199 REPORTER

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | WINTER 2017

Thank You for Your Support, Inver Grove Heights

On November 7, the community approved both school district referendum questions - an operating levy increase and a capital projects levy. The referendum results, according to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, are below.

Question 1: Operating Levy Increase

58.60% – Yes 41.40% – No **Question 2: Capital Projects Levy**

58.16% – Yes 41.84% – No

We are excited that the Inver Grove Heights community voted in favor of our operating levy increase and capital projects levy. You spoke up for public education, for our students, and for the future of our community. We are humbled by your support, and we thank you for your trust. We promise to honor that trust by continuing to be good stewards of your tax dollars, making sound financial decisions focused on providing quality education that is accessible to all Inver Grove Heights students.



- >Career-Focused.
- >College-Ready.
- >Competitive.

We will keep our referendum theme, Career-Focused. College-Ready. Competitive., in mind as we move forward. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/isd199 and the district website at www.isd199.org for updates on our next steps.

We value your input and will continue to seek your feedback as plans are refined over the coming months. Feel free to contact me directly at bernhardsond@isd199.org or call 651-306-7156.

Dave

Emergency School Closing or Delayed Start Announcements

Winter weather is on its way, and every year, it brings the potential for emergency school closings and delayed school starts. While the district will place an outbound call to all families when school is closed or delayed, know where to find all of the most up-to-date information:

- **DISTRICT WEBSITE**: Visit **www.isd199.org** for detailed information about any closings or delays
- SOCIAL MEDIA: Follow Inver Grove Heights Schools on Facebook or @isd199 on Twitter for updates
- TV: Watch Twin Cities television network affiliate stations, and look for Inver Grove Heights Schools in the news crawl
- RADIO: Tune in to WCCO-AM 830 and listen for Inver Grove Heights Schools
- **DISTRICT WEATHER LINE**: Call **651-306-7875** for a recorded message about any emergency school closings or delayed starts after an initial recording

Please visit www.isd199.org/parents/emergency closings to learn more about how school closings and delays are determined.

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. EXCEL.

Save the Date for Kindergarten Registration: Monday, January 8, 2018

Kindergarten Registration will be held **Monday, January 8, 2018**. A packet for incoming kindergarten families with forms and information will be mailed in early December.

Before registration, make sure:

- □ you have a copy of your child's birth certificate or the original, which staff will copy
- □ your child has received all required immunizations, and you have the records
- □ your child has completed an early childhood screening. Appointments: 651-306-7520
- □ your child has practiced independent skills, such as tying shoes and zipping coats



Simley Students Learn Leadership as Role Models for Elementary Students



Since the beginning of the school year, Simley High School students have visited the elementary schools multiple times to teach younger students about leadership. Simley Link Crew members visited the elementary students in September to play small group games and talk to 5th graders.

Simley students in athletics and other activities have also been visiting the elementary schools as part of the Spartan Superheroes series. Simley students visit the elementary schools to act as role models while practicing their own leadership skills. This fall, Simley soccer athletes spoke at the elementary school assemblies and Simley Theatre students spent time with the younger students at recess and ate lunch with them.

199 REPORTER

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 mailed to every household in District 199 to inform the community and parents about district news and events.

If you have questions about this publication, please contact:

Katie Sheridan

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651-306-7105

Miss IGH Winners Deliver Donated School Supplies



Miss Inver Grove Heights Scholarship Program members collected and delivered school supply donations to local schools as part of a service project. Simley High School received six boxes of supplies in addition to lots of backpacks. Supplies will be distributed to students in need to help them be prepared for classes.

The 2018 Royal Family includes ISD 199 students Hanah Litz, Felicia Buysman, Ashley VanKempen, Grace Westpfhal, and Cheyanne Smith.

