2016–17 Year in Review

TEACHING TODAY MN™

Summer 2017

MINNESOTA'S K–12 EDUCATION CONNECTION

Re-thinking How We Do School

Stillwater Area Public School District

A dozen industry experts came together with a dozen local educators recently to re-think education in Stillwater Area Public Schools. The first-of-its-kind Think Tank conversation was designed to bring together people with very different perspectives to talk about a common interest – our future workforce. Participants in the Think Tank included leaders from corporations, local manufacturers, engineers and programmers.

Back to School, Page 7

Westonka Summer Institute Students Present College-Level Research Projects

Westonka Public Schools

Upon completion of a university-style research course in Costa Rica last June, Westonka Summer Institute participants were prepared to present and defend their scientific experiments in great depth at the Oct. 10 school board meeting. During their 10-day adventure, a group of 10 Mound Westonka High School students dove into scientific research, were immersed in Costa Rican culture and explored the rainforest.

Fall, Volume 2, Page 17

In this issue, we invite you to take a look back at some of the stories featured this past school year in the pages of *Teaching Today MN*™ Access the full versions of these articles at: **www.teachingtodaymn.com**

Jackson Middle School Student Saves Family from Fire Using Lessons Learned at School

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Ruth Nyaberi blushes when she's called a hero, but local fire officials said the sixth grader definitely acted heroically on the night there was a fire in her home. It turns out the chicken their grandma was making for dinner had started on fire in the stove. That's when Ruth says the things she learned in school when she was a student at Champlin-Brooklyn Park Academy (CBPA) popped into her head.

Fall, Volume 1, Page 1

Capstone Projects Launch Opportunities for Adaptive Physical Education

Edina Public Schools

Six contraptions built by Edina High School students have transformed adaptive physical education at South View into an inclusive opportunity to play games and sports. The creations could all be described as a type of catapult and were designed by 20 Edina High School (EHS) students in their capstone engineering and design class, taught by Tim Berndt.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 5

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Bethel University • Minnesota State University Moorhead • Minneapolis Saint Paul International Airport
University of Wisconsin River Falls • Dream Flight STEM Shuttle • Health Force Minnesota
South Dakota State University • University of Wisconsin Superior • National Eagle Center
Audubon Center of the North Woods • Minnesota Life College • Kirkwood Community College

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUR STUDENTS.

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Ed.D. in Leadership

- Higher Education
- K–12 Education

MASTER'S DEGREES

M.A. Education K–12

M.A. Special Education

M.A. Teaching (initial license)

CERTIFICATES

- ENVoY Classroom Management Strategies
- International Baccalaureate
- STEM in K–12 Education

LICENSES

- Director of Special Education
- K–12 and 5–12 Education (various content areas)
- K–12 Principal
- Special Education (ABS, ASD, and EBD)
- Superintendent
- Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technologies
- Teacher Coordinator of Work-based Learning

LEARN MORE

bethel.edu/education

651.635.8000

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

1871

ST. PAUL | ONLINE

Teaching Today MN

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: Renee Feight
EDITOR: Andria Reinke
PAGE COMPOSITION: Andrew Clausen
WEBMASTER: Scott Bayerl
SPECIAL ASSISTANT: Allie Zacharias
Please direct articles, advertising, questions or comments to:

Teaching Today MN™
PO Box 1704
Eau Claire,WI 54702
Phone/Fax 715-839-7074
www.teachingtodaymn.com

Please direct all inquiries to:
renee@teachingtodaymn.com

***Teaching Today WI*™ is an independent publication for all who are interested in education in Minnesota.**

The opinions expressed in *Teaching Today*™ are not necessarily the opinions of *Teaching Today*™. We reserve the right to edit any and all materials submitted due to grammar, content and space allowances. Articles, photos and artwork submitted to *Teaching Today*™ are assumed to be released by the submitter for publication.

***Teaching Today*™**
***Transportation Today*™**
***Manufacturing Today*™**

Minnesota's Educational Community Rocks!

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

Join the conversation at the Teaching Today MN Educational Blog

teachingtodayMN.wordpress.com

Engage with timely articles of interest on:

Leadership, Administration, Careers, Grants, Awards, Health & Wellness, STEM, Special Needs, and "In the Classroom"

Environmental Education Center and Retreat & Conference Facility

Audubon Center of the North Woods

Located 5 miles west of Sandstone, MN on the east side of Grindstone Lake

- Only 70 miles north of the Twin Cities
- One day to multi-day overnight options
- Beautiful 535-acre lakeside setting
- Classes aligned with MN academic standards
- Year-round programming, lodging, dining & meeting facilities for 160+

Your best choice for nature-focused learning experiences for your students

Experience Your Environment

Photo by Lonnie Duberstein

Outdoor Skills
Wildlife
Energy
Ecology
Archery
Canoeing
High Ropes
Climbing Wall
Team-building
Off-site programs

Check out our website to learn more about our school programs and field trip opportunities

888-404-7743 **info@audubon-center.org**

www.audubon-center.org

NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER
Wabasha, MN

To schedule your field trip or school progam call us or email programs@nationaleaglecenter.org

Tel: 651.565.4989 nationaleaglecenter.org

Getting To Know You

Mounds View Public Schools

"Turns out when you bring people together for good food, conversations naturally begin," says Penny Howard. "It was fun to see our students facilitating conversations and helping to ensure everyone felt comfortable and engaged." "Izzy" events are a cost-effective human-centered way to bring together a community of varied cultures and productively plan and problem-solve.

