

199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2020-21

Based on County Data, ISD 199 to Start Year in Hybrid Model

Thank you to our school community for their continued patience, understanding, and grace as our staff have worked to rethink, develop, and refine plans for the 2020-2021 school year. On July 30, Governor Tim Walz, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) released the Safe Learning Plan. The plan provides a baseline learning model for school districts based on their county's COVID-19 data (pictured below).

Once a school district understands which model it can use based on their county's most recent case numbers, it reviews a number of factors, such as safety requirements and available resources, to determine which model it will use. MDH encourages schools to use a more restrictive model if the number of cases in their county has increased each week in the past month. Inver Grove Heights Schools reviewed Dakota County data as of August 13, which showed about 21 cases per 10,000 and a 2% increase in cases each week before that. With this in mind, ISD 199 recommended starting the 2020-2021 school year in the Hybrid Learning model for all students and the ISD 199 School Board approved the recommendation on August 17.

The state's Hybrid Learning model is a combination of In-person and Distance Learning that requires 6 feet of social distancing between everyone in school buildings and a strict 50% building capacity limit. To abide by these requirements, ISD 199's Hybrid Learning model within its Moving Forward Together Implementation Plans splits each building into two groups: Group A and Group B. Students in Group A will attend their school building for In-person Learning on most Mondays and Tuesdays while Group B participates in Distance Learning. All students

will participate in Distance Learning on the Flex Day, which will be on most Wednesdays, to allow time for more student support and additional deep cleaning of the buildings between groups. On most Thursdays and Fridays, students in Group B will attend their school building for In-person Learning while Group A participates in Distance Learning. An academic calendar will be mailed to families for details.

ISD 199's Hybrid Learning model was chosen from a number of options that dozens of district teachers, specialists, principals, and administrators compiled. They narrowed the options down to three by considering which options could best serve students, families, and staff with the resources available. The district surveyed the school community about their perspectives on each of the three Hybrid options, and of the more than 1,200 respondents, 66% of parents, 59% of students, and 62% of staff members said they were most comfortable with the Hybrid option outlined in the previous paragraph.

The district will be prepared to change learning models during the school year in accordance with county data. More information about the Moving Forward Together Initial Plans and Hybrid Option Survey Results is available at www.isd199.org/covid19, ISD 199's Coronavirus 2019 webpage.

Regards,



Dave

Number of cases per 10,000 in Dakota County over 14 days	Safe Learning Plan Baseline Learning Models
0-9	In-person Learning for all students
10-19	In-person Learning for elementary students; Hybrid Learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid Learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid Learning for elementary students; Distance Learning for secondary students
50+	Distance Learning for all students

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

CONNECT WITH US

 facebook.com/isd199

 twitter.com/isd199

 instagram.com/isd199

 vimeo.com/isd199

 linkedin.com/school/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.

Moving Forward Together Guide & 20-21 Academic Calendar



The Moving Forward Together Guide provides more details about the Hybrid Learning model and each of the other Option 1 attendance models, including In-person and Distance Learning. It also outlines 199 Online, ISD 199's full-time Distance Learning alternative. **A printed calendar**

has not been included in this year's Back to School 199 Reporter because a calendar for the Option 1 models will be included within the Moving Forward Together Guide. The guide will also provide a Frequently Asked Questions section and resources related to COVID-19.

The guide will be posted at www.isd199.org/covid19 starting Friday, August 21. Every day, health officials are learning more about COVID-19. To honor new information and prioritize health and safety, the district will continue to update the Moving Forward Together Guide on its Coronavirus 2019 webpage as information becomes available.

Hilltop Announces New Principal for 2020-2021



Inver Grove Heights Schools is excited to introduce Hilltop Elementary School's new principal, Dave Lostetter. Mr. Lostetter joins ISD 199 after working as the principal of Forest Lake Elementary School in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Within one year of becoming principal at Forest Lake Elementary, he helped introduce the district to social emotional learning and implement PBIS programming at the elementary school, which aided in improving school culture and climate. Mr. Lostetter has also been an adjunct professor in the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development for the last four years. His current course focuses on classroom technology.

