

CommunicAT

FALL 2017



TRANSFORMING WACONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



In November 2014, voters passed a \$75 million bond referendum aimed at addressing some much-needed space and facilities issues.

"The transformation that's occurred in the past 3 years is remarkable," Pat Devine, superintendent of Waconia Public Schools, said.



It's been a whirlwind of positive change, and I couldn't be more pleased with what's been created for our students. It's all because the voters said 'yes' to supporting our students. This entire referendum has been about preparing for the future by creating more learning spaces for our kids."

PAT DEVINE
Superintendent

Devine has been keeping the community updated about construction progress along the way, but so much has changed that it's worth a comprehensive look at the new learning opportunities now available for ISD 110 students.

PHASE ONE

Laketown Elementary

With room for 600 students, Laketown added 85,000 square feet of much-needed space for elementary students. The school sits on 58 acres and is surrounded by forests and wetlands. It was important to design the school to fit into those surroundings.

- › Award-winning design
- › Modern learning spaces and classrooms
- › Small-group learning opportunities
- › Flexible seating
- › Natural lighting
- › Energy-efficient LED lighting and air handling system
- › Full size, competitive gym
- › Outdoor learning opportunities
- › Recreational fields
- › Handicapped-accessible playground



Southview Elementary and Bayview Elementary

Southview and Bayview received some important updates during phase one. Air conditioning was installed in both schools, and new cabinetry and flooring was installed in nearly all classrooms at Bayview.

PHASE TWO

Early Childhood Enrichment Center

As communities continue to grow, it is important to find space for programs for all of our early learners. Moving the Alternative Learning Center out of the Educational Services Center to a new location opened up a whole new world for ECFE/ECSE and Rainbow Preschool.

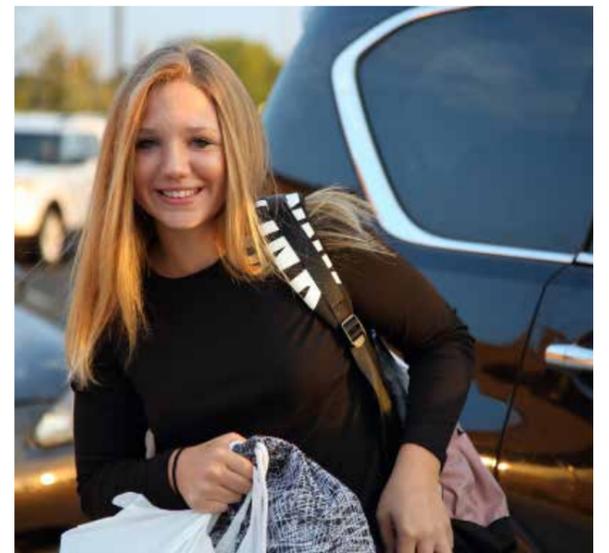
- › Doubled classroom capacity
- › Complete renovation of playground
- › Natural-based play
- › Handicapped accessible

WACONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WACONIA HIGH SCHOOL TRADING PLACES

Waconia Middle School

Middle school students had become accustomed to being in their own grade-level "houses." Their new school keeps this important aspect of school life in tact. Each grade still has its own area at their new school. Students also gained quite a few amenities that make WMS unique.

- › Grade levels remain separated in their own houses
- › Redesign of small-group learning spaces
- › High school-level science labs
- › Newly designed drop-off and pick-up
- › New canopy to protect from weather
- › Larger commons
- › More parking
- › New space for Edible Classroom
- › Redesigned band and choir rooms
- › 400-seat auditorium
- › 2,000-seat gym
- › Wrestling room
- › Weight room



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See Academic Calendars
for 2017-2018 and
High School Activities Calendars
VISIT
isd110.org

Ind. School District No. 110
512 Industrial Blvd
Waconia, MN 55387

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NEW WEBSITE ISD110.ORG

For those who haven't already seen it, check out the new website that Waconia Public Schools launched in August. The new web address is: isd110.org. The challenge of finding the home page on the Internet has also been fixed with the new website and new address. When doing a Google search for "Waconia Public Schools," isd110.org pops up first on the list.

