199 REPORTER

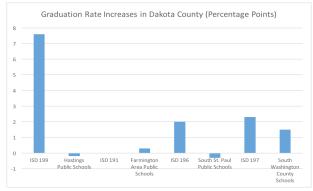
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | SPRING 2017

Statewide Graduation Data Shows Big Gains for ISD 199 Students

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recently released graduation data for school districts across Minnesota. While the data showed progress in increasing graduation rates and decreasing achievement gaps throughout Minnesota, Inver Grove Heights Schools showed significant growth for all students, including percentage point gains in the double-digits for some groups.

MDE reported graduation rate increases in every student group and special population in ISD 199. The largest graduation rate gains were in the "Black and not of Hispanic Origin" group with a gain of 25.3 percentage points, the "Special Education" population with 16.1 percentage points, and the "Free and Reduced Price Lunch" population with 10.2 percentage points. ISD 199's gains far outpaced statewide increases and, locally, showed the largest graduation rate increase in Dakota County.

It takes all of us, every district staff member, to make achievements like this happen. The district's graduation rate increases and achievement gap decreases are a result of years of working together to build, improve, and personalize curriculum to help every student succeed in life after graduation.



Inver Grove Heights Schools emphasizes the importance of offering relevant and rigorous curriculum, but we also have an excellent staff that understands the importance of building relationships with students. They let the students know they care, and that could mean the difference between graduating and not graduating, especially for at-risk students.

The district is proud of the advancements we have made in terms of graduation rates, but we also want to equip students for everything that follows graduation day. Our schools currently have college and career readiness programming, but our 2016 Strategic Plan prioritizes College and Career Readiness with Core Life Skills. ISD 199 is continuing to build pathways to student success with its plans for Secondary Design with Core Life Skills, which will focus on helping students gain lifelong personal and professional skills through innovative curriculum.

Dave

Simley Named Washington Post Most Challenging School for 9th Consecutive Year

Of the more than 22,000 high schools in the U.S., the Washington Post ranked the top 12% for its annual list of America's Most Challenging High Schools. For the 9th year in a row, Simley High School has been named to the list. Only 26 Minnesota high schools were chosen this year, and the Washington Post's national rankings place Simley in the top 4 percent of all high schools nationwide.

The Washington Post ranks high schools by index, which is calculated by dividing the number of college-level exams taken during the year, such as Advanced Placement exams, by the number of graduates for the year. Simley earned an index of 2.390, well over the baseline index of 1.000 that would indicate that the school had only as many tests as graduates.



Innovation Pilot Project

Equal Opportunity Schools
Upgrading learning. Closing gaps. Transforming lives.



The Minnesota Department of Education's Innovation Pilot Project brings school districts together to share resources and develop more innovative ways to challenge and engage students, build connections between teachers and students, and provide more opportunities for staff professional development. The Minnesota Department of Education recently approved the TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative as an Innovation Pilot Project.

The TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative includes the Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, and West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan school districts. The districts will work together to better prepare students for life after high school graduation.

ISD 199

Inver Grove Heights Schools

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The 199 Reporter is a quarterly publication that is mailed to every household in School District 199 to inform the community and parents about district news and events.

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District Office Hours

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

Pine Bend Teacher Earns Grant to Bring Music to the Community



Pine Bend Elementary School music teacher Micah Klotz recently received a grant from Century Link. The grant provides funds for technology that will allow students to stream their performances to community members, locally and nationally, who are unable to attend because of health or distance.

In her proposal, Mrs. Klotz describes the multiple benefits of streaming student performances. Students will have

an audience for their performances to help them understand the relevance of the curriculum, and they will build their 21st Century Skills, such as digital citizenship and communicating creatively. Community members will also benefit from the project as they will gain the chance to be a part of the school's activities despite medical restrictions or distance. Mrs. Klotz also said the grant will give students an opportunity to interact with "many amazing voices [from the community] that have been softened due to age or medical issues."