Before becoming a principal, Mr. Lostetter earned his master's degree in education and gained experience as a physical education teacher, technology coordinator, and STEM teacher. He has also served on multiple district-level committees focused on curriculum, technology, leadership, and more to offer students the best opportunities.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Inver Grove Heights and Hilltop communities," Mr. Lostetter said. "I am looking forward to working in partnership with families, community resources, and the talented ISD 199 staff to bring exciting opportunities to our schools and ensure all of our students can achieve their greatest potential."

While we welcome Mr. Lostetter, we wish former Hilltop principal Sue Vallafsky all the best as she begins a new chapter out of state with her family. Her eight years of service have made an incredible impact on students, families, and staff, and we wish her well on her next endeavors.

B.E.S.T. Foundation Awards \$150,000 in Scholarships

Inver Grove Heights



The Inver Grove Heights B.E.S.T. Foundation sponsors fundraising events to build B.E.S.T. Foundation Academic Scholarships for graduating Simley High School seniors. Scholarships are awarded in a community member's memory or provided to seniors with specific career goals, such as nursing or the construction trades. Seniors apply for scholarships, writing essays and attending interviews for the chance to earn one. This year, the foundation was able to award 111 scholarships totaling more than \$150,000. Watch this year's scholarship announcement ceremony, produced

by Town Square Television, at www.facebook.com/ighbestfoundation. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients, and thank you to all of the B.E.S.T. Foundation supporters!

ISD 199 Celebrates & Honors 2019-2020 Retirees

The 2019-2020 school year was like no other. The annual employee-organized ISD 199 Employee Appreciation and Recognition event typically brings staff together to honor employee anniversaries and retirements. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 event was postponed for the safety of participants and each school has held virtual celebrations, made videos, and created online thank you cards for each retiree.

ISD 199 2020 Retirees

- Paulette Anderson, Simley High School, 28 years of service
- Christina Barbato, IGH Middle School, 33 years of service
- Barb Burch, Salem Hills Elementary, 34 years of service
- Carol Ellison, Simley High School, 16 years of service
- David Halligan, Simley High School, 8 years of service
- Fran Mountain, Hilltop Elementary School, 36 years of service
- Deb Schmidt, IGH Middle School, 21 years of service
- Connie Schultz, Hilltop Elementary School, 15 years of service
- Sherryl Seliga, Pine Bend Elementary School, 30 years of service
- Kathy Shoop, Hilltop Elementary School, 27 years of service
- Trudy Weise, Pine Bend Elementary School, 41 years of service



Congratulations to our retirees! Their combined 289 years of service and presence in almost all ISD 199 buildings has touched the lives of thousands of students and put them on a path to success. Whether they built supportive relationships in classrooms, administrative offices, or cafeterias, they have changed the lives of our students and staff. We wish them the best as they begin the next chapter of their journeys.

Online Summer Academy Sees High Attendance

This summer, about 200 students in kindergarten through 5th grade worked with their Elementary Summer Academy class and teacher daily in a Distance Learning format. Students in kindergarten and 1st grade learned from 9:00-10:30 AM, and students in 2nd through 5th grade worked online with their teacher from 9:00-11:00 AM. The daily routine consisted of a Morning Campfire Meeting, Lit Camp Literacy lesson, brain break, and math lesson.

In the Distance Learning format, the Elementary Summer Academy program saw its highest attendance rate in history of the students who qualified and enrolled in the program. The dedicated Summer Academy staff consisted of 17 Inver Grove Heights Schools educators. We are proud of the hard work and dedication from our students, families, and staff!

