# 199 REPORTER

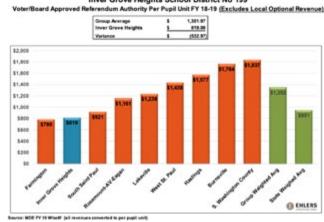
## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SPRING 2019

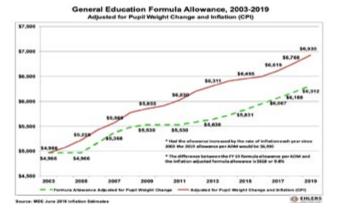
## **State Funding Lags Behind Inflation**

The 2018-19 school year has been one of furthering our mission, "Inspire. Innovate. Excel. A Community Commitment." I am grateful for the chance to work with our staff, school board, and community to focus our educational commitment on creating opportunities and possibilities for our students. A major aspect of our mission is for our district and community to work and thrive together to become an area of choice. When schools are strong, the community thrives. We find our school district offers an amazing return on investment. We have sound financial management, competitive student achievement, strong graduation rates, award-winning schools, a wide selection of student learning options and championship caliber activities, arts, and athletics.

During the fall of 2017, we were grateful to our community for the support provided through two levy referendum questions. The increase in local funding for learning was the first increase since 1989. Thank you! Locally, we have one of the lowest voter-approved levies, so the increase was even more appreciated.

In order to maintain all that we have developed and to further prepare our students, we need more support from state government. The state has the majority of responsibility for funding public education. State funding for basic education has not kept pace with inflation. If it had, our district would be receiving an additional \$618 per pupil or \$2.45 million in general education funding from the state this school year. Also, the funding we receive from the state and federal governments to pay for mandated special education services has been over \$3.6 million less than the actual cost of providing those services in our district.





We are proud of the opportunities and possibilities we provide at Inver Grove Heights Schools, and we value the support our community provides for our students. However, state dollars are vital to upholding those opportunities and possibilities for our students. The current legislative session establishes the state's funding of public education for the next two school years. We are providing this information to thank you for your local support and to share that the majority of funding we receive, which is the state's responsibility, has fallen behind inflation. We hope that state funding will soon close the inflationary gap.

Within this, we are committed to maintaining the district's integrity as a good steward of our community's investment in education. Our students' success is your success.

Regards,

Dave

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NEWS & UPDATES INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL. INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

#### 199 REPORTER

#### **Inver Grove Heights Schools**

2990 80th Street East Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076 651-306-7800 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.

If you have questions about this publication, please contact:

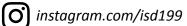
#### **Katie Sheridan**

Communications Coordinator SheridanK@isd199.org 651-306-7105

## **CONNECT WITH US**









## **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

#### Two Chosen as Teacher of the Year Award Candidates



Inver Grove Heights Schools has had numerous teachers chosen as candidates for the Education Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award in past years. The award recognizes outstanding educators across the state and invites select candidates to submit portfolios and videos and participate in interviews to demonstrate why they should be named Teacher of the Year. Two of this year's 168 candidates are ISD 199 teachers:

Pine Bend Elementary School physical education teacher Kelly Darrow and Simley High School health, physical education, and emergency services class teacher Deana Walsh.

The two ISD 199 candidates submitted materials to a panel of Minnesota education, business, and government leaders who will determine how each candidate will progress through the semifinalist and finalist rounds until a winner is announced in May. The winner of the 2019 Teacher of the Year Award will become an advocate for education and a spokesperson for teachers during the following school year. They will be responsible for meeting with policymakers and stakeholders, presenting to key groups, and representing the best interests of students and staff. Congratulations to this year's two ISD 199 candidates!

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#### **Hour of Code Builds STEM Skills and Interest Early**



ISD 199 elementary schools participated in this year's international Hour of Code. The event aims to spark an early understanding of and interest in computer science through interactive games that teach the basics of coding.

Younger elementary students played Box Island as an introduction to coding language and functions such as algorithms, sequences, loops, and conditionals. Older elementary students were challenged with Tynker to complete

missions using visual blocks of code. Tynker mimics coding languages such as JavaScript and Python, creating an accessible pathway to languages that are frequently used in the current industry. The Hour of Code event also offers offline lessons that teach students how code works with physical activities like following a set of simple instructions to complete an objective.

