

School Talk

FALL 2010

Easing transitions

**Programs designed for sixth-
and ninth-graders are paving
the way for smooth transitions**

Getting Personal – Last in a series on personalizing education throughout the District

Easing transitions

Programs designed for sixth- and ninth-graders are paving the way for smooth transitions

Joining a new school brings students both excitement and anxiety. This fall, more than 1,500 students transitioned into a new school in Mounds View Public Schools, primarily in sixth grade and ninth grade.

“I was pretty nervous about the transition from middle to high school because I didn’t really know exactly what to do. I didn’t know exactly where my classes were. I didn’t know many people who were going to the school,” recalls Irondale High School student Ben Ackerman.

Scott Gengler, principal of Irondale School, understands the importance of a smooth transition. And because he knows that first-day jitters and new-school nerves are not unique to Ackerman, his team addresses common fears using a variety of transition activities during the first day of school — a day that is always dedicated to freshmen at the high schools.

A smooth start

Transitions set the tone for a student’s experience in a new school. That’s why Mounds View Public Schools developed a variety of comprehensive transition activities to help students



Irondale principal Gengler welcomed all ninth-graders personally during small group rotations that took place during the freshmen-only day at Irondale High School.

On the cover:

Highview Middle School teacher Jon Larson helped sixth-grade students like Jose Gonzalez-Castaneda open their lockers and find their classrooms during the first day of school, a day dedicated to sixth-graders at the middle schools and ninth-graders at the high schools.

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make smooth adjustments into middle and high school.

From peer mentoring activities to a first day of school devoted solely to sixth- and ninth-graders, Mounds View’s transition program includes first-day orientations, grade-level retreats and other activities designed to make transitions easier for students. A sixth-grade-only day allows students the opportunity to practice opening their lockers and navigating the school hallways without the presence of seventh- and eighth-grade students. Freshmen-only days at the high schools give ninth-graders an opportunity to meet student mentors and explore their new school before the official start of the school year.

Student mentors

As a sophomore, Ackerman's first day at Irondale looked a little different this year than it did as a freshman. But, he could still tell you about the value of freshmen-only day and the student mentorship program that helped make his transition to high school a little easier. And he is not alone.

John Voskresensky remembers the help that he received from student mentors during his first year at Mounds View High School. He says he took comfort in knowing that mentors were available to answer his questions about how to get involved in after-school programs, how to pay for lunch, and more. He credits upperclassmen who serve as student mentors for helping him "get acquainted with the building" during his first year at Mounds View High School.

Michael Coty, the advisor of the student mentorship program at Mounds View High School, says "upperclassmen take pride in passing down the legacy of their school and freshmen take comfort in knowing their peers are willing to help. The mentorship program benefits all students involved."

Community

Every fall, ninth-graders participate in a Respect Retreat that focuses on developing new friendships, respecting self and others, and becoming part of the school community.

Mounds View High School sophomore Andrea Schwartz credits transition activities like the Respect Retreat for introducing her to students she might not have otherwise met and giving her a sneak peek at all the activities and programs available to her in high school.



Sixth-graders District-wide participate in start-of-the-school-year retreats designed to blend student groups from various elementary schools into their new school community. Chippewa Middle School sixth-graders W. Alexander Robertson, Ian Goodwin, Thomas Cameron, Maddy Zhang, and Grace Anderson (pictured here) participated in community-building exercises and learned the importance of respect during an off-site retreat at Camp St. Croix.

“The goal of our transition programs is to create an environment where all students feel welcome and safe — on the first day of school and throughout the school year.”

– Superintendent Dan Hoverman

According to Chippewa Dean Mike Holmgren, sixth-grade retreats “present opportunities for students to meet their peers and identify with their new school community through activities and events designed to make all students feel comfortable and welcome.”

Everyone is welcome

Transitions aren't easy for most people — especially for students entering a new school. That's why District schools have programs in place to make transitions as smooth as possible from grade to grade, and school to school.

“The goal of our transition programs is to create an environment where all students feel welcome and safe — on the first day of school and throughout the school year,” says Superintendent Dan Hoverman. “With 95 percent of District ninth-graders reporting they feel safe at school and 99 percent of parents saying District high schools provide a welcoming environment, we feel like our efforts are paying off.”



To learn more, watch *Easing Transitions* on the District's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools.

What's new for 2010-2011?

New principals

Students like second-graders Kaitlyn Hager and Allison Claybaugh (pictured from left to right with Darin Johnson) aren't meeting Darin Johnson for the first time this year but they are seeing him in a different role — as their school principal. Before becoming Turtle Lake's principal, Johnson worked as the student services assistant at Turtle Lake for the past three years. He's been with the District for 13 years.



Sheila Eller (pictured with first-grader Skyler Johnson) spent the first week of school in the hallways, classrooms and lunchroom at Bel Air Elementary School getting to know students. While Eller is new to Bel Air, she is not new to the District. She was principal at Chippewa Middle School from 2007-2009 before moving to Virginia where she worked as an elementary school principal. She has more than 28 years of teaching and educational leadership experience.



