

199 REPORTER

• • • INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | WINTER 2022 • • •

199 Future Ready Work Seeks to Align the PreK-12 Student Experience

The mission of Inver Grove Heights Schools is “Inspire. Innovate. Excel. A community commitment.” This summer, ISD 199 leaders began work to further develop our school district’s offerings and structure to better fulfill that mission. This 199 Future Ready initiative aims to graduate even more students with core life skills who are career-ready, certification-ready, and college-ready. Now through January 6, families, staff, and community members are invited to learn more about 199 Future Ready and provide their perspectives on the direction of the work.

Over the past few months, 199 Future Ready has been focused on a review of the ISD 199 student experience. The ISD 199 student experience encompasses our academic, arts, and athletics programming as well as student services. Elementary, middle, and high school leaders outlined goals for their level’s student experience as part of the review. Each level based their goals on current offerings, feedback from students and families, and the Minnesota Department of Education’s best practices for college and career learning.

ISD 199 elementary school goals to equip students for success in middle school:

- Exploration of interests in at least three career pathways through STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, & Media)
- Core life skills development, including self-regulation, active listening, collaboration, problem solving, decision making, conflict resolution, & digital citizenship
- Introduction to world languages

Inver Grove Heights Middle School goals to equip students for success in high school:

- Post-secondary planning with students & families
- Further development of core life skills
 - Career & college readiness skills development
- Exposure to career pathways & world languages
- Development of a four-year high school plan & career pathway options

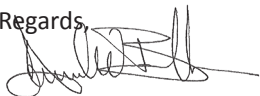
Simley High School goals to equip students for success after graduation:

- Post-secondary planning based on interests or chosen high school career pathway
- Experience in at least three career pathways
- Service learning or capstone experience
- Developed core life skills across the curriculum
- Exposure to online learning
- College credits earned through core high school classes
- Mentorship, observation, or internship experience or professional certification

Each level is now using its goals to help identify potential adjustments that will further prepare students for lifelong success. Understanding the priorities of our school community will help us put forth adjustments that will best match the goals of our students, families, and community. Interested families and community members are welcome to complete the 199 Future Ready Perspective Survey now through January 6, 2023. Visit www.isd199.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to complete the survey. Responses will be considered as schools plan adjustments for the 2024-2025 school year.

The district will send out updates to keep families, staff, and community members informed as our 199 Future Ready work progresses.

Regards,



Dave Bernhardson
Superintendent



www.isd199.org/199futureready

INSPIRE • INNOVATE • EXCEL

199 REPORTER

Inver Grove Heights Schools

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

If you have questions about this publication, please contact:

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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.

Simley Alum Wins Prestigious Book Award



Simley High School graduate Kevin J. Weddle, class of 1975, won the Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History for *The Compleat Victory: Saratoga and the American Revolution*. The \$50,000 prize is awarded annually for the best military history book published in English.

“The Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History is the most important book award in the field, so I am incredibly honored and humbled to receive it,” Dr. Weddle said.

Ninety-six books were submitted for consideration for the award.

“The object of the prize has been to reward scholarly, well-written, accessible and groundbreaking military history, and the judges had no hesitation in awarding this year’s to Kevin Weddle’s masterly book, *The Compleat Victory*, about the battle of Saratoga,” Andrew Roberts, historian and chair of the judging committee, said. “The judges were astonished at the way Weddle kept up the tension throughout, despite everyone knowing the eventual outcome.”

The prize was presented during a livestreamed event in New York City this November. Dr. Weddle’s first book, *Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral*, is also an award-winning book about military history.


Dr. Weddle is a professor at the U.S. Army War College. He served more than 28 years on active duty before retiring as a colonel. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom. He holds degrees in history and civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University.

SPARC Presents Cory Greenwood on February 1

Community members, parents, and guardians are invited to a free event featuring Cory Greenwood! The Spartan Prevention, Advocacy, and Resources Coalition (SPARC) will hold the event on Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 PM in the Simley High School Spartan Center. Mr. Greenwood will present about mental health, leadership, positive decisions, and building support networks. The presentation will be similar to his February 1 and 2 assemblies for middle and high school students. Visit www.ighsparc.com/events to learn more.