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#### **Opportunities for New IGH Babies**

Have you registered your baby, toddler, or preschooler with the Inver Grove Heights School District census? With census information, ISD 199 can help you get your child on the path to success! Having your child's name on the census will ensure that you receive:

- all Early Childhood Program mailings
- early childhood screening information
- kindergarten registration packets



To provide census information, visit the district website at www.isd199.org/new\_families and complete the Census Form or call 651-306-7503.

If you have moved to or within Inver Grove Heights School District 199, changed your phone number, or had a new baby, you will need to update the census information.

This information is for educational purposes only and the release of this information is governed by State and Federal laws as well as School Board policy. Your address and phone number are considered private data.

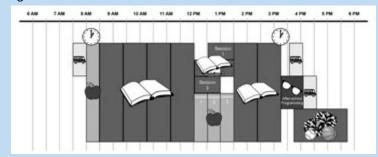
#### ISD 199 Releases Transition Plans for 2019-2020 School Times



In October 2018, the Inver Grove Heights School Board approved the proposed revised school start times. The approval followed a process that was carried out over two school years. Beginning in the fall of 2019, elementary schools will run from 7:50 AM to 2:30 PM. Secondary schools, middle and high school, will run from 8:30 AM to 3:20 PM.

Smooth Transitions is the district plan that responds to family questions about school start and end times, what student schedules will look like, and how the change will impact students and families at various levels.

School and district administration worked to develop a plan that supports a positive change as school begins in the fall of 2019 with new school start and end times.



## TRANSITION PLANS FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE: http://tinyurl.com/199transitionplan

Thank you for your attention to the change in school start and end times being undertaken by the district. The information included in the Smooth Transitions Plan is intended to answer immediate questions. As plans continue to be made, information will be available in updated handbooks, on the district website, through transportation via bus schedules, and directly from your school. The district will keep all staff, coaches, and advisors informed of plans through internal communication. We are confident that planning will support a smooth transition to the start of the 2019-20 school year.

#### ISD 199 Communications Survey

NEWS & UPDATES

In an effort to improve communication from the Inver Grove Heights School District and its schools, we are asking families and community members to answer a few questions about current district and school communication and how our neighbors prefer to get information.

Take the parent or community member survey at **www.isd199.org/survey19**. Each survey takes about 5 minutes and will be open through Sunday, March 31.

Information about the district is always available through our website, publications, and social media platforms. We hope you will "like," follow, and subscribe!

- District website: www.isd199.org
- Inspire 199: https://tinyurl.com/inspire199
- Facebook: facebook.com/isd199
- Twitter: twitter.com/isd199
- Instagram: instagram.com/isd199

#### **New Infinite Campus App**



The Infinite Campus Parent Portal gives parents direct access to your student's school day: schedules, grades, lunch, and more. Now, parents can better

use Infinite Campus on their mobile devices by downloading the new Campus Parent app, which allows parents access to even more information. Search for "Infinite Campus Mobile Portal" in your phone's app store to learn more about the new mobile features.

#### **Elementary and Middle School Summer Academy 2019**

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 22 will receive free busing, breakfast, and lunch.



#### **Elementary Summer Academy (Grades K-5)**

Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

Monday, June 17 - Thursday, July 18 (No classes the week of July 4) at Hilltop Elementary School (3201 68th Street East in Inver Grove Heights) For questions, please contact Sarah Zaiser at ZaiserS@isd199.org or 651-306-7454.

#### Middle School Summer Academy (Grades 6-8)

Mondays-Thursdays from 7:20 AM-11:40 AM

Monday, June 17 - Thursday, July 18 (No classes the week of July 4) at Inver Grove Heights Middle School (8167 Cahill Avenue in Inver Grove Heights)

For questions, please contact the IGH Middle School Office at 651-306-7200.

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 22.** Information is also available at **www.isd199.org/parents/summer\_school**.

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#### Starting Food Shelf Means Developing Skills and Community for Simley and SSP Students



In this year's new TriDistrict Healthcare Careers and Medicine class, Simley High School, South St. Paul Secondary, and Henry Sibley High School students are developing their professional skills together and partnering with community organizations to gain real world knowledge of the field and its functions. As part of the course, a group of Simley and South St. Paul students began working on an outreach program this winter with Simley's Dean of Students, Rico Bohren. Students will be building and managing a food shelf to bring resources to Simley as part of their TriDistrict class learning.

