

School Talk

SPRING 2013

‘Doing things *differently*’

A prestigious state-wide innovation award recognizes Mounds View’s Early College program for making Minnesota better.



Honored for in

Early College named top local government

Are you making Minnesota better? Are you doing things differently? Can your work be replicated by others?

Those questions were among the most important criteria the Local Government Innovation Awards used to evaluate the creative ways cities, counties and schools were innovating across the state. And when it came to evaluating Mounds View Public Schools' Early College program, the judges' answers were, "yes," "yes" and "yes."

In January, Early College at Irondale High School was named the grand prize winner of a \$25,000 grant awarded by The Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs in partnership with InCommons. In winning the award, the Early College program was selected the top local government innovation in the state, from a field of 111 entries submitted by cities, counties and school districts throughout Minnesota.

"This innovation award could not have happened without the dedicated and enthusiastic staff at Irondale. Their hard work made this vision a reality," said Board Chair Jon Tynjala. In January, Tynjala (at left) accepted the top prize in the Local Government Innovation Awards with Superintendent Dan Hoverman and Irondale principal Scott Gengler.



"We did not do this for the attention that we have received," said School Board Chair Jon Tynjala, as he accepted the award on behalf of the District. "But the recognition certainly affirms the value of providing this program to students."

Leading the way

These days, college credit-earning programs are becoming commonplace opportunities for Minnesota students — thanks to forward-looking

school districts committed to post-secondary preparation.

But Mounds View's award-winning innovation takes this commitment another step further by allowing all students the opportunity to earn a two-year associate degree for free — all while still enrolled in high school. Last fall, Irondale students were the first to participate in the program. Next fall, Mounds View High School will introduce a similar program.

"Irondale High School and Mounds View High School are absolutely leading the way for the state," says Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. "This opens a whole new opportunity for students to get prepared for post-secondary success."

So how is Mounds View's approach different?

Majority in the middle

Most concurrent college enrollment programs serve most effectively the highest-achieving students in the top third of their class. And through those programs, earning an associate degree by high school graduation isn't a given.

The District's new Early College program targets Irondale and Mounds



On the cover:

Highview's Emily Ryan and other middle school students face a bright high school future. Irondale and Mounds View both offer an innovative and award-winning Early College program.

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novation

innovation in the state

View students who are in the middle of their class (30th to 70th percentile). These students at times have not received the preparation necessary to succeed in post-secondary programs, and they often may be the first in their family to attend college.

**Next fall,
Mounds View High School
will introduce a
similar program.**

“Our goal is to have all of our students ready for the options they will face after graduation,” says Superintendent Dan Hoverman. “And when we say ‘all students,’ that means having a laser focus on what we can do for the majority in the middle.”

In the first year of implementation, Irondale has more than doubled the number of high school students participating in college-level, credit-earning courses. These students are on track to earn a two-year degree for free, which can create a significant savings in college tuition. Through the Early College program, students can save more than \$10,000 in tuition at a two-year Minnesota community college or \$14,000 at a four-year Minnesota state university.

At the same time, Irondale has increased the likelihood that students will graduate without needing remediation at the college level. This has been accomplished by identifying students entering ninth and 10th grade who were not predicted to be successful in a college level course, and enrolling them in foundational classes



Why is Early College so innovative? Hear from students, staff and administrators in a brief video at www.youtube.com/moundsvIEWSchools.

that provide the reading, writing, math and habits of mind necessary to be successful in a college level course.

“Early College gives you confidence,” says Irondale ninth-grader Diaria McCoy. “If I can get this done in high school, I can do so much more when I get to college.”

The Early College program also adds the courses necessary for the highest-achieving students in Advanced Placement and post-secondary concurrent enrollment options to take specific college credit-earning courses that meet the requirements of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum or an associate degree.

Game changer

Although Early College is only one of Mounds View’s many efforts to provide a comprehensive approach to post-secondary success, it has become the most recognized initiative of those efforts to date.

Chancellor Steven Rosenstone of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) recently called Early College one of the state’s most comprehensive partnerships between a high school and the state colleges. “I hope to see it used as a model across Minnesota,” he said.

School Board Chair Tynjala believes that if school districts are truly interested in closing the achievement gap, it will be through initiatives like Early College.

“Every once in a while, if you’re lucky, you get to be part of something that has the potential to be a game changer. And that’s what Early College is. This program has the potential to change the future trajectories of the lives of students who may not have thought college was even a possibility for them,” he said. “Our job as a school district is to make sure that these opportunities are there, for all students.”



Auditors praise school security, while improvements continue

Just hours after the traumatic events unfolded at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, principals across Mounds View Public Schools reached out to their school communities in mid-December. Through letters, e-mail messages, and in some cases, personal phone calls, principals wanted to reassure families, explain procedures and offer listening ears.

“The tragedy took place more than 1,000 miles away, but it really shook us all,” explains Darin Johnson, principal of Turtle Lake Elementary School in Shoreview. “I wanted our families to know we are dedicated to supporting students in every way possible. I also wanted them to have a sense of the safety and security measures that we have in place.”

Turtle Lake, like all schools in the District, has a comprehensive crisis plan in place, which includes the ongoing practice of procedures which staff members are trained to follow in the event of an emergency. In addition to these plans, every school assigns support staff members as a part of their crisis response team, which meets regularly.

Last school year, an independent, professional security assessment firm conducted an audit of all sites within Mounds View Public Schools. The thorough audit considered school-hour and after-hour assessments of the internal/external sites including school entrances and visitor identification

Shelley Kroska greets visitors to Island Lake Elementary School. Improved front



office security systems around the District include additional staffing, I.D. registration and buzzer security systems.

procedures. The audit also covered a staff response assessment, a crisis plan review and an evaluation of alarm and communications systems.

Overall, the professionals were encouraged and pleased by the District's security systems and procedures in place. But when it comes to school security, there is always room for continuous improvement. This spring, the auditors have returned to Mounds View to conduct a reassessment and to randomly select schools and evaluate their security features. In addition, schools already have implemented a variety of improvements across the District. Ongoing upgrades include:

- Additional staffing in front offices to monitor entrances and greet visitors.
- Entrance redesigns at select sites where more secure visitor entries are necessary.
- Buzzer security systems and picture identification system are being installed at several sites this spring, with all sites upgraded by fall.
- An increased police presence with School Resource Officers assigned to schools that previously had no officers.