SIMLEY SETS UP WAYS TO RECOGNIZE CLASS OF 2020



In recent years, Simley High School seniors have had a chance to walk through their elementary, middle, and high school in their caps and gowns to say one final goodbye to teachers and staff. It has become a tradition that some seniors look forward to even more than their graduation ceremony. In lieu of this senior walkthrough, Simley High School offered Class of 2020 students a chance to see the staff they had become so close to during a Senior Recognition Event on June 5. Before the premiere of the high school's Virtual Graduation Ceremony, staff from around the district lined up, socially distanced, around the high school and middle school campus to say farewell and cheer on the Class of 2020 as their families drove the students through.

Though the state prohibited graduation ceremonies in June, Simley also reserved a date in late July in the hopes that conditions would change and the school would be allowed to hold a traditional ceremony. As the date neared, conditions remained the same and Simley began to consider other options for summer recognition events. The high school surveyed Class of 2020 graduates about their interest, and while about half of the class no longer had interest in a summer event, many students still wanted at least a photo opportunity.

So on July 23 and 24, Simley set up the Performing Arts Center with its typical graduation ceremony decorations and invited graduates and their families to stop by for photos. Grads and their families were welcomed into the PAC one at a time, Principal Jerry Sakala and Assistant Principal Heidi Klukas read the graduate's name as the student crossed the stage, and families were able to take photos of and with their grad.

Thank you to all of the families who took advantage of Simley's recognition opportunities, and congratulations to our graduates! To watch the virtual graduation and see photos from the June 5 Senior Recognition Event, visit www.isd199.org/Classof2020.

Passing of Former Board Member & B.E.S.T. Foundation Founder Jill Lewis



Inver Grove Heights Schools, Intermediate School District 917, and their communities are mourning the passing of Jill Lewis, founding and executive committee member of the Inver Grove Heights B.E.S.T. Foundation and long-time board member. Jill passed away on Sunday, June 7, after a 2-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jill served on the ISD 199 School Board for 15 years, serving as chairperson for 7 years. She became the representative for Inver Grove Heights as a member on the ISD 917 School Board in 1995. She held the position of chairperson of the 917 School Board from 1999 until her passing. Jill was an integral part of serving Inver Grove Heights students for 40 years.

She was the inspiring and sustaining force behind the Inver Grove Heights B.E.S.T. Foundation, which provides scholarships to Simley High School graduates. She was stellar and steadfast in her commitment to support Simley High School graduates with scholarships to assist their post-high school dreams and aspirations. Jill's vision and leadership in the B.E.S.T. Foundation served as a community builder while instilling significant pride in our school district and greater community. Under her leadership from 1987-2018, the IGH B.E.S.T. Foundation awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to Simley High School graduates.

Jill was devoted to students, learning, and her community. She inspired others to get involved to support students so they could excel. Her wit and determination made things happen for kids. We are all better because of Jill's devotion to education and our community. Words cannot express how important she was to the Inver Grove Heights Schools and Intermediate School District 917 communities. She will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Simley Announces New Assistant Principal



Simley High School will welcome Sam Van Hefty as its new assistant principal for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Van Hefty has been working in education for nine years. He earned his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and his master's in Administrative Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Colorado - Denver. He also holds a K-12 Principal Licensure.

Mr. Van Hefty began his career as a social studies teacher, teaching in 7th, 8th, and 9th grade before taking a position as the Dean of Students at Forest Lake Area High School. As a social studies teacher, he helped create the Humanities Program at Deer Creek Middle School in Colorado. The cross disciplinary program now helps students understand how their learning in all classes is connected and allows students to demonstrate their creativity through differentiated project-based learning.

As the dean at Forest Lake Area High School, he helped lead the schoolwide advisory program, Ranger Connect. He focused on college and career readiness and relationship-building to increase engagement. He was also part of creating the first-ever Forest Lake Equity Summit, which brought 100 students together to share their lived experiences, discuss what equity means, and identify ways to improve school culture to be more equitable.

