



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Preparing them for the future"

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JUNE 2023

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

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SUPT'S. UPDATE



Supt. Reggie Engebretson, Ed.D

Did you know that research has proven that you can't be stressed and grateful at the same time? Let me say that again – you cannot be stressed and grateful at the same time. It sounds so simple, doesn't it? Of course, it isn't always easy when you are feeling stressed out to stop and think of the things you are grateful for, or at least it isn't always easy for me.

We are at the end of another school year and many people are feeling stressed and can't wait for the year to be over and to start summer break. I always send an email to all the staff on the last day of school and thank them for all they have done this past school year and wish them a relaxing and recharging summer. Not all staff have the summer off, but it's a different pace in the summer when students and most of the staff are gone. But, sometimes I wonder...does just having a summer break help staff return recharged and refreshed and ready to go at the start of the new school year? Or do we need to consciously think about what we are grateful for, besides taking time to relax and recharge, before coming back?

We hear a lot more now about men-

(Continued on Page 2)

Scholarships lift student higher education pursuits

Hundreds of thousands awarded across district

By Lee Bloomquist

Daniel Jude estimates it will cost upwards of \$20,000 a year to pursue a biology degree at the University of Minnesota main campus.

"I plan to go to medical school to be an anesthesiologist," Jude, a Cherry Campus 2023 graduate said.

"It will take eight to 12 years of school."

For Jude and other ISD 2142 students, scholarships are critical in being able to advance their education toward successful careers. For Jude, an honor student, Eagle Scout and accomplished musician, scholarships will help pay a significant part of his higher education.

"My mom was pushing me to get all the scholarships (applications) done," Jude said. "The big one was from the U of M. They will pay \$4,000 for each year. By this point, I probably have three-fourths of the cost for each year covered by scholarships alone."

Scholarships for ISD 2142 graduations are plentiful. Each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships are awarded to students at district campuses.

"Our whole community is so generous," Jill Stark, North Woods Campus counselor said. "It comes from all kinds of different community organizations and private organizations. For such a small area, there's a lot of money coming out of it. It's amazing."

At North Woods Campus, \$829,914 in local, regional and college scholarships were awarded this year, according to Stark. It was the largest dollar amount of scholarships ever awarded at North Woods, Stark said. Of the total, \$174,300 was provided by local and regional organizations, Stark said.

A standout recipient is North Woods Campus student Cooper Antikainen, who received a \$20,000 Alworth Memorial scholarship to help Antikainen attend the Iron Range Engineering program at Minnesota North College Mesabi Range Virginia.

Counselors like Stark play a huge part in helping students apply and secure scholarships, Kelly Engman, North Woods Campus principal said.

"In our small schools, the advantage is Mrs. Stark knows every student, she knows the application process and she knows what scholarships for each student to apply for," Engman said.

At South Ridge Campus, \$614,000 in total scholarships were awarded, Tricia Neubarth, South Ridge Campus counselor said. Sarah Somerville received the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Fund scholarship of \$20,000, with \$5,000 of that each year for four years. Leilani Cummins received the Winona State University Academics Honors scholarship of \$40,000, with \$10,000 of that each year for four years.

"Each year poses another challenge in trying to find scholarships that fit more than just the top GPA earners," Neubarth said. "The rise of costs in all aspects sometimes leaves little to none for a college savings account. I am seeing more trends in tools such as: Going Merry and Raise.me where these resources allow students to apply for hundreds of scholarships. We are very fortunate to have so many local scholarship committees supporting all of our students and continue to find more scholarship opportunities every year."

At Cherry Campus, a total of \$90,060 in scholarships were awarded, Kathryn Peterson, Cherry Campus counselor said. Two new local scholarships are the John and Lynette Zupetz Scholarship, in

memory of the two longtime husband and wife Cherry teachers, and the Augustus Feth Memorial Scholarship, in memory of the son of former Cherry student Taylor (Sauter) Feth.

At Northeast Range Campus, like other district campuses, scholarships are critical for students who want to attend either a four-year college or a trades program, John Vukmanich, Northeast Range Campus principal said.

"Our communities have a high level of need, so these scholarships are so important to students," Vukmanich said. "And I told kids that you don't have to be a straight 'A' academic student to receive scholarships. There are plenty available for those who want to go into the trades."

