



Leadership Team Highlights

Elementary Schools:

Fall Fundraiser: Bayview Elementary, Laketown Elementary, and Southview Elementary share sincere gratitude with our elementary families for your support of our Fall Fundraisers. Due to strong family participation, we are able to Engage, Enhance, and Expand school programming at all our sites.

Health and Wellness: At the elementary level, we are partnering with [Cycle Health](#) to create a new cycle of health and wellness. This program empowers our learners to experience year-round wellness. Learners are offered a wellness challenge for each season, plus, three world-class adventure races. Cycle Health visited all 3 elementary schools last week to launch the Fall Resilinator Challenge with 4th & 5th Grade students. The Fall Challenge runs through the month of October culminating with the Resilinator Challenge on Sunday, October 28th, at Hyland Lake Park Reserve. We look forward to a good showing of Wildcat participants at this fun event.

Faculty Focus: On Friday, October 5 elementary teachers (K-5) engaged in professional learning to enhance their Reading Intervention strategies through a researched based program called Path to Reading Excellence in School Sites (PRESS). The need to help students succeed in reading is a priority across the nation and is the driving force behind PRESS. We look forward to bringing these resources to our teachers in order to improve literacy for all children at the elementary level.

Waconia Middle School:

According to our 8th grade historian, Mr. Gilbert, 2018 marked the 20th time that the 8th graders set forth in canoes on the St. Croix river. The students, teachers, and chaperones required seven buses and a trailer to get us all there. While it was a bit chillier than it has been in years past, the students had a terrific time paddling, later enjoying a hot dog lunch, expertly prepared by Grillmasters Mr. Fleming and Mr. Micklo. We concluded with some time to play in the picnic area. Footballs, volleyballs, and simple running games were the highlights. A big THANK YOU to our parent chaperones, this trip is certainly much safer because of the presence of so many watchful eyes.

This past Wednesday, September 26th, 7th grade students spent the day Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to take part in a field trip called The Incredible Edible Festival! Students were working to find answers to some "Big Questions" surrounding the effects of pollinators on our daily lives, the relationship of organisms within ecosystems, where our food comes from, and how genetic concepts play a role in creating new food varieties. These concepts will be reviewed and further applied in 7th grade science classes throughout the semester. Along with all of the learning, students got to taste a variety plant-based foods that were grown at the



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Arboretum, including many apples (some that don't even have names, yet!), pesto, many flavors of honey, and unique seeds and nuts. Experts at the Arboretum created an experience for students that is like no other. It was a beautiful day and fantastic experience!

Last week we celebrated Homecoming Week at Waconia Middle School. Students joined the fun with dress up days throughout the week with some of the most unique outfits showing up on Wednesday, Commercial Character Day. Although many students had very creative outfits, there was a boy who did an excellent job of impersonating Flo from Progressive- complete with a name your price tool. Friday morning the WHS traveling pep fest and homecoming court fired up middle school students. The Student Council Spirit Fest took place on Friday after school and over 100 students rode the optional bus ride to join the Wildcat Walk from the fairgrounds to the Homecoming Football game.

Over the past couple of weeks, 8th grade students continued the process of thinking about their future careers during their math classes. Our school counselors, Mrs. Deren and Mrs. Henslin, presented about the career wheel created by researcher John Holland and his 6 career types. Mrs. Deren and Mrs. Henslin will also be helping 8th graders get logged into the [Naviance](#) career and college planning program for the first time. Naviance is a program students will have access to starting and 8th grade and continuing through high school to help them plan their future classes and college decisions.

Waconia High School:

Homecoming week was another success. There was great student and staff participation in the dress-up days, highlighted with Spirit Day on Friday. The Homecoming Court did a great job of representing Waconia High School throughout the week and they served as the highlight of the traveling pepfests on Friday, making appearances at all five of the district's schools. We enjoyed a successful week of student activities, capped off with another football victory. Congratulations to the Homecoming Court members Ally Dirnberger, Sophie Osterberg, Grace Zieske, Alex Ickert, Joe Huskey, Ryan Biehn, Tate Maurer, Bryce Borland, along with Queen Andrea Hughes and King Simon Razidlo.