Back to School, Page 15

Community Members Explore 20 Years of History

Stillwater Area Public Schools

During the January meeting council members took part in a StoryWall activity. By creating timelines stretching back to 1996, participants identified the key events — both internal and external — that have shaped our district's culture and experience. "An overall theme for teachers and staff was that it's empowering to know our past in order to move forward positively."

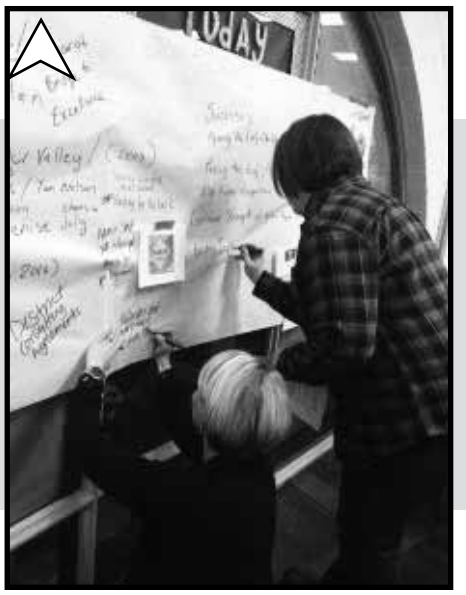
Winter, Volume 3, Page 18

Student Words Inspire at 'Mound Talks' Event

Westonka Public Schools

Thirteen Mound Westonka High School students challenged themselves to take the MWHS Little Theater stage on Dec. 4 and present their own TED-like talks to an audience of their peers, teachers, families and community members. The talks were centered on the theme "Own Your Future" with topics ranging from cyberbullying to gender inequality to dealing with the stress of college.

Winter, Volume 1, Page 1



Tanglen Celebrates at the Community Table During Cultural Night

Hopkins Public Schools

Tanglen Elementary students took an educational, and tasty, trip around the world without even leaving the school grounds. Through authentic cuisine, conversation, and camaraderie, the school celebrated its fourth-annual Cultural Night. The event serves as a virtual passport offering students and families a glimpse at cultures across the globe and recognizes their own diverse backgrounds.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 15

McKinley Fourth-Graders Wrap Love Around Patients Fighting Cancer

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Julia is one of 150 McKinley Elementary School fourth-grade students who made more than 100 fleece tie blankets last month. "You have no idea what all these blankets mean to them. They can't believe someone thought of them, someone wanted to help them, someone made a blanket for them. These blankets mean so much," Hansen said.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 1

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

Inclusive EHS Thespian Troupe Shows International Audience New Possibilities

Edina Public Schools

Emma Schwert loves to sing on stage. "When she sings, her words are clear and fluid and it is easy for her to form words," said Carrie, her mother. Having autism makes speaking a challenge for Emma. But she joined her singing voice with the voices of two of her special education peers and their Edina High School (EHS) Thespian partners for a performance month.

Back to School, Page 1

Therapy Dog Wins Over Students, Teachers at FLAHS

Forest Lake Area School District

Forest Lake Area High School has a four-legged friend that visits with various Special Education classrooms every Monday and Thursday. Her name is Muppet. "Muppet adds a calming presence to our classroom," Bachman said. "She certainly brings joy and happiness, but she also helps my students with mild-moderate and severe-profound disabilities stay on task."

Spring, Volume 1, Page 1

BCS Work Program Helps Special Needs Students Find Success

Brooklyn Center Schools

A special education work experience program at Brooklyn Center Secondary School is helping students find confidence in preparing themselves for the workplace and individual living. Although the experiences aren't paid, students earn school credit for working an equivalent of three class periods a day. "At first, I thought it wasn't going to be good, but when I did it, I was like, 'It's cool.' And then it got me a job!"

Fall, Volume 2, Page 5

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

Traveling with your special needs child can seem intimidating. Navigating MSP Airport helps ease the anxiety with free, monthly practice runs through the airport.

A partnership between the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the Autism Society of Minnesota, and Fraser, this program will allow you to:

- ✈ Experience TSA Security
- ✈ Explore the Terminal
- ✈ Board a plane and meet a pilot
- ✈ Prepare for takeoff
- ✈ Gather helpful tips, information, and resources

FOR MORE INFORMATION
contact Shelly Lopez
at 612-726-5239, or
Shelly.Lopez@mspmac.org.