"I am committed to ensuring equitable outcomes for all students," Mr. Van Hefty said. "As the new assistant principal at Simley High School, I look forward to bringing my determination, passion, and purpose to the Simley school community every day."

Mr. Van Hefty is taking over for Simley Assistant Principal Carol Ellison who retired after the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you to Mrs. Ellison who has dedicated 16 years to Simley High School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School. She has been an enormous part of student success at both schools throughout her career. Inver Grove Heights Schools wishes her all the best in retirement.

ISD 199 Job Opportunities

Every position makes a difference at Inver Grove Heights Schools. Whether you are looking for full-time, part-time, or substitute job openings, ISD 199 is currently seeking applicants. To browse vacancies, visit www.isd199.org and click the "Careers" tab.

Apply for Educational Benefits

ISD 199 Food Service is dedicated to providing nutritious meals that will prepare students for learning. Every child can receive a daily light breakfast and healthy lunch through the National School Breakfast & Lunch Program. Your student may qualify for discounted meals, activity fees, device insurance, student parking, and much more. Also, every completed Application for Educational Benefits brings funds to our schools.

To find out if your child qualifies for free school meals or discounts, please call ISD 199 Food Service at 651-306-7822 or fill out an application at www.isd199.org/edu-benefits.

Enrollment for All Grades Open Now

Incoming kindergarten families with students who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2020, are welcome to enroll in Inver Grove Heights Schools at any time. Early childhood screenings, which are required for enrollment, are free through the district and can be scheduled at www.IGHEarlyLearning.org or by calling 651-306-7520.

Parents can also enroll students of any age at any time for the 2020-2021 school year! Visit www.isd199.org/enroll for online enrollment or more information. If you would prefer a printed enrollment packet, please call 651-306-7800.

Immunizations Required Before Back to School

Minnesota state law requires that students receive vaccinations to enroll in childcare, early childhood programs, and school. Parents must submit written proof of vaccinations before enrolling. Visit www.health.state.mn.us/immunize for information about which vaccinations are required for enrollment.

Non-Resident Open Enrollment

Students living outside district boundaries may apply to enroll in Inver Grove Heights Schools through the Minnesota Enrollment Option Program. Non-resident applicants are encouraged to apply early for the next school year and request the school(s) they wish to attend. The district assigns transfer students to schools based on their preference and whether that school has space available. Students who are accepted under the Enrollment Options Program can remain in the district through grade 12, but they will be assigned to schools that have space available.

For application information, please visit the district's Non-Resident Open Enrollment webpage at www.isd199.org/district/enroll/open.

Notice of Pesticide Use

Inver Grove Heights Schools maintains its property for the safety of students, staff, and visitors and the longevity of its facilities. To do this, the district uses a limited number of pesticides and herbicides in and around its buildings and only when and where it will not affect occupants. The district's only herbicide is dandelion preventor, which is only applied during summer break. Applications are typically in June and August and always when there is no scheduled use of the affected area.

The district applies pesticides only on an as-needed basis. A pest elimination service inspects each building monthly and applies only the least harmful pesticides, which the Environmental Protection Agency labels category IV, in affected areas. Pesticides are applied, on average, twice per year in each building and always on non-school days.

If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide or herbicide application or if you have any questions about this or any other health or safety issue, contact ISD 199 Health & Safety at 651-306-7867 or the ISD 199 Buildings and Grounds Department at 651-306-7829.

Notice of Indoor Air Quality

ISD 199 maintains an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan. The plan is based on the Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Schools model indoor air quality program, which is designed specifically for school buildings. The plan's goal is to promote an indoor environment that enhances learning for students as well as productivity for staff. For information regarding the district's program, please contact ISD 199 Health & Safety at 651-306-7867 or the ISD 199 Buildings and Grounds Department at 651-306-7829.

