

TEACHING TODAY MN

MINNESOTA'S K-12 EDUCATION CONNECTION

Geometry in Construction

South Washington County Schools

Beginning in the 2014–15 school year, sophomores at Park High School had the opportunity to take a unique math class. Geometry in Construction was designed to provide students with the chance to apply geometry concepts through the construction of a number of different items including storage sheds, wooden folding chairs, cement stepping stones, and more. Technology Teacher Bonnie Thoe-Austin and Math Teacher Megan Diediker taught the class and assisted the students in the construction process. “Our students have used us a references when applying for jobs. This class functions much like a real-world job experience and we encourage them to put us on their applications as we can testify about work habits and skills that they possess.”

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Owatonna Junior High School Starts Year With New Mission Statement

Owatonna Public Schools

Over the summer our staff spent many hours over the course of many days planning and preparing for our students this year. As part of this, we developed our mission statement. “Spark Excellence!” We love this statement as it really captures all that we are doing at OJHS. Yup, they do things that just drive us all nuts like sleeping till midday, yelling for no reason, making really dumb decisions without thinking all the way through and sometimes doing things that just don’t make sense. Yet, they are also so full of life, so full of potential and opportunity, much like a giant aircraft waiting for liftoff. All that they need is a little spark.

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Mound Westonka High School Dares to FAIL — Embraces Growth Mindset

Westonka Public Schools

At MWHS, FAIL stands for “First Attempt In Learning” and is part of the growth mindset taking hold of students and staff this year. According to MWHS Principal Mark McIlmoyle, a growth mindset is all about taking risks, being comfortable with the uncomfortable and trying new things. McIlmoyle is on a mission to remove what he calls “fixed mindsets” from the school culture. A fixed mindset, according to McIlmoyle, centers on the idea that you can’t do something because you never have before. This way of thinking holds people back from trying something new out of fear of failure.

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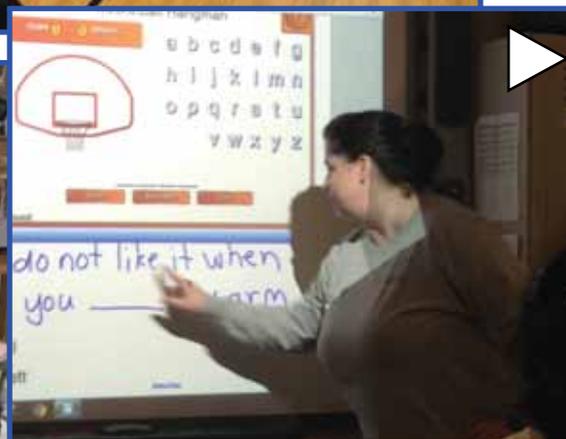


4-Block Methodology Used to Teach Balanced Literacy

Northeast Metro Intermediate District 916

South Campus Secondary Program, a special education program within Northeast Metro Intermediate District 916 has adopted the 4-Block Methodology to teaching balanced literacy as part of the district’s standard’s based instruction and literacy initiatives. The 4-Block Approach provides a multi-method, multi-level framework, balanced literacy approach around four basic blocks: Guided Reading, Writing, Working with Words, and Self-Selected Reading. The end goal is to teach learners to be independent readers with comprehension.

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Our hats are off to you. Thank you for sending all of these great articles and letting us share them with the other schools around the state.

Thank you to our readers.

It is an honor to be able to show off some of the fabulous programs, projects and awards from Minnesota's educational community.

You are making a difference!

Have a super summer!

See you in September!

THE TEACHING TODAY MN TEAM

TRAVERSE

Elk River Area School District
 728

The main purpose of TRAVERSE is to foster positive changes that will ultimately ensure students have the greatest chance for long-term success well beyond their high school experience. This is achieved through Character Education, Service Learning and Enrichment opportunities both inside and outside of the school environment designed to expand their sense of self and personal awareness. Comment from TRAVERSE parent: "I am also so proud of him. I know he has put so much work into getting caught up. His life has been one upheaval after another, it is the first time ever it is all coming together for him."

