



# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

*“Preparing them for the future”*

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SEPTEMBER 2021

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IND. SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142  
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## Welcome Back!



Supt. Reggie Engebritson, Ed.D.

Welcome Back! It's the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to be returning to in-person learning for all of our students and we are looking forward to a great school year ahead! Here are some of the good things happening in our school district:

- We will have all grades return to in-person learning for five days a week. This means grades 7-12 will be in school five days a week, as well as our elementary grades.
- We purchased the majority of school supplies for our elementary students so every child would have what they need on the first day of school.
- We will be participating in the Check and Connect program with funds provided by St. Louis County. We will be hiring four mentors for our five schools to help us connect with students who are at-risk of not graduating and/or who struggled

with distance learning last school year and could use some extra support. These mentors will join our leadership teams in our schools which will add another adult to help us ensure that we are reaching every student.

- Our school social workers will be called Student and Family Advocates to better reflect the role they have in our schools. They have been a great addition to Cherry, North Woods, and South Ridge. We are hoping to have a fourth person hired soon to share between Northeast Range and Tower-Soudan.
- We will not be having elementary students do fundraisers involving selling products (candy bars, pizza, wrapping paper, candles, etc.) in order to raise money to give back to the school. We have a process if a teacher needs supplies for the classroom or money for a field trip. As a former PTA president many years ago, I appreciate the work our PTA/PTO does to help our school. Adults can do fundraisers, but elementary students (PreK-6thgrade) cannot be involved in selling items. This does not include fundraisers that the band does for trips or some overnight field trips.

As we all know, COVID is still here. We no longer have the mandates from the Governor and each school district is able to make the decisions they feel are best for the district. At the time of writing

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## ✓ St. Louis County Schools ✓ 2021-2022 Back-to-School Checklist

- ☐ Send an email to [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us) with a request to set up a Parent Portal if you do not already have one or if you forgot your password.
- ☐ Go to your Parent Portal to complete the Online Student Registration (OLR).
- ☐ Complete the Application for Educational Benefits. **ALL FAMILIES NEED TO DO THIS AS THIS PROVIDES BENEFITS TO ALL FAMILIES**, whether directly or indirectly. You can access the application through your Parent Portal or the school's website under Parent Resources. For this year, a paper version is included in your enrollment packet or may be picked up at the school office. Remember, this is about more than free lunch. This impacts how our schools are funded and also impacts how much you may need to pay for athletic fees.
- ☐ Return your emergency card prior to the start of the school year. Contact the health staff regarding any special health-related arrangements.
- ☐ If you want to register your child for preschool, contact DaNeil Sirjord at [dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us) or 749-8130 ext 1116, or call your school office and ask for a preschool teacher. They will be able to assist you with registering your preschooler.
- ☐ The school district is providing your students school supplies this year with the exception of a few personal items. A list of those items is available on your school website or at the school office.
- ☐ Set up optional on-line payments through your Parent Portal. Payment options are sports fees, etc. A recurring payment option is available. You may still pay in cash directly at the school office. There are no technology insurance fees this year and free breakfast and lunch are available for all students this year.
- ★ If you have any questions concerning your Parent Portal throughout the year, please send an email to: [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us).
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** Please inform your school office **ASAP** if you have any personal information changes throughout the year such as address, phone numbers, etc.
- ★ We are all in this together! Our goal as a community is to keep our children healthy and safe while making this a great school year for them!

## A Career of Service

### Chet Larson marks 34 years on St. Louis County Schools board

By Lee Bloomquist

Chet Larson has lived a life full of public service.

Larson, of Canyon, at age 17 began serving in the United States Army in Korea and later in the Air Force.

Today, at age 84, Larson is in his 34<sup>th</sup> year of service to St. Louis County Schools as a school board member.

"I'm still enjoying it," Larson said. "I just like being where I can make a difference in something and I'm not just

spinning my wheels."

But Larson's wheels have always been spinning.

Beyond his military service, he's worked as a logger and has been active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, the Northland Volunteer Fire Department, Northland Township board, and at church.