After using the grant to purchase high-quality equipment, such as a microphone and a web cam, the class can use free sites such as appear.in, Facebook Live, or Facetime to connect with their audiences, depending on the audience's available technology.

Simley Teacher Will Travel to D.C., South Africa for Fellowship

Simley High School resource room teacher Colleen Parker was recently accepted for the National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Global Learning Fellowship. Only 49 educators across the U.S. were chosen. The year-long fellowship will equip educators to effectively prepare students for global citizenship, advance their district's instruction on global citizenship, and close global achievement gaps. Ms. Parker will have a chance to attend a conference in Washington D.C. this October and travel to South Africa in July 2018 to solidify her learning.

ISD 199 Earns Certificate of Financial Excellence for 12th Year

The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International has awarded ISD 199 its Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Financial Reporting. The certificate was awarded for the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2016. The district has now earned the certificate 12 years in a row for having met or exceeded ASBO's high standards for reporting and accountability. Recognition through the COE program promotes high quality financial reporting and can help strengthen a district's presentation for bond issuance statements.

Hilltop Families Explore the World in One Night

Hilltop Elementary School held its first International Night this March to celebrate cultures from around the world with food, artifacts, and performances. Students learned about cultures such as Hmong, Mexican, Native American, Norwegian, Thai, and more through cultural art, books, clothing, and crafts. Families brought in dishes from Somalia, Finland, Kenya, and Egypt for participants to try, and parents and students volunteered to perform cultural dances and songs at the event.



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.



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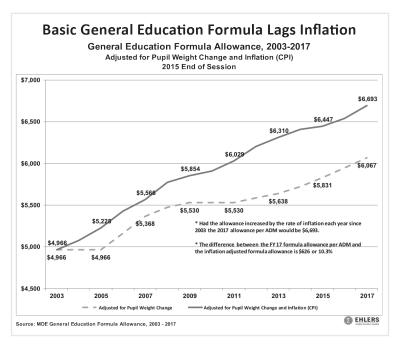
vimeo.com/isd199

2017-2018 Budget Update

Since 2003, state general education funding has not kept up with inflation. This has amounted to a 9.1% gap in funding by the end of 2016. A 1% increase amounts to about \$225,000 for ISD 199. Special Education is a mandated service for our kids, but it is also significantly underfunded for our district by about \$3.5 million, which must then come out of general education funding. State education funding increases do not allow ISD 199 to keep pace with inflation. The shortfall in school funding since 2003 (9.1%) has put more and more districts in the position of having to go to local voters to seek approval of operating levies to fund schools.

The chart on the right shows the gap in basic general education funding in comparison to inflation since 2003. The dotted line is the state funding of education and the solid line is the rate of inflation.

Due to the shortfall in state education funding, along with a declining enrollment, the school district is making budget adjustments totaling \$1.2 million for 2017-18 with an additional adjustment of \$1.2 million projected for 2018-19. State funding increases under consideration will not cover the amount of adjustments needed. The ISD 199 School Board is anticipating going to local voters this November to help our schools receive necessary funding for operation.



ISD 199 SELECTED TO JOIN NATIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE



Inver Grove Heights Schools was recently accepted to the Lead Higher Initiative, a national effort spearheaded by the non-profit Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), in collaboration with International Baccalaureate and the College Board. As a member of the second Lead Higher cohort, ISD 199 schools will receive match-funded technical assistance from EOS to join the less than one percent of diverse schools in the country to close participation gaps in AP and IB programs.

"ISD 199 is dedicated to its mission: 'Inspire. Innovate. Excel. A Community Commitment,' and being accepted into the Lead Higher Initiative will help staff further make the mission a reality for every student," Inver Grove Heights Schools Superintendent, Dave Bernhardson, said. "Our district focuses on making more opportunities available to challenge all students to prepare them for success in college and career, and this initiative will provide us more support to do so."