Students chose Mr. Bohren's food shelf project to gain experience in planning, fundraising, building, supplying, marketing, maintaining, distributing, and all of the other functions involved

in setting up and managing a food shelf while also connecting with and assisting the community. Students started their project by working with Simley staff to dedicate a space in the school for the food shelf. They also reached out to Dakota County Commissioner Joe Atkins in order to let the community know about their project and to help raise funds. Commissioner Atkins included information about the student group's plan in his professional and personal newsletters, helping the students raise \$1,300 to buy supplies to build the shelves and stock them with essentials.

Once the food shelf opens, the group of students will distribute food to students and families for weekends or breaks when school meals aren't available. They will also be responsible for accepting donations, managing funds, putting procedures in place to maintain the food shelf, and possibly even expanding the shelf to include winter coats, school supplies, and clothing. Students are currently planning fundraising events and soliciting cash donations. Anyone interested in donating to the Triple S (Simley, South St. Paul) Closet can send a check, made out to ISD 199, to Simley High School, 2920 80th Street East, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076, or attend Simley fundraising events organized by the group.

#### Simley's First Certified Nursing Assistant Class Graduates



Simley High School works to help every student graduate with a certification or credential that will help them in college or on their career path. This school year, Simley was able to offer its first Certified Nursing Assistant class to give students more opportunities to earn credentials and a certification as well as hands-on careers experience. Students learned nursing aide skills required for the state certification exam, practiced them while working at local medical facilities, and took the state exam at the end of the trimester.

For two periods a day, students learned and perfected more than 50 basic skills that they needed for certification. Leading up to the exam, they learned and practiced skills like using and reading

a mercury thermometer, putting on and removing medical gowns without contaminating them, and carefully transporting patients. They also practiced their skills in clinicals, working three supervised 8-hour shifts at local medical facilities.

"I just thought it was a really cool and different class because we actually engage in these new skills and we put them into practice at clinicals," one student said. "I thought that was a really valuable experience, working with real people."

At the end of the class, all 15 CNA students said they were planning to continue their healthcare education, even if they had no intention of going into the medical field when they signed up for the class.

"I really enjoyed doing my clinicals, seeing the whole day-to-day [of a CNA] and forming relationships with the people in the units," another student said. "It was just a really cool experience, and I'm glad that our school is offering this program."

If they pass the state exam, CNA students will be certified as nursing assistants, allowing them to work immediately after earning their certification. Any student who completes the CNA course also earns 5 college credits, even if they don't take or pass the state exam. Students interested in taking the Certified Nursing Assistant class can talk to their guidance counselor.

#### **Board Votes on 2019 Officers**

On January 14, the Inver Grove Heights School Board held a special meeting for its annual board elections. Board members voted for current members for the positions of board chair, board vice chair/treasurer, and board clerk. Matt Schaefer, ISD 199 Board Chair in 2018, will continue in his position for 2019, and 2018 ISD 199 Vice Chair/Treasurer Cindy Nordstrom will also maintain her position in 2019. ISD 199 School Board Member Rachel Hanson was nominated to be the board clerk in 2019 with a no-contest vote. She will take over the duties of 2018 ISD 199 Board Clerk Sherry Warrick.

## **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 2019-2020 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.

#### **New Technology Immerses Students in Learning**



Inver Grove Heights Schools students are using tablets and apps to immerse themselves in their learning. This year, classes have been able to use apps like Breakout EDU and Do Ink to demonstrate their knowledge in an engaging, hands-on way.

Recently, escape rooms have become a popular puzzle activity across the nation, and now Inver Grove Heights Schools students are

using the clue-based concept in class. Using the Breakout EDU app, students receive clues that they must solve with teamwork and their in-class knowledge. Each clue that they solve helps students unlock boxes and find their next clues, ultimately leading them to the code to the final

Using another app called Do Ink and a green screen, students can now transport themselves back in time, try out a career in news, and much more. While students learn about video production while filming with the green screen, they also learn about video editing in the app, including importing media and layering it to create a final product. The green screen technology also allows them to get creative and immerse themselves in the current learning unit.