Born in Heilsville, Wis., Larson moved to Canyon in 1967 during his time in the Air Force.

"The snow was about six feet deep

*(Continued on Page 3)*



Chet Larson has served on the St. Louis County Schools board for 34 years.

## Online Registration for St. Louis County Schools

Our online registration system decreases the amount of paperwork you need to complete annually and also provides an efficient way for you to ensure that we have the most current information on file for your child(ren).

Please follow the instructions below. If you have any questions, call your school office. Online registration questions can also be emailed to [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us).

You can complete these steps on a computer or on your mobile phone App. You can download the “Campus Parent” App from your Parent Portal or the App Store.

**START HERE IF YOUR FAMILY IS NOT NEW to our district [you have a child or children who attended one of our schools any time in the past]. This link will allow you to add a new child to your family.**

- ☐ **Step 1.) Do you have a parent portal login? If yes, proceed to step 2. If no, email [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us) to obtain a parent portal login.**
- ☐ **Step 2.) Log into your Parent Portal. There you can access the ONLINE STUDENT REGISTRATION. Complete your registration following the instructions provided, which are:**

1. Choose the option below that best describes your situation. Choose “current student.”

2. Complete the steps in the registration process and submit.

3. Look for an email when your registration is approved.
- ☐ **Step 3.) Complete the Application for Educational Benefits. All families need to do this as this form provides benefits to all families, whether directly or indirectly. Access the form online through your Parent Portal or on your school’s website under “Parent Resources.” Click “More” and choose “Meal Benefits.” For this year, a paper version is included in your enrollment packet or may be picked up at the school office. This application helps determine the school’s funding from the state so please take a few minutes to fill it out. You will also need to complete the application for discounted athletic fees.**

**START HERE IF YOUR FAMILY IS NEW to our district and you want to enroll your child(ren).**

**Email link:** <https://arcc.infinitecampus.org/campus/OLRLogin/stlouisco>

Use this link only if your family is new to St. Louis County Schools. **Do NOT** use this link if you already have students enrolled in the district. The instructions in this link will generate an email with a link to begin registration.

**Once you receive notice that your application was accepted, continue with Step 3 above.**

Want to learn more? Copy and Paste this link into a browser for a short video of the online process: <https://content.infinitecampus.com/sis/Campus.1709/video/learn/online-registration-for-parents/>

**If you have any questions, please contact your school office or email [portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal@isd2142.k12.mn.us). Thank you!**

## • Welcome Back... (Continued from front page)

ing this article for the newsletter, we are still recommending masks, but not requiring them. We will not be doing contact tracing if someone tests positive at school. We will notify parents of elementary students in the same classroom and we will notify parents of high school students that someone in grades 7-12 tested positive. This will allow parents to make the decision to have their child wear a mask, if they weren’t wearing one, or to keep them home for 10 days and watch for symptoms, or continue to send the child to school and watch for symptoms. We will not be offering distance learning.

COVID testing options have come out and I am still learning more about what each test offers and what it might mean for our students and staff. We do still have some of the Vault saliva test kits left from last school year and we will use them up until they are gone. As decisions are made regarding any COVID testing within the school, I will keep you informed.

With all of this, our priority is the safety of our students and staff. I will continue to keep you updated on what is happening like I did last school year – through emails, voice messages, text messages, Facebook messages, and messages on our websites. I know this can all be confusing. I’m here to help you understand the information and together we will get through this year, just like we did last year. Our focus is on your child’s education and regardless if they were in school or did distance learning last year, we will meet them where they are at educationally and help them move forward. Our mindset is to connect with every child and make sure that each one is on track to make progress in their learning. By helping each student, we are not only helping the students of ISD 2142, but we are helping the future of our communities, and the future of our world. This has always been our mission, but it is now more important than ever before.

### Recurring Online Payments

An online payment feature is available which allows parents to set up recurring payments. With this feature, you can pay installments for a fee, pay for recurring services from the district, or automatically add money to a Food Service account when it reaches a low balance.

The Recurring Payments tool is part of “My Accounts.” “My Accounts” appears on the screen when you are looking at the Today, Food Service, or Fees tools.