All students will take the ACT

Mounds View Public Schools will be the first District in the state to offer all high school juniors an opportunity to participate in a free administration of the ACT. All Irondale High School, Mounds View High School, Oak Grove and Area Learning Center juniors will take the ACT exam on site during the school day on April 27, 2011, thanks to a grant received from the 621 Foundation.

Mounds View Public Schools will be the first in the state to offer free administration of the ACT for all juniors.

Making the ACT exam accessible to all high school juniors is part of a District-wide goal to focus on assessments and evaluations that help customize learning and maximize the chances for post-secondary success for all students. The focus on post-secondary planning begins in middle school with assessment tools like the Plan and Explore tests for all eighth- and tenth-grade students.

Online payment options

Thousands of parents have already logged on to SchoolView for secure electronic access to their student's records. Now, not only can parents view student records online, they can also pay meal, activity and transportation fees online through a secure online web site.

How it works:

Families who are already using Mounds View's parent portal SchoolView can log into their account and access the FeePay system. There, they can add funds to a meal account balance or pay for activities using a credit card or direct deposit from a checking or savings account. Parents can set up e-mail notifications to alert them when funds are getting low and can also track the purchase history, print receipts and more.


secure, online school payments

Getting started on SchoolView is now easier than ever.

Parents who are new to SchoolView can watch a brief video tutorial that offers step-by-step instructions on how to access student information online. To learn more about SchoolView and to watch the video tutorial, visit www.moundsviewschools.org and select SchoolView in the Quick Links menu on the top of the homepage. Parents who need help getting their student's access code to create an account, or need help accessing an account they have already created, should contact their student's school.



School lunches delivered fresh from the farm

The District's Nutrition Services department introduced Minnesota-grown fresh produce to the menu this year as part of a Farm2School partnership that aims to improve student nutrition while supporting local farmers.

Bel Air Elementary School second- through fifth-grade art students showed their excitement for the program with a lunch-room mural (pictured). More than 80 students from Vicky St. Onge's art classes helped create Bel Air tigers and farm animals for the mural. People who live and work on a farm are represented in the mural along with students who attend Bel Air Elementary School.

Visit the Nutrition Services page at www.moundsviewschools.org to download school menus which offer more fruit and vegetable choices to students District-wide. This is one of many Nutrition Services' initiatives being implemented to promote healthy eating habits by offering well-balanced meals that include a wide variety of healthy food choices.



Pictured (from left to right) in the back row: Isadora Androff, Nathan Stearley, Javon Singer, Samuel Quick, Alaina Degiacomo, Cole Carley, Jacob Moe and art teacher Vicky St. Onge. In the front row: Annika Parsons, Emma Eclov-Reher, Michael Blount, Justin Kromrey, Teja Malenke, Ann Nguyen and Kaylee Bacher.

Levy 2010

**A no-tax-increase
request for renewal**

This Election Day, voters in the Mounds View Public School District will be asked to renew an operating levy that is expiring. Here are 10 facts every voter should know about the request.

1. A successful levy renewal will not increase taxes.

The School Board voted unanimously to ask voters to renew the expiring levy at the same level of funding, with no increase. For property owners, that means no increase in their taxes associated with this levy renewal.

2. The levy that voters approved in 2003 is expiring.

This levy is expiring in 2011, and without renewal, the District will stop receiving about \$6 million a year.

3. The School Board discussed several options before deciding on the no-tax-increase renewal request.

Respecting today's uncertain economy, the Board decided to ask for the same level of funding that schools have been receiving, with no tax increase for property owners.

4. Mounds View is the only metro district not asking taxpayers for an increase — of the six districts on the ballots this fall.

Every school district has varying needs and different financial situations, but Mounds View is not among those districts asking taxpayers for an increase.

5. A successful levy will maintain, not improve, class sizes and programs.

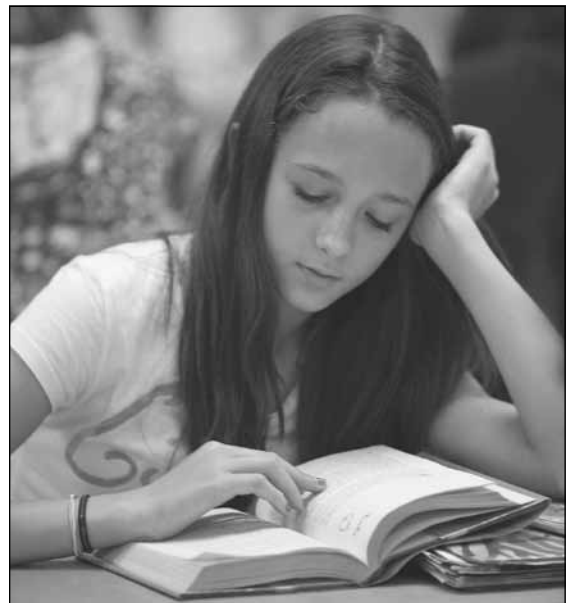
The goal is simply to maintain what schools currently have, not to expand. Unfortunately, the levy alone cannot prevent future budget reductions.