About \$22,000 in scholarships were awarded to Northeast Range Campus students, Vukmanich said. Owen Koivisto and Jacob Mackai were standout recipients of the STEM All-Star Scholarship Award, he said. Among other scholarship winners were Logan Meskill, Elaina Swanson, Hope Williams, Josie Powell, and Layne Kaufenberg.

Preschool 2023-2024



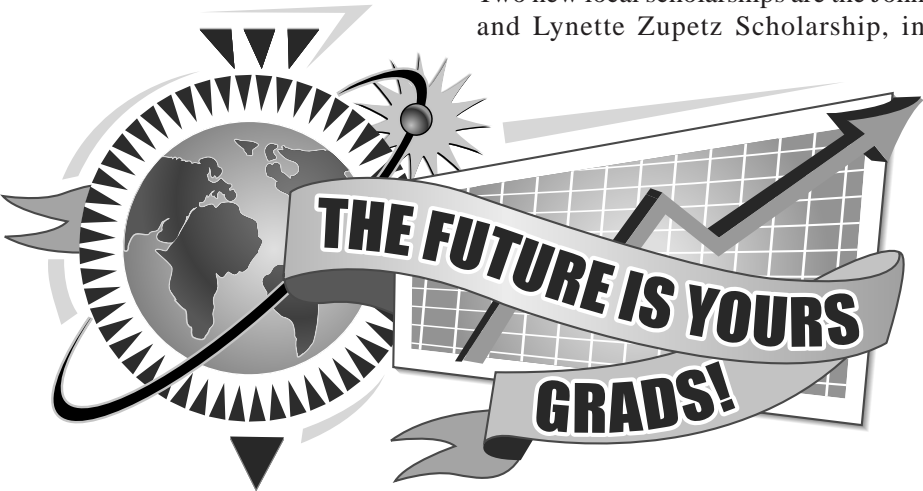
Preschool registration information has been mailed to all families on our Early Childhood mailing list. If you did not receive information by mail, we will need to add you to our mailing list. Please call or email DaNeil the following information: Child's legal name, birthday, parent name, mailing address, phone number and email. Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2023, to register for preschool.

DaNeil 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or
dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us

**Congratulations
to our 2023
District 2142
Graduates!!**

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

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



Iron Mosquitos Successful at State and World Championship



The Iron Mosquitos Robotics Team from Northeast Range (pictured above) wrapped up an amazing competition season finishing on the 4th place Alliance



Pictured here is the Iron Mosquitos drive team.

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 and leave a message for DaNeil at 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or email her at dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us

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

at State. They also finished 4th at World's in the Milstein Division sponsored by the CIA, putting them somewhere among the top 120 teams on the planet. More importantly, the students worked with young people from all over the world, including Turkey, Israel, Australia, Korea, Belize, Mexico, and Canada. They

made some professional contacts at Chevron on an industry tour, which included operating a Boston Dynamics robot dog being trained to detect maintenance needs on oil rigs. Thank you to the community for helping the students dream big!

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

tal health, than we ever have before. Don’t you agree? We certainly never talked about the mental health of students when I was in school, let alone of teachers or any other staff members. Nor do I recall, as a young parent, hearing about how to take care of my mental health while I was taking care of my family and working.

I think it’s a good thing that we can be more open and talk about mental health and try different strategies to help us cope with the stressors of our lives. Just hearing the loons on the lake or having sunlight for many more hours of the day or having a different daily schedule in the summer can be enough to help change our mood and make us less stressed.

As I drive to work, I try and think of something I’m grateful for in my life. Most of the time, it’s my family or my health. Sometimes, it’s that a

deer did not jump out in front of my car or that something I heard made me laugh out loud. It doesn’t have to be anything big. I’m also grateful, more days than not, for this job. For my career. There is never a dull moment and I get to try every day to make a difference for the students and staff I serve. Don’t get me wrong – I’m looking forward to the summer break as much as the next person. Just having a different pace each day at work is a welcome change as we plan and prepare for the new school year.

Summer break will be here when you are reading this. Whatever “summer break” means for you and your family, I hope you are able to enjoy the different rhythm that summer brings and find things to be grateful for each day to help reduce stress. You might even ask your kids each week to say one or two things that they are grateful for to help them learn a strategy to reduce stress before school starts back up in the fall.

Whatever your summer plans, be sure to take time for YOU. Do things you enjoy every once in a while. Escape into a good book or movie or get lost in a game on your phone. Unplug and recharge. The summer of 2023 will only happen once. Slow down and take it all in, one day at a time. Be grateful. You cannot be stressed when you are grateful. Try it out and see for yourself.