To set up automatic recurring payments for Food Service:

1. Select **Recurring Payments**.
2. Select **Food Service**.
3. Select a **Frequency Option: Monthly or Low Balance**.
4. Select the **Payment Method** you want to use and the **Email Address** for Campus to send the receipt.
5. Select **Save**.

If you need assistance, please contact your school secretary or Nicole Ayres at 749-8130, ext. 1111.

| SCHOOL BOARD     |                     |        |  |                 |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|--|-----------------|
| District/School  | Contact Information |        | Term   |                 |
| 1 / North Woods  | Pat Christensen     | Home   | (218) 757-3530   | 1/2021 – 1/2025 |
|                  |                     | Cell   | (218) 780-7532   |                 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:pchristensen@isd2142.k12.mn.us">pchristensen@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a> |                 |
|                  |                     |        |  |                 |
| 2 / North Woods  | Dan Manick          | Cell   | (218) 410-9006   | 1/2019 – 1/2023 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:dmanick@isd2142.k12.mn.us">dmanick@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>           |                 |
| 3 / Tower-Soudan | Troy Swanson        | Cell   | (218) 410-4500   | 1/2019 – 1/2023 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:tswanson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">tswanson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>         |                 |
| 4 / NE Range     | Chris Koivisto      | Cell   | (218) 235-7374   | 1/2021 – 1/2025 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:ckoivisto@isd2142.k12.mn.us">ckoivisto@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>       |                 |
| 5 / Cherry       | Lynn Hilde          | Cell   | (218) 929-6015   | 1/2021 – 1/2023 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:lhilde@isd2142.k12.mn.us">lhilde@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>             |                 |
| 6 / South Ridge  | Chet Larson         | Home   | (218) 345-6662   | 1/2021 – 1/2025 |
|                  |                     | Cell   | (218) 349-1959   |                 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:clarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">clarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>           |                 |
| 7 / South Ridge  | Bob Larson          | Home   | (218) 345-6470   | 1/2021 – 1/2025 |
|                  |                     | Cell   | (218) 341-3701   |                 |
|                  |                     | E-mail | <a href="mailto:blarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">blarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>           |                 |

| <u><b>SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION</b></u>                     |  |
|---|--|
| <u><b>District Office</b></u> <b>749-8130</b>           |  |
| Superintendent Reggie Engebritson, Ed.D.                | <a href="mailto:regebritson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">regebritson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a> |
| Kristi Berlin, Director of Teaching & Learning          | <a href="mailto:kberlin@isd2142.k12.mn.us">kberlin@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>         |
| DaNeil Sirjord, ECFE & Preschool Director               | <a href="mailto:dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us">dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>       |
| <u><b>Cherry School</b></u> <b>749-4614 or 258-8991</b> |  |
| Michael Johnson, Principal                              | <a href="mailto:msjohnson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">msjohnson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>     |
| Zach Swart, Dean  | <a href="mailto:zswart@isd2142.k12.mn.us">zswart@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>           |
| Kathryn Peterson, Counselor                             | <a href="mailto:kpeterson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">kpeterson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>     |
| <u><b>North Woods School</b></u> <b>666-5221</b>        |  |
| John Vukmanich, Principal                               | <a href="mailto:jvukmanich@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jvukmanich@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>   |
| Gerald Oehler, Dean                                     | <a href="mailto:goehler@isd2142.k12.mn.us">goehler@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>         |
| Jill Stark, Counselor                                   | <a href="mailto:jstark@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jstark@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>           |
| <u><b>Northeast Range School</b></u> <b>827-3101</b>    |  |
| Kelly Engman, Principal                                 | <a href="mailto:kengman@isd2142.k12.mn.us">kengman@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>         |
| Joan Kjorsvig, Counselor                                | <a href="mailto:jkjorsvig@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jkjorsvig@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>     |
| <u><b>South Ridge School</b></u> <b>345-6789</b>        |  |
| Andrew Bernard, Principal                               | <a href="mailto:abernard@isd2142.k12.mn.us">abernard@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>       |
| Jessica Bialke, Dean                                    | <a href="mailto:jbialke@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jbialke@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>         |
| Tricia Neubarth, Counselor                              | <a href="mailto:tneubarth@isd2142.k12.mn.us">tneubarth@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>     |
| <u><b>Tower-Soudan School</b></u> <b>753-4040</b>       |  |
| John Jirik, Assistant Principal                         | <a href="mailto:jjirik@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jjirik@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>           |



# A career of service ... (Continued from front page)

and it was 30 below,” Larson said.