Rotary Club Helps School Districts Purchase 3D Printers



The South St. Paul/Inver Grove Heights Rotary Club awarded local school districts a grant to purchase six 3D printers. Inver Grove Heights Schools will receive three 3D printers, South St. Paul Public Schools will receive two, and ISD 917 will receive one. 3D printers can be used in makerspaces, classrooms, and media centers to help students solidify their STEM skills, especially with coding and engineering. Thank you to the Rotary Club for its generosity!

District Office Hours

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

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

Salem Hills Student's Speech Spurs Fundraiser Success



Salem Hills Elementary School has partnered with H2O for Life since its inception 10 years ago to teach students about the global water crisis and engage them in service learning that helps those without access to clean water. This fall, H2O for Life asked Salem Hills 4th grader Courage O. to speak at the annual H2O for Life Water Ball, and he helped the organization hold its most successful event yet.

Courage told the audience about his first interaction with H2O for Life, seeing a video that explained the struggles that people in Africa face because they don't have access to clean water.

"I was shocked by what I was seeing," he said. "I thought everyone had what they needed."

The video spurred him to action. He wanted to help not only because he saw people in need, but also because his parents were born in Africa.

"Those people in the video are my people," he said. "That's my family tree."

He talked about how H2O for Life believed in him to make a difference, despite his young age. Throughout his speech, audience members were seen wiping away tears. Courage's testimonial helped H2O for Life raise more than \$180,000. The funds will support service learning projects across the U.S. that help battle the global water crisis while giving students an innovative role in real-world problem-solving.

Incumbents, Lounsberry Selected for School Board Terms Starting January 2018



On November 7, voters selected Cindy Nordstrom, Lynette Stensgard, and Carrie Lounsberry for the ISD 199 School Board beginning January 2018. Next year will be Lounsberry's first year on the school board. Nordstrom began work on the board in 2010, serving as board chair for five years, and Stensgard started on the board in 2005. Lounsberry will take the seat of Paul Mandell, a board member of 12 years who decided not to run for another term. Visit www.isd199.org/district/board_candidates for more information about the 2018 school board members.

ISD 199 & SIMLEY EARN SOUTH WEST REVIEW READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

The South West Review, a publication of Lillie Suburban Newspapers, Inc., holds Readers' Choice Awards for its communities each year. Readers from Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, St. Paul, South St. Paul, and West St. Paul are invited to vote for their favorite businesses and organizations in each category. For the 2017 Readers' Choice Awards, South West Review readers from the newspaper's six communities chose Inver Grove Heights Schools in the "Best Use of Taxpayer Money" category and Simley High School in the "Best School" category.

Inver Grove Heights Schools is honored to be selected as the winner in the "Best Use of Taxpayer Money" category. In 2013, our community helped us construct and update facilities at Salem Hills Elementary School and Simley High School after a year-long facility study. The media center added at Salem Hills and the theatre, Spartan Center meeting room, student center, and track and field added at Simley have maximized educational programs and services for our students as well as our community members.

Since all of the projects were completed during the 2016-2017 school year, hundreds of informational and extracurricular events have been held at the new facilities. Community members and organizations have held gatherings in the Spartan Center and Student Center, enjoyed numerous performances by elementary and secondary students in the new Simley Performing Arts Center, and cheered on their favorite Spartans as they competed on the new track and turf field. The new construction also put updated security measures in place to reduce any potential risks to student safety.

This is the fourth year in a row that Simley High School has been chosen as the Readers' Choice "Best School." Simley was chosen out of a pool of more than 60 eligible schools. Simley High School strives for whole-student development, helping students gain the skills they need for graduation and beyond. The school emphasizes earning college credit or certification while in high school to give students opportunities upon graduation. While the school promotes high academic standards, staff work to create a supportive environment where all students can thrive.

"Along with offering relevant and rigorous curriculum so students see the value of lessons, we have an excellent staff that focuses on developing relationships with the kids," Simley Principal Jerry Sakala said. "They let students know they care, and that is an important factor in motivating students to graduate, especially those who are at-risk."