Minneapolis • Saint Paul INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT msp

Meet Sydney Raley, Creek Valley Fourth Grader and Autism Awareness Advocate

Edina Public Schools

Sydney feels it is important to share information about herself and ASD with her classmates during the first days of school. She has been helping her peers learn about ASD since kindergarten. Sydney said talking with others about ASD has been a positive experience. "It has worked mighty fine. All of my classmates help me and sometimes they even look up to me."

Fall, Volume 1, Page 17

Edina High School Senior Earns National Recognition as 2016 Kennedy Center Emerging Young Artist

Edina Public Schools

I have autism and I see the world very differently than most. I notice the smallest details that most people ignore – people have a tendency to ignore me because I have a disability. In my artwork, the thing behind the reflection is my representation of the normal world and I am caught in another plane that runs parallel to the world in which everyone else lives.

Fall, Volume 1, Page 18

Forest Lake Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Receives TEFFLA Grant

Forest Lake Area School District

Forest Lake Area High School senior Emily Hekele has often struggled with having appropriate accommodations in her classes when it comes to her hearing disability. But now, she has been given a tool that will allow her to take hold of her own learning and accommodations when she enters college in the fall.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 1

BCMS Mentors: Helping Students to Dream, Believe and Achieve

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

The Special Education Mentorship Program is one of the most popular elective classes for 8th grade students. The class pairs mainstream 8th grade students with some of the highest needs special education students. Special Education Teacher Diana Birch said, "I have seen both mentor and student blossom. Friendships develop beyond the quarter into other activities."

Spring, Volume 2, Page 16

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

MINNESOTA LIFE COLLEGE®
Real Skills for Real Life™

Did you know . . .

Less than 50% of young adults with autism feel they can handle the things that come their way in life?* At Minnesota Life College, we empower individuals with autism spectrum disorders and learning differences to balance life, work and friends, while coping with whatever new experiences come their way!

* National Autism Indicators Study, Drexel University

We help people create healthy, independent, & connected lives

Start your young person's journey today!

Minnesota Life College

7501 Logan Ave. S., Ste 2A | Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 876-9431 | admissions@minnesotalifecollege.org

www.minnesotalifecollege.org

3D Printer at Groveland Combines Science and Compassion

Minnetonka Public Schools

Inspired by a post she saw on Facebook last summer, Giraldo found a great way to combine technology, science and compassion into one powerful lesson for her students. The post was about a program called e-Nable, which provides designs and instructions to build and donate prosthetic hands for people in need around the world using 3D printers.

Back to school, Page 13

We are Teaching Technology Literacy — How it's Used and How it's Developed

Minnetonka Public Schools

Minnetonka's K–5 coding curriculum, Tonka Codes, is now in its third year. This program introduces all students to the language of computer programming and helps them understand the role they can play as producers—not just consumers—of technology. "The fact that Minnetonka students are learning so early is wonderful. They're able to soak it up and really understand the technological world we live in."

Winter, Volume 2, Page 8

Dynamic Learning With 1:1 Access Begins This Year

Independent School District 196

Mark Aronson, a fifth-grade teacher at Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies, was a 1:1 beta teacher for the last two years. He said the technology gets students more engaged in their learning and empowers them to create a learning environment that extends beyond the classroom walls. "The learning doesn't stop when the bell rings at the end of the day," Aronson said.

Fall, Volume 1, Page 11

Engineering Students Prevail in Regatta Rematch

Westonka Public Schools

Following instructor Dale Kimball's strict construction guidelines, 12 teams of student 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. Junior Victor Nelson and senior Andrew LaFortune earned the ultimate championship, reaching the finish line in under a minute on their streamlined cruiser.

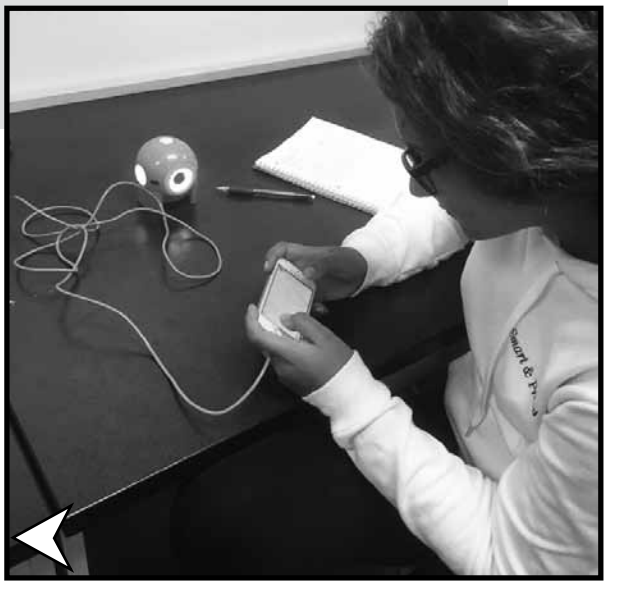
Winter, Volume 2, Page 7

Reading, Writing and Robots

Stillwater Area Public Schools

Robots aren't typically found in an English classroom, but Andrew Smith isn't your typical English teacher. Smith, who teaches Language Arts at Stillwater Junior High, has always been an early adopter of technology. Students took parts of the text from John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," turned it into an image and used the robots to pair it with light and sound.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 16



North Junior High Student Places First at State Fair for Project About Wildlife Gardening, Conservation

Hopkins Public Schools

When North Junior High eighth-grader Felix Fettig talks about native vegetation, reptiles, or anything environmental, his face lights up. “Wildlife gardening is so important for the environment because native vegetation has an impact on everything,” he explained. “If everybody would plant native vegetation or have a wildlife garden, there would be a lot more pollinators, which would help make more food.”