In 1976, he retired and was recruited to run for school board.

“The ladies in the area came to me and said, ‘Hey, you’re retired, why don’t you run for school board?’” Larson said. “I had no idea what I was getting into, but they hauled me around (to campaign) in their car. Everyone ran at-large at that time and they were familiar with the Cherry area and the Albourn area. My neighbor was a logger, so he took me up to Orr.”

Larson was elected to a three-year term. That led to a 21-year run on the school board.

Larson “retired” from the school board on June 30, 1997.

But when the board member who followed Larson left the board, a group of Cotton-area residents encouraged him to return to the board. He was appointed to the board in April 2008.

Despite eyesight issues which prevent Larson from driving, he never misses a board meeting.

Larson’s dedication is a true example of a public servant, Dr. Reggie Engebritson, St. Louis County Schools superintendent, said.

“I am grateful to have Chet on our board and the opportunity to work with him,” Engebritson said. “He has a wealth of historical knowledge about

the district and he is a strong advocate not only for his area of the district which he represents, but for all our 2142 students.”

Larson, who worked with a number of superintendents and administrative officials, says the school district has never been in better shape.

“I’ve seen just about everything I could see in the school district,” Larson said. “I’ve seen ups and downs and making some poor financial decisions. We have good financial management now, we’re providing one of the better educations, we have good leadership, and one of the main things I see is we have very stable principals now.”

Building new schools and renovating campuses, making teacher pay comparable with other area districts, and stabilizing finances, have been major accomplishments of the district in recent years, Larson said.

But the students are still what it’s all about, he said.

“I want to see it (finances) spent where it’s going to do the best good for the kids and teachers,” Larson said. “We have to take care of the kids. That’s why we’re here.”

Larson has two years left on his current term. Then, he plans to retire from the board – for the final time.

Engebritson says she’s thankful to Larson for his long-standing service and continued dedication.

“Chet continues to attend conferences where he can further his knowledge about school issues and keeps up on the information that the Minnesota School Board Association sends out to board members,” Engebritson said. “He is an example of someone who is never too old to learn and is willing to continue to give back to his community. He is a true public servant!”

Meantime, Larson is still serving.

“There’s nothing like seeing a room of kindergarten kids,” Larson said. “They’re our future.”

## Preschool Programs 2021-2022



**Limited spaces are available for preschool.** If you are interested in information, please contact the Preschool Teacher at your local school or call or email DaNeil at 218-749-8130 ext. 1116 or [dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us). This program is for children the year before they go to kindergarten. Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2021. Current immunizations are required! **Free** options are available at all of our schools either through grant funding or scholarships!

Preschool staff will be mailing information to families who are registered. Classes will begin the week of September 13. Preschool children will need to wear a mask while riding district transportation.

| School          | Preschool Teachers                                 | email  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Cherry          | Deb Spencer<br>Jocelyn Jerkovich                   | <a href="mailto:dspencer@isd2142.k12.mn.us">dspencer@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:jjerkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jjerkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>   |
| North Woods     | Becky Chopp<br>Gena Flank                          | <a href="mailto:bchopp@isd2142.k12.mn.us">bchopp@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:gflank@isd2142.k12.mn.us">gflank@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>   |
| Northeast Range | Danielle Cherne-Wiener                             | <a href="mailto:danielle.cherne-wiener@aeoa.org">danielle.cherne-wiener@aeoa.org</a>   |
| South Ridge     | Christina Nelson<br>Edwyna Scouton<br>Meghan Caine | <a href="mailto:chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:escouton@isd2142.k12.mn.us">escouton@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:mcaine@isd2142.k12.mn.us">mcaine@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a> |
| Tower-Soudan    | Mary Larson  | <a href="mailto:mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>   |

### ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

Required annual notifications that were published in the fall edition of the district newsletter can now be found on the district website. If you are looking for a specific notification and are unable to find it, please contact the District Office at 218-749-8130.