Thank you for a wonderful 2022-2023 school year! Whatever your connection to our schools, you are part of our ISD 2142 team and I’m grateful for YOU! See you in the fall!

Teaching Opportunities Now Available for 2023-2024!

Apply at www.isd2142.net

Equal Opportunity Employer

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142
ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

SOUTH RIDGE ARTS EDUCATION EVENTS



South Ridge Arts Education (SRAE) was started in early 2023 by students, teachers, and parents to help boost exposure to the amazing work being done by the South Ridge students in band competition, culinary, speech, and visual arts.

The mission is to promote and develop the arts in the South Ridge community. SRAE had an inaugural Evening with the Arts, April 21 with 55 community members and 20 students sharing talents by offering a three-course culinary meal,

speech and band competition performances, and impeccable service. On May 8, over 250 elementary students attended fun and engaging stations

led by high school arts students. If you have ideas for SRAE or would like to volunteer, contact SRartseducation@gmail.com.



ECFE – Early Childhood Family Education



Classes are offered at all of our schools for children infants to kindergarten entrance and their parents. If you have questions about ECFE, please contact the ECFE Parent Educator support staff at your school!

Special events are provided for families in their local school communities for parents with young children. We would love to see you there! Information will be mailed out to all families on our Early Childhood mailing list.

| School | Staff | email |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Cherry | Lori Udovich, Parent Educator | ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us |
| North Woods | Lori Udovich, Parent Educator | ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us |
| Northeast Range | Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator | shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us |
| South Ridge | Sara Lorbiecki-Brown, Parent Educator | slorbieckibrown@isd2142.k12.mn.us |
| Tower-Soudan | Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator | shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us |

Kindergarten 2023-2024



Kindergarten registration information has been mailed to all families on our Early Childhood census who are not attending the district preschool program. If you are new to the area and have not received any information, please contact your local school. Families with children in our preschool program have confirmed registration for kindergarten at their child’s school conference in March.

South Ridge Sixth Grade Travels to the Twin Cities

by Amanda Wood

On May 11, the South Ridge sixth-grade class embarked on a trip to the Twin Cities to learn more about Minnesota’s rich history, see new sights, and experience new places. Twenty-seven students and 19 adults got off to an early start, leaving school by 7 a.m. to head to the State Capitol building where they took a 50-minute tour of this remarkable structure.

The students were able to see the Minnesota House of Representatives chambers, the Minnesota Supreme Court, the Capitol Rotunda and so much more! South Ridge sixth-grade student McKenzie Myers said, “The paintings on the walls and ceilings in the Capitol are very historical and cool. The words ‘Du Luth’ were painted in the Representative Chambers!”

The group also had the opportunity to meet St. Louis County’s District 7 senator, Robert Farnsworth. Because it was Minnesota Statehood Day (our state declared statehood on May 11, 1858), the students got to see the dome’s one-ton chandelier lit up. This chandelier is only turned on on May 11 and for a new governor’s inauguration. It was remarkable to see the 92 light bulbs and 40,000 crystal beads shining down on the rotunda!

After leaving the Capitol and having a picnic lunch, the group traveled to the Minnesota Zoo where they took in all of the sights and smells. From the sharks to the camel, to the rambunctious monkeys, students had a great time all around! Tanner Caywood, sixth-grade student, said, “The monkeys were my favorite because they were so funny! The ‘Tropics Trail’ was really cool with how many birds and animals were in there.” Another highlight for the group was seeing the dolphins, who are temporarily residing at the Minnesota Zoo while their habitat at the Brookfield Zoo is renovated.

The final stop on this busy day was a visit to the Historic Fort Snelling. Students have been learning about Fort Snelling in their Minnesota History curriculum this year, and it was exciting for them to see it come to life! The students learned about the impacts of the Dakota people, the enslaved African Americans, the military members, and the women and children who lived at the Fort in the 1800s and 1900s. Some of the topics that students learned about include:

- Laundry at the fort
 - The importance of the rivers near the fort
 - Native American tools
 - Plants and vegetation
 - Slavery and its impact at the fort
 - The Japanese language school
 - Blacksmith services of that time period
- ... and much more!

Students also had the opportunity to climb the Round Tower, which is considered to be the state’s oldest standing building, and look out over the fort, the



The sixth-grade class from South Ridge School on the steps of the Capitol building. (See another trip photo on page 5)

Twin Cities skyline, and the Mississippi River.