Asbestos Management Plan

The district maintains a plan for managing all building materials that contain asbestos. The district is also in full compliance with the Environment Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act and inspects all materials for damage every six months. The district also performs a major quantitative re-inspection every three years, per EPA statutes.

During the past year, there were no asbestos removal projects beyond small-scale maintenance. For the upcoming year, there are no asbestos removal projects planned at this time. Details on the locations, condition, and type of asbestos-containing materials as well as copies of building management plans are available at each building and at the ISD 199 District Office.

If you have any questions about asbestos or any safety issue, please contact ISD 199 Health & Safety at 651-306-7867 or the ISD 199 Buildings and Grounds Department at 651-306-7829.

State-Required Background Checks

Notice is hereby given that ISD 199 complies with state law requiring school districts to perform criminal history background checks.

ISD 199 obtains criminal history checks on everyone offered employment in the district as well as selected volunteers and independent contractors, including volunteer coaches, with the exception of enrolled students. In exercising its discretion with respect to independent contractors and volunteers, the district considers such factors as the amount of student contact and the duration of the contract.

The district does not perform background checks on the staff or volunteers of outside clubs or organizations that offer activities for youth in the community that are not organized or operated by the district.

2020-2021 Student Expectations

The district's student handbooks and student expectations handbook outline important policies and appropriate school behavior for students. The 2020-2021 handbooks are available on the district website at www.isd199.org/students/handbooks.

Accident Insurance

Currently, ISD 199 does not provide accident insurance for injuries that happen to students at school or during school activities. Parents who wish to have this type of accident protection are encouraged to contact an insurance company.

Non-Release of Directory Information

Unlike educational records, businesses, organizations, and any member of the public can request directory information about students attending Inver Grove Heights Schools. Directory information is defined by ISD 199 School Board Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, which also governs its release.

Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to: the student's name, address, telephone listing, photograph, major field of study, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and photos for school-approved publications or newspapers or cablecasts, bulletins, programs, or similar school-produced information pieces. It also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s). Directory information does not include personally identifiable data which references religion, race, color, social position, or nationality.

If you are a parent of a student who is younger than 18 years of age or if you are a student who is 18 years of age or older, you have the right under federal and state law to direct the district to not release directory information. If you do not want this information released for anything other than district use, you must sign and return a Non-Release of Directory Information form to the school your child attends. Download the form by visiting www.isd199.org/parents and clicking "Directory Non-Release Form" in the sidebar. You will select "Please keep directory information private except for district use."

If you want to direct the district not to release directory information to military recruiters, you must also fill out the "Military Opt-out Form," which is also available for download at www.isd199.org/parents in the sidebar.

The directory non-release request will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year in which it is made. A new request must be completed each year.

To read "Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records," please visit www.isd199.org/district/board/policies and click "Section 5 - Students."

Budget Information Available Online

Budget information for the 2019-2020 school year and previous years is available at www.isd199.org/district/departments/finance on the district website.

Homeschool Reporting

Families living in ISD 199 district boundaries who plan to homeschool their children or whose children will attend an unaccredited nonpublic school for the 2020-2021 school year must submit an annual Full Report or Letter of Intent to Continue as required by state law. The deadline to submit reports for 2020-2021 is October 1, 2020.

The report is available at education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/nphs on the Minnesota Department of Education website. Completed reports should be submitted to Eric Bermudez at 2990 80th St. E., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076. For more information or to request a home school packet, please call 651-306-7825.

Educational Record Access

A student's education records will be transferred to other educational institutions upon transfer of the student. Parents, guardians, or students 18 years of age or older also have the right to inspect and review the education records maintained by the district. Such information will be disclosed to the authorized requestor except when federal or state law bars disclosure. A request for disclosure may be made to the school's principal. You have the right to request an amendment to your student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.

To read "Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records," please visit www.isd199.org/district/board/policies and click "Section 5 - Students."