Did you know?
MOST IGH Middle School students DON'T vape.


SPARC is inspiring more kids to make positive choices with a free event for IGH Middle School students this winter!



Scan for signup

Learn more about the Spartan Prevention, Advocacy, & Resource Coalition and events at www.ighsparc.org

SPARC in the Dark Dodgeball
January 13, 2023
Kids in grades 6-8 are invited to a glow-in-the-dark dodgeball tournament at IGH Middle School, 5:30-7:30 PM



Funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division
Data based on the 2022 Minnesota Student Survey of 647 Inver Grove Heights Middle School students in grades 6-8.

CAPS Kickoff Focuses on Human-centered Design Thinking

Students who enrolled in career classes through the TriDistrict Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) started off their year by building community and working through a human-centered design project to help them begin thinking like a professional. TriDistrict CAPS set up the project in partnership with Rêve Academy, which helps students build marketable skills for the modern workplace.

Simley High School, South St. Paul High School, and Two Rivers High School juniors and seniors in CAPS classes this year came together to learn the basics of human-centered design during their first week of classes. Students from the business entrepreneurship, healthcare, IT and computer science, and transportation and skilled trades classes learned how companies are reimagining existing products to work better for their customers. Rêve Academy taught students about the kitchenware company OXO, for example, which uses customer feedback to ensure that their tools are comfortable and easy to use, even if a customer struggles with a condition like arthritis. After learning about human-centered design, students discussed other products that could be improved, especially for the customers in their field of study.

Rêve Academy then gave students the design challenge of building, improving, and supporting a more positive and inclusive school culture at their respective home high schools. Each student interviewed a

classmate to understand their perspective and work on the design challenge based on what they learned. The four CAPS classes will reconvene later in the school year to revisit this work, and ultimately design, refine, and present their findings and proposals to their home high school principal and administration.

TriDistrict CAPS is a profession-based learning program that is a collaboration between Inver Grove Heights Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, and West St. Paul - Mendota Heights - Eagan Area Schools. The TriDistrict CAPS Program is a member of the international CAPS Network of programs that promote career exploration, professional skills development, and preparation for workplaces and careers of today and tomorrow.

Students begin their CAPS classes by learning professional skills to prepare to interview for internships in the spring. Students who earn internships get hands-on experience in the career field of their choice alongside local professionals. CAPS currently offers four classes for juniors and seniors: Business & Entrepreneurship, Healthcare, IT & Computer Science, and Transportation & Skilled Trades.

Interested in learning more or finding out how you or your organization can get involved? Visit www.careercollegeready.org for more information.

Pine Bend Food Drive Leads Into Annual Tradition



Pine Bend Elementary School students collected food for local food shelf and social services organization Neighbors Inc. ahead of winter and the holidays. Students gathered more than 2,000 pounds of donated food in just a few weeks. The annual donation

drive not only helps stock the pantry for northern Dakota County residents in need, it also leads into a Pine Bend tradition: the school's annual Barnyard Bonanza Race.

Each year, classes race electronic animals during a schoolwide

assembly. Classes can earn additional race entries for every 100 pounds of food their class donates. One student per entry is chosen to start their electronic animal in the race. This year, nearly 30 entries competed for first and second place in the Barnyard Bonanza Race. Ms. Vomastek's kindergarten class won this year's Barnyard Bonanza Trophy!

Teachers wrapped up the races with a surprise performance. Dressed in their Western gear for the race, staff slowly joined physical education specialist Ms. Darrow as she started the line dance for Marcia Griffiths' song "Electric Boogie," more commonly known as the Electric Slide.

Great job to all of the students who donated food to help their neighbors, and congratulations to the winners of the race!

