



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

### ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

*"Preparing them for the future"*

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JUNE 2019

***"Small Schools With Big Opportunities -- Where Everybody is Somebody!"***

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## Supt's. Update



Supt. Reggie Engebretson, Ed.D

School's out for summer!! (Raise your hand if you now have that song by Alice Cooper in your head.) As I write this, there are two weeks left of school. But when you read this, it will be June.

I thought I'd recap some of the things that have happened this school year. I'm doing this partly to remind myself of what we have done and to give you a baseline of this year, so we can see our growth in the years to come.

- We started implementing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) this school year. We want our curriculum to reach at least 80 percent of the students in the classroom when it is taught by the general ed. teacher. We will provide interventions to those 20 percent who didn't understand what is taught, so that they will understand.
- We are ensuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum. No matter which of the five schools our students are in and no matter which teacher they have, we are working to ensure that the same standards are being taught in each grade level and each content area. We want all students to have a rigorous education which prepares them for college or a career.

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## Cultural and outdoor opportunities abound for students at St. Louis County Schools

*Pristine lakes, school forests, camping trips offer life-long learning experiences*

By Lee Bloomquist

It's as clear as northeastern Minnesota lakes.

Few school districts in the state offer students the variety of cultural and outdoor activities as St. Louis County Schools, ISD 2142.

With ISD 2142's five rural campuses located in one of the state's most beautiful regions, students benefit from natural resources, environmental, and life-long learning opportunities at their doorstep.

Eagle watching. Wild ricing. Snowshoeing. Camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Ice fishing. Map making. And processing wild rice and maple syrup are among the many cultural and outdoor activities available to ISD 2142 students.

"As a rural Minnesota school district, we are very lucky to have the great outdoors literally right outside our schools," said ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebretson. "I think it is wonderful that our students have the



South Ridge Campus teacher Edwynna Scouton reads to a group of preschoolers in the South Ridge School Forest.

opportunities, through our schools, to continue to re-enforce the everyday experiences our families enjoy because they live here. Walking in the woods exploring nature, participating in the

making of maple syrup, fishing... these experiences bring them a sense of peace and contentment. Life gets busy. Sometimes it's hard. Everyone should

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## An inside look through the Portal The Spring Parent Portal Campaign is a Success!

Angie Baasi, District Office Secretary, is reporting many families have jumped aboard and set up their Infinite Campus Parent Portal this spring. Congratulations! There is still time. If you need to get signed up or have your password reset, contact Angie by email at: [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us).

### Why do I need a Parent Portal?

Parent Portal provides parents and guardians a close-up look into their student's academic world. They can track the student's progress, check their attendance, track missing assignments, read reports and report cards, check out the school calendars and events, receive notifications, make online payments and much more. Links for the Online Student Registration and the Application for Educational Benefits are provided for easy access. The 2019-2020 Online Student Registration and Application for Educational benefits will open the first week in August. This will give families plenty

of time to update student and household information before the 2019-2020 school year begins. To further assist you, iPads will be available in your school office and computers will be available at open house.

### Why do I need to complete the Online Student Registration?

This online process replaced the massive amounts of paperwork that was previously required each fall to update your household and student information, saving time and money. This data is not only essential for establishing effective communication with our families, but critical in maintaining proper health and safety practices for all of the students attending our schools. This online process will automatically upload previous information and allow you to update your current personal data. If your student is new, the online registration will walk you step by step through the process. If you experience any issues during this pro-

cess, your school secretary will be happy to assist you.

### Why do I need to fill out the Application for Educational Benefits?

Complete your Application for Educational Benefits after your online registration has been submitted and you may qualify for free or reduced meals. This will also allow the schools to adjust your fees for other activities throughout the school year, should you qualify. *By submitting this application, families also help the school district qualify for various funding opportunities and preschool scholarships. That qualification allows us to receive approximately \$1.5 million, which is spent directly at your schools.*

This is a great way to make a difference and help out your schools.

**Got questions? Please email Angie Baasi at:** [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us).

**Congratulations  
to our 2019  
District 2142  
Graduates!!**



**We are so proud of  
your accomplishments!**

**Good luck in all of  
your future endeavors**

# Cultural and outdoor opportunities... *(Continued from front page)*

have the opportunity to just take a walk in the woods and listen to birds and the wind. These opportunities are not afforded every school district, but they are an important part of ours.”

### Cherry Campus

How about a round of disc golf? Cherry students are currently designing a nine-hole disc golf course at its school forest with 30 discs and scorecards ready for use.

