

199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SUMMER 2020

Referendum Support Leads to Opportunity No Matter the Distance

The Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted all of our lives in so many ways. We are all experiencing an unprecedented degree of uncertainty around many aspects of daily life. Within Inver Grove Heights Schools, the educational process has undergone a significant adjustment in a short amount of time. Our community's support has been vital to that adjustment.

Among the many advantages that have helped us continue to provide the best education to our students is the passage of our 2017 levy referendum. We are indebted to our community for their support of the capital projects levy as it has created the condition for students to be engaged in a manner we never imagined. Distance Learning is largely possible because the levy provided access to digital content and tools that most of our students now depend on to learn while our buildings are closed. It also allowed us to hire a social worker for every school, all of whom have been working hard to support the basic needs of students so they can focus on learning.

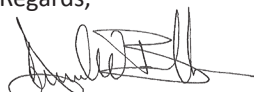
Prior to the referendum, our school district had about 1,700 devices that students shared. Thanks to voters, the district has been able to more than double the number of devices over the past three years. Once Distance Learning was implemented, the increase in devices ensured that every student who needed a device had one. This has helped the district engage 99.03% of students throughout the district as of April.

In the years since the referendum, the introduction of more digital tools and accessibility has personalized learning for students like never before. Now, in addition to fueling student learning and innovation, these tools actually provide something much more basic during this strange and often frightening time: connection. Though many students are with their families, digital tools offer another source of comfort and normalcy by allowing them to hear, see, and talk to their school family.

Social workers are helping our educators monitor and address the needs of students so learning can be their first priority on school days. In such an isolating and stressful time, we are grateful to have certified social workers on our staff who can help students and families maintain mental health and connect them with community resources for help with finances, utilities, food, and more.

All of this was only possible with the support of our community. Thank you for trusting us to innovate and helping us to equip our students for success in every situation.

Regards,



Dave

By The Numbers: ISD 199's COVID-19 Response

950 Number of children receiving meals, on average, per day

30 Number of children, on average, served daily in childcare for healthcare and emergency workers

96 Number of childcare, paraprofessional, food service, transportation, custodial, and lunchroom monitor employees reporting to the buildings to provide essential services to the community and those still in the buildings

1,690 Number of devices, including learning devices and internet access devices, lent to students for Distance Learning

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

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The 199 Reporter is a quarterly publication that is mailed to every household in School District 199 to keep all of our community members informed about district news.

If you have questions about this publication, please contact:

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GET INVOLVED

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

Simley Teacher Selected as Semifinalist for Teacher of the Year



This February, Simley High School language arts teacher Matthew Corey was chosen as one of only 36 semifinalists for the Teacher of the Year Award. After reviewing his portfolio, 24 community leaders chose him from a competitive field of preschool through 12th grade, Early Childhood Family Education, and Adult Basic Education teachers working in both public and private schools around the state. In April, Education Minnesota announced the 10 finalists for the award. Though Mr. Corey was not chosen as a finalist this year, his selection as a semifinalist from a pool of 134 candidates shows his outstanding work as an educator. Congratulations to Mr. Corey!

ISD 199 Sees Improved Graduation Rates in Just One Year



The Minnesota Department of Education released 2019 graduation rate data this March. Statewide, graduation rates increased by .5 percentage points from 83.2 in 2018 to 83.7 in 2019. Inver Grove Heights Schools had even larger gains to celebrate.

The graduation rate for the district increased by nearly 2 percentage points to 90.19% in just one year. While Simley High School's graduation rate increased by .53 percentage points to 89.96%, Simley's Alternative Learning Program increased its graduation rate by more than 25 percentage points! The program's 66.67% graduation rate in 2018 rocketed to 92.31% in 2019. The district also saw large graduation rate gains in the Hispanic, Black, White, Two or More Races, English Learner, Special Education, and Free or Reduced Price Meals student groups.

Simley Students Run Advanced Course Fair



Simley High School students held an Advanced Course Fair to show all students their options for career and college classes. Student presenters talked about their experiences in immersive career courses, college credit and dual enrollment courses, AP courses, and more. Using peer-to-peer conversations and demonstrations to highlight opportunities, the presenters were able to answer questions from a student perspective.

