

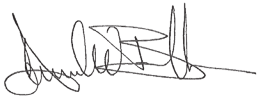
199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SPRING 2017

ISD 199 Emphasizes Core Life Skills for Post-Graduate Success

Our school district's mission is "Inspire. Innovate. Excel. A Community Commitment." When we see or hear the word "excel," we typically think of test scores and grades. While both are extremely important, Inver Grove Heights Schools strives to help students excel in everything they do so they are completely prepared for college and career. To achieve this, our district's strategic plan emphasizes core life skills, which equip students to effectively handle the demands and challenges of everyday life.

Employers frequently tell district staff the importance of hiring employees with core life skills such as self-management, problem solving, and interpersonal skills. Some even say core life skills have a greater bearing on success than a student's academic standing. Our schools strive to develop knowledgeable, responsible, socially skilled, productive citizens who will demonstrate the attributes of model learners and employees. Look for more updates on our district's progress as we continue to build a framework for core life skill development for our students.



Dave

What to Know About Summer Academy and Summer School



Summer Academy for elementary school students and Summer School for middle school students provides opportunities to build academic, social, and emotional skills for the next school year. Students in the programs will receive free busing, breakfast, and lunch.

Summer Academy for Kindergarten-5th Grade Students

8:30AM-1:30PM

Summer School for 6th-8th Grade Students

7:20AM-11:35AM

Both Programs

June 19 - July 18, Monday - Thursday

No class on June 23, June 30, July 3-4, July 7, and July 14

Students are recommended to the programs, and invitations and registration are mailed to families of recommended students after Spring Break. Registration must be turned in by May 5. **Read more about Summer Academy and Summer School inside.**

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

Elementary Summer Academy and Middle School Summer School

Summer Academy for current kindergarten through 5th grade students and Summer School for 6th-8th grade students provide a variety of learning opportunities to strengthen academic, social, and emotional skills. Students in both programs will receive free busing, breakfast, and lunch each day. To better accommodate our families' busy summer schedules, we will be moving to a four-day week this year. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday with no class on Fridays. Summer Academy and Summer School will not be in session on June 23, June 30, July 3-4, July 7, and July 14.

Summer Academy for Kindergarten-5th Grade

Monday, June 19 - Tuesday, July 18

from 8:30AM - 1:30PM

at Hilltop Elementary School

3203 68th Street East in Inver Grove Heights

If you have questions, please contact Michelle Austin at michelle.austin@isd199.org or 651-306-7469 or Sarah Zaiser at sarah.zaiser@isd199.org or 651-306-7454.

Summer School for 6th-8th Grade

Monday, June 19 - Tuesday, July 18

from 7:20AM - 11:35AM

at Inver Grove Heights Middle School

8167 Cahill Avenue in Inver Grove Heights

If you have questions, please contact Jessica Hallin at 651-306-7298 or jessica.hallin@isd199.org.

Students are recommended to these summer programs based on a variety of criteria. If your child is recommended, an invitation and registration will be mailed home after Spring Break. Elementary Summer Academy registrations can be completed online or returned to your child's teacher, and middle school Summer School registration forms should be returned to the middle school main office. Registration forms must be turned in by May 5, 2017. Bus stops near your house cannot be guaranteed for registrations after May 5.

ISD 199

Inver Grove Heights Schools

2990 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-306-7800
www.isd199.org

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 & Marketing Manager
katie.sheridan@isd199.org
651-306-7105

District Office Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30AM - 4:30PM

ISD 199 Student Earns Perfect Score in National Competition

One student representing Inver Grove Heights Schools recently received a perfect score in the first of three meets in this year's WordMasters Challenge™, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually.

Competing in the very difficult Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge™, 5th grader Mary earned a perfect score of 20. Only 64 fifth graders in the nation achieved this result. Mary was coached by Pine Bend Elementary School 5th grade teacher Theresa Bechay.

