



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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JUNE 2020

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Supt's. Update



Supt. Reggie Engebritson, Ed.D

You know that song “Into the Unknown” from the movie *Frozen 2*? If you have young children or grandchildren, chances are you have heard this song. I find myself playing that song and singing along with Elsa on my drive into work. It makes me laugh as I sing it and I think of how we have all gone into the Unknown.

Since March 18, when we first closed schools, there have been many unknowns. There have been so many things that we have not done before and at times, we didn't know from week to week what was going to change. The spread of a virus has dictated the decisions from the Governor to the Commissioner of Education to the superintendents. As a superintendent, I am used to making decisions and planning ahead and making things happen. I have had to wait for guidance and direction from the state before moving forward. When I'm asked clarifying questions, I have had to respond with, “We don't know yet.”

As of this writing (end of May), we have not received guidelines from the MN Department of Education (MDE) as to what the start of the next school year will look like. I'm guessing if we can't return to school like we did last fall, then it will be some type of hybrid model,

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SPECIAL SEND-OFFS FOR EXTRAORDINARY SENIORS

By Lee Bloomquist

A special group of seniors has graduated from St. Louis County schools.

To honor ISD 2142's 2020 seniors — parents, family, teachers, administrative staff and communities — went all out on May 29 at district campuses to hold unique graduation ceremonies.

It was a year to remember for every senior. And even though it was different, graduation remains a day they'll forever hold in memory.

Here's a look at graduation ceremonies and what some seniors remember about their classmates and school:

Cherry Campus

Cherry honored its 20 seniors with a drive-through graduation. The ceremony was highlighted by a pre-recorded ceremony, a live segment and seniors exiting family vehicles one-by-one in graduation caps and gowns onto a stage to pick up their diploma. It was followed by an on-stage professional photo.

“My class has grown up with each other,” said Karlee Grondahl, class vice president. “We've known each other since we were little and have done everything together. We're super connected.”

Principal Michael Johnson says the class was one of the best he's ever seen.

“I've been in education 20 years and this is the closest class I've ever seen in supporting each other,” said Johnson. “What I really enjoy about this class is the individual personality of each of the students and how they work together.”

Even though some of the seniors took college classes, Grondahl said classmates remained close and pulled together.

“We're all really hard workers and everyone has something to bring to the table,” said Grondahl. “If I had to pick one thing that's unique, it's that we know

how to adjust to situations. We're going to make it and be the best we can be.”

Many senior boys will attend community and technical schools, said Grondahl. Quite a few of the senior girls are pursuing health care careers, she said.

Seniors will remember Cherry as a tight-knit school, said Grondahl.

“It's a family-like atmosphere,” said Grondahl. “Everybody is so caring. You can be there at the worst time of your life or the best time of your life and everybody will be there to support you the best they can.”

It's the last small graduating class at Cherry, said Johnson. Going forward, graduating classes will be 42 to 52, he said.

Northeast Range Campus

Northeast Range honored its 21 seniors with a drive-through ceremony. Graduates walked onto a stage to pick up diplomas. Scholarships and a senior slide show were communicated via a projector screen.

“I think because we're a small school we're all really close,” said Maude Lenz, senior class president. “There's no groups in our school and I think that's really special.”

Principal Kelly Engman says the class of 2020 was diverse in interests and are heading into career paths such as teaching, technology, engineering, mechanics, business, computer science and natural resources.

“In high school, they have stood up for each other and made sure that everyone in their class was doing their part to be successful,” said Engman. “I am proud to say they that they all have the perseverance to see their dreams through.”

Engman says the class displayed passion and desire to make a difference.

The class also started several new traditions at Northeast Range while

ensuring that some of the old traditions did not disappear, said Engman.

“Personally, this class is special to me because they were in seventh grade when I became principal,” said Engman. “We have grown up together so to speak and that will always hold a special place in my heart.”

While seniors everywhere would rather have experienced a traditional ceremony, Lenz said Northeast Range graduates were pleased with the program to honor them. The class, said Lenz, is appreciative of the teaching staff.

“We're really lucky to have the teachers we do,” said Lenz. “I think because of our size, we get a lot more opportunities and build relationships with the teachers. We have a lot of very skilled instructors and we're very lucky to have them.”

North Woods Campus

North Woods honored its 50 seniors with a drive-through graduation. Students delivered speeches, received diplomas one-at-a-time on a stage and had their photo taken. The event was broadcast live on Facebook and through Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio.

“We wanted to keep it as authentic as possible,” said Kandi Olson, senior class co-advisor. “We've really felt lucky to advise this class. As the graduation was planned, the senior class officers met weekly, asked great questions and put together as many great opportunities as they could during this difficult time.”