# CHERRY PRESCHOOLERS GRADUATE



Preschoolers at Cherry School celebrated the end of the 2020-2021 school year with a graduation ceremony. The children sang songs, received their diplomas, and enjoyed a special snack. Parents and family members joined virtually to watch the excitement the ceremony brought.



# HEALTH PROCEDURES

## Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to another school year. This letter is to inform you of our state and district school health procedures.

**Coronavirus Screening:** At this time, students with symptoms will be sent home per the MDH Decision Tree. We are asking that parents and guardians monitor their child(ren) for signs and symptoms of illness. Students who display any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should not attend school. Please notify your child’s primary healthcare provider for further instruction.

**School Attendance:** Healthy students are better learners. Daily attendance is highly encouraged. If your child will be absent, please contact the school secretary in the morning and state why your child cannot attend. Please report any contagious diseases: Coronavirus, Strep Throat, Impetigo, Pink Eye, Chicken Pox, etc.

**Immunizations:** Minnesota law requires all students’ immunizations to be complete, unless there is a medical exemption or conscientious objection on file in the health office. Students with incomplete immunizations **will not** be allowed to attend school until the immunizations are up to date and on file in the health office.

**Student Health Conditions:** Many of our students have health conditions, which may interfere with learning or result in safety concerns at school. Please carefully complete the Health Survey, which is included in the online registration, and fill out the emergency card included in your back-to-school mailing. If a health concern exists, the school nurse will contact you to discuss this.

**Medications:** All medication for students **MUST** be brought to the school by an adult. It **MUST** be in the original container or prescription bottle. A parent or guardian and physician **MUST** sign a medication consent form.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters. Please feel free to contact the health office with any concerns.

## ALL FAMILIES are asked to complete the 2021-2022 Application for Educational Benefits

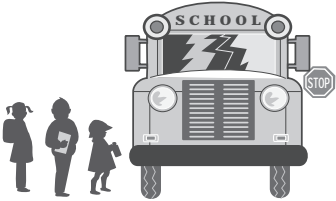
Your school qualifies for education funding and discounts as a result of families completing the application. It is not used only for nutrition benefits.

The form may look intense, but it truly takes only a few minutes to complete. Please do so today. If you did not receive a form, you can find it on your school’s website or can contact the school office to request it.

You may return the form in whatever manner is most convenient for you:

- 1) Drop off or mail to your school or the district office (1701 No. 9th Ave, Virginia, MN 55792).
- 2) Mail to Educational Benefits Coordinator, Deb Olson at 10248 Olson Road East, Cook, MN 55723.
- 3) Email to [dolson@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dolson@isd2142.k12.mn.us)

With respect to nutrition benefits, **all students will receive meals free of charge for the 2021-2022 school year.**



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

As you help your child(ren) get ready for the upcoming school year, make sure to schedule immunization updates and sports physicals with their medical provider.

All students participating in junior high or high school sports are required to have a MSHSL sports physical on file. Physicals are good for 2-3 years.

Students entering Kindergarten, 7th grade and 12th grade require updated immunizations.

Please contact Gabrielle Christianson in the school nurse offices with any questions (218-749-8130 x1122).

“Small Schools with Big Opportunities — Where Everybody is Somebody”



# Northeast Range-Ely Trapshooting Team



On Tuesday, June 15, the Northeast Range-Ely Trapshooting Team traveled to the State Trapshoot Meet in Alexandria, Minn., where they competed

against 49 other schools. There were 738 total shooters. Over the years, this team has done very well at this event and this particular was no different.

Overall, the 23 athletes placed 10th as a whole team with a second-place finish for the JV team. For some of the students, this was their first state meet

and many improved to receive their personal best score.