The WordMasters Challenge™ is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Although most vocabulary enrichment and



analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, WordMasters Challenge™ materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades 3-8. They are particularly well suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

The WordMasters Challenge™ program is administered by a company based in Indianapolis, Ind., which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

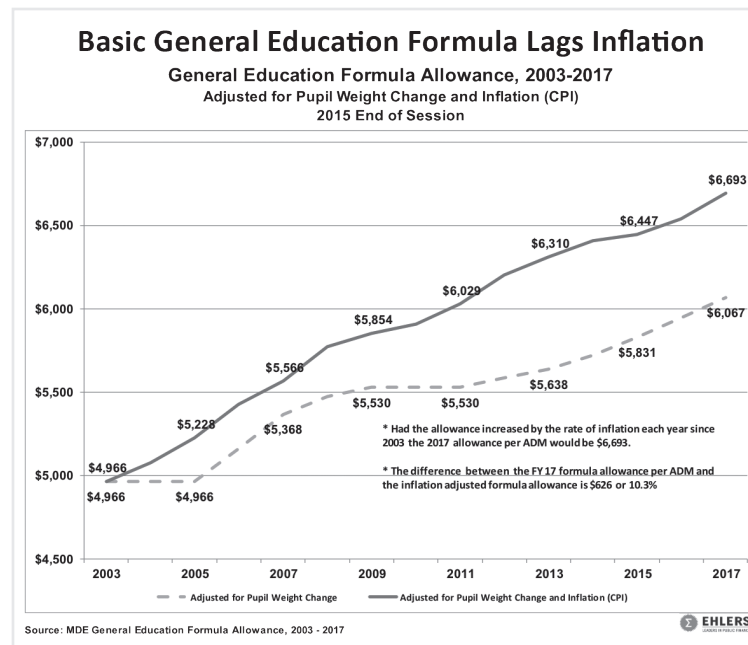
For the latest news, events, photos, and videos follow ISD 199 on social media! Also use #inspire199 to show your school and district pride.



ISD 199 Budget Update

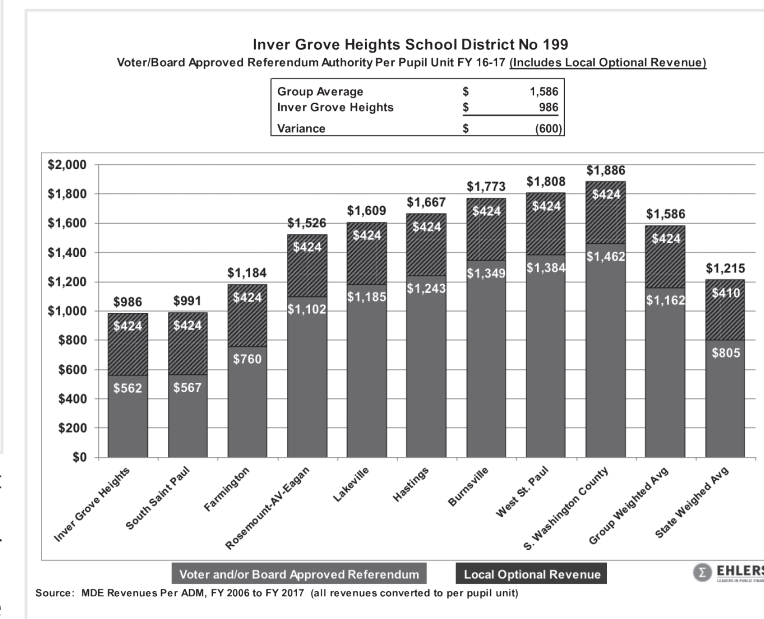
The 2017 Legislative Session is in full swing. The session will set education funding for 2018 and 2019. As a point of reference, a 1% increase on the general education formula for ISD 199 is \$225,000.

Since 2003, the state General Education Revenue formula has not kept pace with inflation. In the 2015 session, the legislature approved a 2% per year increase for 2016 (\$117 per pupil) and 2017 (\$119 per pupil). To keep up with inflation, an additional 10.3% (\$626 per pupil) would have been needed.