District Gathers Student Perspectives Through 199 Student Advisory Council



Inver Grove Heights Schools students in grades 4, 7, and 11 from every ISD 199 school met this November to begin work as the ISD 199 Student Advisory Council for 2022-2023. Schools selected students who have shown leadership skills this year to be part of the council. Council members meet with the superintendent throughout the school year and work together across grade levels to offer their perspectives on district topics.

At their first meeting, students visited the ISD 199 District Office to meet with Superintendent Dave Bernhardson. Council members learned about the district, each other, and some district initiatives during their first meeting. Students toured the district office to better understand its functions and how all of the

district departments and schools collaborate to serve students. In another activity, council members introduced themselves to one another by sharing facts about themselves in pairs and then presenting facts about their partner to the group.

After introduction activities, students learned about the district's work to further improve the student experience. Students answered questions about what it should look, sound, and feel like to be a Spartan. They answered questions individually before bringing their ideas to the other students in their grade and then to all of the students on the council. At each stage, students worked together to narrow down their final answers to each question. The council ended their meeting with a finalized document of the ideal Spartan student experience.

St. Olaf Honor Band Festival

Eight Simley High School students participated in this year's St. Olaf High School Honor Band Festival. Seniors Tyler Janey, Blake Stinnett, and Anais Torres and juniors Chloe Heifort, Alice Islam, Carter Kline, Madeline Ngo, and James Swearingen were selected to learn at and perform in the St. Olaf festival.

The festival was led by guest director and composer Kaitlin Bove. Dr. Bove is the Director of Instrumental Ensembles and Assistant Professor of Music at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington. She is the founder of the ...And We Were Heard program, which matches underrepresented composers with volunteer ensembles in order to generate quality recordings of music from diverse compositional voices.

Throughout the day, students attended rehearsals and master classes from professional musicians. They also had an opportunity to hear the famed St. Olaf Band under the direction of Timothy Mahr. The day of the festival culminated in an afternoon concert to highlight the honor band, their talents, and what they had learned throughout the day. Congratulations to all of the students who were selected for the St. Olaf High School Honor Band Festival.

Firefighters Visit ISD 199



The Inver Grove Heights Fire Department visited each ISD 199 elementary school in October for Fire Prevention Week. Firefighters taught students about fire safety, including how to prevent a fire, detect a fire, and exit a burning building safely.

Students also experienced what a firefighter looks and sounds like when they are rescuing someone. IGH firefighters put on each piece of their equipment and explained the purpose of each one.

Thank you to the IGH Fire Department for helping students stay safe!

Salem Hills & Atheneum Host Family STEAMM Night



Salem Hills Elementary School and the Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program hosted a STEAMM Night for families this September. Students and staff took the opportunity to show families what they have been learning in STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, and Media) classes during the school day.

Every ISD 199 elementary school student attends STEAMM classes during the school day. ISD 199 expanded media classes in the 2019-2020 school year to teach students the skills they would need in the future as technology continues to advance and the job market continues to shift. STEAMM classes challenge students to problem-solve and practice the four C's - critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration - which current employers have identified as the ideal skills of any job candidate.

At STEAMM Night, students worked with their families on different challenges to show them what they do in STEAMM classes. Students and families worked on designing and testing the strongest structures, building catapults, and using some of the engineering tools they use every day in STEAMM classes.

The night focused on literacy as well. With the help of volunteers, students designed and created their own bookmarks, and thanks to the Friends of the Inver Glen Library, each student was able to continue their learning at home after the event. The organization allowed students to choose a grade-level appropriate book to bring home and read with family. Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered at the Salem Hills and Atheneum STEAMM Night!

Careers Students Get Up-close Look at Boston Scientific



Simley High School students in the TriDistrict Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) Program's healthcare career pathway got hands-on experience at Boston Scientific in Arden Hills. The CAPS Healthcare Careers course allows students to explore different jobs in the healthcare field. Their trip to Boston Scientific gave them a glimpse into an area of healthcare that they may not have considered: medical device manufacturing.