6. An unsuccessful levy will prompt an increase in class sizes and a decrease in programs.

If voters reject the renewal request, the District would eventually lose approximately \$6 million a year. That's about the equivalent of 74 teachers.

7. Property owners are currently paying \$70 a year for every \$100,000 of market value on this levy.

If voters approve this levy renewal request, their taxes on this levy would not increase.



“With a levy expiring, we’re simply trying to hang onto existing funding. No more. No less. And we’re doing it in a way we think is respectful of where our economy is right now.”

– Jon Tynjala, School Board chair

8. Mounds View is cutting costs and operating efficiently.

During the time since voters approved the 2003 levy, the District has had to close two schools, cut classroom teachers, cut staff members and implement user fees for buses, co-curricular activities and facility rentals. The District also has eliminated retiree benefits from all employee contracts, and employees are paying for a greater share of health insurance increases.

9. Minnesota’s commitment to education funding has waned.

In 1997, Minnesota’s per pupil spending was eight percent above the national average. Ten years later, the state was spending less than the national average.



10. Despite its financial challenges, Mounds View Public Schools remains a high-performing school district.

Mounds View consistently ranks among the highest-performing districts in the state. Student test scores routinely rank in the top 10 of all metro districts.

Learn more:

Visit  www.moundsvIEWSchools.org

or watch a brief video on 
www.youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools

Prepared and paid for by Mounds View Public Schools (Independent School District 621), 350 Highway 96 West, Shoreview, MN 55126. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

Making the grade

Mounds View uses a number of tests and assessments to measure student performance and progress. Whether the results come from state-mandated testing, District measurement systems, or national rankings, Mounds View Public Schools continues to hold a place among the highest-performing districts in the state and in the nation.

National Merit Semifinalists



Mounds View High School semifinalists from left to right (front row): Eric Swanson, Katherine Ardeleanu, Stephen Sanny, (middle row) Alexander Breyfogle, Yue Zhang, Qian Chen, (back row): Daniel Lee, Andrew Polasky and Jinyoung Chang. Commended students (not pictured): Cecelia Cathcart, Rachael Chan, Erin Czaia, Louis Floeder, Abigail Grosse, Brittney Johnson, Stephanie Kaczynski, Robert Mickelson, Kirsten Nelson, David Petersen, Alexander Preis, Anne Savereide, Scott Stauder and Conrad Zbikowski.

Irondale High School semifinalists from left to right: Amith Abraham, Miranda Kunz and Erik Katovich. Commended students (not pictured): Ezekiel Johnson, Elise Mesenbring, John Roy and Lorna Tokos. National Achievement Scholars (not pictured): Nnaoma Oji, Matthew Okabue and Tsega Tamene.



A Top 10 school district

For the fourth consecutive year, Mounds View Public Schools ranked among the top 10 districts in the metro and the state for the most National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. In total, nine Mounds View High School students and three Irondale High School students were named semifinalists. Recognition by the National Merit Scholarship program is one of the highest honors a student can receive for outstanding academic achievement.

Top 10 in Metro

Wayzata	35
Eden Prairie	16
Edina	15
Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan	14
St. Paul	14
Mounds View	12
Minneapolis	11
Minnetonka	11
Hopkins	7
St. Louis Park	7

District students perform above nation

NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) results highlight the District's success in math and reading with District students on average performing one to three grade levels above national norms. Results from MCA-II tests also show that District students out perform their peers in the state when it comes to the percent of students proficient in reading, math and science.

MAP tests are aligned with Minnesota state standards and serve as early indicators of how students will perform on MCA-II tests (used to meet federal requirements of No Child Left Behind). The District also uses MAP tests to:

✓ Measure student academic growth

Throughout the District, an average of almost 60 percent of students met or exceeded their annual growth target in math, and more than 60 percent of students met or exceeded their annual growth target in reading. In many cases, a grade levels' percentage of students meeting or exceeding their annual growth target was 20 percent higher than the national goal.

✓ Develop plans for continued improvement

High achievement for all students will be driven by focused interventions and high expectations in the 2010-2011 school year. Plans for improvement include continued implementation of personalized intervention programs as well as the development of formative assessment practices that allow for precision in assessing student instructional needs.

High schools rank in the nation's top 5 percent

Newsweek's annual ranking of best public high schools in America (released June 2010) ranks Irondale High School and Mounds View High School among the top 5 percent of schools across the nation. This is the sixth consecutive year that one or both of the District's high schools have ranked among *Newsweek's* best schools.

District students score above national average on ACT

Year after year, Mounds View Public Schools students exceed both the national and the state average on ACT exams. For the fifth consecutive year, Mounds View Public Schools students earned an average ACT score that beats the Minnesota average — the state that leads the nation.