Other funding sources (e.g. special education, capital funds) have not kept pace with inflation either. The cost of providing special education programs is underfunded by 40% on average. Thus, dollars for regular program operations are used to subsidize the underfunding of special education. The primary options for school districts to bridge the funding gap are to cut budgets or increase referendum revenue. The district's general fund expenditures are expected to exceed revenue by \$1.6 million (3.8%) during this school year.

As shared in the Winter 2016 edition of the 199 Reporter, over the last three years, ISD 199 has budgeted for a reduction in fund balance of \$321,088 in 2014-2015, \$438,581 for 2015-2016, and \$1,151,112 for 2016-2017. Much of this shortfall is being made up by local voter-approved referendums. In 1993, 65% of Minnesota school districts had local voter-approved referendums averaging \$332 per pupil. For 2017, 99% of districts have referendum revenue plus local optional revenue authority averaging \$1,187 per pupil. ISD 199 receives \$986 per pupil (\$562 of approved referendum and \$424 of local optional revenue authority), more than \$200 per pupil below the state average. Our two voter approved referendums total \$562.13 per student. One for \$425.13 per student expires in 2019 and the other for \$137 per student expires in 2023. The following chart provides a voter/board-approved referendum authority in comparing ISD 199 to other local school districts.



Salem Hills' Lori Gustafson Nominated for Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to Salem Hills Elementary School's Lori Gustafson on her nomination for Minnesota Teacher of the Year 2017. Lori is one of 132 candidates.

"Ms. G. is an incredibly amazing, gifted, and dedicated educator," former ISD 199 School Board member, St. Paul Public Schools teacher, and fellow Teacher of the Year 2017 nominee Mark Westpfahl tweeted. "When I can be in the same category as Salem Hills' Lori Gustafson, I know I am in good company!"

Judges will narrow the candidate field in semifinalist and finalist rounds before choosing the Teacher of the Year on May 7, 2017.

BOARD MEMBERS MOVE INTO NEW POSITIONS

The Inver Grove Heights School Board held board elections on January 9, 2017. Board member Matt Schaefer will take over member Cindy Nordstrom's position as board chair, member Sue Gliva will take over member Paul Mandell's position as vice chair and treasurer, and member Sherry Warrick will take over member Lynette Stensgard's position as Clerk.

Kindergarten Registration



Incoming kindergarten families can still register for 2017-2018 kindergarten at Inver Grove Heights Schools. Parents and guardians can complete their student's enrollment at the ISD 199 District Office:

2990 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Open for Registration: 7:30AM - 4:00PM

Visit www.isd199.org/about_us/enrollment to download enrollment forms and see requirements for incoming kindergarteners.

School Start Times

The ISD 199 School Board asked district staff to review start/end times for the district's K-12 schools. The initial review took place this fall with the intention of bringing options to the school board for action in November or December of 2016.

The topic sparked interest in the school district community. To honor the community's input, the Start/End Time Review Committee determined that more time is needed for the school start/end time conversation. They saw a need to further study the impact and opportunity of each option.

Because of this development, no school start/end time changes will be made for the 2017-2018 school year.

Thank you to the students, staff, and community members who shared their perspective. Your feedback continues to help the district determine the appropriate next steps in the school start/end time conversation.

Infinite Campus System Coming This Summer

This summer, Inver Grove Heights Schools will switch its student information system from SchoolView to Infinite Campus. The new system will allow parents to easily view student progress, update student information, and communicate with teachers. Infinite Campus also provides better mobile access to keep families connected. The district will hold parent training opportunities in August. Watch www.isd199.org for more updates.

Students Gain Confidence at Youth Frontiers Retreats

Youth Frontiers is a local organization that hosts retreats for students of different ages to develop positive school culture. This winter, the organization visited ISD 199 to hold a Kindness Retreat for district 5th graders and a Courage Retreat for Inver Grove Heights Middle School 7th graders. Students spent the day doing hands-on activities that increased empathy, kindness, and confidence.

The 5th grade retreat mainly focused on being kind. During the retreat, Youth Frontiers Lead Retreat Facilitator Sebastian Davin said, "Today, our goal is to have one day where everyone in this room is treated with nothing but kindness."