Fall, Volume 1, Page 7

The Academy for Sciences & Agriculture

AFSA High School

The Academy for Sciences & Agriculture was founded as a public charter school in 2001 by the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership. One of the great things about AFSA is the state-of –the-art 2000 square foot greenhouse that is located on the school grounds. What is very unique about AFSA’s greenhouse is the custom-built hydroponic vegetable production system that it houses.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 5

Gatewood Kids and Co. Supervisor Receives ‘Innovation Award’ for Green Thumb

Hopkins Public Schools

Hopkins Kids and Co. supervisor Kara Wattunen received the first-ever Minnesota Innovator Garden Award on March 3. Wattunen presented to a packed room on how she built the Gatewood garden, despite budget challenges. “To hear and see what Kara has worked on with her students is so inspiring,” said Barb Mechura, director of nutrition at Hopkins Public Schools. “She took gardening work to a different level.”

Spring, Volume 2, Page 6

Students Growing Food for Students — Farm to School

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

You’ve likely heard about local farmers growing food for local schools. But have you heard about the “local farmers” right here at Buffalo High School? BHS Ag Teacher Gary Wirkus has only taught in the district for three years, but he has been working hard to bring “real world” lessons into the classroom for his students to best prepare them for post-secondary/ college and a career beyond high school.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 8

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

Kirkwood Community College

*The largest two-year agriculture department in the nation!**

Kirkwood agricultural programs provides students with exceptional hands-on learning experiences. Areas of emphasis include:

- Animal and Crop Production
- Wildlife Management
- Horticulture
- Small Animal Health
- Agriculture Business
- Precision Farming
- Diesel Technology

*Based on number of graduates.

Explore our Agricultural Sciences Programs by visiting: www.kirkwood.edu/ag
Or call us at: 800-363-2220 for your own personal tour!

Kirkwood Community College | 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW | Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Tiny House, Big Achievement: 100 Students Team-up to Build Tiny House

Intermediate District 287

About 100 high school students from the West Education Center contributed to building an amazing tiny house that was completed in October of 2015. It took them approximately one year to complete and they put in well over 1,000 hours of hard work. The district planned to sell the home with the main goal being to make seed money for another tiny house project in the future.

Winter, Volume 1, Page 11

Tiger Build Gives a Sense of Community and Work Experience

St. Cloud Area School District 742

Building a house provides the ultimate in career and technical education. Tiger Build students are picking up a hammer and nails, running electrical cords, and installing pipes and ducts. They are acquiring the skills to go out into the world to be our next electricians, plumbers, construction workers, architects and engineers.

Winter, Volume 1, Page 14

Construction Increases as Work Begins on More Bond Projects

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

Valley Middle and Apple Valley High are two of the most extensive renovation projects in the bond. Construction on both schools will begin this spring and won't be completed until fall 2018. Valley Middle will get improvements inside and out. Apple Valley High will get a two-story, triangular-shaped addition that will be built in the courtyard area in front of the existing main entrance.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 5

South Dakota State University
Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering

Department of Construction & Operations Management
WWW.SDSTATE.EDU/COM
605-688-6417

Construction Management

Electronics Engineering Technology

Operations Management

You'll Find Your Fit With US!

Television Personality 'Nails It' with Students at Blaine High School

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Students at Blaine High School (BHS) got a special treat when Kayleen McCabe, host of DIY Network's "Rescue Renovation," stopped by the school. When she got there and saw the school's student-built house on campus and met some of the young people who crafted the building, she soon discovered how much passion already exists in students' hearts for trades like carpentry.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 6

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

Automotive One of Many New Pathways at Redesigned High School

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage District 191

Like never before, career exploration and preparation became part of the educational landscape at Burnsville High School when classes resumed Sept. 6. That includes a strengthened emphasis for students eying work in auto repair, technology and sales. "We want our students to be employable as they leave our system or ready to go to that next level of training in the automotive industry."

Fall, Volume 2, Page 8

Overhaulin': Tech Style

St. Cloud Area School District 742

This version of "Overhaulin'" won't be finished in the crunched time period of a one-hour episode on TV. Instead, the overhauling of a 1951 Ford truck will be done over the course of three years. Technical High School's newly formed Auto Club will be reducing the old '51 truck to nothing but the frame before restoring it to its former glory.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 9

Fridley Schools' Cindy McKay named 'Transportation Administrator of the Year'

Fridley Public Schools

"Cindy is continually looking to make the districts transportation world a better place," said MAPT President Derrick Agate. "Whether it is with GIS, new cameras, safety seats, route exchanges or the district wide coloring contests to raise bus safety awareness . . . She is an amazing advocate for that."