Spring, Volume 1, Page 1



William Kelley School Garden and Much More!

Lake Superior School District 381

Students are involved in the process from start to finish. From seed planting in the classrooms in late winter to preparing the beds before the snow flies in the fall, students are engaged in the process and learning every step of the way. The school's environmental landscape at William Kelley School in Silver Bay contains a 200 square foot school garden, a 40 bed terraced garden, and a garage garden, along with 400 feet of raspberry and strawberry patches, school greenhouse, brick bread and pizza oven, 60 tree apple and plum orchard, and a 40 acre Bird Hill School Forest.

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Blazing Cats Cheerleaders Urge Adapted Hockey Team on to State Tournament

Lakeville Area Public Schools

With cheers they've written themselves and an unmatched enthusiasm, the Blazing Cats Cheerleading team's nine members have been a powerful source of support for the adapted soccer and hockey teams throughout the 2015-16 school year. The cheerleading team is the only team of its kind in the state, said Neil Strader, activities director for Lakeville South High School. With members who have cognitive of physical impairments and those without disabilities, it may be the only team of its kind in the country, he noted.

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Grandview Students Share Westonka's Past Using Technology of Today

Westonka Public Schools

Sixth-graders in Jessica Rashleger's classes at Grandview Middle School are making history or are at least sharing it with others. Thanks to a unique collaboration between the school and the Westonka History Museum, museum visitors now have access to years of history right at their fingertips. The idea was to share student research projects with museum visitors through the use of QR codes.

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Beyond the Hour of Code: Integrating Computer Science into Everyday Elementary Education

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

The integration of computer science into our regular curriculum began in 2013 with the first Hour of Code organized by Code.org. Since then, students in the Quest program have been enrolled in online Code.org courses that teach students computer science fundamentals throughout the school year. Therefore, when Computer Science Education Week rolls around each year, it's more like the excitement one feels during Homecoming Week in high school. Just as high school students show school spirit all year long, our students are coding all year long.

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Teachers 'Get Their Game On' At Fourth Annual Westonka Tech Academy

Westonka Public Schools

Around 100 educators spent the first part of their summer vacation in the education technology game at the 2015 Westonka Tech Academy. The fourth annual academy challenged teachers and staff to strengthen their technology skills with the theme "Get Your Game On." The 55 course offerings catered to all ability levels. Attendees explored flipped classrooms in "Handing the Playbook Over to the Students" and learned the ins and outs of a learning management system in "Scrimmaging for Schoolology."

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Hour of Code: Making Coding Simple

St. Cloud Area School District

"We're going to learn a new word today. Algorithm," begins Kalthoff, who is a technology integrationist for the St. Cloud Area School District. "An algorithm is a list of steps you can follow to finish a task," says Kalthoff. "Can all of you tell me how I can get to the sink?" The students shout out directions like "take a right", "go left", "back up", "move forward" and so forth. Kalthoff eventually gets to the sink and points out that they were giving her directions, and by doing so, were writing an algorithm.

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Middle School Tech Clubs Provide Solid Experience For Students

Edina Public Schools

At Valley View and South View middle schools, students don't have to go far to find help when those problems occur. In fact, there is a group at both schools dedicated to helping peers solve technology-related problems, while simultaneously indulging their own interest in tech. In its fifth year, the SMART Bar Technology Club is a "student-driven" group of students with a common interest in technology.

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Read the full versions of all our Year in Review articles at www.teachingtodaymn.com

Employing Social Media in Teaching

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools

Tasha Guswiler, the art teacher at Glendale Elementary, sees inspiration everywhere. Her artist's eye brought her to start using and sharing through social media. Today she excitedly tells me about a link she found on Twitter. The dancer Misty Copeland recreated images from the impressionist Edgar Degas. "I'm going to share those photos with my classes later today." All this, from a quick glance at Twitter.