The website was created based on feedback from parents, staff, and students. It was designed to be organized, easy to navigate, and be an efficient use of time. For instance, all school calendars are now in one area. Users can check which calendar they want to view and then sync those calendars with their devices. There is also a new "single sign-on" feature that reduces the number of usernames and passwords needed.



FINDING OUR BRAND

Waconia Public Schools has great stories to tell, and the brand becomes the foundation that helps share those stories. It also helps to build on the strong tradition and pride that already exist in ISD 110. Early in 2017, several community members came together to share their thoughts about Waconia Public Schools. The brand that emerged is a direct result of that collective guidance. Throughout the entire process what became clear is the caring nature of our communities. Our support of each other is authentic and tangible. It is very real.



"We had parents tell us that they were going to move but couldn't see leaving the district so they stayed here," Pat Devine, superintendent, said. "We also had students say that they feel totally comfortable to be themselves and are very appreciative for all the various and unique opportunities they have available to them. There's a place for everyone to fit in."

One of the themes that came out of our research was that there's this sense that everyone is standing together. People really value the fact that Waconia Schools is focused on partnering with families to develop and grow the whole student—the whole person.

Throughout the entire process, the branding compass kept pointing in the direction of community support, opportunity, and personal success.

“There's this notion that was widely supported about how the community has a responsibility to each student but each student also has a personal responsibility to create their own success. Saying we support the whole student is not something we say that sounds nice; these aren't just words but are real actions.”

PAT DEVINE
Superintendent

The new logo has five yellow lines that represent the five communities served by the district. The logo along with the tagline capture this idea of communities coming together to support students and create opportunities for them: Explore your passions. Create your success.

THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT

They call themselves the original equipment—six employees who were around when the then-new Waconia High School opened in 1994.

"I am feeling a little nostalgic. I like this place a lot," Mark Fredericksen, Waconia High School principal, said. "I think about all the kids who went through this place."

Kim Benson, Kathryn Kurtz, Dave Aeling, Mark Fredericksen, Amy Fischer, and Pam Melchert (pictured below from left to right) were all there when the high school opened its doors to students in the fall of 1994. And now, they've said goodbye to that building and moved to their new location just down the road.

"I think we will have a whole new set of stories with the new building," Fredericksen continued. "I look forward to starting fresh, and it's going to be a great place for kids as we go into the future."

The fresh start came on Sept. 11 when Waconia High School opened its doors to students.

Shortly after the summer break began, desks, tables, chairs, and supplies were moved between schools, and construction on the new high school and middle school moved at a fast pace all summer long.

"We are very pleased with how it all came together," Pat Devine, superintendent, said. "All this has been made possible thanks to our strong community support. This construction



project gives us the facilities and space needed to handle growth in the foreseeable future."

As with any large construction project, there were a few items to finish up but the buildings, and staff, were ready to go on Sept. 11.

"As a school board we've listened to the community and addressed our deficiencies, and now, we're here," Brian Rothstein, board chair, said. "It's been a long time coming, and our district is really set up now for continued growth with great facilities and great classroom opportunities."

The new locations for Waconia High School and Waconia Middle School offer new experiences and new opportunities for all students.

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OPEN HOUSE



**Waconia High School
Open House**

**Sunday, Oct. 15
2 - 6 p.m.**

1650 Community Drive
Waconia, MN 55387

TAKING CENTER STAGE

"Performance centers are havens for the arts, and this one is way cool," Doug Lakes, Performing Arts Center coordinator, said. "We now have one of the largest performing arts centers in the state."

The new Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Waconia High School can hold about 1,000 people. The main stage area is rather impressive—40 feet deep, 50 feet across, and 25 feet high. There are more than 180 lighting instruments that can be configured to light the stage in just about any color. There's also video projection capabilities, audio and video recording, data streaming, assistive listening headsets, as well as elevator access and online ticketing.

“It adds up to having everything you would expect to see and experience at a 'downtown' theater”

DOUG LAKES
Performing Arts Center Coordinator

The advanced capabilities are designed to handle any size of production or performance, large or small, complicated to simple.