Fall, Volume 2, Page 12

Hopkins High School Students Take Pledge Against Distracted Driving

Hopkins Public Schools

The student-led campaign, organized by the Hopkins High School Student Wellness Club, raised awareness of distracted driving and had students ink their thumbprints on a large poster that states "I pledge to keep my eyes on the road, keep my hands on the wheel, and keep my mind on driving." Students also got a first-hand lesson in the dangers of distracted driving through a driving simulator.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 11

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

Teachers Learn About Manufacturing

The Winona Chamber pays local teachers to observe manufacturers up close

Winona High School teacher Bill Braun spent two weeks this summer in a manufacturing immersion program designed to help him better counsel students about the kind of careers that might be available to them after graduation. "There is a great need in hands-on mechanical fields, whether it's machining, or woods, or electronics," he says. "I wanted to get first-hand experience that I could bring back to the classroom."

Back to school, Page 8

Redwood Falls Philanthropist Contributes $1 Million to Tech Center

A $1 million contribution from a local philanthropist will enable Redwood Falls to join the likes of Alexandria, Fergus Falls, and White Bear Lake, whose school districts have embraced the value of technical education for its students alongside close collaborations with its local manufacturers.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 8

Workforce Development: Manufacturing Partners

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Anoka-Hennepin Schools have five large high schools and the Secondary Technical Education Program (STEP). The five high schools offer traditional technology education courses, and the STEP program (attached to Anoka Technical College) provides courses in advanced machining and engineering. Students in 11th and 12th grades who attend STEP can earn industry recognized credentials and college credit.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 9

Metal Shop Meets the Technology Age

St. Cloud Area School District 742

Sparks are flying and metal is screeching in the Intro to Welding class at Apollo High School. Students are hard at work designing metal end tables. The most exciting part for these students is the use of the newly acquired and technologically advanced plasma cutter. The students in this class learn the old "with my own two hands" style as well as CNC.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 10

CNC MACHINE TOOL CAREERS AT MSC SOUTHEAST

Learn the precision skills of the tool and die maker on state-of-the-art equipment.

Minnesota State College Southeast
A Technical & Community College

OFFERINGS AVAILABLE:
CNC Maching Tool *Diploma*
Precision Machining *Diploma*
Machining Basics *Certificate*
New! **Prototype Engineering** *Certificate designed for High School students*

EMPLOYERS SEEK OUR GRADUATES!
A rewarding career starts here at MSC Southeast. Become part of a skilled, high-tech workforce. You will learn many aspects of the machining industry.

- *HANDS-ON COURSEWORK*
- *100% JOB PLACEMENT RATE*
- *FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING*

CALL OR VISIT OUR CAMPUS!
877.853.8324

southeastmn.edu/MachineTool

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

Discovery Academy: First Responders

St. Cloud Area School District 742

Greg Borders is a business education teacher at Tech High School, but he is also a certified emergency medical technician (EMT). Border's first responder class in the Discovery Academy is about saving lives. In addition to earning college level credit, the students in Border's class will earn their EMT level one certification after passing the class.

Winter, Volume 1, Page 9

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. "It's a growing field with lots of different career opportunities."

Winter, Volume 1, Page 9

CSI: Apollo High School Style

St. Cloud Area School District 742

This class is like a scene straight out of a CSI show on television. Lab technicians are performing DNA tests and other tissue tests to determine cause of death, or in the case of today's classroom project, paternity. Most of the students in Herrboldt's class want to be in the biomedical field: as nurses, doctors, dental hygienists or forensic DNA analysts.

Winter, Volume 1, Page 10

Student From Ethiopia Finds Non-Traditional Pathway to Success at Anoka-Hennepin Technical High School

Anoka-Hennepin School District

When Muda Koji moved to the United States from Ethiopia two years ago, he was 18 years old and had only completed school through the 10th grade. Now, thanks to a unique program at Anoka-Hennepin Technical High School, he is earning his diploma while taking college courses toward his ultimate goal: becoming a nurse.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 10

Minnetonka Research: Experiment in Deeper Learning

Minnetonka Public Schools

Students are investigating topics in more than 20 fields of study, from environmental science and microbiology to astronomy and mechanical engineering. Senior Isaac Schrof's goal is to produce a material that models the strength, elasticity and self-healing properties of human muscle. He cites networking as one of the most valuable skills he has gained so far—consulting with bioengineers, professors and mechanical engineers throughout Minnesota.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 10

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

Dr. Brad Gustafson, Wayzata Elementary School Principal, Selected Minnesota National Distinguished Principal

Wayzata Public School District

Dr. Brad Gustafson, principal of Greenwood Elementary in the Wayzata Public School District, is Minnesota's 2016 National Distinguished Principal. In her letter of recommendation for Dr. Gustafson, Dr. Jill Johnson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning for Wayzata Public Schools, wrote, "What sets Brad apart from others is the passion and energy that he brings to his work.