#### **Retreats Build Social Skills**



NEWS & UPDATES

This winter, 5th and 7th graders went on retreats to build core life skills through reflection and fun. Youth Frontiers, a nonprofit organization that promotes positive school culture, held Kindness Retreats for the 5th graders and a Courage Retreat for the 7th

During retreats, students play games to build teamwork, listen to stories about the importance of standing up for oneself and others, and demonstrate what they learned with skits and small group discussions. Simley High School National Honor Society students helped staff and Youth Frontier hosts with the younger students, leading activities and group discussions while acting as role models.

At the end of each retreat, 5th-grade and 7thgrade students committed to performing one act of kindness or courage, such as being an advocate for someone who is being bullied, inviting someone to play who seems lonely, or changing their own behavior to encourage positive interactions.

## IGHMS DONATION DRIVE CONTINUES 12-YEAR TRADITION OF GIVING



In 2005, an Inver Grove Heights Middle School teacher found out about a student whose family was homeless and living in their car. Determined to help, the teacher teamed up with Neighbors Inc., a local non-profit organization that provides emergency social services to help northern Dakota County residents live independently. The teacher's efforts started the now 12-year tradition of the school's Cold Noses, Warm Hearts Donation Drive, which IGHMS holds just before Winter Break each year.

Over the years, IGHMS has shaped the tradition into a service learning project for students. Advisory classes set donation goals and make plans to reach their goals through student-run projects like hot chocolate sales or bake sales.

In return, the school sets rewards for different levels of donations by class and schoolwide. This year, advisory classes had the chance to earn popsicles, extra open gym time, or a pizza party for their class, depending on how much they raised. As a school, students could earn a crazy hair day for their principal, a chance to throw a pie at their teachers, or a chance to slime a teacher, depending on how much the school raised as a whole.

In the past 12 years, IGHMS has raised more than \$15,000 and helped more than 30 Inver Grove Heights Middle School families. This year, advisory classes succeeded in raising \$950 and helping five local families. The students raised enough funds to earn a crazy hair day for Principal Jodi Wendel and a chance to pie their teachers during advisory.

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#### Pine Bend Partners with Dakota County to Reduce Food Waste



Pine Bend Elementary School students have been learning how to effectively reduce, reuse, and recycle over the past few years. The school recently created a Green Team to hold environmentally friendly events, like locker cleanouts, and educate other students about how to protect the environment. One of the Green Team's tasks is to sort garbage, recycling, and organics at lunch and help other students understand how to sort properly. To advance the Green Team's work, Pine Bend partnered with Dakota County to conduct a food waste audit that will help the county develop a plan to prevent wasted food in K-12 schools.

Dakota County staff visited Pine Bend during two days of lunch periods in January to gather information about the school's food waste. Dakota County staff members and some students

in grades 3-5 interviewed students who had finished eating. The interviewers asked about the food that was left on each tray to gain an understanding of why certain items are thrown away and how the kitchen can make adjustments to each item so it is less likely to be wasted.

Students also helped Dakota County workers separate food waste into buckets by type so they could be weighed. The weights of each type of discarded food will give Dakota County information on what is thrown away most often. The data collected will inform recommendations for national best practices to reduce wasted food.

#### Students Display Outstanding Pieces at Concordia University



Concordia University's 16th Annual High School Honors Exhibition featured outstanding artwork from a handful of students from Simley High School, Perpich Center for Arts, and Robbinsdale Armstrong High School. The show featured artwork by Simley students Anna Ahern, Jenna Bezek, Jocabed Hernandez, Jennifer LaRosa, Norah Larson, Sophia Page, Natalie Taufen, and Catie Thoemke.

At the January 17 exhibition opening, Anna Ahern earned an overall 2nd place award for her mosaic artwork of Italy. Student work of all techniques was on display throughout the end of January at Concordia University

## NEW SPARTAN CLOTHING CLOSET HELPS STUDENTS FOCUS ON LEARNING



Like many districts across the state and nation, Inver Grove Heights Middle School serves a large number of students who qualify for Free/Reduced Priced Meals due to financial difficulties and a portion of the population is homeless. This fall,

IGHMS Assistant Principal Jason Voss set up the IGHMS Spartan Clothing Closet with the help of the school's new social worker, Ashley Mohn, as a resource for students and their families.