Elementary students explore the school’s 12.2-acre Tamminen Family School Forest, looking for signs of fall and creating collages from outdoor items collected. In June, the school forest will be the site of a five-day Iron Range Collaboration Summer Camp with students learning about the watershed, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, plants, trees and forest mammals.

This year, with help from the Cherry School Parent, Teacher, and Student Organization, two field/game cameras were placed in the school forest. Students also utilize the forest to learn map making and geocaching.

American Indian students worked with a professional photographer to develop posters related to school issues such as attendance, friendship and bullying. In the spring, elementary students learn about plants at the Cherry Greenhouse, interact with animals at Cook’s Country Connection, and at Mr. Ed’s Farm near Hibbing. A fall visit to Simek’s Farm in Gilbert for first-graders teaches students about farm animals and harvesting.

Fifth- and sixth-graders go ice fishing on a local lake. Other elementary students have opportunities to snowshoe, ski, build winter shelters, and learn about outdoor safety.

Eighth-graders research countries such as China, South Africa, Korea, Germany, and the Minnesota Ojibwe tribe, concluding with a cultural dinner. Ninth-graders carve and paint Ojibwe wood snow snakes.

“For me, the whole cultural and outdoor piece is that our teachers are trying to find ways to connect with all students,” said Principal Michael Johnson. “I think our teachers are willing to try things to see if they work or not, and if not, let’s try something new. And the kids are really excited to be outside.”

### Northeast Range Campus

Summer camping is common in northeastern Minnesota.

But some Northeast Range 9th-12<sup>th</sup> grade students learn much more about camping. Students have the opportunity to go winter camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as part of a Forest Field Skills class.

Students in a cultural-based art integration class learn about people from different cultures and how to cook a variety of ethnic foods from host chefs who visit the school. Students have taught other students how to make fried bread tacos.

Even Babbitt Police Chief Chad Loewen has participated in the cultural food class, teaching students how to

make sausage and corn dogs. Plans are to develop a cookbook filled with the cultural food recipes.

Eleventh-grade students give back to the community by volunteering to clean-up all-terrain vehicle trails in the area.

There are also trips to the Tower Train Museum, where students learn about train travel and the role of trains in the region’s development.

“We do have many (cultural and outdoor) opportunities with our schools being in the location we are at,” said Principal Kelly Engman. “We are near lakes, hiking trails, biking trails, and the Boundary Waters. Those are places which give students opportunities to use the talents they learn in school and out of school.”

### North Woods Campus

North Woods’ proximity to 39,271-acre Lake Vermilion and 218,054-acre Voyageurs National Park, along with a close relationship with sister school Nett Lake Elementary, fosters a variety of cultural and outdoor opportunities.

A wild rice camp in the fall and maple syrup camp in the spring at Nett Lake; eagle watching with the National Park Service at Voyageurs National Park; ice fishing on Lake Vermilion; skiing at Giants Ridge; hiking and canoeing at the Laurentian Environmental Learning Center in Britt; and a Snowmobile-to-School Day for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, are highlights.

An outdoor science class for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders studies foliage, tree identification and animal identification in the on-site school forest.

Science students also build trebuchets (catapults) and homemade water bottle rockets. An outdoor fire safety event, including birds of prey, is held in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

A S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Day on May 23 offered indoor exhibits and outdoor displays by the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, U.S. Forest Service, and an area all-terrain vehicle club. A new Ojibwe culture and history class with an outdoor component, will be offered in the fall.

All of the campus cultural and outdoors offerings help students gain an appreciation for the outdoor lifestyle and hopefully lead students to live and work in the region, said Principal John Vukmanich.

“One of the greatest resources we have in northern Minnesota is our pristine outdoors,” said Vukmanich. “It gives our students the opportunity to get outside and experience it. With the location of North Woods, we’re lucky enough to have a school forest on-site and Lake Vermilion and Voyageurs National Park right out our back door. There aren’t many schools that can say they have those resources so close.”

### South Ridge Campus

Duck stamp competition. Maple syrup harvesting in the school forest and using the syrup for an in-school pancake breakfast. Snowshoeing and cross-

country skiing. Outdoor science studies every week. And trips to the zoo, at which many students who live in rural school attendance areas, seem to know a lot about animals.

“It’s like at the zoo when they’re trying to teach the kids about chickens, the kids are like ‘Yeah, we know’,” said Principal Andrew Bernard.

South Ridge students benefit from having an on-site school forest and also having access to the Cotton School forest. A trail system is being developed within the South Ridge school forest, a concrete slab has been poured for a pavilion, and the South Ridge industrial education class is planning to construct the pavilion using a school sawmill.