To support seniors, banners were displayed in North Woods communities and a parade was held along with a safe baccalaureate ceremony.

“They're a great class,” said Olson. “This has been a class that's been so easy to work with. They're very flexible and have a great attitude about things in school.”

Senior class president Coley Olson says it was a tight-knit class.

“I think definitely we are all close,” said Olson. “There's a lot of us who even though we didn't hang out weekends

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***Congratulations to all of our
Class of 2020
District 2142 Graduates!!***

We are so proud of your accomplishments!

Good luck in all of your future endeavors

Graduate Photos Inside

Northeast Range..... Pages 2-3
North Woods Pages 4-5
South Ridge Pages 6-7
Cherry Page 8

NORTHEAST RANGE CLASS OF 2020



Carolyn Desilets



Casey Zahnow



Charles Winger



Charlie Fritz



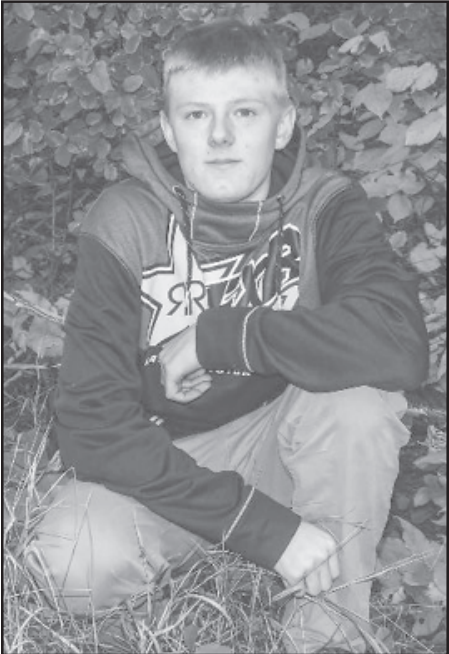
Darien White



Isaac Munns



Jacob Hvezda



Jason Skube



Jaydon Leskiw



Jolie Langevin



Kayla Johnson



Lara Poderzay



Blayze Davidson



Northeast Range Graduates... continued from page 2



Logen Mealey



Maude Lenz



Robert Daugherty



Shelby Nelson



Stephanie Sam



TJ Vogh



Tracker Koivisto



Brody Anderson

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

where only small groups of students can come to school at a time. Maybe Group A comes to school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Group B comes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The following week, Group B comes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and Group A attends on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This would allow for small groups in the classroom, on the buses, in the lunchrooms, and outside for recess. Even with this model, there are a lot of unknowns that would have to be discussed and planned out. Again, this is only a guess.

While there are a lot of unknowns about the next few months, what I DO know is this: we will figure it out and make it happen. The Governor announced on Sunday, March 15, that school would be closed starting March 18 and schools would need to provide child care and food. We had two school days to get this off the ground. And we did it! We had eight school days to plan for Distance Learning and we did it! Teachers had to learn different ways to teach and connect with students and attend Zoom meetings with me and their principal. We figured out a different grading method for fourth quarter because not all students had access to the Internet or support systems in place. There were a lot of unknowns, but we worked through them together and made good things happen.

When students return in the fall, we will meet them where they are at and we will continue to help them grow and learn. Even if students are behind from where they should be in their new grade, we will figure it out. We will provide supports and we will help each student. How do I know this? Because this is what we do. We educate. We nurture. We support. We know that kids will return to us and many may be behind. That’s OK. We’ve got this. We will do our usual fall testing, if we can, and we will look at the data to see what they know and where they struggle. And we will meet them right where they are at educationally.

This has been a stressful two months for parents, grandparents, students, teachers, administration, and society in general. The unknown can cause angst. As we wrap up the 2019-2020 school year in a way we never would have imagined when school started last fall, I want to say “thank you” to the entire ISD 2142 team — all employees and school board members — for stepping up and jumping into the unknown with professionalism and grace. I want to also thank all of the parents, guardians, grandparents, and students for all of your hard work these past few months and for working with us to make the best of a challenging situation. There are still unknowns out there, but together we will get through them. Stay well.

Special send-offs for extraordinary seniors

(Continued from front page)

with each other, we talked a lot with each other in school.”

Olson said her class was diverse with boys who enjoyed athletics and working on cars and girls who participated in cheerleading, dancing and sports.

“We also had a lot of artists in our class,” said Olson. “They’re all super good.”

Seniors appreciated the individual attention from teachers and staff, she said.

“I like how personal they were,” said Olson. “It’s like they all knew me and made an effort to know me. I had a good relationship with my teachers and I know all of my class would say the same thing.”