“Our local police departments share our vigilance,” says Superintendent Dan Hoverman. “We’re both striving to achieve that very delicate balance of protecting our school communities without bringing unnecessary alarm to students.”

Although safety experts say even the most secure buildings might not prevent every possible tragic scenario, schools should concentrate on those efforts within their power and focus on what’s reasonably possible to restrict access to intruders or to slow down and remove someone who seeks to do harm.

“If there’s something reasonable and sustainable we can do to improve security, we must do it,” says Hoverman. “And we will.”



Deputy Taia Nix from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department talks about safety with students at Valentine Hills Elementary School. In January, she was assigned to duties at Valentine Hills, Island Lake Elementary School and Turtle Lake Elementary School to establish relationships with staff, students and the school communities.

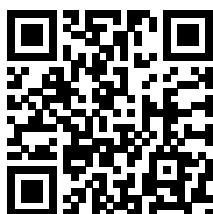
Website goes 'mobile' for smartphones



Staying connected to Mounds View Public Schools is important to families, no matter where they are. That's why the District created Mounds View Mobile—a user-friendly, mobile-optimized version of District websites.

With one-touch mobile actions, visitors can quickly access school information from a site that's easier to navigate than the traditional website. Mounds View Mobile gives visitors all the features and fun of a smartphone app, in less time than it takes to find, select and download an app from a store. From any smartphone, visitors can:

- Look up homework assignments and find grades using the parent portal School View.
- Find teachers' web pages.
- Get directions.
- Look up calendars.
- View lunch menus.
- Get real-time news feeds.
- Call schools to report student absences.
- Contact teachers by phone or e-mail.



Scan the code to take a brief video tour of Mounds View Mobile or visit

You  **Tube** .com/moundsviewschools.

Getting started

1. Using any smartphone, simply visit www.moundsviewschools.org. That's it. You're navigating Mounds View Mobile.
2. Add an easy access icon to your smartphone's home screen and enjoy a quick path to mobilized content—no matter what device you own. This offers quick launching with a single tap.

iPhones:

Visit moundsviewschools.org and click the arrow from the action menu. Then find the "Add to Home Screen option." Click "Add."

Android devices:

Visit moundsviewschools.org, press the menu button and add the page to your bookmarks. From your web browser, select your bookmarks and find the new bookmark you've just added. Press down and hold on the bookmark until you see an action menu. Select "Add shortcut to homescreen."



Pin the mobile site to your homescreen alongside your apps.

Foundation plays key role in schools' success stories



Mounds View Schools
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Successful schools everywhere have one thing in common—a tradition of strong community support. When it comes to Mounds View Public Schools, one of its strongest supporters also boasts one of the longest traditions of sponsorship.

Since 1986, The Mounds View Schools Education Foundation has been a part of the District's success story. Formerly known as the 621 Foundation, the organization has turned community support into more than \$1 million in grants to teachers, classrooms, projects and educational initiatives reaching each of the District's elementary, middle and high schools.

The Foundation supports schools by funding initiatives that directly align with the District's strategic plan. Recent grants have included programs focusing on post-secondary success, technology and science:

- Supporting the high schools' Physics Fairs, where students showcase their knowledge and build relationships with local scientists and engineers.
- Providing the ACT and writing exam for free for all juniors in their own school.
- Purchasing cutting-edge handheld technology for K-12 classrooms that allow for instructional innovation.
- Funding student scholarships enabling every fifth- and seventh-grader to attend the District's Laurentian Environmental Center, where a combination of science, environmental education and leadership training converge for an unforgettable experience.

"Some of us have children in the schools, but many residents don't have any school-age children at home," says Brian Strub, president of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and a Bel Air Elementary School parent. "Yet each of us has a role to play in the success of our young people and our community. Supporting the Foundation that supports the schools is a great way to demonstrate that partnership."

Recently, the Foundation has also played a more active role in sponsoring community-building events that bring together residents to raise awareness,

support and funding for Mounds View Public Schools. Last fall, the "Rock the School House" event drew more than 250 people for a night of music, dancing and fundraising. In February, more than 150 community leaders gathered at the North Oaks Golf Club for the second annual Partnering for Education luncheon featuring college-readiness expert Kent Pekel, President and CEO of Search Institute.

The Foundation welcomes support and volunteer help from any District resident. To learn more about the opportunities available, contact Mindy Handberg, Executive Director, at 651-621-7477 or mindy.handberg@moundsviewschools.org. To view a list of the 2012-13 grants or to learn more about giving opportunities, visit www.moundsviewschoolsef.org.



Senior Connor Theisen spoke highly of the time management skills he has sharpened at Mounds View High School, during the Foundation's second annual Partnering for Education luncheon in February.

Save the date!

The Foundation's fabulously fun and successful "Rock the School House" event is returning November 9, 2013, at the Vadnais Heights Commons. Last year's event sold out in record time. For information on tickets or to help with volunteer efforts, e-mail mvsef@moundsviewschools.org.



2013 School Board



Front row: Sandra Westerman, Marre Jo Sager, Lisa Sjobeck.
Back row: Greg Madsen, Jon Tynjala, Bob Helgeson, Amy Jones.

'No tax increase' levy ahead

With a voter-approved levy set to expire in 2014, the School Board signaled its intent to ask voters to renew the levy at no increase to taxpayers. The levy will be on the Election Day ballot, November 5, 2013.

If voters renew the expiring levy, schools will continue to receive \$11 million annually at no additional expense to taxpayers. Since it was approved in 2006, this money has played a significant role in maintaining class sizes at current levels while maintaining the comprehensive programs throughout the District.

"This levy's goal is simply to maintain what we have, not to expand," says X Board member. "And not to ask residents to pay more property taxes." "This levy's goal is simply to maintain what we have, not to expand," says X Board member. "And not to ask residents to pay more property taxes." "This levy's goal is simply to maintain what we have, not to expand," says X Board member. "And not to ask residents to pay more property taxes."