Mr. Voss and Ms. Mohn announced the closet to staff first and then asked families for any donations during fall conferences. The result was bags and bags of new and gently used clothing donations that packed the small closet. The closet provides newer, warmer clothes for middle school students, but students can also bring clothes home to their siblings and families.

"We want to help out in any way we possibly can so families have more room in their budgets for other essentials," Mr. Voss said.

He stressed that the closet is meant to be helpful and discreet so students can focus on learning. Students can visit the closet, teachers may refer students to the closet, and Ms. Mohn may connect families with the

closet to make sure students and their families know their resources.

Donations are accepted in the IGHMS front office on school days during regular operation hours, 7:00 AM-4:00 PM. Though the Spartan Clothing Closet currently has limited space, the following items are used much more quickly and are in higher need:

- Leggings
- Undergarments
- Sweatpants
- Winter boots
- Sweatshirts, especially long sweatshirts

The closet is also accepting snow pants and any Spartan gear without identifying information, such as a last name on the back or sleeve. Donations are accepted in all sizes from youth to adult and should be new or gently used, without stains or holes.

Thank you to Principal Jodi Wendel and building custodians who helped Mr. Voss find and set up a space for the closet. Thank you to the IGHMS Promise Fellows, who tutor struggling students at the school, for helping Ms. Mohn sort and organize donations to make them easy for students to find and for making sure all donations are washed and ready to wear. Many thanks to the staff, families, and community members who donated to the IGHMS Spartan Clothing Closet to get it started and who continue to donate to help our community's students and families.

#### **Early Winter Sports Recognitions**

Girls Alpine Ski

State Qualifier & All Conference

Sarah Anaya

**Dance Team State Qualifiers** 

> Jazz Team Kick Team

All Conference

Jordan Boswell Lauren Henninger **Gabby Overton Emilee Suchy** 

**Honorable Mention** Katie Honchell

**Taylor Pawlenty** Olivia Schmidt

**Boys Hockey** 

All Conference Shane Prifrel Noah Roitman **Honorable Mention** 

Cooper Bollmann Trent Peterson Carter Robinson

**Girls Hockey** 

All Conference Avery Schwark

Ella Tuccitto **Honorable Mention** Kendall Johnson

Jordan Juers Ava Patnode

Nordic Ski

**Honorable Mention** Grant Dilla

Congratulations to the athletes recognized so far this season! Winter sports recognitions announced after publication will be included in the summer edition of the 199 Reporter.

## **Chosen as All-Conference**



Congratulations to the 18 Simley High School students who were chosen to perform in this year's Metro East All-Conference Music Festival. Each student was chosen for their demonstration of outstanding music skills.

Band students chosen to perform included:

Carter Bollmann Maya Merritt Ben Borchard **Taylor Riess** Sophia Fenske Jesiah Sanchez Will Hackerson Josiah Tuione **Curtis Hance** Hailee Waska **Daniel Williams** Logan McMonigal

Choir students chosen to perform included: Janelle Hamilton Abbey Joyner **Shane Harding** Alex Malave Kaitlyn Maynard Kate Herrera

To prepare for the festival, selected students were taught challenging pieces alongside dozens of students from surrounding Metro East Conference high schools before their music festival performances. Choir students were taught by VocalEssence Associate Conductor and Director of Learning and Engagement G. Phillip Schoultz, III. Band students were taught by University of Nebraska Associate Professor of Music Dr. Duane Bierman.

### 18 Simley Band & Choir Students Spartan Wrestling Defeats Three-time State Champions

The Simley High School Wrestling Team won a spot at the state tournament on February 18 after facing Kasson-Mantorville in the 1AA championship. The K-M wrestling team has won the Class AA state tournament for the past three years and, at the beginning of this year's 1AA championship, was ranked No. 21 in the nation with a 98-match winning streak. Simley wrestlers broke that streak with many outstanding wins.