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"Tech Warriors" Provide Device Support and Gain Post-Secondary Skills

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools

"We created the Tech Warriors as an opportunity for students to learn some preliminary skills and to support the EmPowerED initiative at the high school," said Matt Burr, Henry Sibley's A/V Coordinator and Tech Warriors advisor. "We already have students with an interest in technology and thought 'why don't we let them help with basic issues.'" Located in the



Henry Sibley media center, the Tech Warrior team provides technical support for students before, during and after school on a variety of topics. Connecting to Wi-Fi, accessing the school's network of printers, or troubleshooting general issues within Google are all within the realm of the Tech Warriors.

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Students' App Earns Top Spot in 2nd U.S. Congressional District Contest

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

Two students, who developed a mobile app for a class at Burnsville High School, have won first place in the 2nd Congressional District as part of the national Congressional App Challenge (CAC). Sophomore Fiona Chow and junior Emma Hakanson designed and developed an interactive soundboard app in their mobile computer science principles class. The app, named Birdsong, features photos, sounds, and information about eight local birds.

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Technology, team effort remove barriers to learning for 7th grader

Edina Public Schools

Creating equal access to educational opportunities means adapting classrooms and processes to remove barriers. The goal is that all students can participate to their fullest ability and achieve to their highest potential. For Sophia, the effort is broad, including many district staff members, specialized technology and fine-tuned, daily coordination. "I'm smart and do not have a cognitive disability," said Sophia. She uses eye-gaze technology on a Tobii computer, typing her response to questions by using her eyes to select each letter.

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'Hour of Code' connects students across grade levels

Edina Public Schools

On Thursday and Friday, Edina High School (EHS) computer science students took their skills to the elementary and middle schools to teach kids computer programming. Edina Public Schools students have participated in some way since the initiative's inception three years ago. However each year, it has expanded to include more students and build relationships between grade levels.

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The theme for this year's STEM Camp is "THE GREAT OUTDOORS." Activities for this year's camp include: fishing with the MinnAqua program, building cardboard boats, going on a field trip, and many more activities.

For registration forms, please go to www.mesabirange.edu and click on the STEM Camp link located in the latest news.

Chicks and Butterflies at Woodson Kindergarten Center

Austin Public Schools

Studying life cycles is a major part of the Minnesota Standards for Kindergarten. At Woodson Kindergarten Center, this standard has been addressed in a hands-on way both through the study of plants and watching chicks hatch. The importance of the caterpillars, as with the chicks and plants, lies in the project based aspect of what's being taught.

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Howe School Garden Offers Diverse Learning Opportunities

Minneapolis Public Schools

The garden is a joint project between the school and the PTO. The teachers wanted a garden for several years and parents championed its development when the Howe campus was added as it had a beautiful location for a school garden. Honoring the diverse student population and recognizing the garden's visibility in the community, the garden focuses on using heirloom and native plants from many cultures and varieties.

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Waconia's Edible Classroom

Waconia Public Schools

The Edible Classroom is an outdoor learning space that gives students the opportunity to experience the seed-to-table process through hands on learning. Connections are made between foods they eat and where it comes from, with the goal of fostering environmental stewardship and healthier eating habits. In addition to fruits and vegetables, flowers and annuals are planted in the garden.

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The Garden That Keeps Giving

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

Founded in the fall of 2013 by BHS English teacher Matt Deutsch and youth services coordinator Bri Ostoff, the program began as a way to give back to those in need. It would look to grow its own food to donate, while also teaching those who tend it the principles involved in growing and cultivating their own food. "The main message is to teach students that gardening is easy and fun, and a life-long skill they can take anywhere," Ostoff said.

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Silver Bay Educator Recognized by Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom

Lake Superior School District 381

Tom Frericks, a 5th grade teacher at William Kelley Elementary School in Silver Bay, MN, has been awarded the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) 2016 Outstanding Teacher Award. The award is given annually to a Minnesota K-12 teacher who exemplifies excellence in the classroom and a passion for teaching agriculture.

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The Karner Blue Education Center School Garden

NE Metro 916 Intermediate School District

Karner was established in 2014 and is designed to address the specific student needs. The garden helps students manage anxiety and behavior, which affects their ability to be successful in the classroom. Teaching students the therapeutic benefits of gardening helps in overall cognitive/emotional development, and exposes students to appropriate recreational activities which is critical in helping students be successful upon graduation.

