUNDING**

The school district general fund budget is \$47,019,005 for the 2018-2019 school year. Part of the general fund is state-funded. The level of state funding is determined via the legislative process and based on student enrollment. School districts receive 90% of their state funding in the current school year. The remaining 10% is provided the next school year to allow for adjustments that may be needed due to changes in enrollment. The state provides an estimated 77% of ISD 199’s general funding. This funding has not kept pace with inflation since 2003. If funding had kept pace, school districts would have received an additional 9.4% of funding from the state.



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