

199 REPORTER

• • • INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SUMMER 2022 • • •

ISD 199 Students Show Above Average Growth During Pandemic

Since schools closed at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many news outlets have reported on “learning loss.” Learning loss typically refers to declines in student academic growth that have followed disruptions caused by the pandemic. National data shows significant declines in the country’s average student growth over the past two years. However, when the national data is compared to data for Inver Grove Heights Schools, it shows that ISD 199 students made more growth during the last two years of the pandemic than their peers across the country did.

Learning loss can more accurately be called unfinished learning. Before the start of the current 2021-2022 school year, ISD 199 staff prioritized assessing students to combat this unfinished learning and find out what each student needed to learn at or above grade level.

Every year, ISD 199 and schools across the country give their students a Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The standardized test measures student achievement and growth in reading and math. This past fall’s participation in the MAP assessment most closely matched participation in a typical year. Staff used data from this past fall and compared it to MAP data from the fall of 2019, the last year not affected by COVID-19. The comparison helped staff understand ISD 199’s average student growth over the last two years.

Staff found that ISD 199 student growth had declined by about 3 points in both reading and math over the last two years of the pandemic. However, when they compared ISD 199’s 3-point decline to the nation’s average decline over the last two years, they found that ISD 199 student growth was not nearly as negatively impacted as national student growth.

National MAP data shows that, over the last two years, growth for U.S. students declined by 3-6 points in reading and 8-12 points in math. ISD

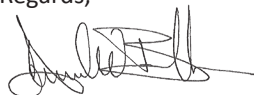
199 students are on the low end of the national decline in reading, and they are showing much more growth than the national average in math.

ISD 199 has taken intentional steps to reduce the impacts of the pandemic on student learning. Learning partners work side-by-side with teachers in the classroom to assist with and model high quality core instruction, lessons personalized to student needs, targeted small groups, support, and best practices. Student and family success coaches work closely with students, families, and teachers to provide social emotional and mental health support and resources so students can stay in class and engaged in learning. Thanks to ISD 199 voters, the district was also able to update its math curriculum for elementary school students using funds approved during the 2017 referendum. The updated curriculum helps young students build an even stronger foundation in math that will equip them to excel in middle school, high school, college, and career.

Although the district is pleased that students are showing more growth than the average U.S. student, ISD 199 will continue to use MAP assessment results to increase student growth, whether students have unfinished learning or not. MAP assessment results will help teachers personalize learning so students receive support where they need it and challenge where they need it.

Thank you to the staff, families, and students whose hard work resulted in student growth above the national average despite a global pandemic. Thank you, also, for continuing to partner with the school district to support students as they recover any unfinished learning.

Regards,



Dave Bernhardson, Superintendent

BECOME A SPARTAN! • • •

Inver Grove Heights Schools is enrolling preschool through 12th grade now! Parents with newborn babies through 3-year-old children can also enroll in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes, which help parents connect with their child, build community, and learn research-based parenting techniques. To enroll, visit www.isd199.org/enroll, stop by an ISD 199 building, or call 651-306-7503 for early childhood enrollment, 651-306-7825 for elementary enrollment, 651-306-7200 for middle school enrollment, or 651-306-7000 for high school enrollment.

Minnesota state law requires that students receive certain 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 more information.

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199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

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

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199 REPLIES

Do you have a question about our district?

Part of our mission is to maintain an involved and invested community. To do so, we want to keep you informed. Visit www.isd199.org/FAQ to browse answers to previously asked questions about our district or ask your own.

IGH Middle School Revalidated as Demonstration School



In 2018, Inver Grove Heights Middle School became an AVID National Demonstration School. Few schools in the country have earned this designation, and the schools that have earned it must continuously improve outcomes for all of their students to keep it. This year, IGHMS passed its revalidation to maintain its designation as one of only nine national demonstration schools in Minnesota!

IGHMS held its first AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class more than 10 years ago. It was a single class with a handful of students that met every other day. The class focused on collaboration, communication, and skills in critical reading, inquiry, writing, organization, and advanced study. The class's teacher used AVID's research-based teaching practices to prepare students for college and beyond. Soon, AVID classes grew and classrooms throughout the middle school began using AVID's teaching practices to help every student experience more rigorous instruction.