2010 ACT scores

Mounds View Public Schools	25
Irondale	23.9
Mounds View	26
National average	21
Minnesota average	22.9

**The District's composite score includes students from other District schools such as the Area Learning Center and Oak Grove High School.*

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

2009-2010 Goals	2010-2011 Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A continued focus on personalized learning to address the needs of every student through Personal Learning Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ School deans at secondary schools are working closely with each individual student to customize the school experience based on student achievement goals. All secondary school students have a personal learning plan which is accessible online by both students and their parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued efforts to increase online access to student progress through SchoolView and the introduction of a new tool designed to help families with post-secondary planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An online post-secondary planning system called Naviance was introduced to help personalize post-secondary planning for all students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concentration on improving the feeling of connectedness at the middle and high schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Concentration on improving the feeling of connectedness at the middle and high schools through a review of the secondary activities program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A continued focus on assessments and evaluations that help customize learning and maximize the chances for post-secondary success for all students. Continued work toward a goal of 95 percent of students taking the ACT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mounds View Public Schools will be the first District in the state to offer all high school juniors an opportunity to participate in a free administration of the ACT. Making the ACT exam accessible to all high school juniors is part of a District-wide goal to focus on assessments and evaluations that help customize learning and maximize the chances for post-secondary success for all students. The focus on post-secondary planning begins in middle school with assessment tools like the Plan and Explore for all eighth- and tenth-grade students. See page 4 for details.

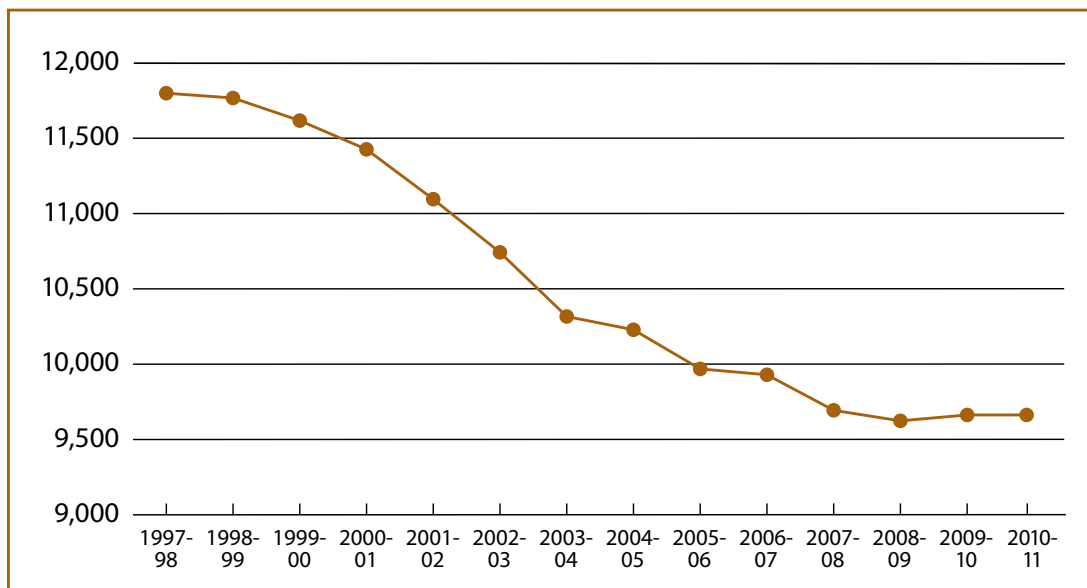
Enrollment leveling out

Thanks to increased enrollment from non-public schools and other public school districts over the past two years, the District's official September enrollment indicates an increase in student enrollment when compared to last October. While the 2010-2011 school year enrollment shows an increase of only one student, this year's enrollment exceeded projections for 2010-2011 by 256 students. As a result, for the second consecutive year, Mounds View's total K-12 enrollment shows an increase over the previous year. This near stabilization comes after a decade of declining enrollment. Factors contributing to this include:

- Enrollment from non-public schools increased by more than 50 percent over the past two years.
- Enrollment from other public school districts more than doubled over the past two years.

Students new to the District	2008	2009	2010
Students from nonpublic	109	167	171
Students from other states	55	70	74
Students from other countries	30	25	23
Students from other MN districts	171	351	388
New student totals	365	613	656

For more than a decade, enrollment declined in Mounds View Public Schools as a result of fewer school-aged children residing in the District. Yet every year, the District consistently enrolls 80 percent of all possible school-aged children. Officials will continue to monitor enrollment projections throughout the year to build the District's budget for 2010-2011.



Mounds View's decade-long enrollment decline appears to be leveling off.

Class sizes fairly constant

The District continues to use levy dollars to keep average class sizes near the previous year's averages. Depending on the grade level, students receive small group instruction every day in math and reading with group sizes of five to 15 students.