After the tour of Fort Snelling, the group had dinner and loaded back onto the bus to make the trek home. Arriving back at the school around 8 p.m., the students (and adults) were exhausted, but so thankful for this experience!

Amanda Wood, sixth-grade teacher at South Ridge, said, “I am really proud of this group of students. You get out of each experience whatever you put into it and this group really engaged in the whole day. They were polite, appreciative, and eager to learn, asking great questions at every stop. They were a great representation of our school and what it means to be a Panther. I hope they enjoyed the day as much as I did! This is a day that I look forward to every year and I am grateful for the opportunity to present these experiences to my students.”



Jaxton Krohn, South Ridge sixth-grader, climbed the Round Tower that overlooks Fort Snelling.

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‘Bedlam and Breakfast’ performed at NE Range



Northeast Range Theatre Troupe had a successful performance of "Bedlam and Breakfast" in May. The actors were phenomenal and worked very hard to put on an amazing show. The audience members thoroughly enjoyed the performances. "This cast was a joy to work with, always put forth their best effort, and put on one of the better shows in a long while," said Director Mr. Joe. This play marked Senior Layne Kaufenberg's last show as he now heads to Los Angeles, California to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and pursue an acting career. "Bravo young man, reach for the stars!"

Cherry School Celebrates School Pride and Truck Night



This spring, Cherry School held its annual School Pride and Truck Night to share some of the many great things happening within the school. Much hard work was displayed throughout the school. A special shout-out goes to all the local businesses that participated, including 4-H, local fire departments, local police, K-9, Life Link, Radio Airplane Flyer Club, Mr. Ed and the farm animals, PTSO Scholastic Books, and many other local businesses and car clubs. It was a successful event celebrating the Cherry School. Go, Tigers!

FREE Breakfast and Lunch 2023-2024



The “Free School Meals” bill has been signed into law for the 2023-2024 school year! Every student will be eligible for one free breakfast and one free lunch per school day. It is important to note that extra items such as a second lunch or breakfast, second entree, second milk, or ala carte items will still need to be paid for out of the student’s meal account.

To best serve your students, we still need an Application for Educational Benefits filled out for the 23-24 school year. Thank you!

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TOWER-SOUDAN STUDENTS PERFORM SPRING CONCERT



Older students at T-S sing the song, "Fifty Nifty United States."

The students at Tower-Soudan Elementary put on quite a show in May for a full house. Each group of students performed songs and dances from around the world. Many of the songs were sung in different languages. Students also shared facts with the audience about the different countries that the songs originated from. Great job, Golden Eagles!!



Cherry School Reading Wall of Fame

The following students became members of the Cherry School "Reading Wall of Fame" during the months of March, April, and May: Allie Grothberg (6), Reed Lind (6), Trinity O'Gowen (6), Eli Peterlin (6), Annika Lahti (5), Emily Barton (5), Lillie Martin (5), Leland Savor (5) Trey Schinderle (4), Jaxon Nelson (4), Jourdyn Crossley (4), Karson Koski (4), Logan Johnson (4), Lexie Perpruner (4), Arayah Koski (4), Keira Kangas (4), Thomas O'Gowan (4), Greyson Flaschberger (4), Zander Brekkestran (4), Mia Heitzman (3), Aaron Kick (3), Hadley Mickle (3), Paisley Peterson (3), Jacob Hill (3), Symphony Johnson (3), Gavin Wagenbach (3), Sydney Hoffman

(3), Rayvynne Mattson (3), Harlie Hill (3), Ashdon Jaeger (3), Levi Leino (3), Dylan Maasi (3), Novalie Mckenney (3), Xander Neimeyer (3), Kiki Olson (2), David Yordy (2), Jaxon Keeler (K), Irene Kick (K), Aria Mitchell (K), Bianca Kick (K).

Congratulations to all of Cherry School's Roaring Readers!

Students had to read books and take AR quizzes to earn 40 points. Kindergarten and first-grade students had to read 900 minutes. Their pictures are posted in the main hall at the school. Cherry School is so proud of its Reading Tigers!!!



T-S kindergarten students perform the "Mexican Hat Dance."

BUILD A CHILD A LIBRARY BY AGE 5!

Donations to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota support our local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program!