Every year since the school was eligible, IGHMS was recognized as a Highly Certified AVID School for effectively using AVID college readiness practices in every classroom, not just in AVID classrooms. However, in 2016, the school became eligible for the next step: becoming an AVID National Demonstration School. AVID National Demonstration Schools are exemplary models of the college readiness system. They are nationally recognized for showing evidence of student achievement schoolwide, and they are designated as learning centers for AVID best practices and teaching strategies that will help students succeed academically, personally, and professionally.

During the intense two-year application process, AVID coaches visited IGHMS to observe its practices, measure progress, and provide feedback on what still needed to be done. By the beginning of 2018, the school was ready for its site visit. The middle school's AVID staff organized a student panel for AVID representatives to talk to, held a presentation summarizing the staff's efforts since AVID started in IGHMS, and detailed their future plans for the program to serve more students. In March of 2018, IGHMS was named one of only 175 AVID National Demonstration Schools in the nation.

Since earning demonstration school status, IGHMS has continued to advance its AVID practices to improve outcomes for all students. During the 2021-2022 school year, staff had been gathering evidence of their improvements to send to AVID for revalidation, including student work samples, student and staff testimonials, and recorded lessons. After reviewing the evidence and conducting an intensive interview with IGHMS staff members, AVID revalidated IGHMS as an AVID National Demonstration School for three more years!

Congratulations to IGHMS staff on earning and maintaining this prestigious designation and for the work they do to effectively teach students the skills they need for lifelong success while showing other schools how to do the same.

Author Visits Hilltop to Celebrate Reading

Every March is I Love to Read Month! To celebrate, Hilltop Elementary School invited author and illustrator Rick Chrustowski to visit students virtually and talk about his work.

Mr. Chrustowski outlined the entire process of making a book, including developing ideas, doing research, writing, and creating the illustrations. He led students in writing their own stories and helped them illustrate their written pieces! Mr. Chrustowski also did a series of interactive quick-writing exercises with fourth- and fifth-grade students. The students started by writing metaphors and built on their work until they had a short paragraph that used personification. Thank you to Mr. Chrustowski for teaching Hilltop students how to be authors and illustrators!

Honoring 2021-2022 Retirees



Congratulations to the 12 Inver Grove Heights Schools retirees of 2021-2022! This year's group of retirees includes many teachers and staff members who have been with the district for more than 20 years. Simley High School Social Studies Teacher Mike Murr retired after more than 50 years of service to ISD 199 students!

Whether they have been a friendly face on the bus, in the lunch room, at the cross walk, or in the classroom, our 2021-2022 retirees will be missed. These teachers and staff members have mentored and guided thousands of students toward success over their many years of service.

ISD 199 2021-2022 Retirees

- Mike Murr, Simley High School, 52 years of service
- Mike McNeely, Simley High School, 37 years of service
- Deana Walsh, Simley High School, 36 years of service
- Gary Collopy, Simley High School, 34 years of service
- Diane Christensen, Simley High School, 30 years of service
- Tom Findlay, Simley High School, 29 years of service
- Ed Lardy, Simley High School, 24 years of service
- Brenda Fischbeck, Pine Bend Elementary School, 21 years of service
- Michelle Collopy, IGH Middle School, 20 years of service
- Lila Steber, Simley High School, 6 years of service
- Russell Penning, Transportation, 6 years of service
- Craig Pasket, Hilltop Elementary School, 4 years of service

ISD 199 wishes our 2021-2022 retirees the best as they begin their next chapter in retirement. Thank you, retirees, for the care and dedication you have put into your work over the years, and congratulations on your well-deserved retirements!

More ISD 199 Graduations, Fewer Drop-outs in 2021



The Minnesota Department of Education released 2021 graduation rate data this March. Despite a statewide drop in graduation rates, Inver Grove Heights Schools had some of its highest four-year graduation rates and lowest drop-out rates within the last five years.