Boston Scientific is an international company specializing in innovative medical solutions. At the Arden Hills facility, students learned about the manufacturing and placement of devices for irregular heart rhythms and heart failure. The students had a chance to practice in the same classrooms that doctors and fellows use to train on Boston Scientific devices. Students had the opportunity to practice placing a catheter in a heart valve and implanting a pacemaker. Using 3D technology, they also learned more about the heart and why someone may need one of these life-saving devices. At the end of the day, the students had a question-and-answer session with Boston Scientific employees from different departments at the Arden Hills facility.

The TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative provides Simley, South St. Paul, and Two Rivers high school students with a variety of opportunities to engage in real-world career exploration. The CAPS Healthcare Careers program is an excellent opportunity for students interested in business, healthcare administration, or a specific career within the medical field. Students are immersed in a hands-on learning environment led by healthcare professionals and TriDistrict staff, and they have direct access and exposure to authentic experiences in the field of medicine.

Healthcare organizations, visit www.careercollegeready.org/employers to learn how you can partner with TriDistrict CAPS to train the next generation of healthcare professionals. Juniors and seniors at Simley, South St. Paul, and Two Rivers high schools can talk to their guidance counselor about enrolling in TriDistrict CAPS courses.

Hilltop Title I Organizes Family Story Trail

Hilltop Elementary School held a Story Trail event to engage all of its families in their children's literacy development. Story trails feature giant picture book pages set up along an outdoor trail. Hilltop students and their families walked around the school field, reading pages, sounding out new words, and talking about what they were learning from the story.

Title I staff organized the Story Trail event to further involve families in their children's learning and equip them with resources. Hilltop has a schoolwide Title I program focused on providing additional support to any student who is struggling in reading or math at any time during elementary school. In addition to in-school support, Hilltop Title I staff set up events each year to give families more opportunities to learn with their children and share the joy of reading!

To further equip families, Title I staff partnered with the Friends of the Inver Glen Library to offer an age-appropriate book to every student who attended the event. In addition to holding events at school, Title I staff work to give families the resources they need to encourage learning at home. Thank you to everyone who made the Story Trail possible and who attended the event!

ISD 199's State Assessments & Academic Supports

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) released assessment data this August, including data from the 2022 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). MDE adjusted assessment data to account for student absences and other COVID-19 impacts and urged schools to use the adjusted data rather than the raw data this year to get a more accurate idea of student learning. The adjusted data for Inver Grove Heights Schools looked very similar to the state's adjusted data, but ISD 199 students had more growth between 2021 and 2022 than the state average. ISD 199 continues to use the state assessment data in combination with individual student data and additional student supports to keep every student learning at their highest level.

2022 State Assessment Data

MDE and Minnesota schools use assessment data to evaluate student learning and implement learning supports. To account for the impacts of COVID-19, MDE adjusted data by combining state assessment data from 2022 and 2019, giving a double weight to 2019 data because it was not impacted by COVID-19. The resulting data was uploaded into the state's North Star accountability and reporting system. MDE uses North Star to report on, evaluate, and provide school support for Minnesota students' academic mastery and growth. Minnesota schools use North Star to tailor their teaching to the needs of students.

Accordingly, ISD 199 is focusing on the adjusted data in two specific North Star accountability areas: Academic Achievement and Academic Progress. ISD 199's Academic Achievement, or the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level standards, looked very similar to the statewide averages in both math and reading. However, ISD 199's Academic Progress, or the portion of students showing growth in their learning when compared to their learning during the previous year, outpaced the Minnesota averages in both reading and math.

Supports to Keep Students Progressing

In the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISD 199 staff knew they would need more individual assessment data and additional

Simley Celebrates & Learns With Lotería



Simley High School's Spanish Club hosted a Lotería Night with the help of other student groups, including the school's International Club and Black Student Union. The president of Spanish Club, senior Fernanda Muñoz Hernandez, led the event. Lotería Night

wrapped up the school's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Lotería is a community-based game that brings together groups in a fun, competitive way. The fast-paced traditional Hispanic game is similar to Bingo!, but players rely on pictures and Spanish words to win. Although most of the students who attended the event didn't speak Spanish, the game was accessible to everyone. First-, second-, and third-place winners received gift cards, and volunteers provided Hispanic food and drinks for players.