If you have any questions, please contact your school principal or the Director of Special Services at 651-306-7827. Complaints regarding alleged violations of rights can be submitted in writing to: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

Non-Release of Information to Military Recruiters

Notice is hereby given that parents of students under 18 years of age and students who are 18 years of age or older may refuse the release of directory information to military recruiters. The State of Minnesota's Government Data Practices Act section on Military Recruitment states:

A secondary institution shall release to military recruiting officers the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 within 60 days after the date of the request, except as otherwise provided by this subdivision. Data released to military recruiting officers under this subdivision:

- (1) may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military; and
- (2) shall not be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces.

A parent of a student, or a student who is 18 years of age or older, has the right to refuse the release of the name, address, or home telephone number to military recruiting officers. To refuse the release of the above information to military recruiting officers, a parent of a student, or a student who is 18 years of age or older, must return the non-release form, located on ISD 199's website at www.isd199.org/parents under "Military Opt-Out Form" in the sidebar, by September 1 of each year. A new request must be completed each year.

A parent or eligible student's refusal to release the above information to military recruiting officers does not affect the district's release of directory information to the public, which includes military recruiting officers. In order to make any directory information about a student private, a parent or eligible student must return a "Directory Non-Release" form.

Visit www.isd199.org/parents for ISD 199's Directory Non-Release form, which is available in the sidebar.

Simley Senior Earns Apollo Award for Commitment to His Sports



Simley High School senior Shane Prifrel was selected for the 2020 Apollo Award, which recognizes outstanding student athletes of the year. During his high school career, Shane was a three-sport athlete, playing football, hockey, and baseball.

In football, Shane was a three-year letter winner, won an All-District Award in 2019, and acted as a team captain. He also passed for 1,376 yards and had 12 touchdowns during his senior year, the most Simley Head Football Coach Chris Mensen has seen in the past 10 years. Shane was also the quarterback for Simley's 2019 football team, which became a 4AAAA Section Champion and qualified for State.

"Shane developed into an amazing leader, both on and off the field, and was the driving force behind one of the most productive offenses Simley has ever had," Coach Mensen said.

On Simley's boys hockey team, Shane was part of the first class to win 10 or more games all three years. He also led the team in scoring, finishing his career with 78 games, 34 goals, 36 assists, and 70 points. He became a four-year letter winner and earned All Conference twice, during the 2018-2019 season and the 2019-2020 season.

Simley Boys Hockey Coach Austyn Kryzer described Shane as the "hardest working player on the ice" and said he led by example, working hard in the off-season and volunteering with the youth hockey association.

Though Shane's senior baseball season was cut short because of the COVID-19 outbreak, he is a four-year letter winner, earned an All Conference Honorable Mention, and was a three-year starter who started every game at Simley over the last two years.

"He is a tremendous athlete who has mastered the balance between work and play," Simley Head Baseball Coach Zach Hendrikson said.

Congratulations to Shane as he begins his college career this fall!

Pine Bend Earns Waste Prevention & Recycling Grant



Pine Bend Elementary School has provided environmental learning and related science lessons to all of its students over the past three years. The school's gardens and Green Team Environmental Club provide hands-on opportunities for students to

learn environmental stewardship. This summer, the school was chosen for a Dakota County School Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant.

The grant will allow the school to purchase products like water filling

stations, biodegradable compost bags, software to track food waste, and other infrastructure items to support waste prevention. Funds will also support the Green Team and provide training for a staff member to oversee proper organics, recycling, and trash separation in the cafeteria.

The grant will expand Pine Bend's ability to monitor and reduce food waste. After helping Dakota County conduct a food waste audit at the school in early 2019, Pine Bend students followed the county's recommendations and reduced their milk waste by 32% in only three months. With funds from the grant, students will be able to continue their learning and leadership in green initiatives, making positive changes in their school and community.

