



Leadership Team Highlights

Elementary Schools:

Congratulations to Elementary Music Teachers: Mrs. Lisa Lozito and Mrs. Kari Werdahl.

Mrs. Lisa Lozito, Southview Elementary School and Mrs. Kari Werdahl, Bayview Elementary School have been named Minnesota Choral Director of the Year from the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. They were honored at the annual ACDA-MN State Conference Award Luncheon on Saturday, November 17 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, the site of the annual conference.

Mrs. Lozito and Mrs. Werdahl were nominated by ACDA-MN member and colleague Ron Larson, himself a former recipient of the award in 1996, and former choral director at Waconia High School. The award program was first established in 1988, and has recognized 26 individuals for their outstanding contributions, noteworthy servant leadership, and promotion of choral music within their communities and throughout the state of Minnesota. ACDA of Minnesota is a professional organization serving over 800 choral directors who lead choirs in academic institutions (K-university), communities, and houses of worship throughout the state.

Southview and Bayview Schools will honor our Music teachers on December 18th with a special schoolwide concert by Jenn Bostic.

Elementary Report Cards are online: We are now in the last month of the 2018 year and this is the end of our first trimester of school. Grades were posted on-line Friday, December 7, 2018. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to compliment their children for working hard at school and reminding them to persevere through the rest of the school year using their grit, perseverance, or determination. Here are some of the ways we are explaining these words at school:

- I can finish whatever I begin.
- I can stick with a project or activity for a period of time
- I can keep trying very hard even after I experience failure
- I can stay committed to my goals
- I can keep working hard even when I feel like quitting

Winter Safety with Officer Gowan: Elementary students participated in Winter Safety with Officer Gowan and his team of WHS students. Officer Gowan does an exceptional job teaching safety to our students. His safety topics include Bus Safety, Winter Safety, Stranger/Danger Safety, and Summer Safety. We appreciate him building relationships with elementary students and creating a safe place for all of us to learn.

What is “backyard wishes”? Showing compassion in our own backyard by supporting families and empowering kids. Many families in Waconia are struggling to provide the basic needs for their children. We are so thankful that we have people in our community who care about our families and their struggles. Waconia “backyard wishes” has put forth generous amounts of their own time and great effort to relieve the burdens of our struggling families. We are so grateful to “backyard wishes” for the enormous commitment our District 110 families and students: School Clothing, Outdoor Winter Wear, Extra-Curricular Activity Fees (Sports, Music, etc), Team Uniforms & Equipment, Musical Instruments, Special Camps, School Fees, Holiday & Birthday Gifts, School Supplies, and Special Requests.



Leadership Team Highlights

From our schools to you: We wish you a restful and joyful Winter Break! Happy Holidays!

Waconia Middle School:

WMS has been celebrating Hour of Code 2018 throughout the week, from PLP classes to library/makerspace sessions, to coding on computers and robots. The highlight was our Friends & Family event after school on Thursday- with a whopping 60 attendees! [Click here to see photo and video highlights](#). To learn more about the CSFirst Coding & Computer Science movement, please visit code.org.

Although it is shut down for the winter, the Edible Garden at WMS is a highly unique learning space that continues to flourish and provide unique learning experiences for students. This week we learned that our Edible Garden will become even more unique with addition of beehives. Garden Manager and WMS Social Studies teacher, Michelle Melius, applied for a start-up grant from the Whole Kids Foundation last year and again this year. On Thursday, school administration and Mrs. Melius received a message that we have been awarded the \$1500 monetary grant. The current plan is to house the hives on the roof with a student viewing window located upstairs near the East 8th grade commons. To learn more information about the program and the grant [click here](#).

Congratulations to 8th grade Math teacher Rob Heinley, WMS November Teacher of the Month. 8th grade student, Reilly Sazdoff submitted the fabulous nomination letter. She wrote many highlights to share including, "He has a way of teaching that makes you want to listen." and "I started the year dreading math. I did not want to go, I was scared. I ended the year loving math and the teacher who taught me." Congratulations again to Mr. Heinley for being great and to Reilly for submitting a great letter.