Average class sizes	2009-2010	2010-2011
K-Grade 1	22-27	22-27
Grade 2-3	23-30	23-30
Grade 4-5	26-32	26-32
Middle school core	32	32
High school core	36	36

School Board Actions

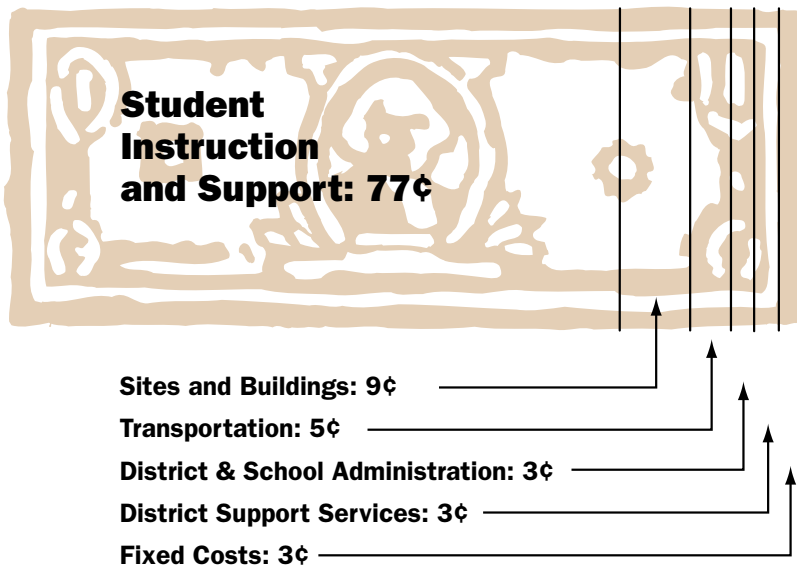


2010 School Board

Pictured from left to right: Jon Tynjala, Marre Jo Sager, Barb Bollum, Susan Murphy, Bob Helgeson, Lisa Sjobeck and Greg Madsen.

Investing money wisely

More dollars go to classroom instruction and support than to any other area. This year, the District is investing 77 cents of every general fund dollar in classroom instruction and support.



Source: General Fund, Mounds View Public Schools, 2010-11.

Property taxes reduced

Taxes collected for schools in 2011 will decrease from 2010. Last year, the School Board certified \$41.2 million in taxes. This year, the Board certified \$40.4 million which is \$760,000 less or a 1.8 percent reduction.

Truth in Taxation

Ramsey County anticipates mailing truth in taxation notices in mid November 2010. Mounds View Public Schools will discuss the budget and proposed levy at a 6 p.m. focused forum scheduled before the Board meeting on December 14, 2010, at Snail Lake Education Center, 350 Highway 96 West, Shoreview. For more information, please visit the Budgets & Finance page at www.moundsvIEWSchools.org.



View meetings online

School Board meetings now can be viewed live via online webstreaming. Videos of meetings are archived as well. To watch live or archived meetings, visit the School Board page at www.moundsvIEWSchools.org.



www.moundsvIEWSchools.org

Around the District

Find us on

facebook



Join the growing list of people who are reconnecting with Irondale High School, Mounds View High School and Mounds View Public Schools on Facebook.

Simply visit: facebook.com/moundsviewschools
facebook.com/irondalehighschool
facebook.com/moundsviewhighschool
...and click on the “Like” box.

Following us on Facebook gives you:

- Links to photo albums and videos
- School and District news
- Co-curricular activity updates
- Invitations to provide feedback on school issues
- Opportunities to talk “schools” with others

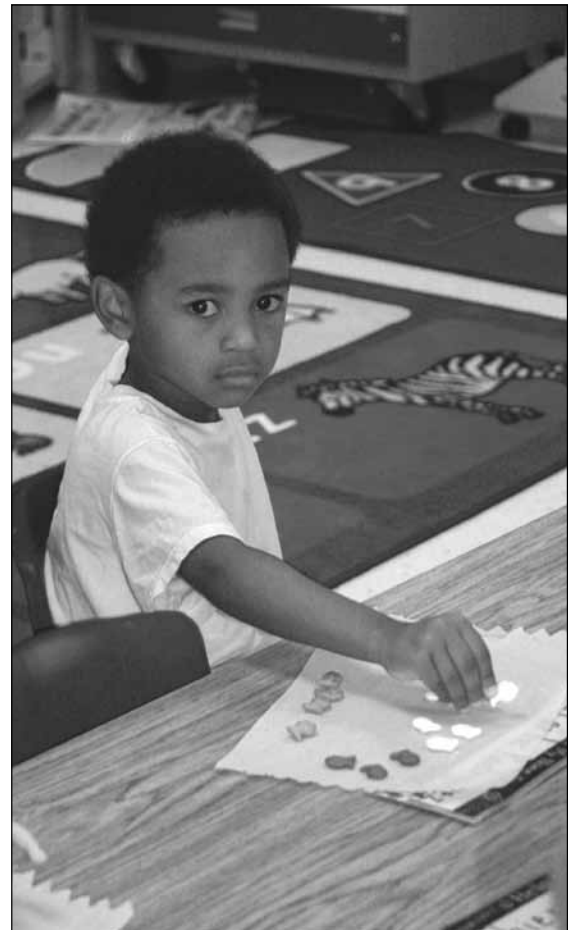


Watch us on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools

Kindergarten Camp

From Early Childhood Family Education programs that begin at birth and continue through kindergarten, to screenings that evaluate school readiness, there are resources available to families who are preparing for kindergarten.