Thank you to Spanish Club, the supporting student groups, and the volunteers for hosting this celebration of Hispanic culture at Simley!

student support to accelerate learning. When the district received temporary federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III), staff used some of these funds, which will expire in September 2024, for FastBridge benchmarking, learning partners, and student and family success coaches.

FastBridge benchmarking has helped teachers understand what individual students are ready to learn, where they need more support, and where they need more challenge. Learning partners use benchmarking and state assessment data while working side-by-side with teachers to plan and design lessons, targeted small group instruction, and enrichment. The work allows them to ensure that students can learn at their highest individual levels instead of being held back based on data averages. Learning partners also 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 complement the work of learning partners by providing support largely outside of the classroom. They work closely with families, students, and teachers to remove barriers to learning so students can stay in class and engaged in learning. Student and family success coaches provide additional support to teachers, introduce schoolwide lessons and activities, connect with families, and directly teach students in small groups.

ISD 199 recognizes that there is still work to be done to get every student learning at or above grade-level standards since the height of the pandemic. While taking the data from state assessments and accountability reporting seriously, staff also understand that state assessment results are a snapshot of student learning on a single day. That is why our staff is dedicated to continuously assessing students and using a variety of individual assessments. More data helps ensure that staff can effectively accelerate learning for each student instead of only using one data point to inform instruction. That way, both students who are ready for more challenge and students who need more support get what they need.

Simley Inducts 2022 Hall of Fame Members This September



The Simley High School Hall of Fame honors individuals who distinguish themselves with academic, athletic, and humanitarian achievements. The recognition preserves history, builds community, and connects the past with the present. This year's

members were inducted into the Simley Hall of Fame during halftime at the September 17 Simley-Hastings football game. The Simley Hall of Fame's Class of 2022 members are:

Mike Cadwell (class of 1973)

Mike Cadwell played baseball, football, and hockey. He started for two years in baseball and three years in football. In hockey, he lettered four years and was All Conference twice. He was the lead scorer and twice named best defensive player. He was MVP twice in ISD 199 and twice at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. At UWRF, he led his team to four NCAA Division II national playoff championship appearances and was an All American twice.

Now, Mr. Cadwell lives in Colstrip, Montana, where he is a member and leader of multiple conservation organizations like Ducks Unlimited. Through it all, he says, his greatest honor is being a father and a grandfather.

Steve Rohlf (class of 1973)

Steve Rohlf played three sports during his time at Simley. In baseball, he was team MVP in his senior year and a two-year starter. In wrestling, he earned an honorable mention twice. In football, he was a three-year starter and earned All Conference twice.

Playing football at Inver Hills Community College, he was team captain and twice an All Junior College safety. Mr. Rohlf played for the NCAA Division II national champion football team at Northern Michigan University, where he's a member of the university's Hall of Fame. As a Golden Gloves boxer, he finished with a 24-6 record.

Mr. Rohlf has volunteered with Simley Football and coached youth sports in Inver Grove Heights, St. Michael-Albertville, Stillwater, and Woodbury. For 24 years, he was an assistant team photographer for the Minnesota Vikings. He retired from 3M after 37 years.

Colleen Sweeney (class of 1981)

Colleen Sweeney participated in band, tennis, and the dance team, which finished first in the state during her time at Simley. In track and field, she competed in the 440-yard dash, shot put, and discus. Plus, she was the emcee for Simley's synchronized swim team.

Since high school, she's competed in dog sled racing, finishing as the top female in more than a dozen races. In 2014, she was ranked third nationally. She participates in the 300-mile John Beargrease Sled Dog

Marathon. She has been nationally recognized by the CBS Network and WORLD magazine.

Angela Garin (class of 1998)

Angela Garin was recognized as Simley's 1998 female athlete of the year with the Athena Award. She captained the 1997 state tournament gymnastics team and was team MVP for three years. She earned All Section and All Conference over five years, and she was All State for three years. Of gymnastics' four events, she holds school records in three and is second in one.