Thank you to the community for voting for ISD 199 in the "Best Use of Taxpayer Money" category and Simley in the "Best School" category.

Ms. Gustafson Recognized as KS95 Teacher of the Week



KS95, a Twin Cities radio station, chose Salem Hills Elementary School 3rd grade teacher Lori Gustafson as a Teacher of the Week this October. A parent nominated Ms. Gustafson after she helped her son get excited about learning. The radio hosts detailed the letter, saying the student is now more motivated to learn new things and get involved in school activities, which he did not do in the past.

"He feels comfortable in our classroom and knows he's part of our class community," Ms. Gustafson told the hosts. "I'm glad Salem Hills is a good fit for him."

ISD 199 Board Chair Earns MSBA Award

Inver Grove Heights School Board chair, Matt Schaefer, recently earned the Director Award from the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA). The award recognizes board members who have completed 100 hours or more of MSBA programs within the past four years.

MSBA programs and trainings help board members better serve their districts and communities by providing information about school finance, education legislation, and more topics unique to school districts. Director Schaefer, who was inducted as a board member in 2016, earned the recognition in less than two years.



Elementary Teachers Earn TIES Exceptional Teacher Award





Exceptional Teacher Awards recognize teachers who go above and beyond to engage students. This year, local education group TIES awarded Hilltop Elementary School 5th grade teacher Jessica Goodwin and Salem Hills Elementary School 1st grade teacher Kevin Warner.

Mr. Warner was recognized for his skills in building relationships and introducing his young students to technology. Ms. Goodwin was recognized for putting ideas into action, teaching her students coding and blogging through hands-on lessons.

Marine Corps Band Visits Simley Students, Community



The Marine Corps Band New Orleans visited Simley to host brass, woodwind, and percussion clinics for Simley band students. Marine Corps Band members taught Simley students techniques and ways to improve. In the afternoon, the Marine Corps Band performed for students, staff, and the community.

ISD 199 Teaches Others PBIS



ISD 199 implements PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) to aid whole-student development and teach great leaders of tomorrow. At the beginning of the year, Hilltop Elementary School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School shared their PBIS strategies and toured three other schools during the 3rd Annual Metro PBIS School Tour. PBIS coaches from schools across the metro visited to learn about more ideas for implementing PBIS and helping students grow in and out of the classroom.

Salem Hills Holds STEAM Night to Explore Skills with Family

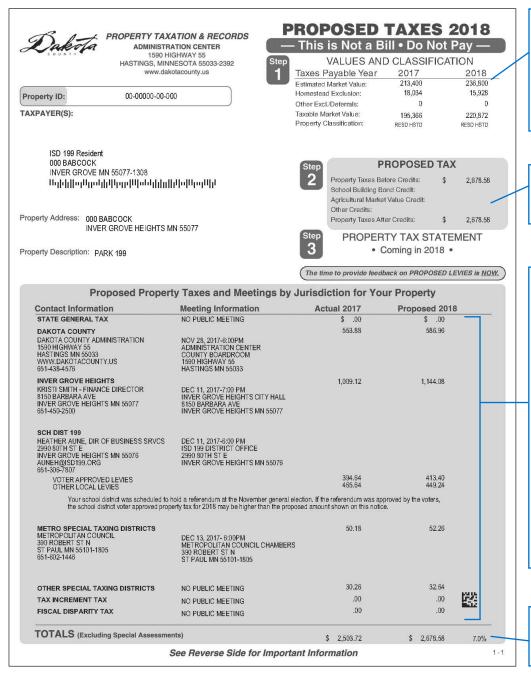
Salem Hills Elementary School and its Atheneum Gifted Magnet Program hosted a STEAM Night for families. Numerous STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities challenged students and their families to work together and use their creativity to problem-solve. Families learned about and explored new technologies, such as 3D printers and a Sphero, which is a ball that students can control by coding instructions on an iPad.