During winter, a community member grooms trails in the school forest for cross-country and snowshoeing. About 130 pairs of snowshoes are available to students along with 80 pair of cross-country skis.

The school partners with Hartley Nature Center in Duluth for field trips at the center and reciprocal learning visits at South Ridge. Elementary students have frequent outdoor learning opportunities, eighth-grade art students participate in the state’s annual duck stamp competition, and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders each Wednesday afternoon utilize the school forest, said Bernard.

“We’re sitting on a pretty big chunk of land here in Culver,” said Bernard. “It definitely gives students more hands-on experiences, especially with access to the school forest here and at Cotton. What they learn in their classroom, they can just go out the door and experience it.”

### Tower-Soudan Elementary Campus

Every year, upper elementary students take field trips to Bear Head Lake State Park for a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boreal Forest Day. Students learn how to check lake water quality, identify fish species, the age and height of trees, and bird radio collaring. This winter, students ice fished on Lake Vermilion with qualified fishing guides.

A trip for fifth and sixth grades to fish off the dock and hold a picnic at McKinley Park on Lake Vermilion was this spring. Canoeing and geocaching are among other popular outdoor student activities.

Culturally, students have visited the Bois Forte Heritage Museum, learned beading and listened to Bois Forte storytellers at school.

Students have toured the Soudan Underground Mine State Park and visited the International Wolf Center, North American Bear Center in Ely, and Laurentian Environmental Learning Center in Britt.

Maple syrup and wild rice processing engage students during trips to Nett Lake.

“The teachers really try to leverage the natural resources in that area,” said Principal Kelly Engman. “Hopefully, it translates into a lifelong learning of the outdoors for the students.”

## Superintendent’s Update... *(Continued from front page)*

- We are creating classes which are student-centered with rigor. These are classrooms where the teacher is no longer standing in front of the classroom all day providing information to the students. The teacher is no longer the keeper of all knowledge. Students are involved in their learning. They are told what they are going to be learning ahead of time, so they will know when they have learned. These are called Learning Targets and will be in a visible location of the room, so all students can see it.
  - We have created Leadership Teams in each school. They have a pulse on the climate of the school and work together to make sure communication is happening, problems are solved, and progress is happening on the district initiatives (MTSS, for example).
  - We have created Behavior Teams in each school. If a student is having behaviors that interrupt the learning of others in more than one location of the school, the Behavior Team will meet to figure out what skills the student is lagging in and need to be taught.
- This has been an exciting school year of new beginnings and continuing the good work that was happening before I became the superintendent. My vision is that all students in this district will learn. This mindset is shared by many, many others who show up every school day to make a difference in the lives of our students – your child(ren). We will not get this school year back again to do it over. We must and we will continue to build on what is right for kids and what will help them learn. I am grateful to be here in these exciting times!

**VISIT OUR PARENTING RESOURCE PAGE AT:**

**<http://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>**

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# North Woods sixth grade visits St. Paul



On Thursday, May 9, 41 North Woods School sixth-grade students traveled to St. Paul for some off-site learning in the areas of science and Minnesota history. Students visited the Minnesota Science Museum and the State Capitol. They enjoyed a visit with Representative Ecklund and Senator Bakk, hearing about how our legislators are working for our students. Thank you to everyone who helped make the trip a great success!



Students hear about Cook Public Library's events from Library Director Crystal Phillips.

## Summer Reading Showcase at North Woods

North Woods Title I hosted their first Summer Reading Showcase on May 10. The Summer Reading Showcase was a chance for students to learn about local library resources and get excited about summer reading opportunities. Students in grades K-6 toured the Arrowhead Library System's Bookmobile and heard about fun programs at the Cook Public Library and the Orr Center's Community Library. Students were excited to learn how Mail-a-Book works and watched a demonstration on borrowing e-books through the Libby app. North Woods kids are ready to read this summer!



Students hold their READ bags in the ALS Bookmobile. Each student received a book bag at the event.

## Preschool Programs 2019-2020

Some classes are already full!

Will your child be attending the Preschool in 2019-2020?

If so, please return the registration ASAP! Please call or email DaNeil at 218-749-8130 ext. 1116 or [dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us) to get a registration form. This program is for children the year before they go to kindergarten. Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2019. Space is limited. Current immunizations are required! Over 110 children are already registered!



Free options are available at all of our schools!



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

It may sound strange to be talking about back-to-school just days after school is out for the summer, however, summer is the best time to schedule immunization updates and sports physicals with your child's medical provider. All students participating in junior high or high school sports are required to have an MSHSL sports physical on file. Physicals are good for two to three years. Students entering kindergarten and 7th grade require updated immunizations.