Translation assistance

To learn more about District programs and events featured in this issue of *School Talk* in Spanish, Hmong or Somali, please call Isabel Morales-Lizano (Spanish) at 651-621-7117, Mee Yang (Hmong) at 651-621-7476 or Ayan Esse (Somali) at 651-621-7116.

Yog xa paub ntau tshaj nov txog peb lub District cov program thiab kev sib sau ua ke ntawm peb cov tsev kawm ntawv thiab niam txiv nrog rau me nyuam kawm ntawv uas muaj nyob rau hauv tsab ntawv *School Talk* no, thov hu rau Mee Yang ntawm 651-621-7476.

School finance award

The Minnesota Department of Education's Division of School Finance honored Mounds View Public Schools with the 2013 School Finance Award. The award recognizes school districts for audited fiscal data that has been submitted properly, accurately and with the presence of select indicators of fiscal health.

Spring road construction

Parents and students who travel through the intersection of Hwy 96 and Hwy 10 to get to and from school will experience significant detours beginning in April 2013. This intersection will be closing for major road construction, which is scheduled to be completed by November 2013.

School bus routes that travel in this area will be modified to accommodate the detours. Families will receive route change information beginning March 25. Complete details on the road construction can be accessed on the District's transportation web page at www.moundsviewschools.org/transportation.asp.



Para aprender mas sobre los programas del Distrito Escolar y de los eventos en esta edicion de *School Talk*, llame a Isabel Morales-Lizano al 651-621-7117.

Haddii aad dooneysid faahfaahin dheeraad ah oo ku saabsan barnaamijyada lugu soo qoro *School Talk*, ee ka baxa Iskuulada Moundsview, fadlan la soo xiriis Ayan Esse: 651-621-7116.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Starting to plan your summer?

Visit www.moundsviewschools.org and find the "Summer programs" link under the News section where you'll find information about academic, enrichment and community education programs.



Emergency text messaging system

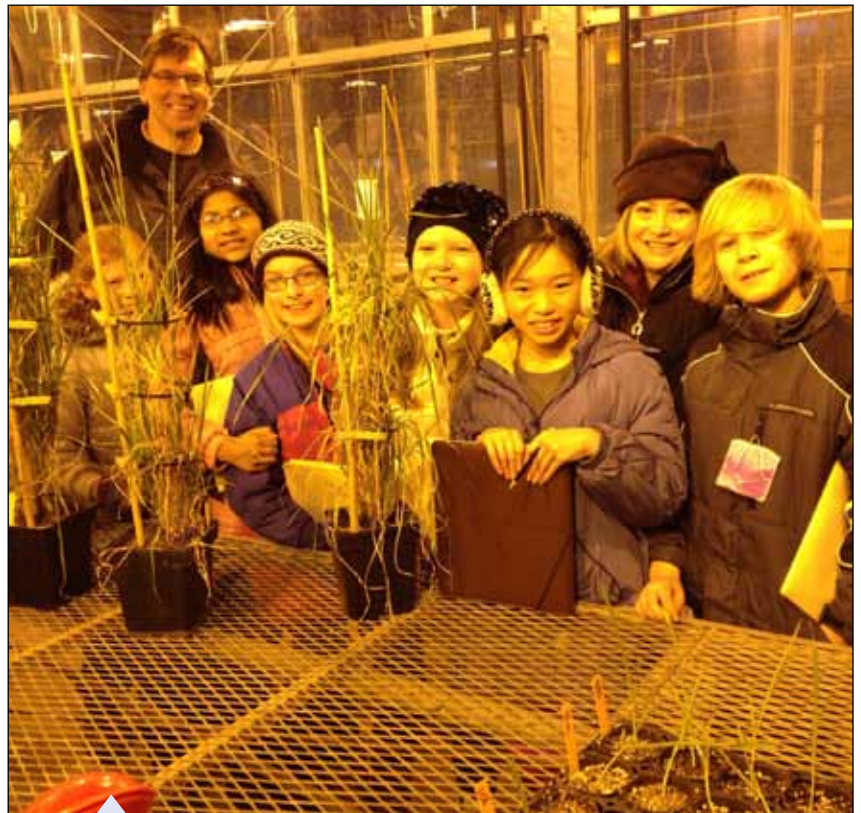
In order to better communicate emergency information to parents, the District has implemented a service that allows parents to receive **emergency and time-sensitive information** via text message. Parents who included their cell phone numbers on their student's health and emergency form or have updated their student's SchoolView account to include a cell phone number, are automatically subscribed to this service.

The emergency text messaging system is part of the District's crisis communication plan, which includes numerous methods of communicating information to parents. In the event of an emergency, the Mounds View Messaging system will call all home, cell and work numbers on file until the message reaches a person or answering system. An email message will also be sent to all email addresses on file, along with a text message. Please note that text messages are limited to 140 characters. This means that SMS/text messaging will simply alert parents to check other sources such as voicemail, email and District and school web sites. For more information, please visit the News page at www.moundsviewschools.org. Parents can confirm their contact information by contacting their student's school and/or by updating their contact information in School View.

Turtle Lake problem solvers

"What are some of the problems in the world today, and who are the active leaders striving to solve those problems?" These questions launched Joanne Bell's Turtle Lake Elementary School fifth grade reading students into busy investigations. They chose topics that ranged widely, including Asian carp invasion in Minnesota, honeybee colony collapse disorder, reducing sport concussion injuries, controlling the spread of dengue fever, solar energy powered airplane design, wheat crop devastation from UG99 rust, cancers, Alzheimer's and eating disorder research, endangered species issues, life conditions in Somalia and Haiti, and the psychology behind musical composition for movies.

Working individually or in small groups, students searched for answers to these inquiries by conducting internet research and making direct contact with primary researchers. In early March, students presented their findings during an evening presentation with informational speeches and poster displays.