A huge thank you to all the Northeast Range-Ely coaches, who made this season successful. They are: Julie Huseby, Mark Huseby, Ed Zupancich, Chad Loewen, Terri Loewen, Travis Loewen, Josh Polman, Ed Putzel and Ron Siminisch. Also, a big thank you to Dick Klinzing, the safety officer. These people work tirelessly volunteering to teach each of these athletes in a responsible way to compete and improve their skills in this lifetime sport, all in a safe and respectful environment. We are very grateful to them all.

Trapshooting is one of the fastest-growing high school sports in Minnesota. Since the beginning, there have been 72 million shots fired, with not one injury reported.





## GET CONNECTED. GET HELP.

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL | FREE | ACCESSIBLE 24/7

Contact 211 today for expert, caring help with food, health care, housing and utilities payment assistance, employment services, veterans' services, childcare, crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, and more.

Call 211 for immediate assistance or visit [211.org](https://211.org) for more info.

2-1-1

United Way of Northeastern MN

United Way

## IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

### CHECK OUR WEBSITES!

As a means of making up-to-date information readily available to parents, students, staff, and community members in a timely manner, we have been making increased use of our district and school websites.

Here are just some of the things you can find on our websites: school-related news; forms; inclement weather notices; the district newspaper; school board agendas, minutes, and policies; handbooks (student, employee, MSHSL/coaches); job postings, union contracts, calendars (school year, school board meetings, school activities and events); staff contact information; school daily announcements; lunch menus; athletic schedules.

The district website is located at [isd2142.net](https://isd2142.net). Each school has its own website. If you search for your school by name (Cherry School, North Woods School, Northeast Range School, South Ridge School, or Tower-Soudan School), you'll find a link to your school website.

If you have questions about where to find something on one of our websites, feel welcome to contact your school office or the district office. Our goal is to make as much information as possible available to you 24/7.





# NORTHEAST RANGE BAND MARCHES ON



The Northeast Range Marching Band had a busy summer marching in five parades in the communities of Babbitt, Tower, Ely, Hoyt Lakes and Embarrass. Despite extreme heat encountered during some of the performances, in all, students showed perseverance and pride for their school which was met by appreciative crowds. The band is directed by Kevin Ryks and flag coach Christine Mackai.



## Save Receipts For Your Child’s Education Expenses

If you’re buying school supplies for your children in kindergarten through 12th grade, you may qualify for one or both of these tax benefits:

- K-12 Education Subtraction
- K-12 Education Credit

Save your receipts, because both benefits can help lower your taxes and may provide a larger refund when filing your Minnesota income tax return.

Last year, more than 33,000 families received the K-12 Education Credit and saved an average of \$250. Nearly 190,000 families received the K-12 Education Subtraction.

### Common Expenses That Qualify:

- School supplies (pencils, paper, calculators)
- Educational computer hardware and software
- Tutoring K-12 curriculum by a qualified instructor
- Rental or purchase of musical instruments used during school

### Expenses That Do Not Qualify:

- School supplies not used in education (backpacks, tissues, organizers)
- Internet service and access fees
- Clothing, including school uniforms (except required gym clothes)
- School lunches
- Family trips

### Do I qualify?

To qualify for either the credit or subtraction, both of these must be true:

- You purchased educational services or materials to assist with your child’s education
- Your child is attending kindergarten through 12th grade at a public, private, or home school

### Income limits for Each Program

**K-12 Education Subtraction:** There are no income limits for the education subtraction.

**K-12 Education Credit:** Your household income (taxable and nontaxable income) must be below the levels shown here. If you qualify for the credit, you must file a Minnesota return to claim a refund.

| Number of qualifying children in K-12: | Household income must be less than:   |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 or 2                                 | \$37,500                              |
| 3                                      | \$39,500                              |
| 4 or more                              | Add \$2,000 for each additional child |

For more information on these benefits and other valuable tax information, visit [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us) and enter **K12** into the Search box, or call us at 651-296-3781 or 1-800-652-9094.