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LIVEGREEN

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools

LIVEGREEN is the district's sustainability program that promotes energy saving and recycling initiatives throughout the district. District 197 serves more than 4,800 students. Each school in the District has a LIVEGREEN Team that consists of students and a teacher. These teams help implement low-cost or no-cost strategies to reduce energy use, promote recycling and composting, and focus on conserving resources. Through sustainability efforts, the district has avoided more than \$1.9 million in utility costs since 2003.

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Redtail Ridge Elementary – A 2015 Green Ribbon School!

Prior Lake Savage Area Schools

Staff and students at Redtail Ridge not only believe in the importance of strong environmental education and promoting stewardship, but also live it each and every day. This is evident from classroom experiments on the effects of pollution on plants sitting in hallway windows, students following the waste disposal program, classes sitting in the boulder garden recording observations in their science notebooks, junior naturalists replenishing bird feeders, and environmentally-focused morning meetings.

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Edina High School Students Collaborate With German Peers in New Intercultural Learning Project on Sustainability

Edina Public Schools

Students in both schools chose one of four sustainability topics – recycling, transportation, local food, and toxicity and fashion. The teachers paired up the teams according to their topic choice. Following some research, the students are fine-tuning ideas for an action plan for a project that that will make a difference in the sustainability area they chose. The American and German teams will compare notes and share ideas with one another.

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Welding Team Wins First Place at MN Skills USA

Stillwater High School

Todd Kapsner teaches in the Industrial Technology department and was also the supervisor of the welders that attended the competition. Kapsner offered up this opportunity to students in his classes: to compete against college-level metal workers to create a grill in under six hours. The team worked hard together and managed to finish the grill just barely under the six hour limit. Luckily, the results turned out in their favor as they got first place.

Back to School, Page 8



Future Emergency Medical Responders Visit Guard Base for Training

Fridley Public Schools

The 133rd Airlift Wing of the Minnesota National Guard hosted Fridley High School students on October 22, 2015 at Fort Snelling. The students are part of the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program at the high school and trained with the medical personnel teams of the Guard. Seeing a C150 plane up close, talking to emergency personnel and taking part in medical scenarios were the highlights of the experience for the students. Those in the program are exploring potential careers as EMTs, paramedics, nurses and doctors.

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Coon Rapids High School's Biomedical Sciences Program 'Captivates' Students, Inspires Success

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Coon Rapids' Biomedical Program Sciences curriculum is a sequence of courses, which follows a proven hands-on, real-world, problem-solving approach to learning. Students explore the concepts of human medicine and are introduced to topics such as physiology, genetics, microbiology and public health. Through activities, like dissecting a heart, students examine the processes, structures and interactions of the human body – often playing the role of biomedical professionals.

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The Good, The Bad and The Soggy—MWSHS Presents Second Annual Engineering Regatta

Westonka Public Schools

Some came to witness creative feats of engineering. Some came to cheer on their friends in a race to the finish. Others came hoping to see a shipwreck or two. Following instructor Dale Kimball's strict construction guidelines, 14 teams of young engineers (and one team of professionals) had one week to design, document and build boats that could carry at least two people from one end of the high school pool to the other. Boats were made prior to the race using only broken-down cardboard boxes and each using a single roll of duct tape. The vessels had to fit within a cube measuring 7 feet on each side in order to qualify for competition.

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Bridge Engineering Project at Grey Cloud Elementary

South Washington County Schools

The Bridge Engineering Project was designed as an extension of Justin Wakeem's 5th grade class's study of force and motion. The class studied forces on structures - specifically bridges. Students learned about tension, torsion, and compression. The engineering project took these lessons to a whole new level of hands-on learning. Mr. Wakeem delivered a challenge to his students: Design and build a bridge that can hold twenty pounds. Oh, by the way, these bridges are to be built out of Popsicle sticks and your budget is 300 sticks.