In January, a group of six students researching UG99 wheat rust traveled to the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus to interview Dr. Brian Steffenson, plant pathologist in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences. Their advance preparation helped them to have a very successful meeting that culminated with tours of Dr. Steffenson's lab and greenhouses. Students walked away with helpful information and new interest in plant pathology. Pictured: Megan West, Dr. Steffenson, Neha Sriram, Anya Nustad, Sigourney Orstad, Meryl Wang, teacher Joanne Bell and Alexander Bonsager.

Elementary school students attend College Fair

Bel Air Elementary School fifth-graders attended an in-school college fair in February where they had an opportunity to visit with representatives from various colleges, ask questions about career and college and start thinking about post-secondary opportunities.



Hamline University representative Joseph Troche (pictured above) and Augsburg College representative Kristin Daniels (left) offered students information about scholarships, student activities, admissions requirements and more. Other colleges represented at the College Fair included Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Augsburg College, Bethel University, Century College, Concordia University Saint Paul, Hamline University, North Hennepin Community College and Saint Mary's University.

State names Sunnyside a 'Celebration' school



Sunnyside Elementary School was named among the top 25 percent of Title I schools in the state, earning the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) designation of "Celebration School 2012."

MDE selected approximately a third of the 146 applicant schools to receive the Celebration School designation. A Title I school is a school that receives

supplemental federal funding based on the percentage of students qualifying for the free or reduced price lunch program. Funding is used to assist in meeting students' educational goals.

"Celebration School" status is part of the state's new accountability system that uses a Multiple Measurements Rating (MMR) to evaluate schools' performance in proficiency, academic growth, achievement gap reduction and meeting targets for graduation rate projections.

In announcing Sunnyside's award, the MDE called the Celebration School designation "a direct reflection of the gains your school has made and the tireless efforts you and your staff have

directed toward improving outcomes for your students. It takes focus and commitment to put systems and strategies in place that yield the kind of results your school has shown."

In its application, Sunnyside reported it has increased core instructional time for all students in reading and math and has designed different tiers of intervention. Sunnyside also described main initiatives throughout the school that include personal learning plans, proficiency goals and targeted instruction, encouraging healthy behavior and connecting students with the school and the community.



Chippewa gadget clinic

The Chippewa Middle School library partnered with Ramsey County Library in January to address the growing interest in e-content. The Chippewa library played host to a “Gadget Clinic” for students, staff and parents who acquired new gadgets during the holiday season. Clinic attendees learned how to download free e-book titles through the Ramsey County Library’s Overdrive subscription. Emily Hope, Chippewa’s library media specialist, and Ramsey County Library teen librarians Marcus Lowry and Amy Boese assisted patrons with a wide range of devices like Kindles, Nooks, iPads, iPod Touches, Android phones and more. All participants left the workshop with a free e-book on their device.

Pictured: Chippewa students Ben Gardner and Michael Pak

Pinewood Elementary School students focused on reading

In December, a “double your minutes” challenge engaged 125 Pinewood students and awarded free books to students who doubled their independent reading time. The program awarded students free books for tracking their independent reading time. The December reading challenge was one of many programs launched at Pinewood this school year to increase reading participation and interest.

A reading buddy program at Pinewood paired students from older grade levels with younger students to read together on a weekly basis while a partnership with the Senior Corps Foster Grandparent program introduced “foster grandparents” to the school. Judy Sabatuk (pictured with student Collin Monroe) and Jean Wright are “foster grandparents” at Pinewood. Both Sabatuk and Wright spend more than 20 hours a week working with students and helping staff with various tasks.



Students like Matea Topitzhofer (pictured) were encouraged to celebrate reaching their reading goals by participating in celebration incentive days like hat day. Students were also invited to engage their families in reading with weekly library nights. Reading got Pinewood students moving thanks to a partnership with the YMCA of Mounds View called “Readerobics.” The YMCA provided a DJ and dance instructors for an afternoon of action to celebrate the success of 420 Pinewood students who met their reading goals.

Irondale students celebrate the Chinese New Year



Students from left to right: Bee Xiong, Chyna Yang, Pamela Vang, Sabrina Vang, integration and equity liaison Mee Yang, Savannah Vang and Mimi Phet. Sitting: Huechi Vang.

Irondale High School's Asian Club celebrated the Chinese New Year on January 31 with a public event that featured Asian cultures. Students worked together to create displays to feature Asia and to represent cultures and celebrations native to Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Korea during New Year time.

Within the Asian culture, the New Year is a celebration of family coming together. During this time, families partake in cleaning and discarding the home of items no longer of use as a representation of sweeping away any ill-fortune and bad omens to make room for good incoming luck and fortunes the new year may bring. In welcoming the New Year, families celebrate and wish for health, prosperity, wealth and love.

Latino Academic Day

In January, 24 Irondale students visited Minnesota State University Mankato for the Latino Engineering and Academic Day (LEAD) Conference. Students from Irondale had the opportunity to meet Latino professionals in the field of engineering and tour the University. The day's event also included a college preparation session, a keynote speaker and a panel of Latino students from the institution who served as an inspiration for students.



Students pictured from left to right in the front row: Ofelio Zavala, Andrea Garcia, Liliana Alvarado, Jeanae Johnson, Sonya Montoya, Michelle Bunay and Vivian Chavez. Pictured in the back row: equity and integration liaison Isabel Lizano with students Denis Cortes, Lucio Argueta, Rachael Wright, Ana Borjon, Alberto Hernandez, Itzel Garcia, Araceli Renteria, Katherine Barcenaz, Jaqueline Vazquez-Sanchez, Jessica Sanchez, Yessenia Sanchez, Katherine Victoria, Samara Montoya, Denise Reyes, Karina Olivar, Marcos Olivar-Arias and Irondale teacher Kris Nelson.

Mounds View's career education program wins \$8,000 grant

Lynn Nelson's career education students will benefit from an \$8,000 grant that was awarded by the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation recently. The Lowe's Tool Box for Education grant will provide 20 iPads for the school's SkillsUSA leadership team and will also be used for instructional purposes in career education classrooms. The new technology afforded by the grant will be used for

coursework and for preparation for the annual SkillsUSA state and national conferences. The grant will help students to further develop a relationship with Shriner's Hospital for Children Twin Cities and will help students to maintain an ongoing commitment to Highview Middle School's Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) clubs.