IGHMS Students Organize Black History Month Assembly



Inver Grove Heights Middle School's Students of Color Leadership group organized an assembly to celebrate Black History Month. The assembly, which students had been working on since December, featured music, spoken word, reflection, and a step routine performed by students. It also featured a video representation of student voices and a video of students asking peers and staff about black history. Pine Bend Elementary School Principal Quennel Cooper made opening and closing remarks, and guest speaker Cornelius (Corn) Rish did an interactive piece about his black hero and how he impacted his life.

Thank you to everyone who made the assembly possible, and great job to the students who organized and performed a majority of the event!

Students Celebrate Literacy During Read Across America Week



The National Education Association started Read Across America Week to inspire children to read and to bring the joy of reading to students of all ages. Elementary students enjoyed literacy-themed activities throughout the week to celebrate reading.

Hilltop Elementary School students kicked off their Read Across America Week with a Book Parade around the school. Students dressed as their favorite book characters and displayed their favorite books while walking through the hallways past other classes. The parade ended in the gym where guest readers Inver Grove Heights Fire Chief Judy Thill and ISD 199 School Resource Officer Tyler Nelson read aloud to the school. They read “The Squirrels Who Squabbled,” a story about teamwork and friendship, and then handed out awards for students who made significant progress on their reading scores.

At Salem Hills Elementary School and the Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program, children’s book author Diane Davies visited to read “Life in the Neck: Squirrel Trouble” to students and to talk about being a writer. She introduced students to the book publishing process, bringing in the proof of her book and detailing all of the steps she went through to finally get it printed. Salem Hills and Atheneum also held DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Time. All of the hallway lights were turned off to create a calm atmosphere, and students brought their favorite books and a flashlight out to the hallways to read.

NDSU Honors Simley’s Megan Kimble for Service to Students



Every day, Simley High School’s Career Center Coordinator Megan Kimble connects students with the resources they need for a successful future. North Dakota State University recognized her efforts with its Distinguished Education Professionals (DEP) Award. Megan was one of only five professionals to be chosen for her leadership, commitment, and excellence in service to students and her support of NDSU’s recruitment efforts. Congratulations to Ms. Kimble!

Simley Senior Honored with Aspirations in Computing Award



for demonstrating an evolving interest in, aptitude for, and commitment to computing.

The National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) offers an annual awards program, Aspirations in Computing. The program recognizes students for their technology interests, skills, and accomplishments. This year, nearly 4,700 students were nominated for an award from the center. Of the 133 students selected from Minnesota, Simley High School senior Gabrielle Vang earned a Certificate of Distinction

Gabrielle and the other 52 students selected for the certificate were selected on the basis of solid experience that indicates that they merit recognition and entry into the Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Community. The award also provides recipients networking, scholarship, internship, and summer job shadow opportunities.

40 Parents Graduate 2020 Academy of Powerful Parents Program



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, 40 parents, guardians, and relatives graduated from the program, having attended at least four classes.

This year, APP classes were held at Hilltop and Salem Hills elementary schools and 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.

Pine Bend SALT Day



Each year, Pine Bend Elementary School students have an opportunity to dive into new topics that fit their interests as part of SALT (Students and Adults Learning Together) Day. Community volunteers and staff host classes on subjects they are passionate about, from arts and crafts to karate, and students are able to choose three classes to attend on SALT Day.

This year’s classes included crafting bead art, a science experiment about catapults from a 3M employee, a lesson about different animals from the Dodge Nature Center, and much more. Thank you to all of the community members who volunteered to host classes and help students explore new topics!

Simley Ranks in Top 15% of Best High Schools List, Top 5% in College Readiness

U.S. News & World Report is a publication trusted for its rankings of colleges, high schools, and other educational institutions across the country. Each year, it evaluates the nation's traditional, charter, magnet, and STEM high schools and ranks the top schools for its Best High Schools list. Rankings are based on a combination of factors to determine which high schools do the best job of educating all of their students with the resources they have. Of the 17,792 schools that U.S. News & World Report ranked on the 2020 list, Simley High School ranked in the top 15% of high schools in the Minneapolis metro area, the top 15% of high schools in Minnesota, and the top 20% of high schools in the U.S.