Back to school, Page 4

Dr. Tryggestad Named the 2017 Superintendent of the Year

Eden Prairie Schools

"Dr. Tryggestad exemplifies every day the key values of leadership, communication, professionalism, and community involvement that are the important components of a successful superintendent," said Elaine Larabee, Chair of the Eden Prairie School Board. "r. Tryggestad has led a number of initiatives that have been respectful of that culture and will result in the long term success of all students and of the district itself."

Winter, Volume 1, Page 16

Minneapolis Language Arts Teacher is 2016 Teacher of the Year

Abdul Wright, who teaches eighth-grade language arts at The Best Academy in Minneapolis, is the 2016 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. "Mr. Wright embodies what it means to be a transformational teacher," said Meghan Roegge, in her nomination letter for Wright. "He impacts and changes lives every day that he comes to work."

Fall, Volume 1, Page 9

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

Advance Your Career Options in Reading

Build your career in reading by enrolling in graduate programs offered through the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

- Prepare to become a Reading Teacher or Specialist in Wisconsin or Minnesota.
- Develop your expertise in reading and cultivate more successful readers.
- Campus is only 30 minutes from St. Paul, MN.

Designed For Practicing Educators

- Choose to earn a certificate or master's degree.
- Take classes in summers, on Saturdays, and online.

Enrolling Now For Fall 2017

Amy Frederick, PhD, Reading Program Coordinator
Phone: (715) 425-3738
Email: amy.frederick@uwrf.edu

go.uwrf.edu/reading

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
River Falls
CONTINUING EDUCATION

"The UWRF Reading Program was the single best decision I could've made to advance my career as an educator. The class content at UWRF was meaningful and relevant, the teaching staff was knowledgeable, and their commitment to students was inspiring."

– Sarah Peterson, 2014 graduate and reading specialist at St. Mark's Catholic School in St. Paul, MN.

District 191 Teacher Named State Art Educator of the Year

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

Kathryn Petri went to an awards ceremony recently thinking that she was being honored as the 2016 Minnesota Elementary Art Educator of the Year. Turns out she had also been selected as the 2016 Minnesota Art Educator of the Year — not just for the elementary level.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 16

Richfield Public Schools Principal Named 2017 Science and Mathematics Principal of the Year

Richfield Public Schools

Dr. Joey Page, principal of Richfield S.T.E.M. School (R-S.T.E.M.) in Richfield, MN, has been named the 2017 Science and Mathematics Elementary and Middle Level Principal of the Year. The award recognizes the vital importance of fostering lifelong science literacy and honors the key role principals play in developing a culture that encourages and celebrates student interest in math and science.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 17

Minnesota Principal of the Year

Mounds View Public Schools

Mounds View High School principal Jeff Ridlehoover was named 2017 Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals. Finding it hard to pinpoint just one favorite thing about being principal at Mounds View High, Ridlehoover said he is thankful for the entire learning community.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 18

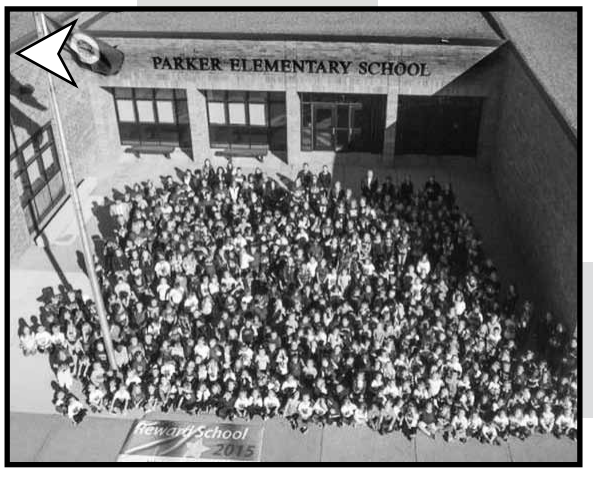
District Bus Paraeducator Named Special Education Transportation Assistant of the Year

Anoka-Hennepin School District

As a special education bus paraeducator, Shannon Hulleman's job is to assist special needs students as they ride the bus to and from school. But it's Hulleman's knack for forming connections with her students that has earned her a statewide honor. "Shannon really respects her students, and they know that she respects them just by how she treats them."

Fall, Volume 2, Page 6

Parker Celebrates Blue Ribbon Award



Elk River Area School District #728

Dignitaries, ISD 728 leaders and some old friends joined Parker Elementary for a big celebration as the school celebrated its designation as a U.S. Blue Ribbon School. "This is a day for you to soak it in, enjoy and really celebrate as a staff and as a school," said Assistant Superintendent Jana Henne-Burr at special breakfast for school staff. "This is an incredible achievement."

Winter, Volume 2, Page 15

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. That passion led her to take on a leadership role in social studies curriculum development that has impacted thousands of students across the state. "The kids in my class do the math, they do the reading. But when they come alive is when we do the social studies."