Lowe's employees Judy Nelson, Nick Rogge, Colleen Baker and Jeffrey Sauvageau presented the \$8,000 check to Lynn Nelson during a February event in which SkillsUSA student officers spoke. Mounds View High School SkillsUSA students (pictured from left to right) include Marissa Carolus, Andrew Wrobel, Anna Smithknecht, Luke Tretsven, Renee Smith and Adam Wutschke. Mounds View SkillsUSA students not pictured: Amber De Joode and Siri Taylor.

Partnership with watershed brings rain garden to Chippewa

The seventh-grade STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) team at Chippewa Middle School partnered with the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization in January to design a rain garden. More than 300 seventh-graders worked in groups to put together rain garden designs and pitch their ideas to a panel of outside experts. Incorporating all areas of STEAM, the rain garden program asked students to work with teachers and community experts to consider all the factors of rain garden implementation. In late February, the winning design was chosen from among 82 designs.

Matthew Meloch, Jeffrey Hu, Laney Wolter and Nandini Avula's design will be used as a blueprint for the creation of a real-life rain garden at Chippewa Middle School in May.



Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization representative Kristine Jenson helped Chippewa students Andrew Cota and Anders Bandt brainstorm ideas for a rain garden design.

District preschool program partners with Reading Corp

In fall 2012, the school readiness preschool program partnered with the Minnesota Reading Corp to implement a program in preschool classrooms at Pike Lake Education Center in New Brighton. The program is designed for students ages three – five years and incorporates rich play experiences that provide a foundation for intellectual development and school readiness.



Students like Jalali Hora, Karma Khando and Genet Backman (pictured) learn pre-reading skills including picture naming, rhyming, letter names, alliteration and letter sounds. Students learn through play, music, group activities and individual lesson work, and they are assessed three times a year using University of Minnesota Individual Growth and Development Indicators. Teacher-directed small group interventions are given daily to children who are having difficulty in these areas. The program offers bus transportation and sliding fee for tuition. For more information, please call 651-621-7422.

Learning Together Program engages the District's Latino community

The District's Learning Together Program engaged nearly 60 Mounds View Public Schools parents in a series of speaker events and community gatherings recently. The Program, which aims to provide resources and promote connections within the Latino school community, covered topics such as the District's communication plan, discipline, mental health, deferred action, legal issues, family communication, chemical health, parental control, early education and more. For more information and to learn about upcoming opportunities, please contact the District's equity and integration liaison Isabel Lizano at Isabel.lizano@moundsvIEWSchools.org or 651-621-7177.

eMentor program connects students with professional community

Irondale students participated in a 10-week eMentors program this school year to learn more about career planning, workplace skills and financial literacy from professionals at Allianz Life. The eMentors program, which was administered by the non-profit group BestPrep, partnered Allianz employees with 26 Irondale students from DaNae Klimek's computer applications class. The program encouraged students to engage in email correspondence with their eMentors based on a set of guided career-focused questions.



At the end of the 10-week eMentor program, students and mentors met at a job shadow celebration event in which six different careers were highlighted.

Signing Day

February 6, National Signing Day, was a big day for student athletes who signed letters of intent.

Irondale's Alonzo Walker signed with the Concordia University St. Paul.



Mounds View High School's Matt Harding signed with Northern State University (football) while Max Knutson (baseball) signed with the University of Nebraska, Noah Lucas (swimming) signed with the University of North Dakota, Alex McCord (soccer) signed with the Missouri University of Science & Technology and Mick Nelson (football) signed with Western Illinois University.

African Dance Troupe visits Turtle Lake

Turtle Lake Elementary School students took the stage with Bernard Woma and his African Dance Troupe in February. The Dance Troupe entertained students with music and dance native to Ghana. Students from Katherine Crockett's African Drumming Group introduced the Dance Troupe and welcomed them with a drum performance.



District-wide toy and food drives bring aid to more than 420 families



The Ralph Reeder Food Shelf collected more than 3,200 gifts this holiday season during

its annual Operation Joy Campaign that benefits Mounds View Public Schools families. Thanks to more than 50 community volunteers and donations from area churches, schools, businesses, clubs, individuals and Toys for Tots, 990 children (ages birth to 12th grade) received gifts and holiday food this year—an increase of 37 percent over the past two years. Qualifying families who registered with the Food Shelf were invited to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in December to pick out gifts for each of their children. Pike Lake Education Center, in New Brighton, hosted the “Toy Shop” which helped make the holiday season a little brighter for more than 420 District families.

In addition to the District-wide Operation Joy toy drive, many schools throughout the District hosted food drives to help bring food to the Mounds View Public Schools community during the holidays.

Donations made in March qualify for FoodShare match

Mounds View Schools will continue to fight hunger during Minnesota FoodShare Month, the largest food drive in the state. FoodShare Month is led annually by Minnesota FoodShare to promote hunger awareness and engage communities in the fight against hunger and poverty. This year’s campaign, “Be the hero. Fight Hunger,” challenges organizations and individuals to make a donation to help restock supplies at food shelves across Minnesota. In honor of FoodShare Month, many District schools will host food drives to replenish the shelves at the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. A portion of all dollars and pounds received at the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf are matched by Minnesota FoodShare.

Here is how you can help:

Make a cash, check or food donation to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf between March 1 and noon on April 5. Donations will qualify for a partial match through Minnesota FoodShare. The Ralph Reeder Food Shelf brings aid to individuals and families in the Mounds View Public Schools attendance area. In 2012, more than 390,000 pounds of food was distributed to an estimated 16,000 residents. The success of the Food Shelf is largely dependent on community support. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf or how to make a donation, please visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org/comm_edu/food_shelf.asp or call 651-621-7450. To set up an appointment to receive aid, please call 651-621-7451.



