

199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SPRING 2019

Engage 199! Gives Students Tools for Success Through Engagement



Student engagement is an integral part of our school district's strategic plan. To further our commitment to student engagement and to ensure that our students are future ready, we are organizing our efforts around Engage 199!, a new initiative developed with feedback from our staff,

students, business partners, and community. Each group repeatedly emphasized the importance of giving students explicit opportunities to: be creative, think critically, collaborate meaningfully, and communicate effectively. Engage 199! aims to provide our students with these opportunities through engaging and relevant instruction, learning tools, and furnishings so they can be a cut above the rest in all of their academic and professional plans.

Our Inver Grove Heights Schools Student Advisory Council, which includes 4th-, 7th-, and 11th-grade students from every school, discussed student engagement during their meetings this year. They defined engagement as:

- A good and fun environment where students can be noisy, try their best, and understand the “why” of what they are learning.
- When everyone wants to be involved and focused on the topic being discussed while feeling comfortable and motivated to understand what is being taught.
- Having time to talk to the teacher and other students, to work together, ask questions, and take breaks to stay engaged in class.

Engage 199! also focuses on teaching that emphasizes student thinking and learning rather than limiting lessons to memorizing content. Instruction will be academically rigorous, challenging students to meet the demands of their learning. However, Engage 199! will also help students understand that they are capable of meeting those demands through enjoyable, relevant learning that offers them an opportunity to express themselves.

To achieve this, one tool can't do it all! Students will receive proper learning tools as Engage 199! rolls out. Tools will include textbooks, devices, digital resources, applications, programs, and learning management systems. Classrooms will also become more flexible to accommodate multiple learning formats. Flexibility will provide individual learning spaces as well as small and large group setups for more personalized learning and student engagement.

To accomplish the goals of Engage 199!, district teachers will continue to be involved in adjusting instruction to meet the needs of every learner. The district's capital projects levy, which voters supported during our 2017 referendum, is also making it possible to put the proper learning tools in the hands of our students. It has allowed for increased access to digital tools in classrooms, flexible classroom furniture, updated curriculum, and band instrument replacements. The capital projects levy is approximately \$628,000 per year and lasts for ten years of funding which will allow the district to continue to add the appropriate resources and implement reasonable replacement cycles for them.

We look forward to the new opportunities Engage 199! will provide for our students. As the initiative is implemented, we are excited to further our district vision of: an inclusive, respectful, and caring environment; a culture of high expectations; whole student development; personalized learning; and an involved and invested community and district.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dave'.

Dave

Interested in Running for the ISD 199 School Board?

The filing period for school board candidates will be Tuesday, July 30 - Tuesday, August 13. For more information, please contact the ISD 199 District Office at 651-306-7156.

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

2990 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-306-7800
www.isd199.org
Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

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

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 immediate 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.

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 [vimeo.com/isd199](https://www.vimeo.com/isd199)

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."

Inver Grove Heights Schools does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities, including vocational opportunities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, membership or activity in a commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age. Inver Grove Heights Schools provides equal access to designated youth groups. Student-related inquiries about non-discrimination policies should be sent to Mary Garrison at 2990 80th Street East in Inver Grove Heights, GarrisonM@isd199.org, or 651-306-7827. More information is available at www.isd199.org/nondiscrimination.

Resources for New Parents

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. These addresses and phone numbers are considered private data.

Passing of Former Board Member



We at Inver Grove Heights Schools are saddened by the news of former school board member Bridget Cronin's passing this March. Ms. Cronin served on the board from 2004-2014 and made an undeniable impact on our school community and its future.

"In everything she did as a school board member, it was all about the kids," said Paul Mandell, a former ISD 199 School Board member who served alongside Ms. Cronin.

The district extends its deepest condolences to Ms. Cronin's family, especially her children, as they face this difficult time. We also want to extend our gratitude for Ms. Cronin's dedication to her role as a board member.

To share condolences, please visit the Kandt Tetrick Funeral and Cremation Services website, www.kandt.org.

Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre Announces “Cabaret” for Summer 2019 Performance



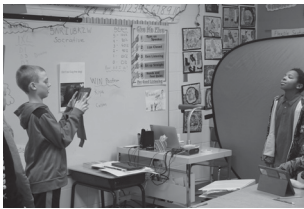
Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre will be performing “Cabaret” this summer. We are excited to bring another high quality production to the community.

“Cabaret” is a musical set in 1930s Berlin, as the Nazis are rising to power, and focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub. The plot explores the relationship between an American writer, Cliff Bradshaw, and an English cabaret performer, Sally Bowles.

Consider volunteering to help with our production. We are currently recruiting people to help with promotions and production. Auditions will be held in early June.

For the latest information, please visit www.IGHCommunityTheatre.org, the Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre website.

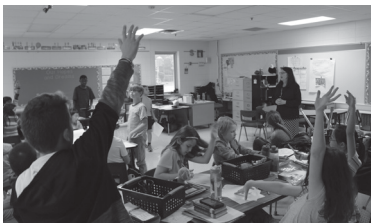
Elementary Media Classes to Expand



Media has been a mainstay offering for students in ISD 199 elementary schools. The student skills developed within Media are constantly changing. Beginning with the next school year, this will be adjusted even further. The adjustment aligns with the district’s mission and strategic plan which strive to prepare students for future success in college and career.

Students will have the opportunity to enhance their future ready skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity with lessons linked to science, technology, engineering, art and media. The adjustment will begin at Salem Hills Elementary School and in the Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program and will be reviewed for potential implementation during the following school year at Hilltop and Pine Bend elementary schools.

Gifted and Talented Advisory Council



The Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) provides an opportunity for active community participation in supporting and understanding the district’s gifted and talented programs for K-12. The council is made up of community members as well as parents, teachers, and administrators from the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

The council provides input to the Department of Learning and administration on gifted and talented programming efforts that support district and board goals, policies, and initiatives.

The purpose of the GTAC is to:

- Review and learn about gifted and talented learners, program processes, and options
- Provide feedback on program ideas and implementation
- Serve as a liaison and information resource to their school’s parent or school organizations
- Advocate for gifted programming in the school and community

Please visit www.isd199.org/gifted for more information about GTAC.

Student Advisory Council Helps ISD 199 See Classroom Engagement from a Student Perspective



The ISD 199 Student Advisory Council is a group of 4th-, 7th-, and 11th-grade students who are selected each year to work with administrators to provide a student perspective on current initiatives. The 2018-2019 council discussed a variety of

district topics, but each of their meetings during the year included discussions about classroom engagement. Council members offered their own opinions and built a survey for their grade-level peers to help the district better understand how to engage students in lessons.

In the fall, the council met to talk about what classroom engagement means to them. They answered questions about what engagement in

their classrooms looks like, sounds like, and feels like. Council members said engagement included students raising their hands, talking to each other about what they have learned, and feeling heard by the teacher. Throughout their meetings, the council compiled the notes from their discussions and used them to create a survey for their classmates to gain a more complete understanding of how students across the district engage in learning.

Students introduced the survey to their classmates and encouraged them to take it. Once all of the 4th, 7th, and 11th-grade classes complete the survey, council members will meet with Superintendent Dave Bernhardson to review their school’s results and help district and school administration understand the best strategies to improve engagement.

Elementary and High School Band Students Collaborate for First Bridging Concert



On March 21, Inver Grove Heights Schools 5th graders joined the Simley High School Wind Ensemble for the district's first Bridging Concert. The Simley band performed selections from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" during their performance. Students from the Simley Wind Ensemble also showcased their performance skills. A percussionist who scored the highest during a recent Minnesota State High School League contest performed his solo percussion piece and a student-organized quartet performed for the audience as well.

Fifth graders performed next, playing songs like "Shark Attack." Elementary band students introduced each piece and explained what skills they would showcase in their performance.

Near the end of the production, 5th graders and high schoolers combined to play two songs

together. While the concert was a great opportunity for students to play together, it also gave younger students an idea of what they could do in the future if they continue in the band program. Simley Band Director Kevin Robinson and Elementary Band Director Eric Arntson hope to expand the concert to include Inver Grove Heights Middle School 7th graders.