Schools on the Best High Schools list are ranked using data from test scores, performance of different student groups, graduation rates, and more. Simley's rankings highlighted its successes in the areas of College Readiness, which measures the number of seniors who took and passed at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam, and College Curriculum Breadth, which measures the number of seniors who took and passed AP exams in multiple classes. Of the 419 ranked high schools in Minnesota, Simley ranked #18 in College Readiness and #19 in College Curriculum Breadth, putting it in the top 5% in the state for both. Nationally, Simley's rankings in the two college readiness areas put it in the top 10% in each.

Simley's Best High Schools Ranking at a Glance

Metro Area

Overall Ranking (All ranked high schools): Top 15%

State

Overall Ranking (All ranked high schools): Top 15%

College Readiness Ranking: Top 5%

College Curriculum Breadth: Top 5%

Nation

Overall Ranking (All ranked high schools): Top 20%

College Readiness Ranking: Top 10%

College Curriculum Breadth: Top 10%

Advanced Placement (AP) Student Performance

Seniors who took an AP exam: 60%

Students who earned a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam: 64%

ISD 199 School Board Declares May 29 - June 5 Spartan Pride Week

On Monday, May 18, the Inver Grove Heights School Board unanimously passed the Resolution Declaring Spartan Pride Week in Honor of the Class of 2020 and Distance Learning Efforts by Students, Staff, and Families. The resolution designates May 29 - June 5 as Spartan Pride Week.

In recognition of students excelling and finding success even during the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; the innovation, care, passion, grace, and support shown for students, staff, and the school district by the community and staff; the way our community has stayed Spartan Strong through these difficult times; and the unprecedented experiences of the Simley Class of 2020, the ISD 199 School Board encourages the community to share Spartan Pride at their homes and businesses from May 29 through Graduation Day, June 5. Their Spartan Pride shows support for ISD 199 students, especially the Class of 2020, and those who have helped prepare them for their next step, such as family members and staff. Thank you to our students, families, staff, and community as we prepare to celebrate our graduates and wrap up the school year.

DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH USDA, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO FEED KIDS

Last year, more than 14 million households in the United States reported that they could not afford or acquire enough food to feed everyone in their household at times throughout the year. In Inver Grove Heights Schools, 43% of the student population is enrolled to receive free and reduced price meals. To make sure every student had a nutritious meal to fuel their learning until lunch, ISD 199 implemented free breakfast districtwide in March. Schools provided free "grab and go" breakfasts for students to pick up on their way to class each morning. The districtwide program was partially funded by a grant from Second Harvest Heartland, a food bank in the Twin Cities that partners with schools and other organizations to help end hunger.

When the governor closed schools in response to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, our food service department began providing breakfasts and lunches to any child who needed them in Inver Grove Heights. Thanks to a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), ISD 199 will be reimbursed for the meals provided to children during this time. The USDA set up reimbursements for school districts similar to the reimbursements they receive for providing meals to students in the summer.

As the school year ends, the district will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all children 2-18 years old, no registration needed, as part of its annual Summer Meals Program. Visit www.isd199.org/SummerMeals as summer approaches for more information.

The Sheridan Story, a non-profit committed to ending hunger, and Neighbors, Inc., a local social services provider, are also providing food to any community members in need. Alongside meals for kids, bags of non-perishable groceries from the Sheridan Story are available at ISD 199 buildings between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays. Individuals can also call Neighbors, Inc. at 651-455-5000 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday, to schedule a time to safely pick up groceries. The organization is not accepting voicemail messages at this time, so callers who do not get through are encouraged to keep trying. In certain circumstances, Neighbors, Inc. may also be able to deliver food.

Enrollment is Open Even When Buildings are Closed

The Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the government's response to it have temporarily closed our buildings for the health and safety of all students, families, and staff. However, families are still welcome to enroll their student. ISD 199 offers preschool through 5th grade at Hilltop, Pine Bend, or Salem Hills elementary schools, 6th through 8th grade at Inver Grove Heights Middle School, and 9th through 12th grade at Simley High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Parents who have newborn babies through 5-year-old children can also enroll in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes for the fall. ECFE classes help parents connect with their children, learn research-based parenting techniques, and build community with other parents who can offer support and experience.