The 2021 graduation rate for ISD 199, which includes Simley High School and the Simley Alternative Learning Program, increased by nearly 3 percentage points in the last school year. Of all the ISD 199 students scheduled to graduate in 2021, 89.24% graduated within four years, compared to the statewide graduation rate of 83.3% for 2021. ISD 199 graduation rates increased significantly within certain student groups as well. The graduation rate for students who identify as Black increased by more than 10 percentage points to 85% between 2020 and 2021. The graduation rate for students who identify as two or more races increased from 75% in 2020 to 91.67% in 2021.

Graduation rates for students receiving special education also increased significantly, from 58.54% in 2020 to 83.33% in 2021. The 2021 graduation rate for students receiving special education is the highest four-year graduation rate this student status group has had in the last five years, which includes graduation rates before the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 graduation data also showed that ISD 199's drop-out rate for all students decreased. The district's drop-out rate has hovered between 4-6% since 2017, but in 2021, ISD 199's drop-out rate was only 2.39%, fewer than 10 Class of 2021 students.

ISD 199 is pleased to celebrate these graduation successes. The district is dedicated to preparing students for college and career and keeping high school students on track to graduate. ISD 199 will continue working toward higher graduation rates and lower drop-out rates each year.

IGH Middle School eBooks



Inver Grove Heights Middle School sixth graders created e-books for preschoolers as part of a service learning project for the Minnesota Zoo. IGHMS Reading Teacher Lisa Rose set up the project to give students a hands-on lesson that would build their skills and produce something that helps others.

Before they began writing, middle school students learned about early childhood literacy. They learned some techniques to use in their e-books based on how preschoolers learn, such as including pictures. Each student chose an animal to write about and then researched it to include an introduction, facts, and a short quiz in their e-book. The finished products aim to teach preschoolers in Minnesota Zoo programs about conservation while increasing their literacy skills. Great job, students!

Pine Bend SALT Day



Each year, Pine Bend Elementary School students have an opportunity to explore new hobbies and dive deeper into topics that interest them as part of Students and Adults Learning Together (SALT) Day. Volunteers and staff host classes on subjects they are passionate about, and students choose which SALT Day classes to attend.

This year, SALT Day took place over two days. Classes were held in Pine Bend's common areas to provide more room for students to do activities safely. Each student attended one movement class and one arts and crafts class. Students could choose to make calming jars and stress balls or paint a vase, plate, or canvas for their craft activity. For their movement activity, students could do an obstacle course or play hockey and dodgeball.

Simley Students Provide Input on Inver Hills Community College Project



Inver Hills Community College (IHCC) recently proposed redesigning, enhancing, and expanding an existing nature trail on its campus to highlight BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) voices from the local community. Simley High School students in the Students of Color Leadership group and Black Student Union (BSU) partnered with the college to get the Inver Hills Unity Trail Project approved by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.

The Inver Hills Unity Trail Project will transform IHCC's outdoor space in a more community-focused way. The college will reimagine its one-mile native prairie trail with signage about local American Indian history and information promoting the protection of the natural environment. Once finished, the trail will

be open to the community. Several Simley students representing the Students of Color Leadership group and BSU attended the Dakota County Board of Commissioners meeting this April to speak to the benefits of the trail in terms of equity and inclusion of BIPOC community members. After hearing from students, the board approved the project.

Simley students will continue to be involved in planning and programming for the Inver Hills Unity Trail. ISD 199 also hopes to incorporate the trail, its themes, and the outdoors into future classes. Thank you to Dakota County Commissioner Joe Atkins for driving this process and promoting student voice in local government!

ISD 199 Earns Financial Certificate for 17th Year in a Row



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

Excellence for the 17th year in a row.

"The mission of the Certificate of Excellence is to promote and recognize excellence in financial reporting," ASBO Executive Director David Lewis said. "By participating in the Certificate of Excellence program, school districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency."

A team of professional auditors reviews the Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports submitted by school districts and provides feedback on all submissions. Districts qualify for the Certificate of Excellence if the auditors find that they have used the feedback ASBO provided during the previous year. Earning the certificate shows that the district has continued to increase transparency and the quality of its reporting over the past year. The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting confirms that the district is supporting student achievement with the most effective resource management, and it helps the district continually improve its accountability.