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The Students Are Coming

Fergus Falls and White Bear Lake High Schools Show a Renewed Commitment to a Manufacturing Curriculum

*White Bear Lake Area Schools
Fergus Falls Public Schools*

Manufacturers who worry about where they are going to find the next generation of skilled employees, might well look to Fergus Falls and White Bear Lake for an idea. The two school districts have unveiled ambitious high school programs designed to help students think about careers in manufacturing.

White Bear Lake

White Bear Lake's two senior high school campuses this fall featured tech classes with \$250,000 in manufacturing-related equipment. Students are using the equipment in a two-semester course called Manufacturing and Applied Engineering. A later offering will be Precision Manufacturing.

Fergus Falls

Twenty-five high school sophomores who arrived for the first day of classes in Fergus had signed up for the first year of a STEM curriculum. They are taught, in part, around a dramatically renovated Manufacturing Learning Lab — the old “shop” — that includes \$317,000 worth of new welding equipment, 3D printers, and lathes.

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Apple Valley High School's Fab Lab

Rosemount — Apple Valley — Eagan Public Schools

“The students had an opportunity to see the design and manufacturing process all the way through from concept to product.” according to Kerry Blaine. Through the process, a few of the students even developed leadership skills and took on project management roles under the guidance and supervision of their instructor Mr. Blaine. Many more Apple Valley Eagles will soar into their futures thanks to these relevant learning opportunities directly linked to the real world.

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Students Build and Test Hovercraft

Spring Lake Park Schools

Eighth-graders in Daniel Kretchmar's science, technology, engineering and mathematics course at Westwood Middle School didn't want class to end March 28. They were having too much fun testing hovercraft they built over the last three weeks. Students attached ground effect skirts to slats of wood and used leaf blowers as engines to build their hovercraft. At first, Andrew's team's hovercraft didn't move, but it made a lot of noise, he said. When it finally did take off, students were euphoric.

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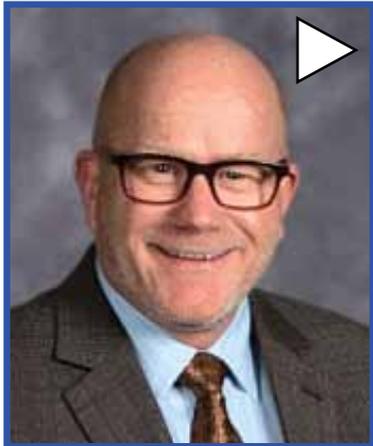
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* National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) 2014

Mark French, Osseo Area Elementary School Principal, Selected Minnesota National Distinguished Principal



Osseo Area Public School District

Tammie Epley, a parent and former school board member in Osseo, summed up French's character best when she said, "Our school community has always been impressed with Mark's empathy, compassion, and ability to creatively solve problems with win-win solutions. I was volunteering at school one frigid January morning when a mom brought her child in late. Though the boy was wearing a coat, the mom was not. A few minutes later, the mom left the school office, smiling, wearing Mark's long wool coat. His example of service caused those around him to ask themselves what they could do to help too."

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Margaret (Margo) Kleven, Palmer Lake Elementary School, Selected MN National Outstanding Assistant Principal



Osseo Area Schools ISD 279

Margaret (Margo) Kleven, assistant principal of Palmer Lake Elementary School in Brooklyn Park is Minnesota's 2016 National Outstanding Assistant Principal. Kleven's two most significant accomplishments as an assistant principal include increasing Palmer Lake's reading proficiency on the MCAs by almost 10%, the largest gain of all 17 elementary schools in Osseo Area Schools, and leading the implementation of the Positive Behavior Intervention Framework, which has increased positive relationships at Palmer Lake and reduced office discipline referrals by over 50%.

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Monroe Elementary School is a 2015 Blue Ribbon School!

Mankato Area Public Schools

Monroe Elementary is named after the fifth U.S. president, James Monroe, and was built in 1959. Our student population consists of a diverse socio-economic background. Remembering our district's mission of "assuring learning excellence and readiness for a changing world," we use positive behavior strategies, collaboration between students, parents and teachers and high expectations of behavior and learning to promote success and create lifelong learners.