Enrollment in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Classes & Preschool: 651-306-7503

Elementary Enrollment: 651-306-7800

Middle School Enrollment: 651-306-7200

High School Enrollment: 651-306-7000

At this time, the school district is working with families to get students enrolled despite typical requirements. With many establishments temporarily closed, requirements like early childhood screenings and proof of home address are being temporarily waived to be fulfilled at a later date. Visit www.health.state.mn.us/immunize to stay up-to-date on typical immunizations requirements.

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, please visit www.isd199.org/new_families/census 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.

Census 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.

Educational Benefits Offer Discounts for More Than Meals



ISD 199 is encouraging families who have lost employment or are experiencing a cut in work hours; who are not currently participating in SNAP, MFIP, or FDIPIR benefits; or who did not qualify for Educational Benefits earlier this school year to complete the 2019-2020 Application for Educational Benefits.

Visit www.isd199.org/edu-benefits for the easy, confidential online application. Information you provide on the form and your child's approval for school meal benefits will be protected as private data.

When you qualify, keep your Educational Benefits Approval Letter to access a variety of services! In addition to meal benefits when school resumes and free school meals 30 days into the 2020-2021 school year, families can use relevant discounts now, even while school is not in session! Your letter will provide access to discounts on phone and internet service, Metro Transit rides, the Amazon.com Prime Program, and more.

If you have any questions, please leave a message at 651-306-7822 and our food service team will get back to you.

2020-2021 School-age Care



Families can sign up now for 2020-2021 school year care for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Spartan Kids' Care keeps students engaged with daily activities, homework help, and more. Before-school care, two after-school options, and non-school day care is available, and families can choose the number of days that they need care per week to fit their schedule or choose drop-in care. For program fees, registration information, and more about care for the 2020-2021 school year, visit www.isd199.org/parents/skc.

Friends of Inver Glen Donation



The Friends of the Inver Glen Library dedicated books, a bookshelf, and a bulletin board to expand the Free Little Library at Salem Hills Elementary School. With the donations, Salem Hills staff put together a check-out system of children's books that families around the school could check out. At a small dedication, students thanked the Friends of the Inver Glen Library for their generous donation.

IGHMS Career Day



Inver Grove Heights Middle School holds a Career Day for 8th graders each spring to show students their options for the future. During an early release day, local professionals in a variety of career fields, such as emergency services, medicine, technology, finance, and law, gave students an in-depth look at their job and how they got there. Each presentation familiarized students with the daily responsibilities of the job as well as the qualifications, education, and training needed for it. Thank you to all of the volunteer presenters!

ISD 199 Earns Financial Reporting Award for 15th Year in a Row



Each year, Inver Grove Heights Schools submits its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. The submission puts the district in the running for the organization's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting program. This year, ISD 199 earned its 15th Certificate of Excellence in a row for the fiscal year ended 2019.

The ASBO International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting is awarded to school districts that show commitment to transparency and high-quality reporting. A team of professional auditors reviews submitted comprehensive annual financial reports to determine award recipients and provide feedback to improve future documents. To be considered for the Certificate of Excellence program each year, ISD 199 must incorporate the previous year's feedback. The process helps the district continually improve its accountability.

Simley Musicians Earn High Marks at State Solo & Ensemble Competition

Simley High School hosted and participated in the 2020 Minnesota State High School League's Region 3AA Instrumental Solo & Ensemble Contest. Band students from four Metro East Conference high schools prepared an individual or ensemble musical selection and presented it to a judge. They were graded on tone quality, intonation, rhythm, balance and blend, technique, interpretation, articulation, and execution. Simley had 118 students participating in 95 entries. Nearly all of them received one of the two highest scores, with 50 receiving the highest rating of "Superior" and 41 receiving the second highest rating of "Excellent." Simley's Curtis Hance also received the "Best of Site" recognition for his outstanding performance on the French horn. Congratulations to all of the students on their performances.

STUDENT ATHLETE EARNS ATHENA AWARD THROUGH DETERMINATION



Simley High School senior Emma Heimerl has been chosen for a 2020 St. Paul Athena Award alongside 41 other outstanding student athletes from the east metro area. The award recognizes female student athletes who display excellence in both athletics and academics.