The 5th graders played teambuilding games, danced together, and sang songs. One of the teambuilding games involved students working together to replicate the sounds of a thunderstorm.



"The only reason you could change the atmosphere in this room is because you all worked together to do it," Sebastian said. "When you work together, you can change the atmosphere of any room, hallway, or classroom you're in."

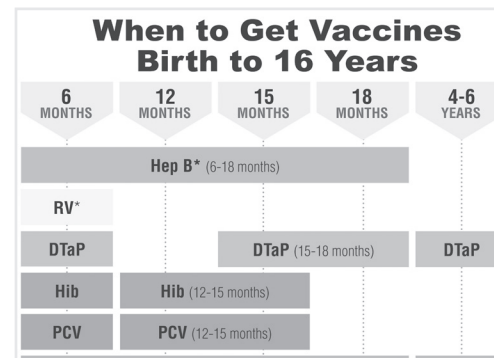
Students also talked about kindness in small groups with Simley High School student leaders and listened to the lead retreat facilitators. Sebastian taught students how kindness is like a boomerang: One must be kind to receive kindness.

"The first couple of times you throw [kindness] out there, it's hard and it may not come back to you," he said. "But if you keep practicing, soon it starts to come back to you every time."

IGHMS 7th graders attended a Courage Retreat, which focused on building student confidence and providing them with strategies to prevent bullying and effectively handle peer pressure. Debra, the 7th graders' Youth Frontiers facilitator, encouraged students to use the retreat to develop respect for others, step out of their comfort zones, share their honest opinions, and listen to the perspectives of others.

Students worked together to play games, demonstrated their talents in front of their peers, and shared their past experiences with peer pressure. At the end of the retreat, students wrote down one act of courage that they would do, such as standing up for someone else or saying "no" when pressured.

Immunization Requirements



Minnesota state law requires that students receive vaccinations to enroll in child care, early childhood programs, and school. Parents must submit written proof of vaccinations before enrolling. Please make sure your child has the proper immunizations at every age.

For everything you need to know about required immunizations, please visit:

www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

Parents can use this website to learn more about which immunizations are necessary at specific ages.

Dakota Electric Donates to Post-Secondary Success



Dakota Electric Association, a non-profit utility for Dakota County and portions of surrounding counties, recently awarded Inver Grove Heights Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, Hastings Public Schools, and Inver Hills Community College each \$10,000 from unclaimed capital credits for specific needs.

ISD 199 and SSPPS will use the money as they collaborate to develop the innovative Career and College Readiness Pathways program, which helps high school students earn educational certificates and learn about careers to help them succeed in post-secondary two- and four-year degree programs.

"We are happy to be able to provide financial support from unclaimed capital credits to worthwhile educational programs," Board Chair Jim Sheldon said.

Simley Student Presents at Medical Conference



Kyra Barbot has been volunteering at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare since age 15. The Simley High School senior has also participated in the hospital's summer program, which prompted her interest in research. Kyra did not realize her work with the hospital and knowledge of research would lead to a spot as student presenter at a national medical conference.

Kyra asked Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare's Dr. Supreet Deshpande if she could get involved in a research project,

and the pediatric rehabilitation medicine specialist assigned her to do a retrospective study on the effectiveness of certain medications for patients with traumatic brain injuries.

"I sorted through hundreds of doctors' notes just for the experience," she said. "I didn't expect to be invited to present my study."

The Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP) contacted Kyra, asking her to be a student presenter at the 2017 AAP Conference in Las Vegas. During the conference, which brings together leaders in physical medicine and rehabilitation, Kyra displayed her research alongside doctors, residents, medical students, professors, and other healthcare professionals also presenting at the poster gallery reception.

"I was kind of nervous to answer the doctors' questions," she said. "But I know my research and I stand by it."

Board Member Earns MSBA Director Award



After attending this year's Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Leadership Conference, Inver Grove Heights School Board member Paul Mandell earned the Director Award. MSBA awarded board members who have earned 100 points or more of training within the last four years. Congratulations, Director Mandell!