Lead Higher seeks to enable secondary schools to fully reflect their racial and economic diversity at the highest academic levels in K-12 education and to elevate the national conversation about low-income students and students of color beyond achieving proficiency to a focus on academic excellence. To accomplish these goals, Lead Higher and its school partners will transition 100,000 low-income students and students of color into a successful Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate experience and, in so doing, enable a fivefold increase in the number of schools nationally reflecting student diversity in those programs by 2019.

Equal Opportunity Schools has partnered with more than 350 high schools across the nation to provide the opportunity for more students to succeed in rigorous high school courses. "By building on their best academic programs and the systems already in place, selected schools will implement what are among the highest impact strategies for boosting college readiness while narrowing the achievement gap," EOS Founder and CEO, Reid Saaris, said.

Substantial research indicates students receive a number of benefits and significantly boost their chances of completing college if successful in just one AP or IB course in high school.

Out of more than 650 schools considered for Lead Higher, ISD 199's schools are among the 120 selected for participation in 2017-18. Through a year-long partnership, EOS will support ISD 199 by providing field-leading data analysis to measure student- and school-specific causes of participation gaps, develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing those causes, and by fall 2018, transition all of the historically underrepresented students who have been identified as likely to benefit from AP or IB into one of these course opportunities. Once there, students will benefit from plans EOS and the schools develop to ensure their success.

Simley Teacher Accepted to Research Expedition

While some may be looking forward to a relaxing cruise this summer, Simley High School science teacher Lori Haak is excited to float across Lake Huron aboard the Lake Guardian research vessel. This March, Ms. Haak was accepted as one of only 15 teachers from the Great Lakes region to go on a week-long research expedition, the Shipboard Science Workshop. The accepted teachers will work alongside Great Lakes scientists, learn the newest techniques and equipment, and bring their knowledge and new curriculum back to students.

Before discovering her passion for teaching, Ms. Haak worked in water resources management, her first passion. When she heard about the Shipboard Science Workshop for Great Lakes teachers, she said it was a natural fit.

"The workshop represents the perfect combination of my passions for preserving and protecting our water resources and teaching biology to high school students," she said. "Because we will be doing scientific research aboard the Lake Guardian research vessel, I will be able to bring back relevant material with real, approachable data."

Ms. Haak said the water quality research is especially important to Simley students because of their proximity to the Mississippi River. She wants to help them understand water resource protection and management because she believes it will become a central issue during their lifetimes.

Though each spring Simley students get a hands-on look at water quality in the ponds on campus, Ms. Haak said she is eager to develop new, authentic ways to engage students in real science that directly affects their quality of life.

In addition to studying Lake Huron organisms and developing curriculum, she will also have an opportunity to learn about the lake's biology, geology, chemistry, and human impacts from the Center for Great Lakes Literacy and to explore the NOAA Marine Sanctuary.

ISD 199 Students Read Across America



ISD 199 elementary schools celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day in March. Students did activities focused on reading and Dr. Seuss as part of the national event. Younger students created "Cat in the Hat" headbands after writing different words ending in "-at" on them, and at lunch, students enjoyed green eggs and sliced ham, but only after showing some hesitation, like Sam I Am from Dr. Seuss' book "Green Eggs and Ham."

Community members also visited Hilltop Elementary School to read Dr. Seuss books aloud to students. Visitors included Inver Grove Heights police and fire department staff, IGH Animal Hospital staff, ISD 199 board members and administrators, and city officials.

Website Update July 1

On July 1, 2017, the Inver Grove Heights Schools website, **www.isd199.org**, will be updated to provide a more user friendly experience for students, staff, families, and community members. Though the website will look different, the biggest changes will be better navigation, updated and accurate information, and mobile friendly webpages.

Those who use the website can expect a cleaner design and simplified navigation. The district has also worked to clean up information on the website to remove duplicated or out-of-date information. The website update is scheduled to be implemented on July 1 to make sure the improved website will be ready well before the start of the new school year.

Students Explore Zoo Careers



During Spring Break, Inver Grove Heights Middle School teacher Molly Timmerman visited the Como Zoo with a group of students, many of whom had never been to a zoo. She used the grant to give students a behind-the-scenes tour of the exhibits and greenhouses with the Keepers of the Garden and Zoo Program.