On Monday, we will be hosting 2nd quarter, mid-term parent teacher conferences. Winter choir concerts are on Tuesday and winter band concerts are the following Tuesday. The 7th and 8th grade band will be performing at Southdale on Wednesday, Dec. 19th.

Waconia High School:

The stretch from Thanksgiving to the Holiday break is incredibly busy at the high school. We completed the first trimester and grading and have launched into our second trimester courses. The ending and beginning of the trimesters are always a bit stressful, but students and staff are back in full swing. The first trimester honor roll will be shared with parents (and students) electronically at the end of the week.

The annual Yuletide program was presented last week on Thursday and Friday evenings to large crowds. The event has become a community highlight of the season and features the WHS bands and choirs. Kudos to the students as well as directors Aaron Olson, John Pohland, Allison Wilmes, and Evan Jones.



Leadership Team Highlights

One of our required courses for seniors is a class called Senior Seminar. It's designed to help prepare students for life after high school and covers topics and information we want to ensure ALL of our seniors leave with. The areas they rotate through cover Communication, Auto Maintenance, Finance, and Health. The Health portion covers basic first aid and CPR. All of the students receive the CPR training, and students have the option of paying a fee to be a certified CPR provider. It's very unique for schools to provide CPR training for all of their students, and we're proud to report that about 85% of this year's class chose to get certified.

It's a busy time of year for everyone and it would be easy to lose focus on the needs of others. That's not the case at WHS as there are numerous service projects and "drives" going on. Almost every club and organization is involved and projects include food, toy, and clothing drives, pulsera sales, a teddy bear collection, Dollars and Cents for Ladies and Gents, and the Cafe 110 meal project. While it's the busiest time of the year, we know it's also the most important time of the year to remember others.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Community Education:

The Community Education Winter/Spring 2019 brochure went out to the public on Monday, November 19. In this brochure there are many youth and adult enrichment classes. Along with registration information about youth soccer, baseball and softball. We are getting ready for Spring!

Our Preschool program is busy getting ready for their Cookies & Carols event. This annual sing-a-long will take place on Thursday, December 20 at 6:00 pm in the Waconia Middle School Auditorium. This is a very cute event! It is great to see all of these young children up on stage singing and smiling!

Human Resources:

A proposed calendar for the 2019-2020 school year is ready for the School Board's consideration. It was drafted by our school district's administrative team with valuable input from our teacher leadership and district families. The majority of participants expressed a preference for students to begin before Labor Day in 2019-2020 in both the parent survey distributed by our Communications Department and the faculty survey conducted by our WEA Leadership. Subject to the School Board's approval, the first day of school for students will be August 26, 2019 with teacher workshop set to begin on August 19, 2019. Winter break is scheduled to begin on Monday, December 23, 2019 and extend through Wednesday, January 1, 2020. Spring break for students will begin on February 28 and extend through March 6, 2020. The last student day of the 2019-2020 school year will be on May 28, 2020 with the last official teacher day on May 29, 2020.



Leadership Team Highlights

Planning has also begun for next year's teacher staffing. Superintendent Devine, our principals and directors will come together in late February to discuss student enrollment estimates for 2019-2020 and any upcoming teacher retirements and/or resignations. We'll work together to develop a list of any expected openings to ensure we can begin the recruitment process as early as possible. As in past years, job openings for available teaching positions will be posted beginning in March. School district representatives will attend the Minnesota Education Job Fair in April to meet students and alumni of participating Minnesota colleges and universities interested in learning more about our school district.

Student Services:

On December 3rd, 2018 over 200 special educators in Region 11 (Twin Cities area) gathered in the Waconia High School Auditorium to hear Jill Kuzma, MA, CCC-SLP. Jill presented "Socially Savvy and Emotionally Equipped, Strategies to Teach Social/Emotional Skills." Jill is widely known as an expert in social/emotional learning, particularly for students with autism. The event was sponsored by the MN Regional Low Incidence Projects, Region 11. Thank you to Waconia Special Education staff and students that helped with the day.