Educational Benefits

During the 2021-2022 school year, school meals were free to all students thanks to an extension of a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program. That extension and free meals for all students will end next school year, 2022-2023, so ISD 199 is encouraging all families to complete a 2022-2023 Educational Benefits Application starting this July. The income eligibility is higher than other programs, so even families who do not believe they will qualify should apply.

Educational Benefits include much more than free or reduced-price meals through October 2023. They also include discounts for:

- school device insurance
- student activity fees
- student parking
- prom tickets
- the Minnesota Children's Museum
- The Works Museum
- the Minnesota Zoo
- the Science Museum of Minnesota
- Children's Theatre Company
- phone, internet, and energy services
- the Amazon.com Prime program
- Metro Transit
- YMCA memberships

In the coming months, the 2022-2023 Educational Benefits Application and more information about plans for school meals will be posted at www.isd199.org/edu-benefits.

If a family doesn't qualify at the beginning of the school year, they can apply again any time, especially if they experience changes in income, employment (job loss or reduced hours), or household size (divorce, birth, death, or adoption). All information is kept private.

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RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

July 15, 16, 17 and 22, 23, 24

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INVER GROVE HEIGHTS
Community Theatre

Impacts on the Inver Grove Heights Schools Budget for 2022-2023

Inver Grove Heights Schools is facing a budget deficit for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. There are a number of considerations that affect next year's budget, including right-sizing and enrollment, temporary funds related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and decreased and continuing needs related to the pandemic and its side effects.

Right-sizing & Enrollment

Like most school districts, ISD 199 goes through the process of right-sizing every year. Right-sizing increases, decreases, or maintains staffing to align it with enrollment for the upcoming school year. The process allows the district to stay within its budget parameters because, in a typical year, most of the district's funding comes from enrollments. This year's right-sizing process helped alleviate \$571,000 of the adjustment needed in next year's budget because there are projected to be fewer enrollments in the upcoming school year. Recently, enrollment decreases have been tied to fewer children being born in Inver Grove Heights over the last several years rather than students attending other districts. This trend of lower birth rates can be seen throughout the U.S. and around the world, affecting enrollment, staffing, and funding at schools everywhere.

Without right-sizing for decreased enrollments, the district's budget deficit for next school year would be about \$1 million. After right-sizing, the district will need to adjust for a \$429,000 deficit in next school year's budget. The district's goal is to make adjustments to programs, positions, and operations while continuing to serve the needs of students.

Temporary Funds Related to COVID-19

Like schools across the country, ISD 199 has received temporary federal and state funds over the last few years to help offset some additional expenses that have been necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic. These temporary funds have helped the district purchase protective supplies and equipment, provide testing, perform contact tracing, and increase cleaning procedures to operate more safely during the pandemic. The funds have also helped schools address unfinished learning, sometimes called "learning loss," and the increased social emotional, mental, and behavioral health needs of students.

Some expenses that were necessary during earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer needed and have been removed from the 2022-2023 budget. However, ISD 199 is seeing that many students still need some of the programs and positions that were created during the pandemic. The district's task for the 2022-2023 school year budget is to adjust the programs and positions that are still needed so that they fit within the budget for as long as students still need them.

Adjusting 199 Online

After surveying families about their interest in 199 Online for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, very few families showed interest in enrolling in full-time online learning through 199 Online Elementary School or 199 Online Middle School. As a result, 199 Online will not be offered for students in kindergarten through eighth grade next school year. Current 199 Online Elementary School and 199 Online Middle School students will return to in-person learning next school year, 2022-2023.

However, online classes will continue to be available to Simley High School students, grades 9-12, as part of college and career readiness. Since the shutdowns caused by the pandemic, fully online college classes and fully remote jobs have become even more common. Offering online high school classes will help Simley students build the skills they need for those opportunities and support students who need flexibility for learning time, pace, and place. Simley students may be able to take a fully online course load if all of the classes they need are offered online.

Looking Ahead

The district is working to find solutions to eliminate the budget deficit of \$429,000 for next school year. The district is reviewing what funds are available and what positions and operations can be adjusted. As it is each year, ISD 199's primary goal is to create a budget that will be sustainable long-term while continuing the services that students need. This is especially important for 2022-2023 as the district considers the lingering effects of the pandemic. Adoption of the 2022-2023 budget is scheduled for June.