Zoo staff gave students an up-close experience with the zoo and its animals. Students also learned about the staff's daily responsibilities.

Pine Bend Students Step Into the Role of Engineer



Pine Bend Elementary School 4th graders planned, designed, and tested like engineers during a recent assignment to make Puff Mobiles. Students were challenged to build a vehicle that could travel at least 10 feet with only three puffs of air to move it.

Students brainstormed ideas and sketched out their plans before building their Puff Mobiles with office supplies. After experimenting with and gathering data on their original designs, they wrote about what worked well and what could be improved. Using the analysis, they invented a second design based on what they learned, gathering data to see if their theories for improvement worked.

Infinite Campus to Replace SchoolView 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 and sign up for the district's monthly family e-newsletter, Inspire 199, on the district website.

Students Feed Community During Service Hours

Simley High School's Link Crew, which builds connections between students to create a more positive school culture, hosted a service event with Harvest Pack that will reach ISD 199 families and community members. Students packaged nutritious meals for the non-profit organization that will go to those in need within the ISD 199 School District and Dakota County.

Students came in throughout the day to participate, packing more than 20,700 meals by the end of the event. While helping their community, students also received Civics



credit, and National Honor Society and Link Crew members received community service hours.

Immunization Requirements

When to Get Vaccines Birth to 16 Years 6 12 15 18 MONTHS 4-6 MONTHS MONTHS MONTHS YEARS Hep B* (6-18 months) RV* DTaP DTaP (15-18 months) PCV PCV (12-15 months)

The 2017-2018 school year will be here soon. Does your student have an appointment to receive or update the proper vaccinations?

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 visit www.health.state.mn.us/immunize for everything you need to know about the required vaccinations for enrollment. Parents can also use this website to learn more about which immunizations are necessary at specific ages.

Simley Artists Chosen as Part of Best 100 Exhibition



Two of Simley High School's top artists were chosen to display their work at Les Farrington's Best 100 Art Exhibition. The annual juried art show for students in grades 9-12 was held at the AZ Gallery in Lowertown, St. Paul. Seniors Eric Burling and Laura Stickney were chosen in late February to participate in this prestigious art show.

Laura's drawing portfolio and Eric's photography were chosen from nearly 1,000 entries from area schools. The students received Merit Honors for their work at the Opening Ceremony. Eric also won a Juror's Award for a \$100 scholarship.

DISTRICT TO CONDUCT RANDOM SAMPLE SURVEY

A residential survey will be conducted this spring, on behalf of the district, by Springsted, Inc. The survey will randomly sample 400 households. The survey is being conducted to measure community satisfaction with the school district, guide school district planning and the impact of the strategic plan, evaluate how community members get information about the school district, test the perspective of renewing two existing voter-approved levy referendums and the feasibility of additional voter-approved operating or capital projects referendums.

Facilities Continue to Benefit Students

This fall, ISD 199 completed its facilities projects on budget after three years of construction. Since that time, facilities such as the Salem Hills Elementary School Media Center and Simley High School's Performing Arts Center, Student Center, and Spartan Center have been packed with classes, community meetings, and performances. While some buildings were able to build or update spaces to accommodate students, staff, and the community, the district was also able to maintain and update essentials such as safety and security, the district's HVAC system, and public restrooms to improve its facilities.

A majority of funding for these projects came from the 2013 voter-approved bond. Thank you to the community members who voted and helped pass the 2013 bond. Your support has opened possibilities for both student and community growth.

Student Advisory Council Learns and Practices Leadership

As part of ISD 199's Student Advisory Council, students in 4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade met with community leaders and provided a student perspective on district operations during two Council meetings. At the end of February, Student Advisory Council members met with Inver Grove Heights Mayor George Tourville to learn more about the city. The mayor gave a lesson in civics and the city's history and took students on a tour of City Hall.