Superintendent:



New process at ONE10.....Explore Wild Ideas

We are excited to roll out a new process for collecting ideas at ISD ONE10. We are joining other schools from around the state and the country in partnering with InnovateK12. This



Leadership Team Highlights

process for collecting ideas allows all staff to submit any thoughts or ideas they have for school improvement. The ideas are then crowd-sourced to determine the most favorable ideas from staff. Once it has been decided which ideas to pursue further, those who submitted the idea will go through a lean Design Thinking process to create a finished product for implementation. This concept has been proven to create great ideas and a wonderful culture that values all ideas and promotes positive change. We have selected Explore Wild Ideas as the process name because of our branding tagline and our mascot. We look forward to seeing the improvements that this process will bring to ISD ONE10!

Orientation for our newest school board members starts December 12th

Rachel Meyers and Jackie Johnson are both new school board members of Waconia Public Schools. We are excited to have them join the ONE10 Team. They officially start on January 14th, but their orientation starts before then. On December 12th they will have an opportunity to meet with each of the directors and principals from the schools district. They have been given many materials that explain expectations, roles and responsibilities of a school board member. In January they will have the opportunity to go through phased school board training provided by MSBA. We look forward to helping Rachel and Jackie make a smooth transition into becoming a school board member at ISD ONE10.

Plans to complete final project from the 2014 Bond

Now that we have passed the operating levy we are able to afford a tennis program and we have started the process of building tennis courts. The 2014 Building Bond promised the completion of tennis courts and it is our intention to live up to that promise. We have had meetings with our athletic and activities departments along with building and district leadership to create an initial plan for the courts. The first meeting with design engineers went well and we should have official drawings by mid-winter. As we design this tennis space that is east of the Safari Island parking lot on Community Drive, we are also planning to create an area for the hockey rink boards that were recently purchased for an outdoor rink. It is our goal to have playable tennis courts by fall 2019 and an outdoor hockey rink by winter 2019-20.

This will be an exciting addition to our ISD ONE activities offerings.

New Activities for Waconia Wildcats

- Girls Lacrosse.....Spring 2019
- Boys Lacrosse.....Spring 2019

In the next 12 months it is our hope to be able to offer the following new activities if there is enough student interest. Please contact the middle school or high school activities office if you have an interest in participating in any of the following:

- Boys Swimming.....Winter 2019-20
- Boys Tennis.....Spring 2020
- Girls Tennis.....Fall 2020.....(Fall 2019 If tennis courts and programing permits)

A BIG Thank You to our outgoing school board members



Leadership Team Highlights

We are very appreciative of the wonderful work that has been accomplished by our school board during the tenure of Brian Rothstein and Keith Griffin. Brian and Keith have both served eight years as school board members and they have been a part of a team that has had some major accomplishments. We are very thankful for their service to the community and want to recognize some of the highlights.....

- Building referendum campaigns (2011 May & November)
- Multiple contract negotiations
- Hired a new Superintendent (2014)
- Passed a 75 million dollar building bond referendum (Nov. 2014)
- Opened a new elementary school with new boundaries (2016)
- Implemented a new technology initiative-BYOD (2016)
- Completed a Branding process and redesigned the ISD ONE Website (2016)
- Opened a new high school campus and middle school campus by remodeling and adding on to current buildings and switching buildings (2017)
- Opened a new Waconia Learning Center and an expanded Early Childhood facility (2017)
- Developed, trained and implemented a new Framework for Governance (2017-18)
- Developed a new Strategic Roadmap for the school district (2018)
- Opened a new high school stadium (2018)
- Passed an Operating Levy (2018)

There are many more impactful decisions and initiatives that were accomplished by the school board that Brian and Keith served on. It's a pretty impressive list.....THANK YOU!!!

Wishing ALL the Best during this Holiday Season!!!

There are many opportunities to experience and spread holiday cheer throughout the school district and community. Hopefully all of our ONE10 families find time to relax and enjoy family time during the holiday season!!



**A Big Thanks to all the students, staff, parents and community
for making ISD ONE10 a Great place for All...**

"WE ARE ONE10!"



WACONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS • EXPLORE YOUR PASSIONS. CREATE YOUR SUCCESS.

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