In softball, she earned three letters, was All Section twice, and was named to the 1998 All State team. At the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, she was team MVP and All Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) twice in gymnastics. In softball at UWRF, she was a Great Lakes Region Third Team All American and twice All WIAC.

Currently, she works as a quality control manager and the president of River Falls Youth Softball.

Jill Richgels (class of 2012)

During her time at Simley, Jill Richgels was involved in National Honor Society and student council. She graduated as an Advanced Placement Scholar and earned Academic All State as a Simley gymnast.

In soccer, she earned six letters. She was a four-year All Conference player, a two-year team MVP, a two-time All State player, an All State honorable mention, and a team captain. As a senior, she was also named Minnesota's Miss Soccer. Ms. Richgels still holds the school record for goals scored (72).

As a freshman at NCAA Division I Creighton University, she was on the Missouri Valley Conference's All Freshman team. She ranks fifth in career assists at Creighton.

Today, she works for Wells Fargo in the financial crimes department.

Tom Begich, Jim Newman, and Russ Hanson (Simley softball coaches)

In 1978, Tom Begich became coach of the inaugural Simley Softball team. Jim Newman and Russ Hansen joined a year later. Between 1980 and 2001, the team had earned a state tournament appearance, four conference titles, and only one losing season under their coaching. They also created the Tri County Fastpitch League summer softball program to help girls get more experience in competitive softball.

Russ Hansen was a volunteer coach and a professional pitcher. Jim Newman was an elementary school speech clinician for 31 years. He was also a Simley sports official, a teachers union officer, and one of the first junior high soccer coaches. Tom Begich also served as a teachers union official and worked as an elementary school teacher and librarian for 41 years. He taught students outside of the classroom as a football coach and in various positions with basketball.

Congratulations to the 2022 Simley Hall of Fame!

Watch for Simley Theatre's Winter One Acts

Thank you to the more than 800 audience members who attended Simley Theatre's performances of the musical comedy "The Addams Family" this November. Keep an eye out for information about Simley Theatre's Winter One Acts. These short plays will offer a variety of stories for audiences. One of the plays will also feature an Inver Grove Heights Middle School cast and crew and be directed by Simley High School students. For updates and ticket sales once available, visit sites.google.com/isd199.org/simley-theatre.

Coach's History as a Runner Helps Simley Teams Thrive



Some teachers wear different hats: They teach during the day and coach after school. For Simley High School Social Studies Teacher Dan Gerber, it's about shoes. In addition to teaching three subjects at Simley, he coaches track in the spring and cross country in the fall. His dedication to the sports has led to higher participation, stronger athletes, and recognition of his own beginnings.

Coach Gerber grew up as a runner. He was captain of his cross country team in high school, leading them to a state championship. He competed in cross country as well as indoor and outdoor track and field in college. Then, he coached at Augsburg College and Maple Grove High School before coming to Simley.

The tradition of running sports continues in his family even today. Last month, Coach Gerber's program hosted the Simley Invitational for Twin Cities metro teams. However, the invitational was more of a family reunion for Coach Gerber. His father was an official, his brother operated the timing company Wayzata Results, and his nephew competed for Richfield High School. The Gerber family and their historic involvement in the sport even caught the attention of the Minnesota State High School League, becoming the focus of an MSHSL article online.

Now, in his seventh season as Simley's boys and girls cross country coach, Coach Gerber says his biggest accomplishment so far has been increasing participation in Simley's cross country program and boosting the team's performance.

"My first year, we had about 15 athletes between both squads and finished last as a team in just about every competition we went to," he said. "Since then, we have normally had between 30-40 athletes and the work ethic, culture, and goals changed with them as we have improved to become more competitive in our conference and section."

He also credits assistant coaches Cally Simanski and Kate Brown for the program's success: "They are invaluable and have really spurred on the success of this program as we are able to give more individual focus with a 10:1 athlete to coach ratio."