Mayor Tourville showed students where the city's administrators work and explained how each position supports the city's daily operations. Student Advisory Council members also submitted suggestions for the city and practiced offering community input in the Council Chambers.



In April, students heard from local supporter and owner of Hometown Meats, Rob Reitberger, taste tested potential cafeteria food items for next school year, and learned about the district's Food Service.



Mr. Reitberger, owner of Hometown Meats and an alumnus of Simley High School, presented a donation for ISD 199 to students at the Advisory meeting. He talked to students about his belief in giving back to the schools and how he raised the funds. Mr. Reitberger explained that he donated a dollar to the schools for every pizza he sold. Each of his pizzas features an ISD 199 school name, including the former South Grove Elementary School. Thank you to Mr. Reitberger for his support and generosity.

Students also sampled potential cafeteria items for next school year and provided student feedback. They tasted breakfast items and beverages and recommended the items they liked to ISD 199 Food Service.

Food Service staff followed up the taste test with a presentation on why they offer the food items they do and why those items have changed over the years. Staff talked about nutrition and the regulations the district abides by to keep students healthy and teach lifelong healthy habits. At the end of the presentation, students were invited to share suggestions for food products and physical activities they'd like to see at their schools.

IGH YOUTH CENTER OFFERS SUMMER FUN

Have an adventure this summer with TriDistrict Community Education's IGH Youth Center! Students entering grades 6-9 will have the opportunity to explore new interests, expand their world, and have a blast with friends.

Youth Center has something for every student, including:

- Minecraft Mod Development
- Java Game Coding
- String Art
- Wearable Art
- Fondant Cake Decorating
- Intermediate Jazz/Rock Band
- Drivers Education
- Toastmasters with CHS Riverbluffers
- Non-stop Hip Hop
- and much more!



Registration is open now. Visit the Inver Grove Heights Middle School website, www.isd199. org/schools/ighms, and click "IGH Youth Center" in the left sidebar.

IGH Youth Center begins June 14, and runs Monday through Thursday until August 3. The IGH Youth Center is also partnering with Inver Glen Library to offer free STEM classes. Don't miss out on a summer of fun!

Ladies of Hilltop Holds Inaugural Meeting



On April 25, Hilltop Elementary School held its first Ladies of Hilltop meeting. A similar group as Hilltop's Boys to Men Program for 5th grade boys, Ladies of Hilltop provides 5th grade girls with an opportunity to learn confidence and the steps to success while practicing leadership within their school.

In each meeting, students will work toward their goals and learn what it takes to be successful. They will also hear from professional women in the community.

Winter Sports Recognition

Boys Alpine Ski All Conference **Emmit Nelson** Charlie Sayner Honorable Mention Matthew Lyddy

Girls Alpine Ski All Conference Sarah Anaya Mindy Kolodziejski

Boys Basketball All Conference Jake Binley Honorable Mention DeAndre Smith

Logan Tschida **Girls Basketball** All Conference Tiwaah Danso Ravyn Miles Honorable Mention Aejah Lockett Guresi Mena Sydney Stensgard

Bowling All Conference Alec Frederick Rachel Holst Tyler Klinepier Hanah Litz

Ashley Salzman Lexie Simonette

Dance Team All Conference Tatum Dunphy Hailey Scheffknecht Vanessa Tabor Honorable Mention Jordan Boswell Courtney Friemann

Gymnastics All Conference All Around Morgan Johnson Beam

Erin Orn Floor Exercise Zoe Stone Kylie Seeling Honorable Mention

Bars Lane Paulson Beam Zoe Stone Vault Julia Remackel **Kylie Seeling**

Boys Hockey All Conference Konnor Carlson Honorable Mention Honorable Mention Honorable Mention Michael DeLeon Kyle Roche **Evan Schultz Robby Watson**

Girls Hockey All Conference Reegan Patnode Honorable Mention Emma Heimerl Kendall Johnson Maddie Wicke