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McKinley's Phyllis Haensel Named Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Phyllis Haensel, a third-grade teacher at McKinley Elementary School in Ham Lake, is passionate about social studies and the impact it can have on young students. Her dedication to her students, excellence in teaching, and impact on colleagues has earned Haensel the admiration of the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies Board, which has named her its 2016 Elementary social studies Teacher of the Year.

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Cambridge-Isanti Schools Principal Named 2016 Science and Mathematics Principal of the Year

Cambridge-Isanti Public Schools

Mark Ziebarth, principal of Isanti Intermediate School and School for All Seasons (SFAS) in Isanti, MN, has been named the 2016 Science and Mathematics Elementary and Middle Level Principal of the Year. Ziebarth summed up his emphasis of science and math in his schools by saying, "Keeping the natural curiosity children have about the world around them alive and well is essential. Making math and science more meaningful, and engaging by integrating it throughout the curriculum is an important step in helping us achieve this."

Winter, Volume 3, Page 1



Champlin-Brooklyn Park Academy Kids Klub Pairs Teens with Elementary Students for Friendship, Fun

Anoka-Hennepin School District

For the past 20 years, the Kids Klub program has been helping elementary students at Champlin-Brooklyn Park Academy for Math and Environmental Science (CBPA) gain self-esteem, improve behavior, and form relationships with positive role models by pairing them with Champlin Park High School (CPHS) students who act as friends and mentors.

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EHS Club Connects High School and Elementary Students

Edina Public Schools

Named for the time it begins, Club 350 at Countryside Elementary School gives students who participate in KIDS Club another outlet for their creativity, as well as a chance to learn from and spend time with “cool” high school students. The benefits of the club are two-fold. With each meeting, the high school members become more confident in working with kids. And with each meeting, kids who participate become more outgoing and confident in trying new things.

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Sunnyside Elementary Students Create Mural

Mounds View Public Schools

A whimsical, colorful mural that each Sunnyside Elementary student had a hand in creating earlier this year is now a permanent piece of art at the school. Every school year, the PTA supports an artist in residency experience for Sunnyside students. "It was amazing the response we got," said Amy Wagner-Wieland, Sunnyside's PTA vice president and fund-raising chair. "People were so excited about it."

Back to School, Page 1



Success with Reading Corps in Austin

Austin Public Schools ISD 492

For Julie Shoars, the best part of working with children at Neveln Elementary School is seeing how excited they get when they realize just how far they've come. Julie, a Minnesota Reading Corps Tutor, works with students whose reading fluency has fallen below grade level expectations. "Reading is foundational to success in life," says Kristy Bina, a tutor at Southgate.

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Building Community with Mendota Cougar Time

West St. Paul — Mendota Heights — Eagan area Schools

New to Mendota Elementary this school year has been a monthly program where students can break from their routines and build new friendships. The Mendota Cougar Time sessions, lasting roughly one hour, bring around five students from each grade (K-4) into a classroom for a series of hands-on and group activities. All students in the school participate in the activities, creating a new mix of students and teachers for each monthly session.

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Andover High School Student Connor Boyer Uses Math to Make Music

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Connor Boyer, a ninth grade student at Andover High School (AndHS), admits he has never been a big fan of math. But he is a big fan of music. So when math teacher Penny Carda offered a challenge to her geometry classes that combined the two, he was the only one out of more than 100 students to take her up on it. Carda's challenge to students was this: List all the prime numbers up to 500, and then calculate the difference between each prime number. Then assign musical notes to each difference and put them into sheet music.

Back to School, Page 16



PAKRAT (People And Kids Reading A Lot Together)

St. Cloud Area School District

The PAKRAT program (an internal reading system that has books categorized by reading levels at elementary schools) allows students to check out PAKRAT books in addition to their library books. The PAKRAT Summer Roll & Read Program is a great example of what can happen when a teacher has a great idea, colleagues step up to provide the professional classroom leadership to support the idea, and the community provides the needed financial support to make it happen. All of those things came together in St. Cloud and our students continue to benefit!