Plan your stay at Laurentian Environmental Center

Planning a family reunion or group event? Consider Laurentian Environmental Center (LEC) in Britt, Minn. The Center can accommodate small and large groups year-round with 160 beds, five large classroom buildings, a lodge and a dining facility that seats 175. LEC offers access to hundreds of acres of wilderness with trout streams and diverse wildlife habitat. The environmental center’s property

includes access to a 100-acre pristine lake and hiking/ski trails that connect with the Big Aspen hiking and ski trails. LEC maintains a 12-station Challenge Course, a 32-foot outdoor climbing wall, a dogsled yard and trails, an archery range, canoes and rowboats, a sauna, an outdoor campfire theater and a large playing field. The on-site dining facility serves healthy, home-cooked meals from menus developed by a dietician.

Call 1-888-749-1288 or visit www.laurentiancenter.org for more information.



Top education officials call on Mounds View Schools

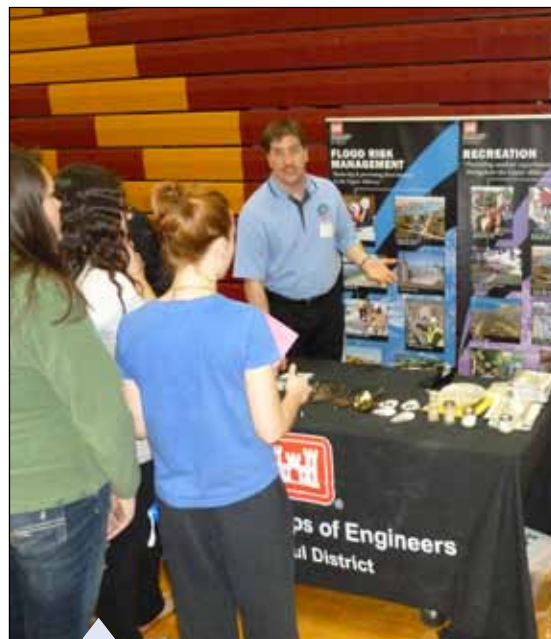
In a presentation to the Minnesota House of Representatives in January, some of the state's top education officials called on Mounds View Public Schools to talk about how high schools can better prepare students for college. Superintendent Dan Hoverman (shown speaking) and Irondale principal Scott Gengler were asked to testify at a committee meeting.



Photo copyright Minnesota House of Representatives

Physics Fairs

An estimated 500 students and dozens of professional engineer judges participated in District Physics Fairs in March. The 16th annual Mounds View High School Physics Fair was held on March 11 to highlight the results of students' physics and engineering projects.



Bel Air students perform at State Capitol

Continuing an annual tradition, music teacher Roxanne Britz took Bel Air fourth-graders to the State Capitol in February for a musical performance. This year's group of nearly 120 students filled the Capitol with patriotic music in honor of Presidents Day. This is the seventh year Bel Air students have performed at the Capitol.



On March 12, in conjunction with the Irondale Physics Fair, Irondale played host to its fourth annual STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) career fair. Students and parents had an opportunity to meet with representatives from several local companies, government agencies and universities that involve STEM careers. District high schools host Physics Fairs to highlight the results of students' long-term group projects in which five to 10 components are assembled into three or more level chain reaction sequences, and principles of physics and engineering are put into practice. Funding for the Physics Fairs was provided by the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation.



Mounds View Schools
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

30 percent energy reduction



Not only have Mounds View Public Schools staff and students helped the District to avoid spending nearly \$2.9 million in energy costs since partnering with the Schools for Energy Efficiency® (SEE) program in 2008, they've helped the District gain recognition on a national scale by earning several ENERGY STAR® awards in the past four years. Most recently, Mounds View Public Schools was recognized with an ENERGY STAR Leader Award for reducing energy use by 30 percent. The national award recognizes improvement in energy performance and environmental leadership.

In total, the District has avoided \$2,844,909 in energy costs since energy monitoring with the SEE program began. Energy analysis reports for the first quarter of the 2012-2013 school year show that \$394,708 in energy costs were avoided from July 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012. These savings reflect a 31 percent reduction in energy use. For more information, please visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org.

Mounds View Schools students 'Fill the Bus' for area families

District elementary schools worked together to deliver nearly 3,780 pounds of food to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf on March 1 to close out the "Fill the Bus" food drive that began in February. Sunnyside Elementary School's student leaders asked all elementary schools to collect non-perishable food items for District families who are served by the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in New Brighton. The Food Shelf distributes an estimated 33,000 pounds of food each month. To learn more about how you can help, visit the Food Shelf's web site by clicking on the Community Education link at www.moundsvIEWSchools.org.



Sunnyside student leaders (pictured in front from left to right) Emma Holder, Sydney Nguyen, Mia Vallery, Addie Harsch, Laura Le, Atomik Yangwaue, (in back) Nick Haugen (vice president), Elizabeth Bourassa (secretary), Quinn Milles, Friedrich Doku (president) and LaVon Tell (advisor) filled the bus with nearly 1,100 pounds of donations collected at Sunnyside between February 14 and March 1. Students from Island Lake Elementary, Pinewood Elementary and Turtle Lake Elementary also contributed to the "Fill the Bus" food drive which delivered a total of 3,772 pounds of food to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf.



Valentine Hills students visit Laurentian

Fifth-graders from Valentine Hills Elementary School headed north in February for a multi-day educational experience that included outdoor exploration, team-building exercises and problem solving excursions. Laurentian Environmental Center in Britt, Minn., played host to nearly 100 Valentine Hills students, staff and parent chaperones for four full days of activities including lessons about northern mammals, outdoor survival exercises, dogsledding excursions, lessons about Ojibway culture, snow sports like cross country skiing and more.

Simonte Campbell and Adrian Sadca spent time ice fishing on Arrowhead Lake during the trip.

District students serve as Salvation Army bell-ringers

Highview Middle School students from the STEP (Service + Tutoring Equals Pride) program volunteered as bell ringers for the Salvation Army in December. A total of 12 STEP students braved the cold for two-hour bell ringing shifts. Supported by Northwest Youth and Family Services and Minnesota Alliance With Youth (an AmeriCorps program), STEP combines service learning with academic tutoring to inspire success. Afterward, students reflected on their service to the community and shared things they learned from this experience.