41 Parents Graduate 2019 APP



The Inver Grove Heights Schools parent program Academy of Powerful Parents (APP) is an annual class that connects preschool, kindergarten, and first grade parents, guardians, and relatives with the resources they need to start their student

on a path to school success. The six class sessions focus on familiarizing parents with the school system, teaching them techniques that can help learning at home, and building relationships between parents and school staff. This year, 41 parents, guardians, and relatives graduated from the program, having attended at least four of the six classes.

This year, APP classes were held at the IGH Early Learning Center and each elementary school so parents could attend class at a familiar location. Classes were also offered in English and Spanish. The Academy of Powerful Parents Program typically begins in February. Stay up to date on APP news at www.isd199.org/parents/app.

8th Graders Learn About Careers From the Experts



On an Early Release Day in February, Inver Grove Heights Middle School 8th graders learned about a variety of different careers as part of the school's annual Career Day. Local professionals visited the middle school to present on their job, detail its daily responsibilities and benefits, and talk to students about how they got there.

Students got a glimpse into career fields, including medicine, technology, emergency services, finance, engineering, and law, and the education and training required to obtain each. The Career Day presentations helped 8th graders start to think about their career goals and which high school classes might help them start on their career path. Thank you to all of the volunteer presenters for helping students think about their futures!

Simley Teacher Recognized for Life Skills Lessons



Minnesota nonprofit organization BestPrep prepares students with business, career, and financial literacy skills through hands-on experiences that inspire success in work and life. Each year, the organization presents the Educator of Excellence Award to teachers, volunteers, and sponsors who go above and beyond in their commitment to educating Minnesota youth. This year, Simley High

School teacher Colleen Parker was chosen to receive the award. Though more than 600 educators are nominated every year, the award only goes to the top 2%.

Ms. Parker was recognized for her participation and support in two of BestPrep's professional and financial programs for students. She did outstanding work in the Classroom Plus Program, which teaches students the business and career skills that are necessary for professional success, and the Financial Matters Program, which develops students' money management skills. Ms. Parker was honored at the end of May in a luncheon in Downtown Minneapolis.

Author Shares Her Writing Tool Belt



Children's book author Mary Bleckwehl visited ISD 199 elementary schools to talk about her writing. Ms. Bleckwehl read her book "Claire's Hair" to younger students and talked to them about friendship and sharing.

She also talked about what it means to be an author and how all of the students are storytellers.

Mrs. Bleckwehl talked to older students about her writing tool belt, which includes all of the places where she gets inspiration for her books. With that in mind, students helped her improvise a story, acting it out with her and demonstrating their understanding of the parts that make up a complete story. Students left with knowledge of how to use the tools in their own writing tool belts.

Kindergarten Registration

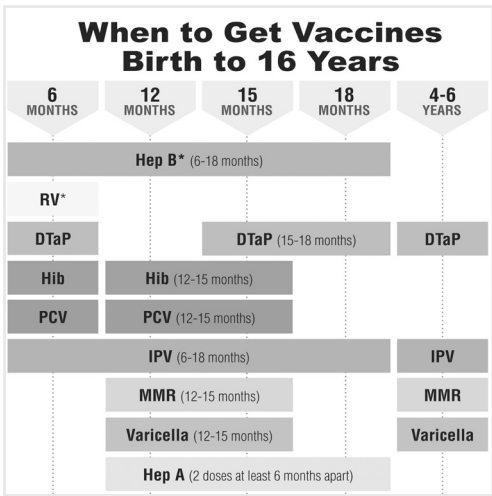


Incoming kindergarten families can still register for 2019-2020 kindergarten at Inver Grove Heights Schools. Parents and guardians can complete their student's enrollment at the ISD 199 District Office:

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, please visit www.isd199.org/district/enroll.

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 the website above to learn more about which immunizations are needed at different ages.

Register for IGH Youth Center Today



Local students entering grades 6-9 are invited to sign up for summer fun at the IGH Youth Center. The program offers a variety of choice-based activities every day as well as a series of field trips!