We have received word from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation that WHS senior Alina Martel has been identified as a Semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Program. Her score on the PSAT test she took last year placed her in the top 1% of the 1.5 million juniors who took the test nationwide. Alina will advance to the next stage in the hopes of being named a National Merit Finalist next spring. Congratulation to Alina and her parents, Jesse and Willa, and best wishes as she moves on in the competition.

Work continues on the new stadium. We've been pushing hard to complete all of the loose ends and, despite the weather, progress is being made. We remain confident we'll be hosting home section games at the new site this fall. Stay tuned for details. We had the opportunity to



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check out the view from the new press box. Even with a damp and heavy overcast day the field looks nice and bright; they were testing the lights and they work!

Trimester One P-T Conferences are right around the corner. This year, we are trying a different model to provide more options for parents and staff to get together, share any concerns, and celebrate student progress. Conferences will be held in the Commons on Wednesday 10/10 from 5:00 – 7:30 and Monday 10/15 from 5:00 – 8:00. We've typically avoided scheduling any school events on Wednesday, but have found for many parents it's the only night they have available. The 5:00 – 7:30 window on Wednesday would allow parents to meet with teachers and still attend church functions. One new feature will be the opportunity for teachers or parents to schedule more private meetings or discussions. Teachers will be available on both Wednesday and Monday from 3:30 – 5:00 for individual meetings or conferences that will be held in their classrooms. Teachers will be contacting parents if they'd like a meeting and parents who wish to meet can contact teachers via email to make arrangements to meet between 3:30 -5:00. **Please note, the time slot from 3:30 – 5:00 is reserved for SCHEDULED meetings and appointments, only.**

Here's a summary:

10/10	3:30 – 5:00 Individual meeting by teacher or parent request
	5:00 – 7:30 P-T conferences in the Commons
10/15	3:30 – 5:00 Individual meeting by teacher or parent request
	5:00 – 8:00 P-T conferences in the Commons

Activities:

The Wildcats teams are having an incredible fall season! Our **Girls Soccer team** just wrapped up their regular season as **undefeated Conference Champs**, going 13-0-3 on the season! The Boys Soccer team is sporting an impressive season record as well going into their final game of the regular season 11-2-2! Both the Girls and Boys soccer teams will enter post season play next week, hopefully as high seeds in the tournament earning them a home game or two in the new stadium! The Wildcat Boys and Girls Cross Country teams are bringing home hardware left and right as they sprint across finish lines across the state! The Swim and Dive team won the Milaca Invite, breaking three pool records and the Volleyball program continues to have great success as a team earning 11 victories thus far. The fall weather has been outstanding for our football team as our Wildcats have played to a perfect 5-0 record and look to continue our winning ways against the Chaska Hawks tonight in the final home game of the regular season.

GO WILDCATS! We are proud of all of you! For all the game updates and information about upcoming events, including our Fall Musical, The Little Mermaid, visit our activities website at www.waconiaathletics.com !!



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Cafe 110:

We recently rolled out a new soft serve ice cream a la carte option at WHS & WMS. We source our ice cream base from Hastings Dairy, which strengthens our commitment to purchase locally and expand our Farm to School mission.

As part of a USDA matching grant, we purchased a Commercial Soft Serve machine a little over a year ago - it is up and running and is housed in the WHS Cafe - the a la carte option is available to the HS as a serve yourself, and to the MS as a pre-made sundae. We plan to expand on our ice cream flavor options and toppings. As for now, the students have given us very good feedback and like the new option.