Emma has shown dedication in each of her three sports: volleyball, hockey, and softball. She has also won a number of prestigious honors in each, from All Conference to All State Academic, and taken on the role of captain and leader for all of her teams.

Emma has played varsity volleyball for four years, earning Most Improved Player her freshman year and Most Valuable Player her senior year along with multiple other honors, like Heart for the Game, in between.

"[Emma] set the highest standard for the achievement of team goals before individual honors, [which is] rare in a player of her ability," Simley Volleyball Coach Mark Kaschke said.

Emma's hockey career started with her being named Most Improved Player and earning an All Conference Honorable Mention, but during

her junior year, she decided not to play hockey. At the end of the season, she spoke to Simley Girls Hockey Coach Tom Patnode about rejoining for her senior year.

"Not only did she play," Coach Patnode said, "she played varsity." Even after a volleyball season injury kept her from conditioning and the first weeks of the season, she played her first varsity game less than a week after returning to the ice and never missed a game after that.

"[Emma] taking a complete year off of one of [her sports] and then playing varsity upon return says something about her as an athlete."

Emma has decided to play softball after she starts college this fall. She has been on Simley's varsity softball team for five years and has been a varsity starter for four of them. Her awards, in addition to All Conference, All State, and All Section, include the Silver Slugger and Golden Glove.

Simley Softball Coach Becca Ostby said she was chosen to be a captain her senior year because "she is an awesome role model both in softball and in the classroom."

"She is a great team player, always looking for different ways that she can help the team," Coach Ostby said, which included mentoring a younger teammate last year. "Her determination and drive set her apart from other athletes her age."

Winter Sports Recognition

Boys Basketball

All Conference

Breyton Buysman
Rj Jioklow

Honorable Mention

Alex Binley

Girls Basketball

State Participant

Simley Girls
Basketball Team

All Conference

Ysareia Chevre
Acheampomaah
Danso

Tiwaah Danso

Sydney Stensgard

Honorable Mention

Ravyn Miles

Dance Team

State Participant

Jazz Team
Kick Team

All Conference

Katie Honchell
Taylor Pawlenty
Olivia Schmidt
Honorable Mention
Olivia Jacobson
Kasey Kropp
Marissa Leland

Gymnastics

State Participant

Emerson Hocking
Alexa Lynner
Ashley Lynner
Chrissa Muller
Erin Orn
Bekkah Scufsa

Skyla Ward

All Conference

Emerson Hocking
Alexa Lynner
Ashley Lynner
Erin Orn

Honorable Mention

Chrissa Muller
Bekkah Scufsa
Skyla Ward

Boys Hockey

All Conference

Trent Peterson
Shane Prifrel

Honorable Mention

Andrew Bergum
Cooper Bollmann
Zach Painter
Hunter Sandnas

Girls Hockey

All Conference

Kendall Johnson
Jordan Juers
Avery Schwark
Ella Tuccitto
Honorable Mention
Zoe Boughton
Kate Carlson
Ava Patnode
Hailey Ries

Nordic Ski

All Conference

Grant Dilla

Boys Swimming & Diving

State Participant & All Conference

Ethan Jie
Garrett Kaiser

Nico Losinski

Brandon Petryszyn
Gabe Ukestad

State Participant & Honorable Mention

Hunter Dilla
Dominick Olaes
Eric Schroeder
Joseph Waska

Wrestling

State Participant

State Champion

Simley Wrestling Team

Cael Berg
Chase Deblaere

Ryan Sokol
Bennett Tabor

Runner-up

Gavin Nelson
Cash Raymond

Quayin Short

3rd Place

Reid Nelson

6th Place

Landan Duval
Qualifier

Travis Dohmen

Nolan Wanzek

All Conference

Cael Berg

Landan Duval

Gavin Nelson

Reid Nelson

Cash Raymond

Quayin Short

Ryan Sokol

Peyton Spychalla

Bennett Tabor

Nolan Wanzek

Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre Tentatively Plans for Summer 2020 Production



Each summer, the Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre produces a musical that highlights the talents of our neighbors of all ages. The theatre group is currently moving forward with the intent of producing Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" this coming summer, August 7-9 and August 14-16. The group held online auditions in April and May and is excited to introduce the director for the show, Quinn Forrest Masterson.