The Simley High School Robotics Team also visited the event to show students the team robot. Simley students built the robot last year, advancing to the worldwide FIRST Robotics Playoffs. Elementary students learned about the team and their options for the future. Families also enjoyed a light dinner and a Mariachi band. Friends of the Inver Glen Library sent each student home with an age-appropriate book so families can continue learning together.



Interpreting Your Tax Statement

Dakota County residents recently received their Proposed Taxes for 2018. Property taxes are impacted by two key factors: The assessed value of your home or business AND the property tax rates approved by the county, city, and school district. Learn how to read each section of your tax statement with the steps below:



STEP 1

Review the values and classification portion on your Proposed Taxes 2018. This provides a comparison of the actual 2017 numbers to the proposed numbers for 2018. A decrease or increase in Taxable Market Value impacts all portions of your proposed taxes.

STEP 2

Review the Proposed Tax Credits for your property.

STEP 3

Review the Property Tax Statement comparing actual 2017 to the proposed 2018. This portion of the statement includes:

- State General Tax
- Dakota County
- Inver Grove Heights
- School District 199**

**This portion includes a footnote informing taxpayers that the school district was scheduled to hold a referendum in November 2017. The passage of referendum questions may increase the school district portion of the property tax for 2018.

- Metro Special Taxing Districts
- Other Special Taxing Districts
- Tax Increment Tax
- Fiscal Disparity Tax

STEP 4

The totals provide a comparison of the 2017 actual to the 2018 proposed property tax.

The passage of the two referendum questions is **not included** in the Proposed Taxes for 2018 due to county mailing timelines. If you would like to calculate the school district property taxes for your home, please visit **www.isd199.org/district/referendum** and use your home's estimated market value for 2018 in the tax calculator.

The school district portion of taxes was scheduled to go down 1.3% this year due to the district's refunding efforts. While school district property taxes may increase for 2018, the three cumulative refunding efforts will help lessen the burden. Refunding has already amounted to more than \$5 million in savings for taxpayers since 2010.

Simley Wrestler Wins Gold in World Championship



In the spring, Simley High School junior and two-time 2A wrestling state champion, Greg Kerkvliet, traveled to Ohio to try out for the United World Wrestling (UWW) Cadet Nationals. This summer, he returned from the 2017 Cadet World Championship with a gold medal.

Greg has been wrestling since he was in kindergarten. He said his goal has always been competing in world championships, so when he had the chance to try out for the UWW Cadet Nationals, he took it. Despite having had knee surgery only two weeks before trials, Greg earned a spot in Nationals. He trained with the top wrestlers and coaches, learning what he could from them, and won all of his matches to qualify for the World Championship in Athens, Greece.

At the World Championship in September, Greg wrestled the best athletes in the world while unable to straighten his arm due to an elbow injury. Still, he won all four matches by 10 points or more. He won his final

match against Russia's Ismail-Bek Nirov 2-1, earning the 100kg gold medal. Greg's win also helped America earn four golds in the Men's Freestyle World Championship, something that has not happened in nearly 25 years, and place second as a team.

Greg hopes to compete in more state, national, and world championships in the future and maybe even the Olympics. After the Cadet level, which consists of competitors ages 15-17, Greg will be able to compete in Junior-, University-, and Senior-level championships.



Student Advisory Council Meets for 2017-2018 School Year

Each year, Inver Grove Heights Schools Superintendent Dave Bernhardson gathers 4th, 7th, and 11th graders from every school to participate in Student Advisory Council. Students learn about what is happening at a districtwide level and provide a student perspective to help administrators and board members make decisions that affect students. The Council met for the first time this year on October 11 to discuss their responsibilities and take a tour of the ISD 199 District Office, learning what each department does and how they work together to help the district function.

Simley Theatre Takes on Shakespeare

Simley Theatre performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" this November. The Simley High School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School cast and crew created a funny and well-crafted production to tell William Shakespeare's story of lovers, aspiring actors, and magical fairies.