Please contact Gabrielle Christianson, director of Health Services, with any questions. You may reach her at [gchristianson@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:gchristianson@isd2142.k12.mn.us) or 218-749-8130 ext 1122.

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TOWER-SOUDAN POSTER PROJECT



Tower-Soudan students welcomed the help of Kristine Sorenson with In Progress, who assisted them in making posters! This project, funded by Indian Education, stressed the importance of school attendance. Students from several grades participated and are excited to see the finished posters.

T-S FIRST GRADE PLANTING



Tower-Soudan first-grade students learn planting techniques from their teacher, Ms. Holen.



MN POWER AT TOWER-SOUDAN



Tower-Soudan students get a lesson in science and safety! Representatives from Minnesota Power presented a program on where electricity comes from and how to be safe around it.



Tower-Soudan School second-grade students recently received their published book in the mail. Each student wrote, edited, and illustrated four pages of the class book titled "Second Grade Favorites," which featured favorite animals, foods, activities, and books. This taste of writing and publishing may just be the start of someone's future as a renowned author!

Caterpillars to Butterflies



First-grade student Kija Chosa and a Tower-Soudan School paraprofessional check the stage of caterpillars. First-graders observed the many changes as they anxiously waited for butterflies, and recorded their observations in their Caterpillar-to-Butterfly journals. Some recorded their observations several times a day. Their timeline showed an expected butterfly release day the last week of school. Did it happen then? Ask a Tower-Soudan first-grade student!

TOWER-SOUDAN SCHOOL SPIRIT



Tower-Soudan students celebrated School Spirit Day with a variety of activities. Live animals from Cook's Country Connection stole the show, and, as always, Chimp made everyone's day with his balloon magic!



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**Pictured above and at right are Tower-Soudan students preparing for their Western-themed spring program titled, "Yee-haw!" The show featured great singing, dancing, and some funny lines in between! Great job, kids!**



**Students in grades 2-6 at Tower-Soudan School had the opportunity to try an art new to many of them ... painting ceramic decorations. Pictured here are Ro and Ian. Students expressed their appreciation to Miss Aleta, who donated all of the ceramic pieces for them to paint and bring home.**

**Kindergarten Transition at Cherry**

On April 25, future kindergartners and their parents enjoyed touring the school. Children completed an art project in the art room, enjoyed playing with rhythm sticks in the music room, learned a new game in the gym, listened to a story in the library, and finished the tour with a snack in the cafeteria. Parents had the opportunity to meet with, and ask questions of, the kindergarten teachers about kindergarten expectations.



**Northeast Range Students Participate in Envirothon Competition**

Seven students from Northeast Range School participated in the NE Area 3 Regional Envirothon Competition on May 6 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Envirothon is an environmental education program for high school students, which combines classroom learning with outdoor activities. It is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Local natural resource professionals facilitate five hands-on learning stations: Aquatics/Wetlands, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a Current Issue, with this year's topic being "Minnesota Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World." Students learn about Minnesota's natural resources, collaborate with fellow team members, and discover career options in natural resource management. Teams of five students compete by taking exams which test their knowledge in the five topic areas. Each team is also required to give a 10-minute oral presentation. The oral presentation challenges teams to work together and communicate their solution to a complex environmental issue in front of a panel of judges.

Team members from Northeast Range were Oskar Koivisto, Jolie Langevin, Shelby Nelson, Lara Poderzay and Maija Maki. Alternates were Taina Koivisto and Kayla Johnson, who assisted in preparing the group's oral presenta-



tion. Their presentation, entitled "Irrigation System for Oliver Kelly Farm," earned a score of 28 out of 30 possible points. The Northeast Range students placed fourth out of 20 teams in the regional competition, just one place shy of gaining an opportunity to compete in the State Envirothon which was held May 20 in Elk River. Winning teams from the State competition advanced to the national competition which will be held July 28 to August 2 at North Carolina State University. Additional information about Envirothon can be found online at [www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm](http://www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm).



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# MATH IN THE SCHOOL FOREST



A group of Cherry elementary students worked on math problems in the school forest this spring. During Mrs. Koski's Makerspace group, 20+ students in grades 3-6 learned math and problem solving skills in the wilderness. Two challenging activities included determining the heights of trees using sticks and measuring tapes and solving a "challenge." The challenge was called the "Square Challenge." Students had to find (or create) six sticks that were the same length. They then had to break two of the sticks in half. The challenge was to make three squares with the four long and four short sticks. Students were asked to draw their solutions. Students worked for quite a while without success. Then, with the help of a quick online search (even Mrs. Koski needed this help), students continued working to come up with the solution! All of the kids agreed that math in the forest is awesome!