This season, Coach Gerber had three of his runners qualify for the state championships on November 5: Megan Gullerud, Abi Lindquist, and Kaiden Schrandt. Megan holds the school record for fastest 5K, and Abi is the third-fastest in school history. Kaiden is eighth-fastest in school history and the first Simley boys team athlete to qualify for the state championships in more than 10 years.

Congratulations to Simley Cross Country on their 2022 accomplishments, and thank you to Coach Gerber for bringing his experience and dedication to the Simley's cross country and track and field programs.

Two Simley Students Selected for Björling Music Festival



Simley High School students Tyler Janey and Madeline Ngo were selected to perform in the Björling High School Music Festival this November. High school directors from the five-state, upper Midwest area nominated students to attend, and only the top students were selected.

The two-day festival was held at Gustavus Adolphus College and featured special guest conductor Kelly Watkins. As a faculty member of Eastern Connecticut State University, Ms. Watkins has taught conducting, brass ensemble, and wind ensembles, and she currently

directs the Eastern Concert Band. In addition to working closely with Ms. Watkins, students worked with instrument specialists from the Gustavus Adolphus College faculty, including Dr. Heidi Johanna Miller, Dr. Karrin Meffert-Nelson, Dr. James Patrick Miller.

Congratulations to Tyler and Madeline for being selected as top musicians in the area!

FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Cross Country

All Conference

Megan Gullerud
Abi Lindquist
Kaiden Schrandt

Honorable Mention

Maisy Komatsu
Tyler Ngo

Honorable Mention

50-yard Freestyle
Filomenah Callahan
Hailey Suchy
100-yard Backstroke
Riley Scott
Diving
Filomenah Callahan

Boys Soccer

Honorable Mention

Irwin Aguilar
Kalab Mulugeta
Francisco Ramirez
Leo Torres

Girls Tennis

All Conference

Vanessa Leonard
Kiera Schmid
Cailynn Thomas
Leah Thoemke

Honorable Mention

Angelin Nalitan
Makenzi Ries

Girls Soccer

All Conference

Taylor Ralston
Ella Tuccitto

Volleyball

All Conference

Naomi Romslo

Honorable Mention

Laura Bosin
Addison Hocking
Rachael Scufsa

Honorable Mention

Makayla Goldschmitz
Glissa Gorter
Avery Renslow

Girls Swimming and Diving

All Conference

50-yard Freestyle

Stella Anderson Moyo
Tiffany Nguyen

100-yard Backstroke

Madeline Ngo

Football

Congratulations to Simley Spartan Football on winning the school's first state title in the sport!

On November 17, Simley High School played ROCORI High School at U.S. Bank Stadium in the semifinal game. Simley's team came back from being down 14-16 at halftime to win its semifinal matchup 17-16.

On December 2, the Spartans won the Minnesota State High School League's Class AAAA Football Championship! The team faced Hutchinson High School, scoring 14 points in the final minutes of the game for a 34-24 victory!

Football recognitions will be included in the next edition of the 199 Reporter. Great job, Spartans!

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

#1. 199 ONLINE

Inver Grove Heights Schools created 199 Online during the summer of 2020. Although a fully online learning option was necessary during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, 199 Online has developed beyond being a pandemic response tool.

Today, students in grades 9-12 who live within 25 miles of the ISD 199 District Office, 2990 80th Street East in Inver Grove Heights, can enroll in 199 Online High School for individual online classes or a full online schedule.

The program offers direct instruction from certified Simley High School teachers in a flexible format that meets each student's needs and equips them with skills for college and career success.

Students outside of Simley High School can choose to enroll in ISD 199 or maintain their enrollment at their current school while taking 199 Online courses.

Visit www.isd199.org/199OnlineHS or call 612-443-2808 to learn more or enroll.



199 ONLINE IS NOW OPEN TO LOCAL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12!

- Certified Simley teachers
- Flexible learning
- Personal support
- A school-issued device & tech support
- Individual classes available

Visit www.isd199.org/199OnlineHS or call 612-443-2808 to learn more.

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



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