"I spent many years in higher education, producing events of all sizes, and it's remarkable what the new Performing Arts Center offers the community and students of all ages," Lakes said. "This space is for everyone to enjoy, and we encourage community groups, businesses, and organizations to consider hosting their events and performances here."

As part of the Waconia High School open house on Oct. 15, the Jason Paulson Band will offer a free concert in the Performing Arts Center starting at 2 p.m.

The official PAC grand opening will be held on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. Lakes worked through some connections to successfully book illusionist Dan Sperry.



"Dan is one of the most sought-after illusionists of his generation," Lakes added. "He's from Minnesota and agreed to bring his 'Anti-Conjuror' show to Waconia before departing on his 2018 world tour."

Sperry has appeared on numerous national television shows, including *America's Got Talent* and *The Cake Boss*, and also performs regularly in Las Vegas.

"He's considered a 'shock illusionist.' Bringing in such an ambitious act is a great way to showcase our brand-new center and also demonstrate our capabilities," Lakes concluded.

The VIP seating that will be available includes a special preshow meet-and-greet with Sperry.

Tickets can be purchased at isd110.org. Click on the "Show Tickets" icon.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

If you'd like to get involved and help support the Performing Arts Center, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer. If you'd like to be an usher, greeter, ticket-taker or concessionaire, or simply want to share your technical theater expertise, please email PAC@isd110.org.

SENIOR CLASS MURALS

For many years running, the senior class put their personal stamp on their senior year by creating a mural at the high school. The themes are as unique as each class but, now that the high school has moved locations, the murals will be painted over to make way for the new traditions that Waconia Middle Schoolers

will be making. Before being hidden under a fresh coat of paint, photos of murals were taken and placed on the district's Facebook page (Waconia Public Schools). Murals from 2016 and 2017 are on canvas and were packed away in the spring. Once those murals are unpacked, photos will be taken and posted.



BUS SAFETY



Every student needs to know how to be safe on and around the school bus, and it never hurts to remind them of their responsibility in this effort. That's why Waconia Public Schools worked with Koch School Bus Service to produce a bus safety video. The video explains what students need to do while waiting for the bus, approaching it, getting on and off the bus, crossing the street in front of the bus, and so on.

"We will still work with students in person on how to properly evacuate the bus, but this video covers everything else in just a few minutes," Brian Koch, owner, Koch School Bus Service, said. "The great thing is students can go back to review it at any point during the year. So, it's always available to them; they don't have to wait for me to come to their class to do a presentation."

The video can be viewed at: isd110.org.

TRANSFORMING (CONT.)

Waconia High School

The referendum made it possible to basically double the size of Clearwater Middle School to create the new Waconia High School. There are 1,350 high school students enrolled this year. The new school has room for 1,600 students and can be easily expanded to accommodate up to 2,000 students.

Inside the Walls

- › Marquee entrance and commons area for lunch, activities, and events
- › Renovated flexible learning spaces
- › Additional areas for art, business, special education, and guidance counseling
- › New expanded kitchen for prep and serving
- › New 1,000-seat auditorium
- › New gym with seating for 2,500
- › New locker rooms
- › New choir and band rooms
- › New science labs
- › New industrial technology areas
- › New collegiate-level weight room
- › New gymnastics area and wrestling room
- › New high school offices



“Throughout the entire project we have been financially conservative and budget conscious. We are expecting to have some surplus money when everything is completed.”

PAT DEVINE
Superintendent

The addition of tennis courts is a remaining item that had been talked about leading up to the referendum and, following passage of the referendum, stadium seating for the new turf field has also been brought up.

“We will leave it up to the school board to decide what to do with the surplus funds, and I’m sure that tennis courts and stadium seating will be part of that conversation. We expect to have a decision on how we will be proceeding by the end of this year,” Devine concluded. “Overall, this has been a very successful project and will leave a footprint that will impact students for generations to come.”

“Thanks to the efforts of many and the great support of our community, we have facilities for kids that everyone can be proud of.”