Simley Theatre's next performance will be Winter One Acts February 2-4, 2018. For updated information on Simley Theatre productions and tickets, visit www.simleytheatre.org.



Marching Band Wows at State Fair, IGH Days, and More



The Simley High School Marching Band had a busy and successful start to the school year, participating in five parades by November. Students marched at the Inver Grove Heights Days, Osseo Lions Roar, and Defeat of Jesse James Day parades and competed against area high schools in the Minnesota State Fair Parade and Anoka Halloween Parade.

The band competed in the Minnesota State Fair Marching Band Competition alongside four other area bands. While Simley's band earned high scores in the competition, they also earned high praise from spectators who had come from across the state and beyond.

Simley's marching band was the only group to wear uniforms. One parent heard people cheering, "Way to go Simley! You look great!" and "Yes! Uniforms! You know how to do it right." People also approached band members, who were wearing their Simley band shirts after the competition, to tell them what a great job they did.

Simley placed second out of the day's four competing bands, earning 72.3 points. Out of the total nine days of competitions, Simley placed 10th out of 28 competing high school marching bands.

Though marching band members opted for costumes instead of their band uniforms for the Anoka Halloween Parade competition, they earned multiple awards for their performance. The band placed 1st in the Class A Marching Band Competition, and they earned recognition for Best Percussion and Best Color Guard. Congratulations to all of the students!

Fall Sports Recognitions

Bowling All Conference Alec Frederick Tyler Klinepier

Cross Country All Conference Tim Wilmot Honorable Mention Nick Molstad

Football All District John McDermott Freddy Rivera Cole Tschida Mitch Tschida Honorable Mention Danny Hayes

Evan Johnson

David Langdon

Logan Lindblom

Boys Soccer All Conference Ryan Eckstrom **Emmit Nelson Davis Provost Honorable Mention** Jacob Juers Logan Lindblom Luke Yang

Girls Soccer All Conference Cally Cunningham State Qualifier Annabelle Eddy Megan O'Connor All Conference Lexi Reichenbach Honorable Mention Natalie Leeder Bekkah Scufsa Zoe Stone

Girls Swimming and Diving Alaina Friske Sydney Bohn Sophia Fredeen Alaina Friske **Honorable Mention** Erin Orn Brittany Raab Jill Wilhelmson

Girls Tennis All Conference Sophia Dahlke Britta Iverson Catie Thoemke Clara Thoemke **Honorable Mention** Anna Ahern Jenna Bezek

Volleyball All Conference Guresi Mena Ashley Perrin **Honorable Mention** Kayla Anderson Emma Heimerl Adara Kellogg Rachel Wanger

Link and WEB Leaders Welcome Incoming Students



The first day of school can be exciting, but it can also be intimidating, especially when students start at a new school. This year, Simley High School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School started school for 6th and 9th graders one day early to help them ease into their transition. Extracurricular groups of upperclassmen, Simley Link Leaders and IGHMS WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders, also attended the 6th- and 9th-grade only days to help familiarize their younger peers with the new schools and connect with them to make their transition easier.

Simley formed Link Crew last year to help incoming freshmen transition smoothly into their new school. Each Link Leader was given a group of new students to connect with

at 9th Grade Orientation before the first day of school, and they were there for the 9th graders on the first day of school to help them again. Throughout the rest of the year, Link Leaders will also act as resources for their 9th grade groups.

"Freshmen are welcomed to our school by older students who have discovered what it takes to be successful in high school," Simley English teacher and Link Crew co-organizer Bobby Mandell said. "It's like having an older sibling who can teach you all of the unwritten rules so you don't have to make mistakes just to learn them."

IGHMS implemented a similar change for incoming 6th graders this year. WEB Leaders applauded students as they arrived, made them feel welcome, and helped them navigate their new environment throughout their first day in middle school. WEB leaders will also continue to act as resources for the 6th graders throughout the school year.