Pictured from left to right: Aislinn Casey, Selena Blanchard, Anissa Prokop. Other students who participated in the bell-ringing event include: Alexa Struch, Lauryn Stanley, Phynex Schochenmaier, Manasse Mutamba, Quynn Becker, Keaira Jaeger, Grace Larson, Jason Marciano and Bryan Blanchard.



Pinewood Elementary School students also volunteered during the holiday season. A group of 33 students from Pinewood's Choral Arts Club performed outside the Northtown Cub Foods and raised nearly \$300 for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

District Art Show and Empty Bowls Dinner

School staff, students, parents and members of the community are invited to attend the annual Empty Bowls Dinner and the opening of the Mounds View Public Schools Art Show on April 30. Both events will be hosted at Irondale High School.

Mounds View Public Schools Art Show

The District Art Show will feature more than 200 works from Mounds View Public Schools students in grades K-12. The event will open on April 30 with a reception from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet and greet student artists and art teachers from around the District. The District Art Show will be staged in the front lobby at Irondale High School April 30 through May 5 (Irondale building hours apply).

Empty Bowls

The District's Community Education Department will host its annual Empty Bowls event on the evening of April 30. The community dinner raises awareness of global hunger and poverty issues by involving hundreds of students from across the District in service learning projects that research the issue of hunger. In preparation for the Empty Bowls event, students will create a variety of bowls in art classes, make soup and bread to be served at the dinner and promote the event at schools and in the community. Event-goers will pay \$5 for a simple dinner of soup and bread. For another \$5, attendees can purchase a bowl created by District students. This annual service learning project and event will take on a new shape next year making this April 30 event the final Empty Bowls Dinner.

29th annual Chalkboard Capers show

Chalkboard Capers, a variety show presented annually by the teachers of the Mounds View Education Association, is scheduled for April 3-6. The goal of Chalkboard Capers is to raise money for student scholarships for graduating seniors from Irondale High School, Mounds View High School, Oak Grove High School, Area Learning Center, and Adult Basic Education. Each scholarship is for \$621. The number of scholarships awarded depends on the financial success of the show. Visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org/chalkboardcapers to download a ticket order form and/or to learn more. Contact chalkboardcapers@moundsvIEWSchools.org for additional information.



Oak Grove High School's fifth annual Charitable Golf Tournament

May 18, 2013

12:30 p.m. shotgun start

**Cannon Golf Club
in Cannon Falls, Minn.**

\$99 per person includes:

- 18 holes of golf
- Golf cart
- BBQ Buffet dinner
- Door prizes



Register

Deadline is May 3, 2013. Registrants can sign up as a single or bring a foursome. Register by calling 651-621-7938 or 651-621-7943 or via e-mail to wendy.wild@moundsvIEWSchools.org.

Oak Grove High School

Oak Grove offers a special education program for approximately 60 students in grades 9–12 from Mounds View Public Schools and several surrounding districts. Students who attend require services for severe emotional and behavioral disorders.

All proceeds support Oak Grove's work readiness programs, work internships, scholarships, after school programs, Transition Skills Training and the Random Acts of Kindness program.



Oak Grove

HIGH SCHOOL

Mounds View Public Schools

Highview wins Spirit Award at Science Olympiad Invitational



The Highview Middle School Science Olympiad Team finished fifth and 11th out of 22 teams at the Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament in Boyceville, Wisconsin, in December. The Highview team also took home the Spirit Award, which is awarded to the school that most embodies the ideals of Science Olympiad.

The Highview team pictured from left to right includes (back row) **Ellie Wessberg** (grade 7), **Thoger Boyum** (7), **Brianna Woo** (8) and **Charlie Crist** (8); (third row) **AJ Olson** (8), **Trent Oberreit** (6), **Nathan Chau** (7), **Erik Swenson** (6) and **Helen Sabrowsky** (8); (second row) **Madeline Pape** (7), **Phynex Schochenmaier** (7), **Ellie Horita** (7) and **Luke Hermanson** (6); (front row) **Kathy Pape** (coach), **Mason Huberty** (6), **Soren Schramm** (6), **David Malong** (8) and **Michael Huberty** (coach).

District orchestra musicians go for Baroque

Student orchestra musicians from Edgewood Middle School and Irondale High School were the benefactors of a \$10,000 grant awarded to the Lyra Baroque Orchestra. Starting in the fall, the grant afforded students opportunities to participate in private concerts and meet with musicians. Irondale Chamber Orchestra students benefited from several weeks of musical coaching and side-by-side rehearsals with the Baroque specialist musicians before performing with the Baroque musicians at Bethel University in October. Irondale violinists **Georgeanne Owiredo**, **Thomas King**, **Nicholas Gohman** and **Moses Park** were selected for the distinct honor and learning opportunity of performing with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra in December. Irondale sophomore **Harrison Lawrence** was selected as a featured performer in the Lyra Youth Orchestra and, based on his performance, he was given the rare opportunity to learn from internationally acclaimed harpsichordist Jacques Ogg and other visiting internationally recognized artists.

Well-known Minnesota Public Radio host and noted area musician **Michael Barone** made his personal harpsichord available for use by Irondale sophomore **Harrison Lawrence**.



Chippewa Chess Club takes top spots at state tournament

Chippewa Middle School's eighth-grade chess team was named state champions at the SCA Statewide Grade-Level Tournament in St. Paul in February.

Chippewa's sixth- and seventh-grade teams both took second place in their grade levels. **Kaustubh Saraf** won the first place prize in the sixth-grade individual competition followed by **Cameron Song** in second place. **Nate Severtson** took first place in the eighth-grade individual competition followed by **Ethan Gin** in third place and **Gabriel Lee** in fifth place.



Chippewa Middle School eighth-grade champions pictured from left to right: (back row) Mark Ge, Andrew Lee (coach), Nate Severtson, (front row) Gabriel Lee, Ethan Gin and Maddie Wang.