To make the transition to kindergarten easier, students like DeCarlos Rodriguez (pictured here) participate in school readiness programs like Kindergarten Camp. Kindergarten Camp is a collaboration of the Early Childhood Special Education and the School Readiness Program designed for children who may not have had a preschool experience, are English Language Learners or may have anxiety about the transition to kindergarten. For more information about Early Childhood Family Education programs, visit the Community Education page at www.moundsviewschools.org.



National Anthem Day



For the fifth year, Chippewa Middle School participated in National Anthem Day on Tuesday, September 14. Eighth-graders Anne Walberg, Bridget Nelson and Abby Vantassell (pictured from left to right) were among the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade choir and orchestra students who performed the National Anthem outside in front of the flagpole. Parents and school staff were joined at the National Anthem event by area mayors and council members, School Board members, VFW & American Legion members and more. The National Anthem Project is a nationwide celebration of the 196th anniversary of when Francis Scott Key wrote the anthem. Classrooms from all over the United States sang the Anthem on the morning of September 14.

Photo courtesy of Bill Jolitz, photographer.



Members of the New Brighton VFW raised the flag outside of Island Lake Elementary School on National Anthem Day. Students, staff and special guests gathered to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem.

Nearly \$1 million in energy costs avoided

Energy savings at Mounds View Public Schools are adding up. When measured in dollars, the District has avoided nearly \$1 million in energy costs since July 2008. Not only have District staff and students helped Mounds View Public Schools avoid spending \$1 million in energy costs since partnering with the Schools for Energy Efficiency® program, they've helped the District earn recognition on a national scale with an ENERGY STAR® award for achieving a 10 percent energy savings.



Energy analysis reports for the second year of energy monitoring show that more than \$518,420 in energy costs were avoided from July 2009 to June 2010. These savings reflect a 19 percent reduction in energy use. In total, the District has avoided \$915,629 in energy costs in a two-year period.



Energy saving initiatives will continue in 2010-2011. Mechanical and equipment updates are on the 2010-11 agenda, along with a number of energy-saving student-focused programs. Elementary school students will continue to work with "SEE Squads" to lower energy consumption while middle and high school students participate in energy-related experiments and activities District-wide.

To learn more about the SEE program and to view a site-specific savings chart, please visit the news page at www.moundsviewschools.org Follow the District's energy-saving progress and receive quarterly reports, by subscribing to the News and Views e-newsletter at www.moundsviewschools.org/enews.

Around the District

Sunnyside focuses on a healthy start

Sunnyside staff members are working together this school year to give students the opportunity to start the school day on their feet. Literally.

Fourth- and fifth-graders have the opportunity to participate in before-school gym time as part of the Fuel Up to Play 60 program sponsored by the National Football League. The Fuel Up to Play 60 program asks students to track their daily activity time with a goal of at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

Sunnyside students who want to participate in the before-school workout program must also track 30 minutes of reading per day and must show that they've completed their homework daily before entering the gym.

According to fifth-grade teacher Matt Moore and physical education teacher Chet Springborn (pictured here with students Kylie Long and Clayton Klinke) coupling the reading requirement with the activity time helps reinforce the importance of balance and time management.



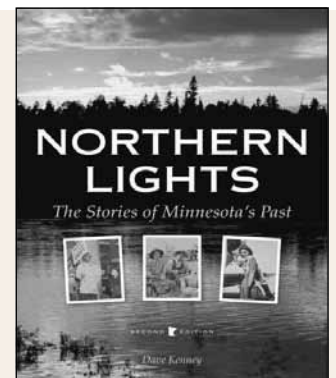
In addition to the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, Sunnyside also introduced a Healthy Breakfast Initiative this school year in which students learn about healthy food choices. Sunnyside “lunch lady” Candy McHale creates and displays healthy food trays to help students identify the most nutritional breakfast option.



Students who make healthy breakfast choices like Roun Dobuol, Splendid Ebubeogu, Jared Long, Kylie Long, Makhia Shannon (pictured here on the left side of the table), Jaeger Hoog and Trinity Yang (pictured on the right side of the table) are invited to sit at a special table during school breakfast hours and have their healthy choices tracked and graphed. The students who participate in the Healthy Breakfast Initiative are acknowledged during the morning announcements on Fridays. Along with McHale, Moore and Springborn, teachers Greg Ulrich and Andrew Rockenstein are among the Sunnyside staff members driving healthy start initiatives this year.

District grad authors Minnesota textbook

It has been about 30 years since Hillary Wackman attended Chippewa Middle School but she still has a presence in Chippewa classrooms. Wackman is one of the authors of *Northern Lights: The Stories of Minnesota's Past*, a textbook that surveys the history of Minnesota from the Ice Age through the end of the twentieth century. Students in Jackie Sawyer's sixth-grade social studies class, and other classes throughout the District, use the textbook to learn more about Minnesota and the impact that major historical events have had on its history. Wackman is also the author of *Northern Lights 2E – Classroom Resource Workbook*.