PAT DEVINE
Superintendent

Outside the Walls

- › Expanded parking—1,300 new spots in and around the new high school
- › Improved traffic flow and access from Highway 5 and Highway 10
- › 40 acres of fields for football, soccer, lacrosse, and baseball
- › New turf field and 9-lane track & field
- › Pedestrian underpass for access to new fields
- › New roads in partnership with City of Waconia, Carver County, and MNDOT

Waconia Learning Center (WLC)

- › New 11,000-square-foot facility for alternative learning students
- › 285 additional parking spaces for use while accessing new fields
- › Restrooms and concession area for use during events
- › Equipment storage for activities

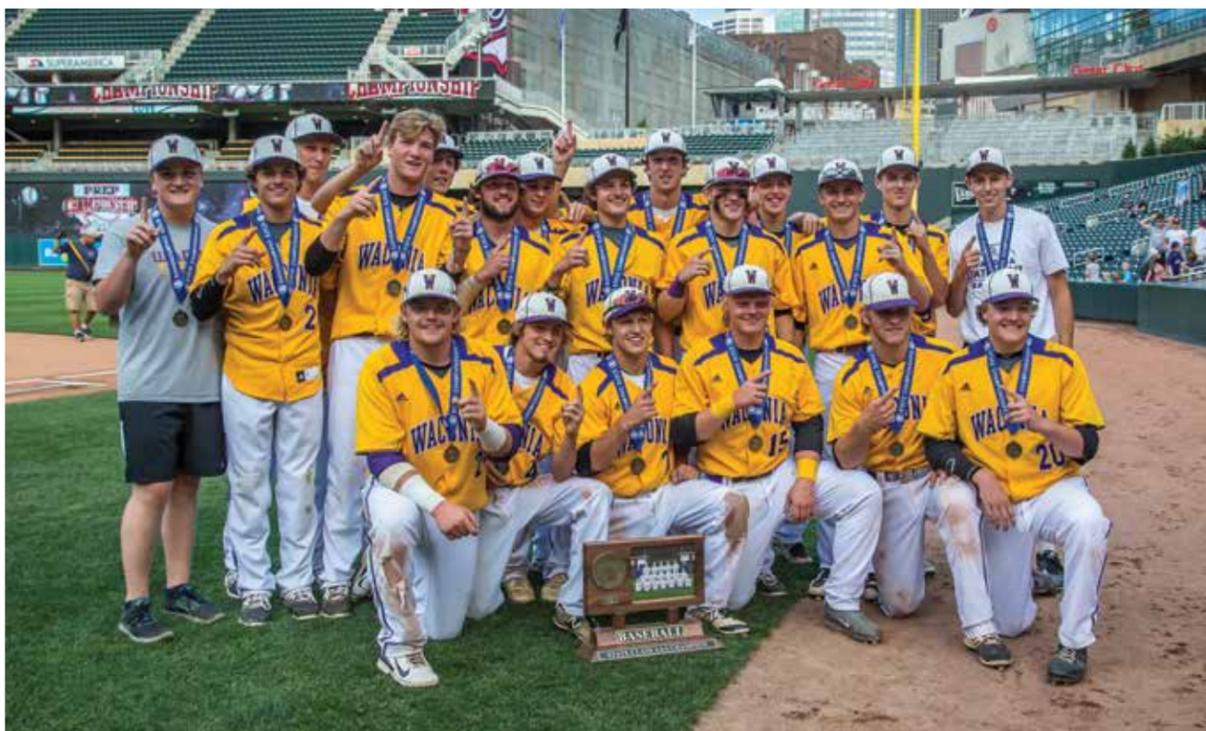
Bring Your Own Device program

- › Initiated BYOD in partnership with Best Buy
- › Grades 5 through 11 are now included in the 1 to 1 program

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We want your story ideas. If you have a story idea that you think shows our brand in action, please share it with us. Great stories are happening in our schools every day, and we want to share as many of them as possible. It could be about a student, teacher, parent, volunteer, or something you’d like to celebrate. To pitch your story, please go to isd110.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on “Submit Stories.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNDEFEATED STATE CHAMPIONS



Waconia’s baseball team is one of only nine undefeated high school baseball teams in Minnesota state history.