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES 2017-18 CALENDAR

The ISD 199 School Board approved the 2017-2018 academic calendar at the January 23, 2017, board meeting. The calendar is available on the district website, www.isd199.org, under News and Events along with the calendar explanations.

A 2017-2018 calendar will be included in the Back-to-School edition of the 199 Reporter, which will be mailed before the start of school.

APPLY FOR AN ISD 199 COMMITTEE

- Visit the district website, www.isd199.org
- Go to the "Community" tab and click on the "Committee Opportunity Survey" in the dropdown menu
- ISD 199 will contact you about openings
- All interested community members are encouraged to apply

Steve Miller Band Drummer Visits ISD 199 Band Students

Steve Miller Band drummer, Gordy Knudtson, visited Simley High School last month to host a percussion clinic for students in grades 6-12. Mr. Knudtson taught students percussion strategies, including the Open/Close Technique. He also shared stories about his life, education, and career. Students heard about his time growing up in Minnesota, creating jingles for TV and radio, getting into the Steve Miller Band, and playing with well-known groups, such as Journey and Santana.

In addition to performing with the Steve Miller Band, Mr. Knudtson currently heads the percussion department at the McNally Smith College of Music and has developed the curriculum since the college opened.



Simley Yearbook Recognized in National Contest



Simley High School's Yearbook Club submitted its 2015-2016 yearbook in the Lifetouch Yearbook Showcase Contest. The book earned an honorable mention, being chosen from thousands of books submitted from across the U.S.

Lifetouch, a photography company known for publishing yearbooks, selects three grand prize winners per category: elementary schools, middle schools, high schools with more than 1,000 students, and high schools with fewer than 1,000 students. Yearbooks are chosen based on theme and theme development, design, continuity, photography, writing, creativity content, and coverage.

"The books reflect hours of hard work by the Yearbook Club staff and advisers," Lifetouch yearbook education specialist and contest coordinator Laura Schaub said. "The books are some of the best ... in the nation."

18 Spartans Selected for All-Conference Music Festival

Nearly 20 Simley High School music students were chosen to perform at the Metro East All-Conference Music Festival. Kayla Durham, Ren Johnson, Yenlan Nguyen, Jessica Patrick, and Malachi Slaughter sang in the All-Conference Choir. They rehearsed an advanced choral repertoire for two days alongside top choral students from the eight other Metro East Conference high schools.

Thirteen Simley band members were selected to play in the All-Conference Band. Students from Simley were also selected to perform three of the five concert solos.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| All-Conference Band | Kiri Ferguson | Abby Stein | Julia Wright |
| | Ben Borchard | Scarlett Storo | Kris Wrobel |
| | Moriah Elkin | Josiah Tuione | |
| | Carter Erdman | Danielle Ungurian | |



GOLDY GOPHER TEACHES GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT PINE BEND

Goldy Gopher ran into the Pine Bend Elementary School gym to the excited screams of hundreds of students. Goldy had scheduled a visit to help students learn about good sportsmanship. The students had the chance to dance with Goldy, see some University of Minnesota athletes in his videos, and "do the gopher," another dance that University of Minnesota fans do with Goldy at football games.

Students also talked about how to show good sportsmanship and read the Howard Binkow book, "Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns About Sportsmanship." After the assembly, Goldy took pictures with each Pine Bend class.



Team USA Chooses Simley Alumni

This January, Team USA held bowling trials in Nevada to select new members for their men's and women's Junior, Amateur, and Professional teams. Up to 12 bowlers were selected for each team. Two Simley High School alumni, siblings Nick and Lauren Pate, competed in the trials and were selected for Team USA.

Nick and Lauren started bowling at a young age because so many of their relatives bowled. Nick even remembers playing with a plastic miniature bowling set for hours at a very young age.

During their time at Simley, both alumni competed on the bowling team and earned top honors. Nick was named to the All-Conference Team four years in a row and won first place in state his junior year, earning a scholarship for Midland University in Fremont, Neb., where he studies psychology and continues to bowl.