## NER SPRING THEATER

The Northeast Range School Spring Theater presented "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" in May. Fabulous acting by the entire cast resulted in the show being deemed "a rousing success!" Theater fosters educational growth by teaching teamwork. Working together for a common goal not only enhances the final outcome, but teaches students patience, problem solving and critical thinking. It teaches them to always look outside the box and to not ever be discouraged by what is put before them. With pride for the students and their performance, Mr. Joe said, "The sky is the limit."



## Kindergarten Registration!

If you have just moved here and your child is coming to Kindergarten, please let us know by calling your school office today! Kindergarten is all day every day and is free! Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2019.

- Cherry — 258-8991
- North Woods — 666-5221
- Northeast Range — 827-3101
- South Ridge — 345-6789
- Tower-Soudan — 753-4040



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# Northeast Range EPICS Class finishes projects



Students from the Northeast Range EPICS Intro to Engineering Class finished up their projects as the school year drew to a close. The class is taught by Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Fadum and Mr. Summers. Students worked to identify a project to benefit the local community.

Pictured in one photo is a gaming cabinet that was built from scratch that will be installed at the teen center. Look for classic titles like MegaMan and Street Fighter selected by Kaleb Kappes-Bliss, Elijah Anderson and Blade Carlson.

Also pictured are signs designed

by James Zupancich, Hannah Reichensperger and Anne Barich for the 5K, and signs designed by Oskar Koivisto, Dillon Gorsma and Phoebe Morgan for the beach signs upgrade project.

Other projects not pictured include a mobile ice-fishing house to be donated to a Veteran's group, school room improvements, mental health kits for area classrooms, a disc golf course shelter, and an insulated dog house. It is great to see what the students can accomplish to improve their community.



# SCHOOL PRIDE & TRUCK NIGHT AT CHERRY

More than 360 students, parents and community members recently joined staff at Cherry School to celebrate all the great things happening at Cherry School. At School Pride and Truck Night, you could find student demonstrations, a free meal, a presentation on the building expansion and renovation project, activities in the gym, the Arrowhead Library, PTSO Scholastic Book Fair, Mr. Ed and his farm animals, and many big trucks and vehicles to enjoy up close!

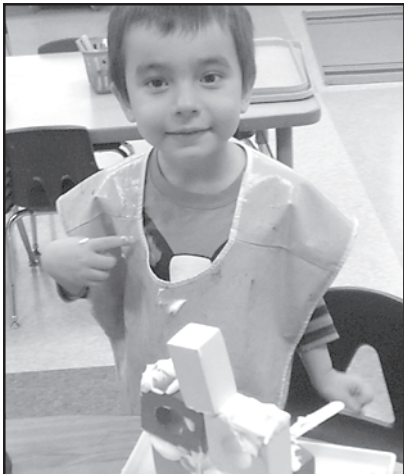


## Help us build our Early Childhood Mailing List!

Do you have a child under the age of 5? If so, we would like to add you to our Early Childhood mailing list.

Please call or email DaNeil at 218-749-8130 or [dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us)

We need: Parent and child's name, child's birthday, mailing address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!



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## ISD 2142 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

June, July and August meetings, beginning at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019	at the District Office in Virginia
Tuesday, July 23, 2019	at the District Office in Virginia
Tuesday, August 27, 2019	at the District Office in Virginia

South Ridge students visit Hartley Nature Center



Fourth-grade students at South Ridge School visited Hartley Nature Center on May 8. Students learned how to use a compass, orientate a map, and navigate trails. They used their new skills to locate hidden points along the Hartley trail system.

Graduation Day for Cherry Preschoolers!

It was a big day for Cherry School Preschoolers! They celebrated a year of learning and forming friendships. Children sang their favorite songs, received their diplomas and enjoyed a special treat afterward with family and friends. Thank you to all families for an amazing year and for choosing Cherry School, where great things happen!



THERAPY HORSES VISIT SOUTH RIDGE CLASSROOM

Two miniature therapy horses from Rocky Run Stables recently visited South Ridge School first-grade students. Maggie and Gracie are part of the Read With Me program, which is a special initiative of Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program designed to promote increased reading skills. Program staff taught students about horses in general and horses as therapy pets. Students were excited to read books to Maggie and Gracie, and some became instantly attached, hoping to have the opportunity to read to them again next year.



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