Roxy Caballero wins art contest

Bel Air Elementary School third-grader **Roxy Caballero** was named the winner of the Nutcracker Artwork contest at a children's orchestra concert at the Northwestern College Academy of Music recently. Students from six different schools submitted artwork to the contest.

Chippewa band honors

Chippewa seventh-grade baritone saxophonist **Andy Peterson** was selected to participate in the MBDA State Honor Jazz Band. As a member of the Honor Band, Peterson performed with a select ensemble at the MMEA Music Convention in February. Peterson was also selected to represent Chippewa Middle School at the Ventral Region MBDA Band Festival with Chippewa eighth-grade saxophonist **Ben Ebert**, eighth-grade clarinetist **Kaylee Nielsen** and seventh-grade baritonist **Paige Leiser**.

Service to Youth Award

Irondale student **Nick Super** (pictured with Superintendent Dan Hoverman) was awarded the Service to Youth Award from the Northwest Youth Service Bureau for 2013. Mounds View High School physical education teacher and football coach **Jim Galvin** (pictured with Mounds View High School activities director Bob Madison) also received the Service to Youth Award from Northwest Youth and Family Services. The Service to Youth Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to area youth.



Irondale artists recognized

Irondale student **Brooke Knight** was awarded the Silver Key Award in the Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards competition sponsored by the College of Visual Arts. Her reflection piece titled "Downtown Reflections" was chosen from a pool of nearly 1,850 entries submitted by students in grades 7 – 12 throughout Minnesota. Knight's piece was on display in February and early March and can be seen on the Star Students page at www.moundsviewschools.org. In addition, Knight was named a finalist in the Photographer Forum's 33rd Annual Best of College and High School Photography Contest.

Irondale student **Shelby Belden** was also named a finalist in the Photographer Forum's 33rd Annual Best of College and High School Photography Contest for her "Water Drop" photo. An estimated 16,000 students from all over the world entered the contest, which was sponsored by Nikon. Belden's piece was selected among 100 student works awarded Honorable Mention. As finalists, Knight and Belden will both see their work published in a hardcover book due to come out this summer. To see Brooke Knight's "Ride" and Shelby Belden's "Water Drop" images, visit the Star Students page at www.moundsviewschools.org.



Brooke Knight



Shelby Belden

Mounds View student recognized at international science fair



Mounds View High School junior **Heather Stone** was awarded second place in the research paper category at the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair in February. She will go on to compete at the State Science Fair in April. As a volunteer on the Africa Committee at Compatible Technology International (CTI), Stone has been researching grains for post-harvest use in Africa and has been working on ways to introduce innovation that could help reduce hunger issues in Africa. Through her

research and field trials, Stone invented a four-row seeder that significantly increases yield with materials available to farmers in Africa. Last year, Stone's research was recognized with a full expense paid trip to Texas for the International Sustainable World Energy Engineering Environment Project Olympiad (I-SWEEEP) science fair. At I-SWEEEP, Stone won third place in the engineering category. Her work has garnered recognition from the United States Army Corpse, Graduate Women in Science Xi Chapter and Ecolab. She also serves as a Global Youth Institute representative.

STAFF HONORS

KS95 names Bel Air's Andrea Johnson Teacher of the Week

Radio personalities from KS95 recognized Bel Air Elementary School teacher **Andrea Johnson** as Teacher of the Week in November. They recognized Johnson on-air and delivered a Teacher of the Week engraved plaque to her classroom. Johnson was also invited to participate in a dinner at the end of the school year at the Science Museum of Minnesota wherein one teacher's name will be randomly drawn to win \$1,000 cash for herself/himself and \$1,000 for the teacher's school.



Pictured: Andrea Johnson with Ryan, of "Ryan and Shannon" from the KS95 morning show.

Turtle Lake teacher named semifinalist for 'Teacher of the Year'

Simone Haugen, a fifth-grade teacher at Turtle Lake Elementary School, has been named a semifinalist for 2013 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. She is among 39 semifinalists



chosen from hundreds of nominations from across the state. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers from public and private schools.

In late March, 10 finalists will be chosen, and the Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced in early May. The Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by Education Minnesota.

Haugen is a National Board Certified Teacher who has taught at Turtle Lake for 13 years and at Snail Lake Elementary School for one year. She is among a group of teachers participating in a District-wide Professional Learning Community that incorporates flipped instructional practices in their classrooms, changing how face-to-face time is used.

Educators honored as TIES Exceptional Teachers

Mounds View Public Schools teachers **Julie Hartinger** and **Simone Haugen** were recognized as TIES Exceptional Teachers at the TIES 2012 Education Technology Conference in Minneapolis in December. They were among 82 teachers recognized from 43 school districts chosen by their superintendents for the TIES Exceptional Teacher award.

Edgewood Middle School math teacher Julie Hartinger and fifth-grade Turtle Lake teacher Simone Haugen were recognized for modeling best practices in the classroom and raising the level of expectations for students by integrating new technology in the classroom. In addition to being recognized at the conference, the teachers were featured in the TIES *Exceptional Teachers* publication.



Pinewood principal wins Leadership Achievement Award

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) recognized Pinewood Elementary School principal **Bill Book** with the 2013 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award recently. The award honors principals whose exemplary leadership and sustained efforts have made noteworthy

contributions to the operation of effective school learning programs. During MESPA's statewide convention of Minnesota's elementary and middle level principals on February 7, Book was recognized by his colleagues for his contributions to the profession, to his community and to education.

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FEBRUARY 24, 2013

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“With 91 percent of its parents and nearly two-thirds of its students using smartphones, the Mounds View School District has upgraded its website to better serve mobile users. Now people with smartphones can easily check grades, class assignments, even school lunch menus on the go.”

— Shannon Prather

To experience Mounds View Mobile, simply visit www.moundsviewschools.org from any smartphone. To learn more, turn to page 5.

The logo for Mounds View Mobile features three orange curved lines above the word "MOBILE" in large white letters. The letter "O" in "MOBILE" has a blue circle with an orange dot in the center. To the right of the "MOBILE" text, the words "MOUNDS VIEW" are written in a smaller white sans-serif font.

MOUNDS VIEW
MOBILE