Back to school, Page 5

Sara Schmidt, Eisenhower Elementary /XinXing Academy, Selected MN National Outstanding Assistant Principal

Hopkins Public Schools

"We must view students as individuals with individual successes and challenges, and we must meet students where they are in order to provide the support they need to succeed," said Schmidt. "This is the area I believe I have made the largest impact on student success as an assistant principal."

Winter, Volume 1, Page 18

Hopkins Teacher of the Year Embraces Technology to Enhance Learning

Moorhead Area Public Schools

Jessica Rieniets, a grades 4–5 Spanish Immersion teacher at Ellen Hopkins Elementary School and this year's Hopkins Teacher of the Year, teaches communication skills and strategies to work collaboratively. She also uses technology in her classroom to enhance learning and prepare students for the future.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 12

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

Teacher Leader

Advance your teaching career and leadership potential through MSU Moorhead's nationally accredited, high-value graduate education programs.

- **Entirely online** with personal interaction and faculty support
- **Flexible** and **convenient** for work-life balance
- **Multiple emphases** and options
- **Two-year degree completion** typical
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Special Education
- Educational Leadership
- **MN and ND** School Administrative Licensures

Learn more at **mnstate.edu/graduate**

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD

Minnesota State University Moorhead is an equal opportunity educator and employer and is a member of the Minnesota State system.

Personalized Approach Gives Students Choice, Voice in their Learning

Edina Public Schools

Nico and his classmates have been part of a pilot study this year focused on creating a personalized learning experience for fourth and fifth grade language arts classes at Countryside and Cornelia elementary schools. Jenny Rydeen and Mark DeYoung, fifth grade teachers at Countryside, say that these personalized learning methods have made a noticeable difference for them and students.

Back to school, Page 12

Regional High School Students Expose Their Soul, Write from the Heart

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Opening their hearts and exposing their souls, Anoka-Hennepin Regional High School students employed poetic license to express their deepest feelings. Students recognized the value of the exercise in spite of the pain that may have been ignited during the writing process. "Writing my poetry let me express feelings I never had been able to express before."

Winter, Volume 1, Page 1

Reading is More Fun With a Friend

Stillwater Area Public Schools

Lisa Potter, a reading intervention teacher, started a tutoring program several years ago to bring struggling readers together with junior high mentors. Her goal was to give her elementary students more time to practice reading skills outside of the normal classroom environment. What she got, however, was more than she bargained for.

Spring, Volume 1, Page 16

Language Immersion: It Was the Best Decision We Ever Made

St. Cloud Area School District 742

We were like any other parents nervous about enrolling their child in kindergarten. All the questions that run through your mind. Which school? What are the best opportunities? The choice we make now will potentially set the course for the rest of our child's life. We discovered that children that are bilingual or multilingual statistically score better on verbal reading and math tests.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 1

District 833 Schools Participate in Battle of the Books

South Washington County School District

On March 3, 160 sixty Valley Crossing Elementary students competed in the school's first-ever Battle of the Books. Students who wanted to participate in the reading competition formed teams in October, and met each month leading up to the battle. "The ultimate goal of this event is motivating students to read, which I think we achieved."

Spring, Volume 1, Page 16

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

Woodbury Elementary Partners on Rain Garden

South Washington County Schools

To prepare for next year's planting, staff from the Watershed District will work with current 4th grade students in lessons on water education, and students will be conducting soil and water samples at Battle Creek Lake in March. These types of hands-on activities will be part of the new rain garden for more students to experience.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 8

Sara Schwartz Honored for 'Breaking Barriers'

Westonka Public Schools

Schwartz was nominated for the award by her colleagues at MWHS Molly Carlson and Kristin Wallace. "As one of the only female head track and field coaches in the state for both boys and girls track, Sara has led her teams to a great amount of success, including the Wright County Conference Championship in 2016," said Carlson.

Winter, Volume 2, Page 15

High School Coach Teaches More than Just Athletics

St. Cloud Area School District 742

It's week two of the summer Speed and Strength Camp that coincides with varsity Apollo High School athletics. However, something is a little unique about the girls' soccer "chalk talk" with Coach Mark Timpane. The girls all received a text the day before from the coach stating they needed to write and bring their resumes to today's class.

Back to School, Page 1

Hopkins students learn the language of code during Hour of Code

Hopkins Public Schools

"I hope that kids take away from the Hour of Code that coding and computer science is an option for their future and that anyone can do it and be successful," she said. "Students can play games that someone else created, but they can also be the ones to design the games. The opportunities with coding are limitless."

Winter, Volume 2, Page 9

Mounds View High School Creative Space Allows Students to Letter in Innovation

Mounds View Public Schools

Mounds View High School library media specialist Becky Stouten began transitioning its media center, the Information & Learning Center, out of its traditional book-lending model about six years ago. By adding technology such as sewing machines, die-cutters, 3-D printers, laser engravers, soldering machines, and more, the media center now houses a bona fide makerspace.