Fall, Volume 1, Page 1

PBIS in Austin Public Schools

Austin Public Schools

Kim Potter, Woodson's PBIS Coach, sees PBIS as an incredibly important tool in helping to shape school culture. "We're developing consistency across environments. Our rules, consequences, and expectations are the same across the building. That way, students know what's expected of them whether they're in the bathroom, on the playground, or in the hallway." This consistency allows all teachers to reward positive behaviors.

Fall, Volume 1, Page 16



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Connected Kids

Mounds View Public Schools

Seniors Grant Delaune and Etisha Punia are racing off to cross country practice at Mounds View High School, but not before a few stops along the way. Grant checks in with his student council advisor for a quick meeting. Etisha chats about the day with her friends near her locker, before meeting with her favorite math teacher for some extra help. That's by design. Both Irondale High School and Mounds View delay the start of activities up to an hour to allow students time to connect with teachers. And once activities begin, student connections soar.

Fall, Volume 2, Page 1



Happiness Project Raises Spirits and Money

Stillwater Area Public Schools

What is the key to happiness? Students and staff at Oak-Land Junior High may have found the answer to that elusive question. Throughout the month of December the school participated in the Happiness Project during advisory. The weekly initiative focused on strategies to promote positive mental health. "It brought our whole school together," said Kate Raddatz.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 18



Andover High School Gets Innovative; Changes Up Classroom with Standing Desks

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Richard Wilkie wasn't looking to create a grand experiment when he added a handful of standing desks to his social studies classroom at Andover High School (AndHS). He just thought it might be interesting to try something different. Soon after Wilkie began researching alternative seating, the Anoka-Hennepin School District received a donation of 10 standing desks. AndHS senior Nicholas Albee said he's glad they did. Not only does he prefer the standing desks, he wishes more classrooms had them.

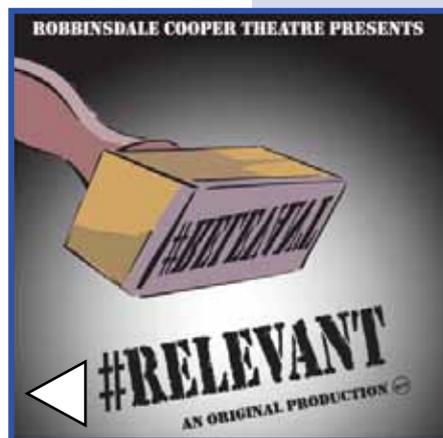
Winter, Volume 3, Page 6

A '#relevant' Performance at Cooper

Robbinsdale Area Schools

Instead of another rendition of reliable-but-predictable stalwarts like "A Midsummer Night's Dream" or "Our Town," student-actors at Robbinsdale Cooper have created a fall play all their own. Called "#relevant," the production is the first in several years to be written entirely by members of the student body and, as its title suggests, depicts pitfalls encountered by modern high schoolers.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 17



More in Common Than You Think

St. Cloud Area School District

Area students are coming together to discover that they have more in common than they think. Students from Apollo, Tech, Sauk Rapids-Rice, ROCORI and Foley high schools are meeting every month to break down prejudicial barriers and find their shared experiences. "Kids get to know other kids [from other districts] outside of sports, which can be adversarial, competitive," says Linda Snowberg, a tech integration coach at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 12



Read the full versions of all our Year in Review articles at www.teachingtodaymn.com

Customer Service with a Smile at Iggy's Coffee Shop

St. Cloud Area School District

On any given morning at Apollo High School during the school year, you will find Mary Schmitz, a Special Education paraprofessional, and her team of student workers serving coffee and warm cookies at Iggy's Coffee Shop. "Many of our student workers have physical, cultural, mental, emotional or behavioral challenges that they deal with each day," says Schmitz. "Iggy's helps alleviate these challenges by allowing the entire school population opportunities to treat each other kindly and patiently."

Back to School, Page 15



Karner Blue Education Center Creates a Healing Learning Environment for Special Education Students

Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District

The new K-8 Karner Blue Education Center (KBEC) is groundbreaking in many ways. While most special education classrooms have been retrofitted from conventional classrooms, KBEC is the first school of its kind to create an innovative educational environment designed specifically to support the unique learning styles and behavioral and mental health needs for the students being served.