Health Services:

Health Services has had a busy start of the year. Besides the day to day operations of the health office ensuring students medical needs are cared for, our department has coordinated and activated our Building Emergency Response Teams (BERT) multiple times over the last month to respond to student medical emergencies. All staff responding have been outstanding and our debriefing sessions after the events have been extremely insightful and beneficial. The health office staff have stepped up to ensure that our students receive excellent and timely medical care. Families have been extremely complementary and appreciative. Our actions as a BERT team has been textbook in many situations. Hats off to all staff that have assisted in the responses!

Community Education:

Community Education's basketball registration deadline was last week. Currently we are working on putting basketball teams together, assigning coaches and getting uniforms/T-shirts ordered for each team. For basketball, teams will be having their kick off night on Tuesday, October 30 at the Middle School. This event is called Midnight Basketball. Teams will be able to meet their coach, get their pictures taken and go through a series of drills.

Spots still remain for some grade levels for basketball. Contact Community Education if you would like to still play basketball this winter.

Human Resources:

The School District has completed its Assurance of Compliance with state and federal law for the 2018-2019 school year. School districts are required to annually complete this process to assure compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. By completing the Assurance of Compliance, the School District is providing written assurance that it does not discriminate in its use of funds provided through the state and that all employees have been informed of their reporting duties under the mandated reporting laws and of the prohibition of retaliation against anyone reporting maltreatment.



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All new educational support professionals recently received training on the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and a school employee's duty to maintain the privacy of student educational data. Real life scenarios were used to assist new employees to understand their duty to comply with this important law. Training was also provided regarding the potential pitfalls that social media can sometimes pose for employees within an educational environment.

The School District's Insurance Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting of the school year this month. The Committee is comprised of a cross-section of employees representing all ISD 110 employee groups. The purpose of the Committee is to collaboratively work together to ensure the district's insurance benefits meet the diverse needs of all employees. The Committee meets monthly throughout the school year beginning in October.

Teaching and Learning:

This month's report highlights Professional Development Activities that took place on the Friday, October 5 Early Release Day.

K-5 Faculty: K-5 faculty received training from the Minnesota Center for Reading Research on a K-5 reading intervention framework called PRESS. The PRESS framework supports core instruction, while providing systematic interventions for students in need of additional help in reading development.

6-12 Faculty: WMS and WHS faculty engaged in extended time for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). The focus of this collaborative time is centered around the 4 questions of a PLC:

- What do we want students to learn?
- How will we know if they have learned it?
- How will we respond if they don't learn it?
- How will we respond if they already know it?

We are grateful for our PLC facilitators at WMS and WHS in leading this work. This year's mantra is *"learning and leading together"*.

Non-Licensed Staff: All district non-licensed staff attended a presentation from Dr. Ramon Pastrano on the topic of *"Cultural Competence, Equity and Inclusion."* Ramon is a dynamic speaker with more than 25 years of leadership experience both in the United States and throughout the world. Ramon's presentation is designed to assist us in developing self-awareness and additional knowledge and understanding about issues of cultural competence, and effective cross-cultural communication in the 21st Century. WMS and WHS Faculty attended Ramon's presentation in February of 2018, and our K-5 teachers will hear him present at a later date this year.



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Technology:

One of the initiatives in the 2018-2019 District 110 Strategic Plan is for our instructional leaders to investigate and learn about the High Impact Teach Strategies (HITS) based on the research of Robert Marzano and John Hattie.

The Teaching & Learning Department put together a District Instructional Group to facilitate the learning process for our instructional leaders in the district. The technology department is collaborating with the T & L Dept. with the goal of not only learning about HITS, but also working to integrate technology enhancements and resources into each of these very impactful teaching strategies.

The group will be meeting once a month through March to learn about each strategy. This learning is being built in a professional development course through our learning management system, Schoology. This course is being built as we go throughout the year and will be using this course with classroom teachers as we start to roll-out these strategies in the SY 2019-2020.