Freshman Chase DeBlaere defeated a K-M senior who was ranked No. 3 at 126 pounds. No. 4-ranked Antonio Everett defeated a K-M wrestler ranked No. 5 at 145 pounds, and No. 4-ranked Nolan Wanzek defeated a K-M wrestler ranked No. 2 at 182 pounds. Heavyweight wrestler Greg Kerkvliet also pinned his K-M opponent in 28 seconds, winning the deciding match for Simley. The team went on to win the Class AA state championship, and nine members placed in the individual tournament.

#### Simley Packs Meals for County



Harvest Pack is a non-profit organization that gathers volunteers to pack nutritious, accessible meals. All of the meals go back to the volunteering community to help feed their neighbors. Simley High School students organized a service event with Harvest Pack just before the holidays to pack meals and make a difference in the Inver Grove Heights Schools and Dakota County community.

Students visited the event during the day to pack meals

that would help their peers and neighbors in need. Students filled, weighed, and sealed bags of fortified oatmeal and packed it to be delivered to Dakota County food shelves and be kept at the high school's food shelf, located in the nurse's office, for anyone in need of a nutritious meal. Though their goal was to pack 13,000 meals for local residents and families, Simley students passed their goal, preparing and packing 16,320 meals.

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#### **Student Advisory Council Discusses Engagement**

Each year, Inver Grove Heights Schools selects students from 4th, 7th, and 11th grade to participate in the district's Student Advisory Council. The council provides a student perspective on district issues. During their January meeting, the council talked about engagement.

In small groups, students in every grade worked together to discuss what engagement looks like, feels like, and sounds like in a classroom. They also talked about what they would like to see more of in classrooms in order to increase student engagement.

The council will use the notes that they reviewed and summarized in the meeting to create a survey about engagement. The goal is to distribute the survey to other students in 4th, 7th, and 11th grade to learn more about student perspectives on the subject. The council will pass on what they learn to school staff in hopes of increasing engagement at all ISD 199 schools.

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

#### #1. INFLATION

The rate of inflation is determined by the federal government. State funding for public education has not kept pace with inflation since 2003, causing funding for the current school year to be 9.8% below the compounded rate of inflation since 2003.

#### **#2. LEVY COMPARISON**

The Inver Grove Heights Schools local voter-approved levy for learning is \$819 per pupil. ISD 199 receives about \$533 less in referendum revenue per pupil than the average of our neighboring school districts, which includes South St. Paul at \$921, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan at \$1,161, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan at \$1,438, and South Washington County at \$1,837. The state limit for voter-approved levy referenda is \$2,024.89 per pupil.

#### #3. VOTER-APPROVED LEVIES VS. BONDS

BUILDING BOND LEVIES are funds the district uses for new construction, renovations, or additions to school buildings. These funds *cannot* be used to run schools, hire teachers, or support general operating expenses. ISD 199 currently levies \$3.7 million in bond levies because voters approved a bond referendum in 2005 and 2013. These referenda expire in 2026 and 2033.

OPERATING LEVIES are the funds that the district uses to operate its schools. It provides money above the state allocation for day-to-day expenses such as staff salaries, supplies, heating expenses, transportation,

and co-curricular programs. ISD 199 currently levies \$2.9 million in general operating levies because voters approved levies in 2017.

The ISD 199 CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY is a \$638,000 levy approved by voters in 2017 for the purchase of textbooks, curriculum materials, musical instruments, classroom furnishings, equipment, technology, and software for student achievement.

#### #4. CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS

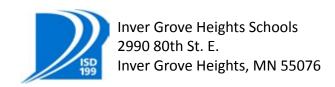
The goal of Career and College Readiness is to graduate every student with the knowledge and skills to successfully pursue a career pathway, including post-secondary credit leading to a degree, diploma, certificate, or industry-recognized credential and employment.

#### **#5. TAX RELIEF OPTIONS**

The Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund, or "Circuit Breaker," which started in the 1970s, is available each year to owners of homestead property. The homeowner's annual income must be approximately \$110,650 or less, higher if they have dependents. Renters can also apply for tax relief with the M-1PR state tax form.

The Senior Citizen Tax Deferral allows people age 65 and older with a household income of \$60,000 or less to defer a portion of property taxes on their home. This tax deferral limits property tax paid to 3% of household income to provide predictability. As long as participation in the program continues, the amount of tax paid will not change. Tax is deferred to be paid plus accrued interest upon sale or owner passing.

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



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