Spring, Volume 2, Page 16

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

Minnetonka Students Share Their Chinese Immersion Experience

Minnetonka Public Schools

"We created *Hey, World!* 你好世界! because we want to share our love of language, travel, learning and family with others," explains their father Brett Hughes, the writer and producer of the show. "We want to leave a record of what it's like for an American kid to grow up with a Mandarin-immersion education in the early 21st century.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 1

People Are Now Calling Me an Artist

St. Cloud Area School District 742

McKinley-ALC Principal Al Johnson loves to tell the story of how he discovered Paige Philippi as an artist in his midst. "I'm watching my cameras one day," he continues, "and I happen to see a young lady drawing something on the booth at the bus stop. So this is the idea," Johnson told Philippi. "We are the McKinley Panthers, and I want you to create a mural and a brand new logo for us, and that is how you are going to pay it back."

Spring, Volume 1, Page 1

Grandview Gets Surprise Landing at DARE Celebration

Westonka Public Schools

Grandview Middle School sixth-graders marked the completion of the year's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) curriculum with a surprise from the sky. The highlight of the 2017 DARE celebration was a helicopter landing at the school. "DARE is a powerful way not only for our kids to learn about the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction but also how to lead a safe and healthy life."

Spring, Volume 2, Page 1

Lunch Time Left Overs 'Rescued' for Those in Need

Edina Public Schools

Food Rescue is designed to redirect unopened, unpeeled and uneaten food from school lunches to people who need it. Alex Turnbull, registered dietician with the district's food service partner, is introducing the nationwide program to all EPS schools. Turnbull said the hope is not only to use the program to serve community need, but also as an educational opportunity to help students learn how reducing food waste can help the environment.

Winter, Volume 3, Page 15

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

Stay Connected with TEACHING TODAY MN!

like us on facebook

facebook.com/TeachingTodayMN

There's more TEACHINGTODAY MN just a mouse-click away

Check out all the resources available to you at

www.TeachingTodayMN.com

CAMP EXPLORE

INSPIRING CAREER DISCOVERY

CAMP EXPLORE is a residential overnight camp offering high school students hands-on, engaging activities to help them explore the many different STEM-industry careers available to them in key industry sectors, including:

ENERGY
MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING
HEALTH CARE
AGRICULTURE
TRANSPORTATION
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN US

JUNE 25- 30, 2017
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD MOORHEAD, MN 56563
JULY 23- 28, 2017
WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY WINONA, MN 55987

CAMP FEE: $480*
**Includes $30 non-refundable fee*

MINNESOTA STATE

***CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** are available, based on completed applications and fund availability. Visit our webpage at HealthForceMinnesota.org for more information.

For more information or to register: **HealthForceMinnesota.org/students**

For Middle and High School Students

Experience a variety of healthcare careers by engaging in fun hands-on activities led by working professionals.

Register Now for Summer 2017 Day Camps

Middle School Scrubs Camp

For students entering grades 6–8 in the fall of 2017, who are interested in exploring health-care careers. (*Exception: St. Cloud grades 7–9 fall of 2017)

Rochester Camp
June 13–14

Dakota Co. Camp 1
June 19–20

St. Cloud Camp*
June 19–21

Dakota Co. Camp 2
June 21–22

Duluth Camp
July 18–19

High School Scrubs Camp

For students entering grades 9–12 in the fall of 2017, who are interested in exploring healthcare careers. (*Exception: St. Cloud grades 10–12 fall of 2017)

Bemidji Residential Camp
Bemidji State University: June 11–16

Fergus Falls Day Camp
M State Fergus Falls: June 19–21

Mankato Day Camp
MSU-Mankato: June 19–21

St. Cloud Day Camp*
St. Cloud State University: June 19–21

Cloquet Residential Camp
Fond du lac Tribal Com. College: June 21–23

Winona Residential Camp
Winona State University: June 25–30

Metro Day Camp
Augsburg College, Mpls: July 10-14

Saint Paul Day Camp
Saint Paul College: July 24-27

Moorhead Residential Camp
MSU-Moorhead: July 30-Aug.4

For more information or to register: **HealthForceMinnesota.org/students**

"STEM-related careers are the lifeblood of Minnesota's future and Camp Explore will give our high school students the leg-up they need to succeed in college and career readiness."
— Mary Rothchild, senior system director for workforce development for the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities system

HealthForce Minnesota
Transforming education. Advancing practice.
www.healthforceminnesota.org

The STEM field trip that comes right to your school!

Mission Control to all 4th through 8th Graders . . .

Bring this unique hands-on STEM learning opportunity to your students this spring.

- ➤ Developed for grades 4–8.
- ➤ Up to 18 students at a time will spend an hour on this one of a kind mobile classroom.
- ➤ Two Shuttle Teachers guide the students through a series of hands-on work stations.

STEM SHUTTLE
DREAM FLIGHT
THE CHILDREN'S MISSION USA
SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATH

We give students Space to Learn!

www.stemshuttle.com

For your personal Dream Flight STEM Shuttle experience,
call 715-845-6392, or e-mail: stemshuttle@gmail.com

Spring schedule now full! Call or e-mail now to schedule the STEM Shuttle for Fall, 2017. Dates still available for October.