Lauren was named to the All-State Team throughout high school, placed 3rd in state during her sophomore year, and placed 2nd in state during her senior year. She earned a bowling scholarship to McKendree University in Lebanon, Ill., where she studies sociology with a social work emphasis. Not long into her college career, she was voted the Division II/III Rookie of the Year by the collegiate women's bowling organization Ten Pin Coaches Association.

After competing at trials in past years, Nick and Lauren had their individual strategies ready. Nick aimed to rank 20th each day. He planned to build on that for the 2018 trials after he graduated college and had more time to work on his bowling. Lauren blocked distractions.

"I focused more on myself than what was happening around me this year," she said. "I kept telling myself to make the best shots I could and not worry about the scores."

Lauren was chosen for the Girls Junior Team USA, which only accepts bowlers age 20 and younger. She competed against 63 others at the Girls Junior trials. Nick far surpassed his goal, placing 7th among all 169 male bowlers. He earned a spot on the Men's Amateur Team USA, one level before the Professional Team USA.

"It still hasn't sunk in," he said. "It's truly an honor to be selected to represent the United States for bowling."

Nick and Lauren look forward to bowling in international competitions as part of Team USA.

Simley Students Selected for University Honor Bands



Simley High School music students were selected to play in three university honor bands this winter. Scarlett Storo and Kris Wrobel played in the Minnesota State University Mankato Honor Band, Moriah Elkin played in the University of Minnesota Honor Band, and several 9th- and 10th-grade students were chosen for the Augsburg College Honor Band.

Scarlett and Kris were selected as two of only 80 musicians to perform in the Minnesota State University Mankato Honor Band. As part of the event, the students toured campus, heard Mankato State performances, participated in clinics, and rehearsed with university faculty.

After submitting a video audition of her percussion skills, Moriah was selected for the University of Minnesota Honor Band. Only 90 wind and percussion students from the upper Midwest were selected

for the band. During the weekend event, Moriah participated in master classes taught by internationally known faculty.

Simley 9th- and 10th-grade band students were also selected for the Augsburg College Honor Band:

- Ericka Bacon
- Ben Borchard
- Emma Deyo
- Sophia Fenske
- Logan McMonigal
- Taylor Riess
- Josiah Tuione
- Hailee Waska

The top instrumental music students in the greater Twin Cities Metro were selected for the Honor Band. Students attended master classes and learned advanced music to prepare for a concert at the end of the festival.

SIMLEY THEATRE COMPETES IN 3AA FINALS



This February, Simley Theatre presented Winter One Acts. The performances included "S.P.A.R.," performed by Simley High School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School students, and "This is a Test," which Simley Theatre entered to compete in the MSHSL One Act Play 3AA Competition. This was the first year that Simley competed in the competition, and after the preliminary round, the cast was selected to perform in the final round for a chance to go to the State One Act Play Tournament. Only six plays were selected for the finals round.

ISD 199 Schools Earn AVID Certifications

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) prepares students for graduation and beyond by teaching them learning strategies and familiarizing them with college. Every year, the AVID Center analyzes data from schools to determine the efficacy of each school’s AVID program. For the 2016-2017 school year, Simley High School was recognized once again as an AVID Certified Site, and Inver Grove Heights Middle School was recognized as an AVID Highly Certified Site.

Schools are only eligible for certification after they have had AVID in place for one year. Both IGHMS and Simley have been AVID Certified Sites every year since they became eligible. The certification means the AVID programs at IGHMS and Simley are accomplishing the necessary steps that will prepare students for academic success in high school and college.



However, IGHMS earned recognition as an AVID Highly Certified Site for the 2016-2017 school year. This certification indicates that the IGHMS AVID program is helping more students than those who were accepted into the school’s AVID program. AVID Highly Certified Sites show AVID college readiness practices in place throughout the school, instead of only in AVID classrooms.

Congratulations to IGHMS and Simley on their certifications!

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS WEATHER LINE: 651-306-7875



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