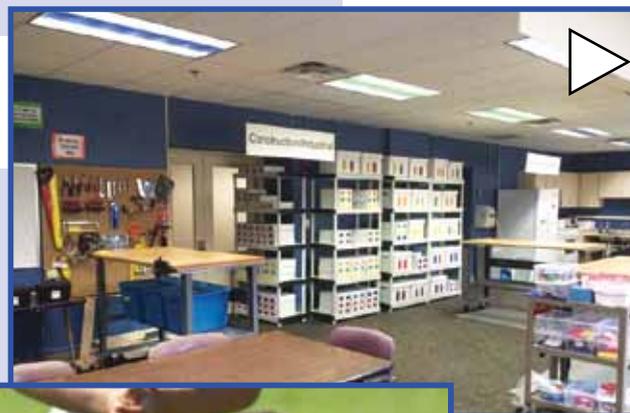
Fall, Volume 2, Page 8

Varsity Team Hosts Adapted Football Game

Stillwater Public Schools

The 9th annual event took place at Stillwater Junior High the morning after the Homecoming game. "This is the second year my son had a chance to be with the Ponies players for this event," said Jill Chau, the mother of student Liam Chau. "The players aren't just great athletes on the field, but wonderful role models in our community. All of last year, whenever a Ponies football player saw Liam around town, he would greet him by name and give him a high-five. I can't tell you what a thrill that is for a little kid!"

Fall, Volume 1, Page 18



New Program at OHS is 'Setting Kids Up for Success'

Owatonna Public Schools

A new program at Owatonna High School has special needs students punching the clock and getting real work experience. Staff members are currently orienting 40 students to the new lab that is equipped with a kitchen, cash register, washer and dryer, computers and tools. Getting students in the mindset that the lab is not a classroom, but instead a workplace, is part of that orientation.

Fall, Volume 2, Page 9

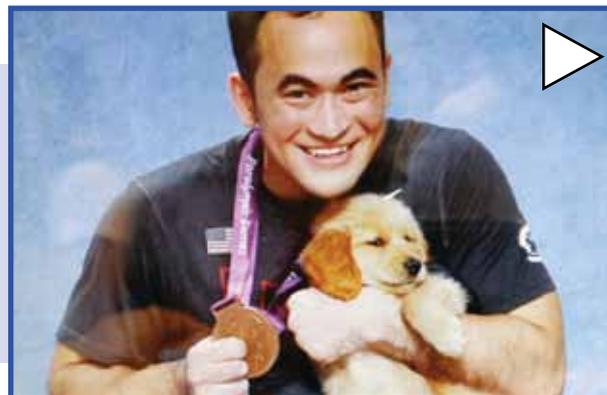
A Leap of Faith

Believing Your Child Will Have Every Opportunity to Succeed

Minnesota's State Librarian

As parents, we send our kids off to kindergarten with equal measures of fear and optimism, knowing that over the next 12 years, our kids will grow and change in ways we can't even begin to imagine. When my son, Chuck Aoki, entered school, I was keenly aware that his disability might pose all kinds of challenges to his success as a student in a public school. Chuck graduated from college this past spring. When I asked him why he chose to pursue a degree in teaching, he responded, "To give back to all the teachers who gave me so much, and to share what I'm passionate about—history—with kids."

Winter, Volume 1, Page 18



Environmental Education Center and Retreat & Conference Facility

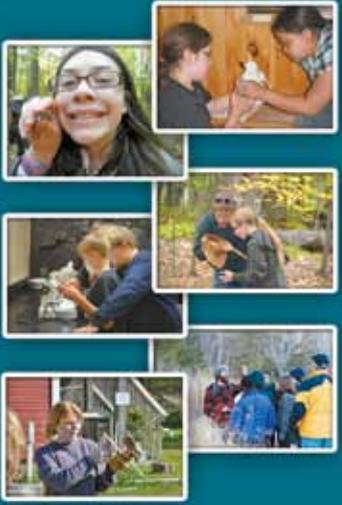


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