DISTRICTWIDE BRIDGING CONCERT



This April, Inver Grove Heights Schools held its second ISD 199 Bridging Concert. The concert featured the fifth-grade bands from Hilltop Elementary School, Pine Bend Elementary School, Salem Hills Elementary School, and the Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program. Young musicians joined Inver Grove Heights Middle School's eighth-grade band, the Simley High School Wind Ensemble, and Simley Percussion for a districtwide concert.

Fifth graders from all of the ISD 199 elementary schools played first. They performed classic songs together that showcased the skills they have learned in their first year of band, such as versions of "Hot Cross Buns," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." IGH Middle School eighth graders

played "Stampede," a piece meant to sound like different animals, and "Counting Stars," a popular song by OneRepublic. Simley Percussion performed its own piece using plastic buckets as drums before they joined the Simley Wind Ensemble to play "Fate of the Gods." The ensemble's piece depicted war and rebirth.

At the end of the concert, all of the bands played "Let's Go Band" together as their finale. The concert was a great opportunity for students to play together and learn from each other. It taught older students leadership as they modeled how to behave at a concert for the younger students. It also gave younger students an idea of what they could do in the future if they continue in the band program.

Thank you to everyone who attended the concert and to everyone who helps support ISD 199's award-winning band program and its students.

2022 Athena Award Winner Recognized for Leadership



Senior Ellie Johnson has been selected as the 2022 Athena Award winner for Simley High School! Head coaches from Simley chose Ellie to recognize her outstanding efforts and accomplishments as a student athlete, leader, and pillar of the community.

As a leader in Simley Tennis, Ellie has been a starter in doubles for two years and holds a record of 28-10. This school year, she was team captain and she earned All Conference for her performance.

Ellie has earned All Conference Honorable Mention twice in Nordic Ski. The two-time captain has lettered in Nordic Ski for five years, earned the title of MVP, and earned the Spartan Award for overall team member.

“She is my go-to for anything I need done for the team,” Simley Nordic Ski Head Coach Heath Anderson said in his nomination. “She is a tremendous candidate for this award.”

Ellie has been on Simley’s varsity softball team since eighth grade. She has the highest batting average on the team and the highest on base percentage of last season. This is her fourth year lettering, fifth counting the season disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Ellie has overcome all obstacles. She played a large role on Simley’s most recent back-to-back championship softball teams and has been named team captain for the 2021 and 2022 seasons. In 2021, she was also selected for All Conference, All Section, and Co-MVP.

Ellie is a figure in both Simley Softball and Inver Grove Heights Softball. She has volunteered as a youth softball coach for the Inver Grove Heights Softball Federation for years, helping set a standard for what Simley expects of its athletes.

“On and off the field, Ellie is always a team leader and a role model student,” Simley Softball Coach Nick Gallahue said. “You can count on her to always do the right thing and to help others whenever she can.”

Congratulations to Ellie on this outstanding achievement!

Perfect Scores at WordMasters Challenge

Two Inver Grove Heights Schools fifth graders earned perfect scores in the second of their three WordMasters Challenge meets, and three fourth graders achieved outstanding results. The WordMasters Challenge is a national vocabulary competition based on solving analogies above grade level. The competition includes nearly 125,000 students each year.

Pine Bend Elementary School’s Willa Bauer earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge in the difficult Blue Division. Only 45 fifth graders in the nation achieved a perfect score in the Blue Division during this meet. In the very difficult Gold Division, the Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program’s Wyatt Browning, Lenora Gold, and Oliver Pierce earned outstanding results. Atheneum’s Finn Christman was one of only 17 fifth graders in the country to earn a perfect score in the Gold Division!

Congratulations to students on earning such impressive scores!

Atheneum Math Masters Show Their Skills

Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program students brought home several awards after participating in the 2022 Math Masters Tournament. Rounds included fact drills and problem solving. This year’s fact drills challenged students with order of operations problems, and the problem solving rounds challenged students with word problems that dealt with everything from algebra to probability.