## ECFE – Early Childhood Family Education



Classes are offered at all of our schools for children and their parents before the child goes to kindergarten. Some classes will be in person and others will be held virtually.

ECFE staff will be mailing information to all households on our Early Childhood census in early September. If you have questions about ECFE, please contact the ECFE staff at your school!

In person classes include a time for parents and children to do activities together, and a time apart when parents meet with other parents and children remain with the teacher and play together. This program builds independence, language skills, and group interaction skills. It is a great way to meet families with young children in your community! Immunizations must be current to attend classes in person!

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. We will post information on-line also!

| School          | Staff   | email  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Cherry          | Lori Udovich, Parent Educator<br>Jocelyn Jerkovich, Child Educator        | <a href="mailto:ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us">ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:jajerkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us">jajerkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>               |
| North Woods     | Becky Chopp, Child Educator<br>Lori Udovich, Parent Educator              | <a href="mailto:bchopp@isd2142.k12.mn.us">bchopp@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us">ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>                         |
| Northeast Range | Gena Flank, Child Educator<br>Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator               | <a href="mailto:gflank@isd2142.k12.mn.us">gflank@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us">shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>                           |
| South Ridge     | Christina Nelson, Child Educator<br>Sara Lorbiecki-Brown, Parent Educator | <a href="mailto:chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:slorbieckibrown@isd2142.k12.mn.us">slorbieckibrown@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a> |
| Tower-Soudan    | Mary Larson, Child Educator<br>Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator              | <a href="mailto:mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us">mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a><br><a href="mailto:shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us">shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us</a>                         |

### 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](mailto:info@uwnemn.org)

## Seeking and Welcoming Substitutes in Our Schools

St. Louis County Schools, ISD 2142, invites you to consider applying to be a substitute for one or more of the following positions:

- Teacher
- Paraprofessional
- Pre-school Teacher Assistant
- ECFE Teacher Aide
- Teacher Aide
- Bus Driver
- Van Driver
- Custodian
- Food Service Aide
- Health Assistant
- School Secretary

Substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, pre-school teacher assistants, and ECFE teacher aides are hired through Teachers on Call. To apply for one of these positions, go to [www.teachersoncall.com](http://www.teachersoncall.com). Substitutes for all other positions are hired directly by the district. To apply for

one of these positions, go to [www.isd2142.net](http://www.isd2142.net).

Substitute teachers must hold a valid Minnesota teaching license. Substitute paraprofessionals and pre-school teacher assistants must be highly-qualified, defined by meeting one of the following qualifications:

- Completed a minimum of 60 semester credits at an institution of higher education
- Obtained an associate's (or higher) degree
- Obtained a minimum score of 460 on the ParaPro test

If you have any questions about substituting in one or more of the positions listed above, please feel welcome to contact the district's Human Resources Director, Meredith Carter, at 749-8130 Ext 1108.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING



Early Childhood Screening is provided by the school district **free** of charge and is required for entrance in kindergarten and is required for participation in preschool. Screening offers a snapshot of your child's health and development and it is recommended that children be screened around age 3-1/2.

If you are not on our Early Childhood mailing list, please contact us so we can add you and your child to the list so that you receive all information related to screening. We will need the child's name and birthday, parent name, address, phone number and an email. You can call 1-218-749-8130 ex 1116 to leave your information on the voice mail for DaNeil or you can email the information to [dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us). Our first screening dates will be scheduled beginning in October and November in the district.

As always, if you have concerns about your child's behavior or development, please contact DaNeil or any of the Early Childhood teachers at your local school. We are here to help!