SIMLEY HALL OF FAME

On September 15, two Simley High School alumnae were inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. Kelly Gillet and Tanya "Nord" Iverson earned a place in the Hall of Fame for their continuously outstanding accomplishments in high school, college, and professional activities and athletics. The women participated in an induction ceremony and were recognized at half-time during the night's Spartan football game.

Kelly Gillet, Simley Class of 2012, was honored for her extensive accomplishments in dance. Ms. Gillet was a Minnesota Timberwolves dance team member during the 2016-2017 season and earned the Minnesota Timberwolves "Calm Before the Storm Athlete" recognition for her ability to keep calm and work through stressful situations. Ms. Gillet visits the high school often to help the Simley Dance Team.



Tanya "Nord" Iverson, Simley Class of 1988, was honored for her accomplishments in swimming, synchronized swimming, cross-county skiing, band, and dance. Ms. Iverson set a Simley record in the 400 Freestyle Relay in 1985 and was inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016. She has also worked as a high school and YMCA swimming coach as well as a swimming and diving official for the Minnesota and Wisconsin high school sports associations. Currently, she coaches the Simley Girls Swimming and Diving Team.

Nearly 90 Simley Students Earn Recognition as AP Scholars

Advanced Placement (AP) classes challenge students with college-level coursework and provide an opportunity to earn college credit while they are still enrolled in high school. Students earn college credit depending on their AP exam score at the end of the year, which can range from 0-5 points. In addition to college credit, students can also earn recognition as an AP Scholar with high AP exam scores. This year, 89 Simley High School students earned AP Scholar Awards in four categories. Three of the 89 students earned both the AP Scholar with Distinction Award and National AP Scholar Award, two of the most difficult to attain. Congratulations to all of Simley's AP Scholars!

AP Scholar Award Olivia Ahern Kayla Anderson Marcos Andrade Sabrina Ball Sylvia Ball Kyra Barbot Makena Berg Brandon Birkelo Bailey Blomquist-Dege Rachel Boeckman Dylan Campbell Preechaya Charoensri Sophia Dahlke Cameron Dietrich Anna Engleson

River Erickson

Amber Frederick Blake Glewwe Erich Gosswiller Shelby Gregg Abigail Guggisberg Rachel Happe Austin Heimerl Kaylie Hoffman Jazzmin Johnson Samuel Keran Saari Lane Kissme Leenhiavu Andres Losinski Tristyn Mcmillen Nicole Muller Lukas Mundt Jakob Myers

Emmit Nelson Logan Nordenstrom Jenna Paulsen Han Phung Gloria Popoca Hannah Reckinger Elizabeth Roubik Charles Sayner Max Schroeder Sergio Segura Robert Skoglund **Emily Stang** Zoe Stone Scarlett Storo Vanessa Tabor Melany Thelander Patrick Torralba

Anya Vang Ryan Welde Karissa Yarrington

AP Scholar with **Honor Award** Nicole Anaya Kiri Ferguson Eric Ferry Haley Grode Boula Ibrahim Westley Kinkade Sabrina Merritt **Eric Miers** Caitlyn Ockwig Jordan Pesek Ellen Rabe Kvle Roche

Matthew Schaus Danielle Ungurian Jacob Vankampen Michaela Vondrum James Warrick Alexandra Wurzer

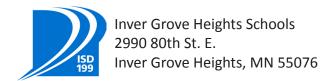
AP Scholar with **Distinction Award** Matthew Baumann *Michael Carnev Michael Drais *Moriah Elkin **Danielle Gross** *Annika Herdtle Zachary Johnson Mindy Kolodziejski Katharine Leeder

Nicole Lindstrom Nicholas Molstad Kendra Sandkamp Abigail Stein Laura Stickney Sebastian Torres-Gonzalez Carson Westra Kristopher Wrobel Devon Zellner

National AP Scholar **Award**

- *Michael Carney *Moriah Elkin *Annika Herdtle
- *Earned both the AP Scholars with Distinction Award and the National AP Scholar Award.

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



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