Nordic Ski All Conference Grant Dilla

Amanda Mertens Danielle Ungurian

Boys Swimming & Wrestling Diving All Conference **Tanner Anderson** Josh Halloran Westley Kinkade Andres Losinski Tristyn McMillen Ebenezer Ojo Michael Schmalz John Toomey

Garrett Kaiser Eric Petschl

All Conference Carl Berg Luis Fierro Jake Gliva Daniel Kerkvliet Zach Miller Ryan Sokol Luke Zaiser Honorable Mention Jacob Hageman Andrew VonBerge Quayin Short

Bowlers Named to All-State

Simley Girls Bowling Team members Hanah Litz and Ashley Salzman were recently named to the three All-State Teams for girls high school bowling. Only 15 bowlers are chosen for the All-State Teams and are ranked based on their strike percentages. Ashley was ranked 1st in the state and named to the 1st All-State Team, out of three. Hanah was named to the 3rd All-State Team. During the Co-ed Bowling Team season, Tyler Klinepier was also selected for the All-State Team. Congratulations, students!

Simley Senior Earns Athena Award for Excellence



Simley High School senior Reegan Patnode received the St. Paul Athena Award on April 19, 2017. The Athena Award is presented to female student-athletes who excellence display athletics and academics.

Reegan was honored for her outstanding performance in soccer and hockey as well as her commitment to volunteerism and extracurricular activities. A captain of the soccer team, Reegan is a three-time letter recipient and earned the Spartan Award for 2016-2017. In hockey, she is a 5-time letter recipient and has earned a variety of accolades, including All Conference, MVP, Most Dedicated, Spartan Award, Hoby Baker Character Award, Simley Success Award 50-point Club, Merchants Classic All-Tournament Team, and 4th in all-time career points at Simley.

She has also dedicated her time to Simley's Prom Committee, National Honor Society, and managing baseball for two seasons. She has volunteered for Special Olympics Minnesota, the Inver Grove Heights Hockey Association, and a STORM Camp Mission Trip.

In addition to her athletic and extracurricular accomplishments, Reegan is a 4-year academic letter winner. She plans to attend the College of Saint Benedict where she will play hockey for the Blazers.

SIMLEY ROBOTICS MAKES IT TO QUARTERFINALS

After 84 qualification matches in the 10,000 Lakes Regional Competition, the Simley High School FIRST Robotics Team 2518 finished 14th out of 63 teams. The team advanced to the playoffs with the 5th ranked alliance but, unfortunately, was defeated in the quarterfinals. We are proud of all the accomplishments made this season. Way to go, Team 2518!



Simley Senior Named U.S. Presidential Scholar



Each year, the U.S. Department of Education invites high-achieving students across the country to apply to become U.S. Presidential Scholars. The scholar program selects up to 161 students to recognize for their academic accomplishments. Finalists earn an expenses-paid trip to the White House and a reception. This May, Simley High School senior Moriah Elkin was chosen as one of only two U.S. Presidential Scholars from Minnesota.

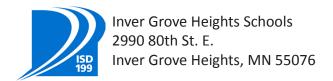
In January, Moriah was one of 86 U.S. Presidential Scholar candidates from Minnesota and approximately 4,000 candidates nationwide. The pool of candidates decreased to 12 Minnesota semifinalists in April. In May, Moriah became the first Simley student to be named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. When she was notified that she would be honored as a Scholar, Moriah chose Simley history teacher Tom Goetz as her most influential teacher. Mr. Goetz will be honored as a Distinguished Teacher as part of the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program.

IGHMS Students Selected to Lead at AVID Conference

Each year, AVID chooses 20 middle and high school students as student leaders for the AVID Summer Institute. This year, AVID chose two Inver Grove Heights Middle School students to be student leaders at the Minneapolis AVID Summer Institute. IGHMS 7th grader l'Tianna Salaam and 8th grader Emily Wright were chosen from a large pool of AVID students throughout Minnesota. As student leaders, I'Tianna and Emily will work with AVID elective teachers, present during small group sessions, and host discussion panels in addition to representing IGHMS.



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