### 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 [dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us).

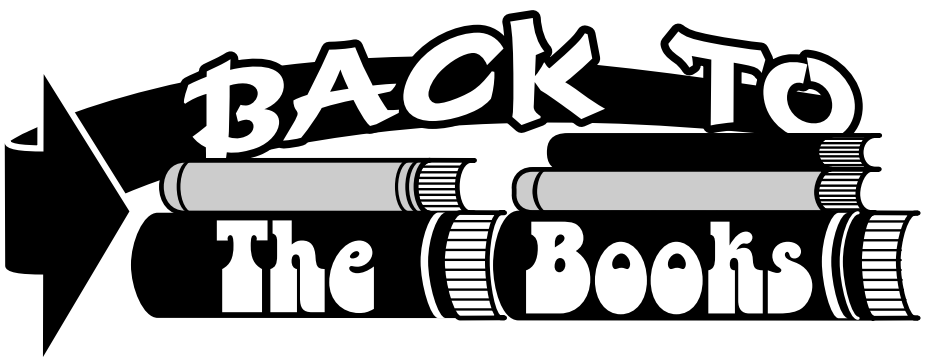
Or you can contact your school Early Childhood team and ask them to add you to the Early Childhood mailing list. We need: Parent and child's name, child's birthday, address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!



# LITTLE GRIZZLIES PLANT FLOWERS



North Woods School Little Grizzlies after-school program students, along with supervisors Caroline Roesch and Maxine Olson, helped to beautify the school entrance with cedar planters and beautiful flowers. Thanks go to teacher Mike Summers for building the planters and to Cook Building Center, The Watering Can, and the Cook Lions Club for donations to make this enrichment project possible. Pictured: Caroline Roesch, Silas B., and Lily P.



## 2021 Regular School Board Meetings

| Meetings will begin at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted |        |                              |                 |
|---|--------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Day   | Date   | Type                         | Location        |
| Tue   | Sep 14 | Working Session              | District Office |
| Tue   | Sep 28 | Business Meeting**           | Cherry          |
| Tue   | Oct 12 | Working Session              | District Office |
| Tue   | Oct 26 | Business Meeting             | South Ridge     |
| Tue   | Nov 9  | Working Session              | District Office |
| Tue   | Nov 23 | Business Meeting             | District Office |
| Tue   | Dec 14 | Business Meeting 5:30 p.m.   | District Office |
| Tue   | Dec 14 | Truth-in-Taxation 6:00 pm*** | District Office |
|   |        | ** Initial budget and levy   |                 |
|   |        | *** Final budget and levy    |                 |

# 2021-2022 EXTRA-CURRICULAR FEES

## Participation Fees

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Varsity and JV Athletes   | \$120.00 |
| Jr High (Grades 7-8) Athletes*  | \$ 60.00 |
| Students qualifying for reduced lunch will pay 50% of the participation fee |          |
| Varsity and JV Athletes   | \$ 60.00 |
| Jr High (Grades 7-8) Athletes*  | \$ 30.00 |
| Students qualifying for free lunch will pay 25% of the participation fee    |          |
| Varsity and JV Athletes   | \$ 30.00 |
| Jr High (Grades 7-8) Athletes*  | \$ 15.00 |
| Maximum Family Participation Fee  | \$500.00 |

\*Jr High Fees apply to athletes who participate only on 7th & 8th grade teams. If an athlete participates at the Jr High level and also participates at the JV or Varsity level, he/she will pay the Varsity/JV Athlete fee.

## Additional Information Regarding Participation Fees

1. Participation fees must be paid prior to the first game/contest. Fees must be paid in the school office with a site secretary. A receipt will be provided.
2. Refunds will be provided only if a student is unable to participate due to injury or due to circumstances beyond the student's control. If a student participates for half the season and becomes injured, one-half of the fee will be refunded. No refunds will be granted to any student who becomes ineligible to participate due to violations of the MSHSL or school rules.

3. Junior High (7th and 8th grade) students who are moved up to play at the JV or Varsity level will be required to pay the Varsity/JV participation fee. Money already paid at the Jr High level will be applied to the higher fee.

4. A student who is unable to pay the participation fee due to personal or family finances shall meet with the School Principal. The Principal will determine, based upon individual circumstances, how the fee will be paid.

## Spectator Fees

There will be no charge for spectators for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Keep Fire Lanes & No Parking Areas Clear

When picking up and dropping off your children at school, or if you are attending a game or special event, please remember to keep fire lanes and "No Parking" areas clear of vehicles. These areas are marked and need to be kept clear for emergency vehicle use only.



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