South Ridge Campus

South Ridge honored its 43 seniors with a parking lot graduation ceremony.

“We tried to get the graduation as close as we could to a traditional style,” said Adam Wisocki, senior class co-advisor.

Senior Logan Berlin said classmates were a close group.

“We were very different in ways, but we tended to come together as a whole,” said Berlin. “We were competitive, but that also kept us

together.”

Many South Ridge seniors will attend two- or four-year colleges while some will go straight into the workforce, said Berlin.

Wisocki said seniors were a tough group of students who knew how to adapt to change, including the graduation ceremony.

“I think they were a little more at ease that they could walk across a stage rather than do the digital thing,” said Wisocki.

The class of 2020 was very special, said Wisocki.

“I would have to say what stands out is how they grew up together and have a real tight relationship with each other,” said Wisocki. “They’re very social. I would say that group definitely knows how to get the job done. I would say they have integrity and grit.”

Berlin said seniors will remember South Ridge as offering great education and a personalized atmosphere.

“It’s high quality,” Berlin said of the school. “All the teachers are there for you and will connect with you. If you need anything, they’re there for you. I’m glad I was in a small school. I think you build a bond with people and your classes come together more.”

NORTH WOODS CLASS OF 2020



Dylan Adelman



Trevor Adelman



Brielle Anderson



Lauren Arvila



Levi Byram



Zander Carr



Katrina Chapman



Bethany Cotten



Daniel Crockett



Genesis Day



LaVonne Drift



Kensie Fox



Samantha Francke



Luke Gabrielson



Stacie Howe



Katie Johnson



Pierce Johnson



Tyler Kehoe



Jerome King



Amia Kisch



Morgan Malecha



CeCelia Martinez



David Moes



Trevor Morrison



Jordyn Nelson

North Woods Graduates... continued from page 4



Olivia Niska



Nicole Olson



Kylie Parson



Karlyn Pierce



Meadow Prescott



Nicole Roy



Jahna Sandberg



Neiva Smith



Gunnar Staverger



Sasha Strong



Shane Toivola



Kayla Towner



Kayla Tschida



Taylor Vagle



Macy Viita



Kenna Villebrun



Kennedy Wardas



Brian Whiteman



Courtney Woods

PICTURES NOT AVAILABLE FOR

- Angelina Anderson
- Nathan Crain
- Clay Janssen
- Wyatt Kneen
- Hailey Martinson
- Amber Scofield



***Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
for Your
Continued Success!!***

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

SOUTH RIDGE CLASS OF 2020



Abbygayle Almer



Allyson Bennett



Alexis Bergum



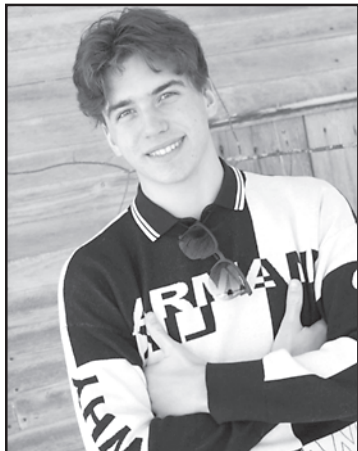
Logan Berlin



Noah Brewer



Jamie Broman



Riccardo Casula



Hailey Chandler



Matthew Clark



Juliana Class



Christy Dufton



Chloe Ecklund



Mason Floyd



Jase Graves



Torianna Guthrie



Aaron Hansen



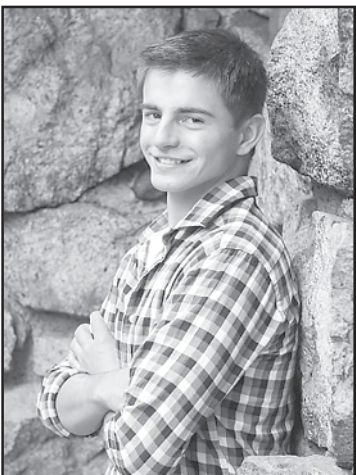
Caleb Hill



Tristan Johnson



Ferdinand Keune



Riley Kinsley



Nicholas Larson



Tarius Lovejoy



Megan Siemsen

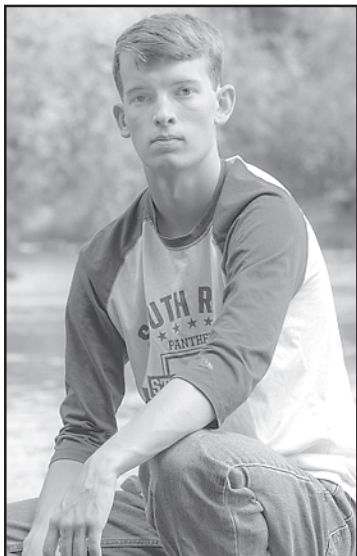


Alexandra Pretaski



Jeremy Spencer

South Ridge Graduates... continued from page 6



Zachery Kubat



Mason Lane



Maia Lentz



Natalee Smith



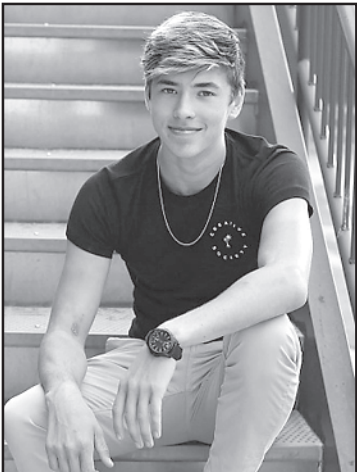
Joshua McConnell



Elizabeth McQuade



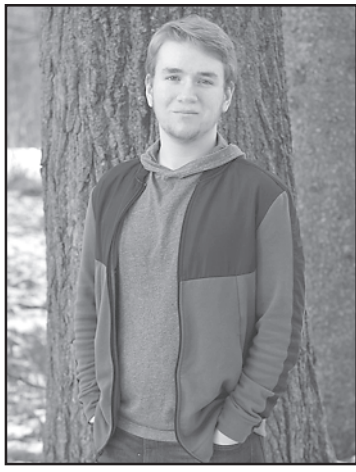
Kayden Palmi



Alexander Simek



Lucas Newlander



Aaron Rudd



Hunter Tevik



Mara Theisen



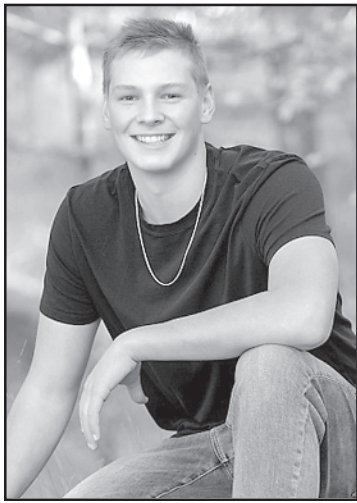
Starla Vlaminck



Nora Wagner



Richard Williams



Benjamin Wood



Logan Young



Hannah Zywicki

HATS OFF
To Our Graduates!

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

CHERRY CLASS OF 2020



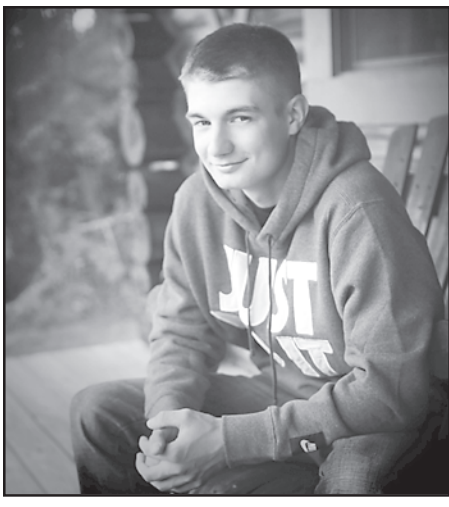
Olivia A. Baasi



Justin A. Caple



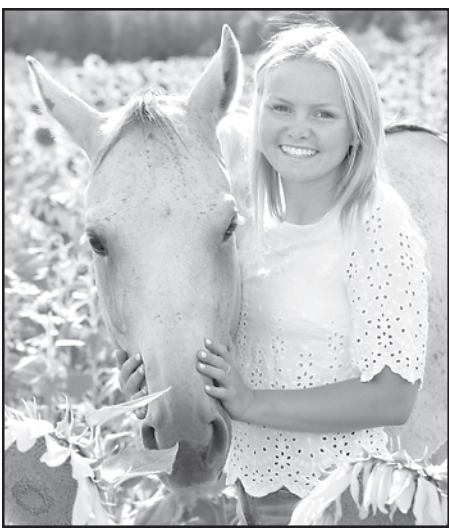
David C. Clement



Gavin L. Constantine



Logan M. Cushman



Karlee K. Grondahl



Anastasia N. Jackson



Sage A. Johnson



Joshua R. Kangas



Kaelynn S. Kudis



Riley J. Lind



Austin M. Michels



Daniel E. Moyle



Cristien J. Parenteau



Kaitlyn M. Peterson



Ryan A. Peterson



Dakota O. Rusco



Tristen C. Sellars



Gracy R. Swang



Kiana L. Thronson