



Leadership Team Highlights

Elementary Schools:

The first weeks of school gave us the opportunity to welcome our learners and staff back to school! Our schools are filled with the energy and excitement of learning! We are off to a great start!

We begin the school year by teaching our learners to share respect, kindness, and compassion for self and others through our respect programs at each elementary school.

Safety is a priority at all our schools. All learners will participate in the following drills and safety programming: Bus Safety and Evacuation, Fire, Tornado, Lock Down.

September is assessment month at the elementary level. Assessment information will provide answers to the following questions:

1. What do we want each student to learn? What are the essential outcomes (learning) that we expect students to learn?
2. How will we know when each student has mastered the essential learning? What assessment will we use to determine if the students have learned?
3. How will we respond when a student experiences initial difficulty in learning?
4. How will we deepen the learning for students who have already mastered essential knowledge and skills?

The answers to the above questions will be discussed and analyzed by our teaching teams in their Professional Learning Community meetings. This is one of the ways we attend to student learning and insure successful school achievement.

Our elementary schools will also launch our Fall Fundraisers this month. Parent engagement and support is imperative to continue to provide expanded learning opportunities for our students. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our children. We appreciate and thank you for your continued strong support in bringing new and updated learning opportunities for our learners.

At the elementary level we are filled with gratitude for the support of a full-time school counselor at each school. From the first day of school to the last day of school our students and staff benefit greatly from counseling services. Mrs. Breyfogle, Mrs. Butzer, and Mrs. Pierce are highly skilled professionals and we feel very fortunate to have their support at all our elementary schools.

Waconia Middle School:

It has been a truly amazing start to our school year and exciting to have students back. A frequent comment throughout the first two weeks was, **“We really have amazing students.”** The energy and smiles of our students breathe a life into our building that is hard to explain. One of our 7th grade teachers, Mrs. Hart, planned a welcome back project that involved students creating a tree to resemble themselves. You can imagine the varieties of trees student



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created. From there, the individual trees, all very unique, were combined to make a forest. The analogy is insightful and all of the individual trees that make up the forest at WMS is awesome!

Throughout the first couple of weeks week students listened to start of the year presentations highlighting what makes WMS awesome and how they can help to keep it awesome. We reviewed nurse procedures, counselor supports and how acting in accordance to our four Core Values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Kindness keeps our learning community safe and healthy.

When we discussed the Responsibility core value we communicated specifically on expectations regarding **cell phones, smart devices, smart watches etc.** Our building wide policy is to keep all personal devices with phone and texting capabilities out of all learning environments from 8:00-3:00. Our hard stance to keep devices out of the learning environments comes from both experience and research that shows having a device, even off and in a pocket, causes learners to be distracted. We want to optimize our learning environments and remove any potential distractions.

On Thursday evening, five WMS staff members and two parent volunteers attended site team training related to the November 6th vote on the school board's proposal to obtain an operating levy. Over the course of the training, site teams from all ISD 110 buildings learned about the wealth of information available to voters and our task is to share the factual information as often as possible with our voters. The ISD 110 [Website](#) was shared as a great resource along with multiple handouts and flyers to distribute as well.

Enrollment numbers at Waconia Middle school are continuing to grow. At this point we have 961 full-time and part-time students. There are 324 6th graders, a 12 student increase from last year's 5th grade enrollment. There are 327 7th graders, an 8 student increase from last year's 6th grade enrollment. There are 310 8th graders, down one student from last year's 7th grade enrollment. At this point we have had 46 new students register and 27 students move or leave to another district.

Waconia High School:

We've enjoyed a great start to the school year. Students were genuinely excited to be back in the building and there was an energetic buzz. Our enrollment settled to just over 1,300 students and the building corridors and lunch shifts felt larger.

We will have our first WILD Time sessions next week (September 11). WILD Time is a 40-minute block of time built into our Tuesday and Thursday schedule. Teachers will have the opportunity to "invite" students to their classrooms for extra help or make-up work, and students who haven't been invited can choose where they would like to go for support or study time. We're excited about the possibilities this offers to help all of students be successful.