Monday, June 17 - Thursday, August 8 (Closed July 1-4)
 Mondays-Thursdays, 8:00 AM- 3:30 PM
 Inver Grove Heights Middle School
 8167 Cahill Avenue in Inver Grove Heights

Registration is open now! Please visit isd199.org/parents/youth-center to register and for more information. The program fee of \$295 covers the whole summer as well as all field trip transportation and admission fees. Space is limited, so register early!

Communications Survey Insights

This March, Inver Grove Heights Schools conducted a survey to understand and improve communication with staff, parents, and community members. Though a limited number of potential parents and community members completed the survey, results provided invaluable insights into how our families and neighbors receive information about the schools and district.

Insights and suggestions from the surveys, which include ideas for how the district can best reach stakeholders, will be taken into consideration for future district and school communication plans to better provide information to our community. Research will continue to be conducted into the effectiveness and possibility of the different improvements as well. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. Your feedback will be integral to the improvement of communications from the district and schools.

Visitor Management Systems Roll Out at All ISD 199 Buildings



In November of 2018, Pine Bend Elementary School and Simley High School were chosen to receive School Safety Grants from the Minnesota Department of Education. Part of the grants funded visitor management systems for the elementary and high school. To ensure security for all staff and students, Inver Grove Heights Schools invested in systems for its other buildings as well.

The visitor management systems will properly screen visitors before they enter the buildings. The system takes a current photo of the visitor for use on a printed visitor pass for proper identification. It also keeps students and the visitor safe by providing staff with real-time knowledge of who is in the building in case of evacuation or emergency. Staff are also notified when a visitor arrives to see them. The systems will be tested this spring for a more seamless transition in the fall.

FREE SUMMER MEALS AT YOUR SCHOOL

Free breakfast and lunch for children 18 years old and younger. No registration needed.

Hilltop Elementary School - Door 7

June 17 - August 1 (No meals on Fridays or July 1-4)
 Breakfast Hours: 8:15 - 9:00 AM Lunch Hours: 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM

Salem Hills Elementary School - Door 8 around back

June 17 - August 1 (No meals on Fridays or July 1-4)
 Breakfast Hours: 8:15 - 8:45 AM Lunch Hours: 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Inver Grove Heights Middle School - Door 13

June 17 - July 18 (No meals on Fridays or July 4)
 Breakfast Hours: 7:10 - 7:45 AM Lunch Hours: 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

For more information, visit www.isd199.org/SummerMeals.

Simley Senior Earns AAA Award for Region 3A



The Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, or Triple “A” Award, recognizes high school seniors across the state who have excelled in all three areas throughout their high school careers. Ben Borchard earned the award with a long list of impressive accomplishments.

He has maintained a 4.0 GPA while also being chosen as a National Merit Scholar and an AP Scholar with Distinction based

on his outstanding ACT and AP exam scores. Ben has consistently been a part of the district’s music program. While he has been the first chair trumpet in Simley High School’s Wind Ensemble, he has also lent his talents to the Simley Jazz Band and has been selected for seven college-associated honor bands during his high school career. Over the years, Ben has also learned to play piano and guitar.

In athletics, he participated in four sports during high school. Starting off in football, Alpine ski, and golf, he soon added cross country. Ben led as captain of the cross country, Alpine ski, and golf teams and was a letter winner in each, a 2-year letter winner in cross country and a 4-year letter winner in Alpine ski and golf. Excelling in golf, Ben earned Honorable Mention All Conference three times and was named MVP in 2017.

Ben has also been named one of Simley’s Top 10 Seniors for the Class of 2019. Congratulations to him on all of his accomplishments.

Simley Theatre Presents, “West Side Story”



Simley High School students challenged themselves this spring with the musical “West Side Story,” a modern retelling of “Romeo and Juliet.” The play follows two young, idealistic lovers, Tony and Maria, as they fall in love but quickly find themselves caught between the two warring street gangs. The musical drama follows their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence, and prejudice.

Students did an outstanding job of handling the adult storyline while beautifully playing Leonard Bernstein’s scores and singing Stephen Sondheim’s lyrics. The performances brought in about 1,300 audience members. Thank you to everyone who attended in support of the cast and crew.

Young WordMasters Earn Outstanding Results

ISD 199 elementary students did an outstanding job at their most recent WordMasters Challenge, including earning a perfect score! WordMasters is a competition for 3rd through 8th graders that challenges them to learn and understand words far above grade level and complete logical puzzles with their knowledge. Nearly 150,000 students compete every year.