With past experience including The Guthrie Theatre, Theatre Coup d'Etat, and the Old Globe in San Diego, Mr. Masterson has most recently directed a number of productions at Park High School in Cottage Grove. His latest production, "Little Shop of Horrors," was recognized with 24 awards from the Hennepin Theatre Trust's Spotlight Education program.

Please visit the theatre's website, www.IGHTheatre.org, or its Facebook page for the latest information.

Simley Winter Athletics Season Filled With Victories



The 2019-2020 winter athletics season was a noteworthy one for many of Simley High School's teams. At the March 9 ISD 199 School Board meeting, team captains presented on their seasons. The Simley Dance Team qualified for state, placing 9th in Jazz and 10th in Kick, and three of their dancers made it to the All State Tournament. The gymnastics team sent six individuals to state, more than Simley Athletics Director Will Short had seen qualify for state since he started at Simley. Their coach was also named Head Coach of the Year in their section. Boys hockey announced that this was their third straight year of 12+ wins and that, during their games, the team raised more than \$2,000 to donate to cancer research and gathered 400 lbs of clothes to donate to local clothing closets. The girls hockey

team coach was named Section Coach of the Year. The boys swim and dive team placed 15th at state, placed 5th at True Team State, and had one team member become a state champion at the individuals tournament.

Girls basketball qualified for state this year, nearly earning third place before the Minnesota High School League shut down tournaments in the interest of student safety this March. The team also had three players up for the Miss Basketball Award, which recognizes the best girls basketball players in the state. The wrestling team secured the 13th team title and first undefeated season, 22-0, in school history. In the individual tournament, Simley Wrestling had 4 state champions.

Despite their outstanding achievements in their sports, Simley students also talked about their commitment to academics at the school board meeting. The girls and boys Nordic Ski teams, gymnastics team, boys hockey team, girls hockey team, and wrestling team reported that they earned academic awards for high GPAs of individual players and whole teams. Several teams reported their award-winning GPAs: 3.87 for gymnastics, 3.42 for boys hockey, 3.90 for girls hockey, and 3.69 for wrestling. Congratulations to all of our student athletes!

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



#1. COVID-19 INFO WEBPAGE

The district has created an information webpage, www.isd199.org/covid19, to archive all of its updates during the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and to provide resources for

families and community members during this difficult time. Resources include services provided by the district, such as tech support and free meal distribution locations. The webpage also includes resources from outside organizations, such as federal, state, and local agencies providing supports for mental health, finances, utilities, and more to help all Americans through this crisis. For more information and resources, visit www.isd199.org/covid19.

#2. SIMLEY GRADUATION

Simley High School's graduation ceremony is the capstone event of a journey that has taken years to accomplish. To honor the Simley Class of 2020 and, at the same time, protect the safety of our students, staff, families, and community in accordance with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requirements, Simley will hold a virtual graduation

ceremony that will be broadcast on Friday, June 5, at 7:30 PM. Community members are encouraged to check ISD 199's and Town Square Television's outlets, listed below, for details about the Class of 2020 Graduation Broadcast as the virtual graduation day approaches and to tune in on June 5:

- www.townsquare.tv
- www.facebook.com/townsquare.tv
- www.vimeo.com/townsquaretv
- www.isd199.org
- www.facebook.com/isd199
- www.twitter.com/isd199

Town Square and ISD 199 will make the broadcast available after June 5 at the outlets above as well.

We are also reserving the date of July 24, 2020, at 7:00 PM in the hopes of having a traditional graduation ceremony at Simley High School if conditions change to allow for large gatherings.

We share the disappointment our seniors and their families are feeling as this is not the way we had thought we would celebrate graduation. We considered many options to celebrate our seniors in the best way possible. With the addition of the MDE requirements, a virtual graduation was the option that would best honor tradition, timing, health, and safety. This is a time to celebrate seniors' accomplishments, and we will do everything we can to make this a special time for everyone involved. We look forward to honoring the Class of 2020!

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



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