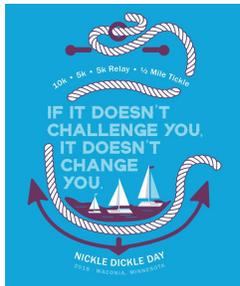
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The Waconia High School Hall of Fame welcomed our newest class of inductees at a ceremony held Saturday, September 8. The four new members are Christy Jensen, Phillip Litfin, George Offelie, and Will Yetzer. Congratulations to all of the members of the WHS Hall of Fame.

Community Education:

Last week Community Education's Early Childhood and Preschool programs held our open house. The attendance was amazing!! There were so many families that came out to meet their teachers, check out the building and turn in all of the necessary forms. It was such a great night! Willy the Wildcat even made a guest appearance.

Community Education is gearing up for the 25th Annual Nickle Dickle 5K run/walk and relay, 10K run and ½ Mile Tickle. There is still time to register for anyone of these runs! Don't miss out on a chance to be a part of this great event.



Human Resources:

Our 2018-2019 school year started with a wonderful Welcome Back Celebration where 50 new faces were introduced as members of our District ONE10 team! It's tradition in our district to introduce all new employees, volunteer Math/Reading Corp tutors and Promise Fellows that were added to our team since the previous year's workshop week festivities. Having only 50 new faces somehow felt quieter than usual given we introduced 65 new faces in 2017 and nearly 90 in 2016! Fifty remains an impressive number in today's tight job market, however, further demonstrating that Waconia Public Schools continues its reputation as both a great place for students to explore their passions and create their success – and a great place to work!

Our new teachers got a jump start on the new school year during our new faculty orientation, which was held at the high school on August 15-17. Training sessions were provided on the topics of technology, social media, student activities, teaching license renewal and recertification, teacher evaluation, probationary status, and the McRel rubric and software



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systems. Time was also allocated for new teachers to work with their assigned mentors and meet with their principals and/or directors and other new members of their building's faculty.

We will recognize twenty-two teachers at Monday's School Board meeting that achieved continuing contract status with our School District effective July 1, 2018. These teachers earned this honor by providing excellent teaching and leadership services to our students during their probationary period in our school district. Our administrative staff is confident these teachers will continue to promote the district's commitment to exceptional teaching and the pursuit of educational excellence.

Technology:

The 3rd and final phase of the Dually-funded BYOD program was rolled out this fall. This phase expands our 1:1 program to grades 5-12. We have finally achieved a 1:1 program 5-12. This has taken seven years and we are finally there!

- **In 2018-19:**
 - 54% of eligible students purchased a device this year.
- **Overall**
 - 10% of our students have chosen to borrow a district-owned device (original goal 35%)
 - 25% of our students are bringing a device their family already owned. (original goal 25%)
 - 65% of students in grades 5-12 (1652) students have purchased a device through this program in 3 years; (original goal 40%)

Hapara

This is a web-based classroom management tool that a small number of teachers at each building piloted last year. With feedback from these teachers it was determined that this tool was effective to help focus student use of their BYOD devices on educational activities.

Classroom teachers will be incorporating this tool in their instructional methods in grades 5 through 12. This tool is used in an effort to help monitor students and focus them to remain on task when using their device. This tool is pushed out to a student's account in the form of an extension. This tool is not downloaded onto devices. This is an extension that is pushed out to each student's Google Suite account which is owned and managed by District 110. If a student were to log-in to a personal google account on their device, the extension would not be there.

Teachers will have the ability to see the student's work on the student's desktop. This tool is set up so that a teacher only has the ability to see a student's work on the teacher device when the student's device is physically located in District 110 buildings between the hours of 7:00-3:30.

District 110 staff members do not have the ability to monitor any student accounts when students are off campus. If you would like an overview of this tool, please visit

www.hapara.com.



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Student Services:

Special education numbers continue to grow in the district:

Building	September 2018	September 2017
ECSE	67	69
Bayview	107	100
Laketown	85	72
Southview	96	95
Middle School	149	137
High School	113	105
WLC	12	5
Total Students with IEPs	629	583

Superintendent:

Great Start to the School Year!!!

The 2018-19 School Year is off to a great start! It is so awesome to have the students back in the buildings and to have schools developing their routines. Our wonderful staff have already started to establish relationships with our fantastic students. Starting early is already showing learning benefits and all will enjoy the earlier end of the year next spring when we are out of school before June, 2019.



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Communication of our Operating Levy Continues

It is our goal to make sure all voters are informed with the facts about our Operating Levy question on the November 6th ballot. We continue to provide information in many ways.