This year, Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program 3rd graders Sophia McClarty and Alexis To and 4th graders Faith Enejobo Agada and Pranya Duvvuru achieved outstanding results in the most difficult Gold Division. One Pine Bend Elementary School 3rd grader, George Yassa, even earned a perfect score in the Blue Division. He was one of only 11 4th graders to do so. Congratulations to the WordMasters Challenge participants!

Atheneum State Chess Champions



Five Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program students in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade placed in the Minnesota State Chess Association 2019 Scholastic Championship! Aarav S., Anvith P., Nivrit K., and Rishik K. became the state champions for grades K-3. They had a

combined score of 11 wins and 5 losses. Aarav, Anvith, and Suhaas P. competed in the K-5 championship and brought home the 3rd place trophy. Congratulations to all of the students!

SIMLEY BAND STUDENTS EARN HIGHEST SCORES AT MSHSL CONTESTS



Simley High School recently hosted and participated in the 2019 Minnesota State High School League’s Region 3AA Instrumental Large Group and Solo & Ensemble contests. In the Large Group Contest, four schools and eight bands performed musical selections for a panel of three judges. The Simley Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band each received the highest overall score of “Superior.” Each judge scored the musical selections on tone quality, intonation, rhythm, balance and blend, technique, articulations, and other performance factors, such as the choice of literature, appearance, and conduct.

At the Solo & Ensemble Contest, Henry Sibley High School, Richfield High School, St. Thomas Academy, and Simley were represented. Each band student or ensemble prepared a musical selection and presented it to a judge. They were graded on tone quality, intonation, rhythm, balance and blend, technique, interpretation, articulation, and execution. Of Simley’s 102 participants and 86 entries, 57 students received a “Superior” rating and 44 students received an “Excellent” rating. Two Simley students also received “Best of Site.” Daniel Williams earned the recognition on trumpet and Taylor Riess on bass clarinet. Congratulations to all of the students on their outstanding performances.

Late Winter Sports Recognitions

Boys Basketball

All Conference

Ruot Jioklow
Honorable Mention
 Breyton Buysman
 Cole Tschida

Girls Basketball

All Conference

Ysareia Chevre
 Acheampomaah
 Danso
 Tiwaah Danso
 Sydney Stensgard
Honorable Mention
 Bonita Franco
 Nikole Gullerud

Gymnastics

All Conference

Vault
 Autumn Remackel
Honorable Mention
 Skyla Ward
Floor Exercise
 Autumn Remackel
 Skyla Ward

Boys Hockey (Addition)

Honorable Mention

Andrew Jeffers

Swimming & Diving

State Qualifier

Ben Briguet
 Ethan Jie
 Garrett Kaiser
 Nico Losinski
 Marios Makar
 Sam Montague
 Dominick Olase
 Andrew Perrin
 Brandon Petryszyn
 Eric Petschl
 Michael Schmalz
 Eric Schroeder
 Gabe Ukestad
All Conference
Diving
 Garrett Kaiser
Swimming
 Ben Briguet
 Ethan Jie
 Nico Losinski
 Sam Montague

Andrew Perrin
 Eric Petschl
 Michael Schmalz
 Gabe Ukestad
Honorable Mention
 Marios Makar
 Joseph Waska

Wrestling

State Qualifier

Individual Participant
 Cael Berg
 Chase Deblaere
 Esiquio Diaz
 James Diaz Lopez
 Gavin Nelson
 Freddy Rivera
 Peyton Spychalla
 Bennett Tabor
 Nolan Wanzek

Team Participant

Cael Berg
 Chase Deblaere
 Esiquio Diaz
 James Diaz Lopez
 Travis Dohmen
 Landan DuVal
 Antonio Everett
 Jacob Hageman
 Brent Holzem
 Greg Kerkvliet
 Gavin Nelson
 Cory Primeau
 Freddy Rivera
 Ruben Saldivar
 Kaiden Schrandt
 Quayin Short
 Ryan Sokol
 Peyton Spychalla
 Bennett Tabor
 Nolan Wanzek

All Conference

Cael Berg
 Antonio Everett
 Jacob Hageman
 Gavin Nelson
 Freddy Rivera
 Ryan Sokol
 Peyton Spychalla
 Bennett Tabor
 Nolan Wanzek

Congratulations to all of the athletes recognized this winter! Early winter sports recognitions can be found in the Spring 2019 edition of the 199 Reporter.