DISCOVER

Mounds View Public Schools

It's personal

Every secondary student has a personal learning plan developed by staff who know their students personally.

It's challenging

The top three reasons why families choose Mounds View Public Schools are "Quality Teachers," "Academic Excellence," and "Academic Opportunities" that can't be found elsewhere.

It's safe

99 percent of families say schools are safe and respectful.

It's popular

Year after year, 80 percent of resident students choose to attend Mounds View Public Schools.



Enrollment Information Nights:

High schools: January 10, 2011

Middle schools: January 11, 2011

Elementary schools: February 12, 2011

Visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org

Pinewood gets a new look

Pinewood Elementary School students were welcomed to the 2010-2011 school year with a more colorful front entrance this year. Pinewood Elementary School became home to more than 100 new plants this summer, thanks to Pinewood para and parent Kelly LaSota (pictured here), other parent volunteers and staff members, support from the District maintenance team and the generous donations and planning efforts of Pinewood secretary Sara VanAllen.



Students get back to school with supplies

The Ralph Reeder Food Shelf distributed school supplies to more than 600 children during its annual Good Neighbor Back to School Project. Despite record demand for food and supplies, community support helped to supply District students with everything from pencils to backpacks. Thanks to the many volunteers and donors who helped make the start of the school year easier for District families by supporting the food shelf and the Back to School Project.



Around the District

Staying connected

While high school homecoming traditions are often meant to keep alumni connected to their alma mater, Mounds View High School also uses homecoming as an opportunity to rally with future Mounds View Mustangs.



Mounds View High school students headed back to elementary school on the day of homecoming to host pep rallies at Island Lake Elementary and Turtle Lake Elementary. Elementary school students were invited to join in singing the school song, they enjoyed a performance from high school cheerleaders and the dance team, and they heard from high school student representatives about the importance of academics.

Mounds View High School athletes created a human tunnel for kindergarten through fifth-graders to walk through on their way back to class. Students like third-grader Mem Awad (pictured) got high fives or hand shakes from high schoolers as they left the pep rally.



NOTICES

Pesticides and Herbicides: Parents' right to know

A Minnesota state law went into effect in the year 2000 that requires schools to inform parents and guardians if they apply certain pesticides on the school property. Specifically, this law requires schools that apply these pesticides to maintain an estimated schedule of pesticide applications and to make the schedule available to parents and guardians for review or copying at each school office. The long-term effects on children from application of such pesticides, or the class of chemicals to which they belong, may not be fully understood. If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the estimated schedule (excluding emergency applications), please contact Chris Paquette at 651-621-6090.

District-wide annual asbestos notification

Mounds View Public Schools has continued to respond to asbestos in buildings in a cautious and proactive manner. Building administration will continue with its ongoing asbestos operations and maintenance program, including periodic surveillance inspections, which are conducted on a semi-annual basis. Also required as part of AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act-EPA) are re-inspections, which are conducted by accredited inspectors every three years since the implementation of the District's Management Plan. The building administration's ongoing efforts related to the management and control of asbestos containing materials are focused on providing a safe environment for our building occupants and employees. If you have any questions, would like to review the management plan, or are interested in recent response actions completed at the buildings, please contact Chris Paquette at 651-621-6090.

‘Safe Route’ to Valentine Hills

The Valentine Hills Elementary School neighborhood now offers a safer route to school thanks to the Elmer Anderson Memorial Trail, a paved footpath along the south side of County Road E2 W between New Brighton Road and Snelling Avenue N. The trail also now connects Country Road E2 W and Venus Avenue, a neighborhood north of Valentine Hills, allowing students in that neighborhood to walk more safely to school. Funding for the walkway was provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Grant Program, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Boston Scientific. For more information about safe routes to Valentine Hills, including a map that details where crossing guards are stationed, please visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org/valentinehills.

Students examine the importance of a respectful community

For more than nine years, Highview Middle School eighth-graders have been given the opportunity to travel through time with Tim Scott, an attorney and Holocaust researcher who speaks with passion on the topic of respect, acceptance and community. This year, nearly 250 eighth-graders participated in a four-hour retreat in which they traveled back in time to walk in the shoes of a young person living through the Holocaust. By inviting students along in a role-playing journey that followed the life of a family experiencing the Holocaust from start to end, students were asked to understand community through the eyes of an outsider.



The Arden Hills Mayor joined school and District staff members, students and project funding partners for a ribbon cutting event in September. Pictured here: Physical Education teacher Wendy Brandt and her class participated in the ribbon cutting celebration on September 14 and organized a Safe Schools Walk that took place on October 7.