This is truly an exciting collaboration amongst the great instructional leaders in the district. I am really looking forward to this experience and watch the great things that will evolve from this learning process to make great impact on our students.

Student Services:

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) completed its first meeting of the 18-19 school year on October 5th. Topics discussed included: district data, compliance and monitoring results, paraprofessionals, strategic planning, and parent communication.

Several families with students with disabilities that were previously open enrolling to neighboring districts have decided to return to Waconia. According to the families, they returned because of the excellent schools and programming provide in District 110.

Special education staff participated in a variety of activities on Friday, October 5, early release time. Included were instruction in student learning goals, extended professional learning communities (PLC), paraprofessional supervision, and functional behavior assessment training. In additional all special education paraprofessionals participated in the diversity training by Dr. Ramon Pastrano.

The Pyramid Model was developed to define the evidence-based practices and approaches that can be used within a program to promote young children's social emotional competence and address challenging behavior. The ONE10 Early Childhood Team including ECSE, Wildcat, ECFE and Kids Co are well into Pyramid Model Implementation! The team has attended several trainings in partnership with MDE and developed our 3 guiding principles as a team.



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They are Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Respectful. Our staff will be working together with families and children to define each of these principals and create matrixes for how early childhood programing should look, sound and feel over the next month.

Superintendent:

Superintendent Leadership Roundtable hosted by DMGroup from Harvard University, Superintendents from around metro got together to talk about social emotional learning. We looked at current practices and best practice strategies to support social emotional learning within our school district. We learned the most recent research on addressing the needs of kids and supporting teachers and staff with the skill set and strategies they can use to help our students be successful.

I continue to have great conversations during our Operating Levy presentations throughout the school district. It is our goal to make sure all voters are informed and we encourage anyone that would like me to present to a group to contact us.

Send an email to: referendum2018@isd110.org or call: (952) 442-0611. As of today I have given 39 presentations and expect to complete approximately 70 of them before November 6th. The presentations are going well and we are receiving very good questions and feedback. All essential questions are being posted in the question and answer area of the referendum area of our website at: www.isd110.org. Most questions are inquiry based and are looking for clarification.

WHS Stadium Update: We are excited to announce that we will be opening the new stadium on Oct. 13 at 7:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 6:30. The undefeated Wildcats girls soccer team is scheduled to play a sectional game on that Saturday. We look forward to having them compete at this new venue and we want to thank the community for their patience as they waited for the completion of the new stadium. Our teams have had a fantastic fall and it is exciting to know that any home postseason games will be held at the new stadium on our high school campus.

The stadium is one of the final projects from the 2014 building bond. Among other projects on that wrap-up list: installation of monument signs and tennis courts. Two monument signs will be going in over the next couple months with the WHS sign to follow next summer and the current plan is to put in the tennis courts the summer of 2019. We are very thankful to have been given the opportunity to add these wonderful additions to our schools to benefit our kids and our community. We are very proud of the results that we know will impact our school district and community for a long time to come.

Our new Performing Arts Center (PAC), continues to deliver in many ways. The WHS fall musical, *The Little Mermaid*, will be performed on Oct. 11, 12, 13. WHS students have been



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working hard to prepare for the fall play and it looks to be a wonderful show. Get tickets for *The Little Mermaid* and our other upcoming shows on our website.

Southwest Metro Intermediate #288 Superintendent's meeting: Once a month superintendents from 11 area school districts meet to share best practices from across the area. This meeting, like the others, was very informative. On a side note, SW Metro's strong reputation is drawing attention as one of the better intermediate schools in the state. The result is at least 8 other schools are showing an interest in joining. There is an acceptance process where the current members are given a chance to give input before any decisions are made.

Carver County has invited us to a Hwy 110 Ribbon Cutting ceremony on November 13 at 4:00 PM, more details to come. We are excited to know that the connection from Hwy 10 North to MN Hwy 5 is looking like it will open before the winter months!!

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