In the individual problem solving challenges, Atheneum fifth-grade student Kennedy Rieke placed 12th out of 96 competitors. From Atheneum fourth grade, Amelia Lulic placed 5th, Stefan Marin-Rivera placed 12th, and Oscar Anderson placed 16th out of 72 competitors. In the fact drill, Atheneum fifth-grade student Aarav Salil placed 12th out of 96 competitors.

Congratulations to all of the Atheneum teams and students who participated in the 2022 Math Masters Tournament and did so well!

TWO SIMLEY STUDENTS EARN COMPUTING AWARDS

Simley High School sophomore Abigail Tabor and junior Anna Tighe have been selected as Rising Stars for the 2022 Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Award. The Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Program (MNAiC) offers events and activities to inspire and empower students in high school to become our next best Minnesota-grown technology talents. MNAiC partners with the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) to offer the Aspirations in Computing Award and support high school students who identify as women, genderqueer, or non-binary in realizing their computing-related education and career aspirations.

This year, national and state review teams chose 110 honorees. Awards recognized each honoree’s technology skills, achievements, and aspirations. Review teams looked at each nominee’s engagement in a variety of technology and leadership experiences provided by their high school, by community partners, and through online learning experiences. Honorees were recognized at ceremonies this spring and received exclusive resources through NCWIT as well as mentoring, job shadow, internship, and college scholarship opportunities.

Congratulations to Abigail and Anna on being selected as MNAiC Rising Stars!

Winter Athletes Make History, Break Records



Simley High School's winter athletes have made the most of this year's Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) championships. At their state tournaments, Simley Wrestling defended its team championship title and made history in the MSHSL Wrestling Individual Tournament. Simley Boys Swimming and Diving athletes placed in multiple events and set new varsity and state records.

The Simley Wrestling team defended its title as state champions for the fourth year in a row this March. This state title marked the 15th time in school history that Simley's wrestling team has been named the state champion. Simley also had 14 Spartan wrestlers qualify for the state individual tournament. Nine wrestlers placed at the tournament, including three state champions. Junior Kaiden Schrandt placed fifth in the 145-pound championship, and junior Travis Smith placed fourth in the 160-pound championship. Senior Peyton Spychalla in the 120-pound championship and sophomore Cash Raymond in the 138-pound championship placed third. Junior Soren Herzog placed second in the 195-pound championship, and senior Chase DeBlaere placed second in the 132-pound championship, finishing his impressive high school wrestling career just shy of four state titles.

Juniors Brandon Morvari and Gavin Nelson became 2022 state champions in their weight classes, and the third state champion was Charli Raymond, a seventh grader who won first place in the 100-pound girls wrestling championship. This is the first year that MSHSL has held a girls wrestling postseason division. Charli recorded the first victory and pin in the tournament's history, according to MSHSL.

"Charli worked really hard for this," Simley Wrestling Assistant Coach Mark Madigan said. "She is a great champion and continues the incredible tradition of Simley Wrestling."

On the Simley Boys Swimming and Diving team, Nico Losinski left a legacy as he finished his high school swimming career at this year's state tournament. In the 200-Yard Freestyle event, he broke Simley's varsity record and the Minnesota state record, and he earned All American Consideration for his event time. Nico won first in the 500-Yard Freestyle event, being named the state champion for the third year in a row. His 500-Yard Freestyle time also broke Simley's varsity record and Minnesota's state record.

With so many talented seniors and promising juniors, the futures of Simley student athletes are bright! Congratulations to all of Simley's winter athletes on their successful seasons.

Simley Shapes Sparsely Attended Large Band Contest Into a Learning Opportunity



Simley High School hosted this year's Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Region 3AA Large Group Band Contest. Typically, bands from surrounding high schools come to Simley to compete and a panel of judges scores each band's concert performances. This year, many bands chose not to participate after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Simley Wind Ensemble proceeded with the contest's usual setup, receiving feedback and a score, but the contest's other participants, Simley Symphonic Band and Cottage Grove's Park High School Wind Ensemble, took the opportunity to play for the MSHSL judges just for feedback.