Around the District

The Young Americans

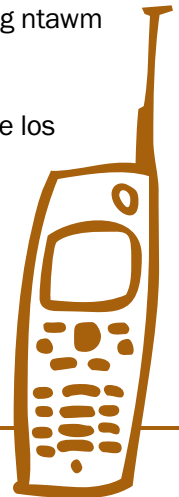
Nearly 160 Mounds View Public Schools students in grades four through 12 performed with the international touring group The Young Americans September 26-28 at Irondale High School. The Young Americans tour the world working with school-age musicians to improve their singing, acting and dancing in a three-day workshop that culminates in a final extravaganza performance. The District's Young American performance at Irondale drew a crowd of more than 500. Irondale High School choir director Jason Etten organized the event. He says "The Young Americans workshop combines singing, dancing, instrument playing and musical theater into an unforgettable experience of artistic and personal growth for students." To watch District students perform with The Young Americans, tune in to CTV channel 20. The program will air daily at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. October 15 – January 15.



To learn more about District programs and events featured in this issue of *School Talk* in Spanish or Hmong, please call Aldo Cantellano (Spanish) at 651-621-7466 or Mee Yang (Hmong) at 651-621-7476.

Yog xa paub ntau tshaj nov txog peb lub District cov program thiab kev sib sau ua ke ntwm 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.

Para aprender mas sobre los programas del Distrito Escolar y de los eventos en esta edicion de *School Talk*, llame a Aldo Cantellano al 651 621 7466.



In memoriam

Amy Twombly, Traci Dockendorf (pictured at far right) and their families donated an air hockey table to the District's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program recently in memory of Alex Kufus (pictured). The air hockey table was a favorite activity of Kufus, an ECFE student who passed away on January 11, 2010. Future ECFE students will benefit from the new table which will be used for motor therapy.





With Honors

Scholarship sends Mounds View student to Korea

Anna Pratt, a senior at Mounds View High School, spent six weeks studying in Korea this summer after the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs awarded her with a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship. Pratt was selected for the scholarship from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants.



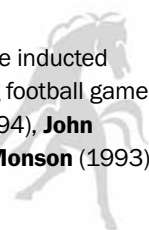
Hall of Fame

Irondale High School inductees

The following graduates and coach were inducted into the school's Hall of Fame during halftime at the October 15 football game: **Ross Asselstine** (1975), **Nicole Ballingrud** (1995), **Nicki Eilers** (1997), **Tracy Goepel** (1997), **Josh Guse** (1995), **Jenny Hannula** (1994), **Connie Michna Huberty** (1981), **Diane Milliren Jones** (1976), **Jed Knuttila** (coach), **David Lance** (1992), **Larry Lyden** (1998), **Julie Okerstrom Marzhausen** (1979), **Michelle Moore** (1987) and **Carol Moss** (1975).

Mounds View High School inductees

The following Mounds View High School graduates and coach were inducted into the school's Hall of Fame at halftime during the homecoming football game on September 24: **Don Berry** (1980), **Becca Wold Freeman** (1994), **John Lukaska** (1968), **John Madura** (teacher/coach), **Kady Hickman Monson** (1993) and **Paul Schmaedke** (1973).



Music association invites Highview band to perform

Highview Middle School's eighth-grade band, and their director **Andy Schmidt**, were selected from more than 50 applicants to perform at the 2011 Minnesota Music Educators Association Midwinter In-Service Clinic. Music educators from across the state will travel to Minneapolis in February to attend the annual conference.



Mounds View students earn perfect ACT scores

Mounds View High School students **Daniel Lee** (left) and **Stephen Sanny** earned perfect scores on the ACT exam. They are among a small group of only 24 students across the state that scored a 36 on the test in 2010. The ACT assessment helps colleges determine how well students are prepared for college and determines student admissions, advising and placement in college.

District students win State Fair awards

Mounds View Public Schools students **Nadine Anton, Peter Blosberg, Martha Chastain, Graham Fiebiger, Kezia Germ, Kezia Germwere, Crystal Jiang, Daniel Lee, Michaela Morse, Yueyilin Qi, Emily Ruan, Kevin Shen, Alistair Tang, Stephanie Wang, Melissa Warme** and **Laney Wolter** were among the winning education exhibitors this year at the State Fair. Students had individual exhibits in categories like "Agricultural Technology" and "Technology Education." For details, please visit www.moundsviewschools.org/star.asp.

National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

Mounds View High School senior **Louis Floeder** has been named a National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholar for 2010-2011 for achieving a high score on the PSAT in 2009 and maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Floeder is one of fewer than 5,000 students who were selected by the College Board from a pool of more than 200,000 students to be recognized this year as a NHRP Scholar.



Levy 2010

**A no-tax-increase
request for renewal**



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Shoreview, MN 55126-1951

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A successful levy renewal will not increase taxes.

This Election Day, voters in the Mounds View Public School District will be asked to renew an operating levy that is expiring.

But unlike other metro districts that are asking voters to approve an increase in their levies, Mounds View's School Board members voted unanimously to ask voters to renew the expiring levy at the same level of funding, with no increase. For property owners, that means no increase in their taxes associated with this levy renewal.

To learn 10 facts every voter should know about the levy renewal request, turn to page six or visit www.moundsviewschools.org for more information.