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- The district website has a dedicated area that has factual information about the proposal, including how to vote early, where to vote and how to get additional information.
<https://www.isd110.org/2018-referendum-operating-levy/isd110-school-board-approves-operating-levy-question-november-ballot>
- The website also has a short video that gives an overview of the proposed operating levy. Feel free to watch it on the website or by clicking on this link:
<https://vimeo.com/286891961>
- Numerous additional communications tools have been produced and are being distributed around the community -- informational brochures, fast fact sheets, sample ballots, etc.
- The CommuniCAT will also be mailed out next week to every household in the district with lots of information about the proposed levy.
- We are making multiple presentations around the school district and are willing to come to you. Please contact Jessica Kilian jkilian@isd110.org if you would like to schedule a presentation with Superintendent Devine.
- We now have trained site teams from each school and activity so they can share factual information with parents, staff, volunteers, and neighbors.
- Community Information Sessions are set for the following dates and times:
 - September 24 @ 6 p.m. - Waconia High School room B107
 - October 11 @ 6 p.m. - Waconia High School room B107
 - October 22 @ 6 p.m. - St. Bonifacius City Hall - Community Room

Stadium, Road, and other Construction Progress

As we continue to push to have the new stadium completed this fall, the delays we experienced early on in the construction process continue to make hitting deadlines rather difficult. As contractors continue to move ahead, like many construction projects of this size, it doesn't always go as fast as you would like. We had hopes of hosting our first football game at the new stadium on September 28th which is homecoming. However, at this point, that does not look achievable. We will continue pushing to finish as early as possible and we will also keep you updated regarding our progress. The good news is that we have a beautiful stadium to play at now and Meuwissen Field, which has served our community well, will continue to be utilized at all levels of play in the future.



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Many are waiting for the roadway construction projects to wrap up. Even though they are not our projects we are in communication with the county and city to keep informed of progress.

Here is what we know to be the schedule:

- Hwy. 10 north roundabout should be open in the week of September 10th
- Hwy. 110 connection to the High School from Hwy. 10 north to MN Hwy. 5 is scheduled to open in November 2018
- Airport Road by Laketown is also scheduled to be completed this fall
- Completion of West 2nd Street between Walnut and Maple is yet to be determined

There has been a lot of interest in another project that is not ours.....so here is an update on the indoor sports complex being proposed on the Peitz property between the High School and the Middle School. Our involvement is to sell the land and it has yet to be purchased. Original timelines had the private investment group starting construction already but there have been some delays. We will update you on the progress when there are developments to report.

The earthwork that you see between the High School stadium and MN Hwy. 5 is the location for a new bus garage that Brian Koch of Koch Bus Service Inc. is planning to build. This early dirt work has allowed for the Hwy 110 construction crew to move dirt to a much closer location which is saving time on both projects. So it is a good thing for all.

The City of Waconia is looking for Playground Design Volunteers

Susan Artz, Waconia City Manager, is seeking anyone interested in helping with the design of a handicap accessible playground. The city is in the process of recruiting volunteers to serve on a Taskforce for the design of the Inclusive Playground. Here is a link to more information: <https://www.waconia.org/462/Inclusive-Playground>. If you know of anyone that may be a good candidate for this Taskforce, please share with them this link or let Susan know and she will reach out to them. There is room for 21 members on the Taskforce.

School Board Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Eastern Carver County is sponsoring a forum for candidates for ISD 110 School Board. Candidates will field questions beginning at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, September 11 at the Waconia City Council Chambers, [201 South Vine Street](#). They will respond to questions on a wide variety of issues of concern to voters throughout the school district.



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Voters, school staff, and students may submit questions in advance to lwvecc@lwvmn.org. Please indicate the name of the forum in questions submitted by email. Audience members at forums will have the opportunity to submit questions in writing at the event.

Here are the 12 ISD ONE10 School Board Candidates for the 4 open seats on the November 6th ballot:

- Mike Bullis - Incumbent
- Patrick Butler
- Cyle Greenwell
- Michael Jensen
- Jacquelyn Johnson
- Alan Mansager
- Rachel Myers
- Tamara Polzin
- Peter Reineke
- Eric Sufka
- Greg Tucker
- John Weinand - Incumbent