This year's contest allowed students to listen to and learn from the other participating bands. It also served as an opportunity to introduce some younger band students to the experience of presenting their concert performances to a panel of judges. The MSHSL judges provided students with feedback in the areas that they would typically score: tone quality, intonation, rhythm, balance and blend, technique, articulations, and other performance factors, such as the choice of literature, appearance, and conduct. After the performances, judges also acted as guest conductors, helping each band practice their pieces and strengthen their concert performance.

The Simley Wind Ensemble was the final performance of the day. They played for both feedback and a score. Each of the judges scored them at a rating of superior, which is the highest possible score. This is the 26th year in a row that the Simley Wind Ensemble has received superior ratings from every judge. Congratulations to the Simley Wind Ensemble on their special performance and outstanding score!

Great job to all of the students who participated, and thank you to the judges for helping students expand their experiences and skills!

WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

Boys Basketball	Honorable Mention
<u>All Conference</u>	Jayar Luedke
RJ Jioklow	Caden Renslow
Kayden Reid-Aaron	Ben Schaefer
<u>Honorable Mention</u>	Girls Hockey
Devin Robinson	<u>All State</u>
Kevin Wormer	<u>Honorable Mention</u>
Girls Basketball	Mackaylan
<u>All Conference</u>	McGown
Acheampomaah	Ella Tuccitto
Danso	<u>All Conference</u>
Ellah Larson	Abby Jeffers
<u>Honorable Mention</u>	Mackaylan
Laura Bosin	McGown
Avery Renslow	Ella Sanders
Clara Thoemke	Ella Tuccitto
Dance Team	<u>Honorable Mention</u>
<u>All Conference</u>	Val DuVal
Marissa Leland	Alex Fredeen
Kayla Sweeney	Olivia Juers
Molly Wilhelmson	Nordic Ski
<u>Honorable Mention</u>	<u>All Conference</u>
Carlee Amundson	Abi Lindquist
Addison Hocking	Nathan Schauer
Alayna Rozales	<u>Honorable Mention</u>
Boys Hockey	Ellie Johnson
<u>All Conference</u>	Josie Johnson
Josh Painter	
Casey Seidl	
Logan Suchy	

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

#1. SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

ISD 199 strives to provide whole student development, emphasizing both academics and social emotional skills because they are at the core of student success. To do this, we provide different levels of service for mental health and behavior so every student and family has access to resources that fit their needs.

Teachers support students academically and care for the social emotional needs of their classroom on a daily basis. However, sometimes individual students and families need additional support. Thanks to federal funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic, student success coaches were added this school year to work side-by-side with students, families, and teachers to help increase learning and engagement online and on-site. Early data collected about the impact of student success coaches shows that students are in class more often, have fewer tardies, have improved pass rates, and are earning more credits. Communication between school and home has also improved.

Thanks to voters who approved the 2017 referendum, ISD 199 now has a licensed social worker at each school for students and families who need more intensive support for behavior and mental health concerns. School social workers provide individual and small group mental health services, and when needed, they connect families with additional resources outside of school, such as support through the medical community, the county and state, and private mental health options.

Thank you to voters for helping the ISD 199 support students with different tiers of service so they can achieve success in school and beyond.

#2. SUMMER MEALS

ISD 199 provides free summer meals for all children, ages 18 and younger. This summer, meals will be served at the ISD 199 buildings listed below. Any child can eat breakfast and lunch at a participating site for free during the listed dates and times. No registration needed.

Hilltop Elementary School - Door 7

June 20 - July 14, Mondays - Thursdays
(No meals on July 4 or Fridays except July 8)
Breakfast Hours: 8:15 - 9:00 AM
Lunch Hours: 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM

Pine Bend Elementary School - Door

June 20 - July 28, Mondays-Thursdays
(No meals on July 4 or Fridays except July 8)
Breakfast Hours: 8:15 - 8:45 AM
Lunch Hours: 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Inver Grove Heights Middle School - Door 13

June 20 - July 28, Mondays - Thursdays
(No meals on July 4 or Fridays except July 8)
Breakfast Hours: 7:10 - 7:45 AM
Lunch Hours: 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Visit www.isd199.org/Meals for more information. Meals are available during the summer thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

• QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR DISTRICT? WWW.ISD199.ORG/FAQ •



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