To sign up a child you know for this FREE program, contact 218-254-3329 or info@uwnemn.org

United Way of Northeastern MN



Kari Podominick
Ely 5-12



Madison Sanders
Chisholm K-6



Ramona Helmer
Chisholm 7-12



Jenny Markwardt
ERATS



Deanna Kopp
Mesabi East



Gavin Johnson
Mesabi East



Gwyn Brandt
Assumption



Sarah Callister
Northland Learning



Danielle Charon
Virginia HS



Kane Wallner
EGHS



Sunny Mosher
Laurentian



Nikki Kern
Parkview/Northstar



Jamila Henderson
Hibbing HS



Molly Lendacky
Hibbing HS



Madisen Overbye
Washington



Dequan Wilson
Greenhaven



Lisa Perkovich
Program Coordinator



Hibbing
Lincoln



Vermilion
County School



ISD 2142
Northwoods



CHECK & CONNECT

Check & Connect

2023 Mentors

One of the sweetest kindergarten students started out the year missing more school than she attended. She would arrive with a smile, but soon she would run away from the classroom. I started texting her mom some positive updates, calling and emailing. Through this relationship, mom was comfortable coming to the school. By working together, this kiddo has been consistently coming to school and has had a complete attitude change towards learning.

The parent struggles greatly with reading and writing, but with my help she verbalizes her needs and I help her type/write. She is growing positive feelings towards the school and will be coming in to eat lunch with me and her daughter soon.

Without Check & Connect we may never have been able to build the bridge between school and home. ~ Mentor

YOUR ISD 2142 & MIB TEAM



Austin Oakes
Northwoods



John Stanaway
MIB
Marquette



Eric Montgomery
South Ridge



Jaden Scherer
Northeast Range



McKenzie McLellan
New! Cherry



Cara Harsen
Outgoing at Cherry

Check & Connect is an intervention used with K-12 students and/or families in most public, private, and parochial schools throughout northern- St. Louis County and is a research based support found in every state in the nation as well as eight international countries.

A trained mentor both advocates for and challenges students who show warning signs of disengagement with school. Commonly, mentors notice attendance, behavior, or course performance patterns that are indicator of a greater need and they become one of the first people to intervene in the skill building and/or mental well-being continuum.

Mentors are expected to dedicate at least one hour per week to each student and his /her family; however, it is common to dedicate much more.

Commonly, mentors will:

- ~ reduce barriers that keep students from attending school
- ~ increase skills in time management, organization, or homework
- ~ assist in determining the cause of disengagement
- ~ assist in creating routines that enhance the home/school connection

Since the Fall of 2022, mentors have served over 1650 students and are proud to showcase

59% of Students Showed a Decrease in Absenteeism
61% of Students Showed a Decrease in Behavior Referrals

United Way Agency of the Year!

It is incredibly rewarding to see that the United Way recognizes and values the work our mentors do in each of our regional schools. Accepting the Agency of the Year award validates the challenging, yet incredibly rewarding work we do each day and my hope is it gives the mentors the encouragement they need to bring their best to the students of northeastern Minnesota every day.

~ Lisa Perkovich, Regional Coordinator



A junior student has been struggling to pass classes for the last few years. He developed motivation to take college classes this year, but unfortunately did not have the basic skills necessary. When he found himself struggling, he would avoid doing the work and was unsuccessful in his attempts to earn credit.

Through guided mentorship, he was able to learn the skill of asking for help and by the end of second quarter he was open to adjusting his schedule to more appropriate classes for his skills. He now communicates daily with his teachers, asks for help, checks in when he is going to be gone, and asks for assignments if he misses them.

The student went from a 36% first quarter in Math to an 83% by the end of second quarter. He went from a 54% in Chemistry at midterms to ending with an 81%. He went from a GPA of 2.0 first quarter to 3.4 second quarter. He is more confident in his ability to be successful in school and is looking forward to a successful senior year and college after that. ~ Mentor

**"SMALL SCHOOLS WITH BIG OPPORTUNITIES --
WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY!"**

Tower-Soudan Students Enjoy a Special Visit



Tower-Soudan students in pre-K through grade 6 enjoyed a special visit one sunny, April afternoon. Sophie and Artie, a llama and alpaca from Cook's Country Connection, visited with students, in small groups at a time. The students and animals sure enjoyed this time together. Thanks to Sophie and Artie (and Cook's Country Connection) for the visit!

‘Waiting for Spring at Tower-Soudan’



Tower-Soudan students enjoyed plenty of nice days outside even though there was snow on the ground for much of April.



VISIT OUR PARENTING RESOURCE PAGE AT:
<http://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>

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