Chris Mensen Named New Simley Football Coach



Simley High School Activities Director, Will Short, has announced the hiring of Chris Mensen as the new Simley Spartan Head Football Coach for the 2019-2020 season. Chris will replace former head coach Rex King.

Coach Mensen has been a member of the Simley football staff for nine years. He has served as the Offensive Coordinator for the past eight seasons. The Spartan offense, under Coach Mensen, saw some of its best years, statistically, including several players with 1,000+ rushing yards and a trip to the Prep Bowl in 2014.

Before coming to Simley, Coach Mensen served as the head coach for Vessey Leadership Academy and led the Cadets to their first win in program history. He played high school football in Solon, IA, where he helped the Spartans to a State Runner-up finish in 2003 and accumulated 12 athletic letters in four different sports. He continued his playing career for the University of Minnesota and was named Academic All-Big Ten in 2008 and 2009. After college, Coach Mensen played three years for the Minnesota Dragons and was named to the Northern Elite Football League All-Star team in his final two years. Coach Mensen will strive to develop phenomenal young men through hard work and toughness while they pursue excellence in the classroom, on the field, and in the community.

Elementary Students Jump Rope for Heart



ISD 199 elementary schools have a long tradition of helping others and promoting prevention through the American Heart Association's annual Jump Rope for Heart events. Pine Bend's participation, at the direction of physical education teacher Kelly Darrow, has even put them in the Top 10 in the state for the last 20 years. Students have raised thousands of dollars to help the AHA reduce the number of heart disease and stroke victims while discovering new and fun ways to jump rope and stay active.

This year, students gathered pledges from family and friends depending on how long they jumped rope during their school's event. Each grade level switched between members of their jump rope group, showing each other tricks and creating new ones. Funds will be used to raise awareness of how to prevent heart disease and stroke and to provide resources through the AHA. Great job, students, on your hard work!



ATHENA AWARD RECOGNIZES STUDENT ATHLETE



Simley High School senior Sarah Anaya was awarded the 2019 St. Paul Athena Award this April alongside 42 other student athletes from the east metro area. The award recognizes female student athletes who display excellence in athletics as well as academics.

Sarah is a four-sport athlete, participating in Simley's Alpine skiing, track and field, swimming, and cross country teams. A captain of the Alpine ski and track and field teams, she has qualified for state on the Alpine ski team, earned All Conference in Alpine ski and cross country, and earned All Conference Honorable Mention in track and field and swimming. She is also a member of Simley's National Honor Society and band. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota.

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

#1. GRADUATION RATE

Starting in 2012, Minnesota began using the federally-required "adjusted cohort graduation rate" model. This model follows students in a group, or a "cohort," throughout high school and determines if they graduate within four, five, six or seven years. The four-year graduation rate shows the number of students graduating from high school within four years after entering grade nine.

To determine this rate, we identify all students who entered ninth grade four years ago. The next step is to add in any students who moved into the school and subtract out any students who moved away. This adjusted number represents the total number of students who are eligible to graduate. The actual graduation rate is determined by dividing the total number of students who actually graduated by the number of those eligible to graduate.

The five-, six- and seven-year graduation rates show the number of students who graduated in four years plus the number of students who took additional time to earn sufficient credits or meet other graduation requirements to receive a high school diploma from their district.

#2. PURPOSE OF MCA'S

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are state tests in reading, mathematics, and science that are used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. The tests are administered every year to measure student performance relative to the Minnesota Academic Standards that specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do.

Schools use the information to improve classroom teaching and learning. Teachers and principals look for areas where students do well so they can reinforce the ways they teach these skills. They also look for areas that need improvement so they can increase instructional time or modify their instruction.

**All
in
for
Inver Grove!**

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



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Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
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South St. Paul, MN

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55076-55077