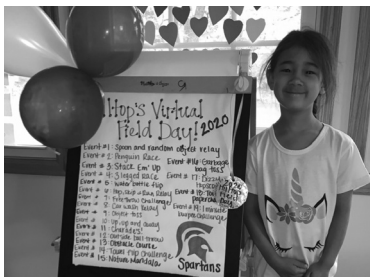
H2O for Life Celebrates 13 Years of Partnership With Salem Hills

H2O for Life, a non-profit organization committed to increasing access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene resources for students around the world, celebrated 13 years of partnership with Salem Hills Elementary School in July. Since 2007, Salem Hills students have raised nearly \$30,000 for schools in 11 different countries. Each school year, students participate in service learning by researching the global water crisis and then innovating ways to educate others and raise funds for those facing the highest needs in the crisis. Students then build educational trivia games and arcade games for the school's annual

Water Fair where they act as global citizens, teaching others about the importance of clean water and raising funds to get clean water resources to the students around the world who need them most.

"Thank you, Salem Hills Elementary School, for 13 years of hard work and for making the idea of being a global citizen sound fun," H2O for Life's School Outreach Coordinator Mitchell LeGrand said. "Your dedication to helping students around the world have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene resources is inspiring."

With Students Learning at Home, Hilltop Hosts a Virtual Track & Field Day



Hilltop Elementary School physical education and DAPE (Developmental Adapted Physical Education) teachers created a virtual Track & Field Day in May for all Hilltop students and their families. The students used a few days to practice the 19 virtual track and field activities before participating in all of them. Events included a three-legged race, pillow case race, toilet paper roll jump, water bottle flip, and more activities families could set up with household supplies.

Students posted pictures and videos of their events to Seesaw so all of the teachers could see them. Even though it wasn't the school's annual Track & Field Day, everyone had a great time getting active! Thank you to everyone who made it a success.

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

#1. COST OF & HELP WITH COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak has taken a toll on almost every industry. At Inver Grove Heights Schools, costs related to the pandemic totaled \$297,552 for the district during the 2019-2020 school year, and the costs projected for the 2020-2021 school year are about \$1.3 million. If the 2020-2021 fiscal year turns out as projected, the district could face a total impact of \$1,615,665 over both fiscal years.

Fortunately, the federal and state governments are lending a helping hand to school districts among many other institutions across the country and state. The CARES Act, passed by congress, provided \$547,085 that the district can use until September 30, 2022. The CARES Act has helped the district secure technology and cover expenses to continue supporting students.

Governor Tim Walz has requested the Legislative Advisory Committee to release CRF (Coronavirus Relief Funds). Approval is still pending as of August 17, but funds may be released as soon as August 21. ISD 199's allocation would be \$1,045,963, and the funds would need to be used by December 30, 2020.

The state has allowed for flexibility of restricted fund balance use in case the district has more COVID-related expenditures than aid. The district would most likely use Long Term Facilities Maintenance restricted funds as building maintenance purchases can be temporarily postponed in some situations.

#2. THANK YOU, STAFF

This summer, Spartan Kids' Care staff and paraprofessionals provided a fun summer care experience for students in childcare while also following strict health procedures to keep the students safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISD 199's Food Service staff provided meals for children in the Spartan Kids' Care program. Food service staff also handed out boxes of breakfasts and lunches throughout Inver Grove Heights as part of the annual, USDA-supported Summer Meals program. Staff distributed meals at the schools and worked with the transportation department to get packaged meals to children around the city. In total, staff distributed 65,054 meals.

After staff and students left the buildings each day, custodial staff got to work cleaning surfaces, furniture, and classroom items to the high standards of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Thank you to the food service, transportation, childcare, buildings and grounds, paraprofessional, and coaching staff who helped keep students healthy and safe all summer. Thank you also to all of the staff who have stayed vigilant and active during the summer to prepare for a brand-new school year.



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



Inver Grove Heights Schools
2990 80th St. E.
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 170
South St. Paul, MN

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Inver Grove Heights
55076-55077