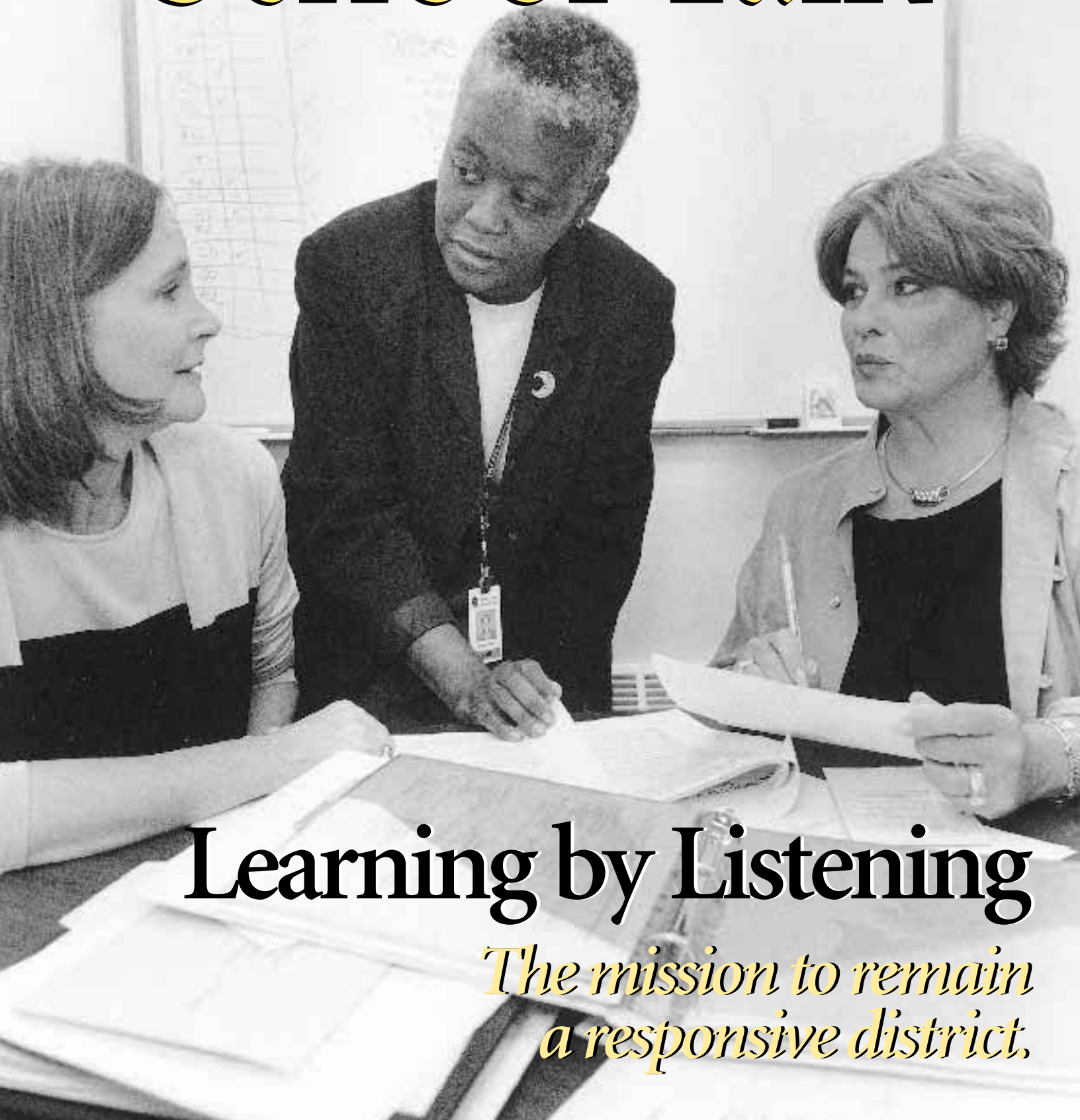


THE NEWSLETTER OF MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2001

School Talk



Learning by Listening

*The mission to remain
a responsive district.*

A responsive district values participation

What are your hopes, dreams and expectations for Mounds View Public Schools? Last school year, more than 200 people shared their thoughts with me during a series of 15 community theme meetings I hosted. I learned quite a bit.



For example, you believe the District maintains high levels of student achievement. You also think we have improved parent communication and have excelled at developing a long-range plan for the District.

You also would like to see improvements. I heard many parents who want smaller class sizes, a stronger emphasis in foreign languages and technology and increased visibility among the business, senior citizens and non-parent communities.

Those insights will help shape the District's future work plans. But our interest in the community's attitudes doesn't end there. Last school year, the School Board gathered input through a series of eight community budget meetings. Ultimately, your suggestions helped the Board prioritize District needs and guided its decisions on important budget matters.

Clearly, Mounds View Public Schools is a responsive District that values community participation. As you read this summer issue of *School Talk*, you'll discover the many ways our district is listening to the community — and what the community is saying. I'm convinced this open dialogue is critical to making us a stronger and more effective partnership.

Sincerely,

Jan Witthuhn
Superintendent

School Talk is published quarterly by Mounds View Public Schools, Independent School District 621. Send correspondence to *School Talk* editor, 2959 Hamline Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55113-1699, e-mail Mary.Nosek@mail.moundsview.k12.mn.us or call 651-604-9789.

Managing Editor
Colin Sokolowski

Editor
Mary Nosek

Designer
Linda Denny

Photographers
Greg Helgeson
Mary Nosek

On the web:



www.moundsviewschools.org

On the cover: Parents Jeanne LeFevre (left) and Julie Mellem (right), both members of the Curriculum Advisory Committee, discuss learner outcomes with District curriculum coordinator RoAnne Elliot.

Learni

There's an old saying that there are two reasons people have two ears and only one mouth. The first is that we're intended to listen twice as much as we speak. The second is that listening is twice as hard as speaking.

Mounds View Public Schools is a responsive district that understands the importance of listening. To demonstrate its accountability to the community, the District encourages public participation and collaboration.

"We need to move beyond traditional parent involvement towards authentic community engagement."

Jan Witthuhn, Superintendent

"We'd like to become the kind of school district the entire community supports," says Superintendent Jan Witthuhn. "To do that, we need to move beyond traditional parent involvement towards authentic community engagement — and engagement requires serious listening and dialogue."

Beyond the traditional methods of listening, like parent-teacher conferences and School Board open forums, Mounds View Public Schools actively encourages parent and community participation. Volunteers serve on a wide variety of curriculum committees, advisory councils, facilities teams and task forces at the school building and the District level. One essential purpose of these groups is to help the District understand what the community thinks about its issues.

Each year, Witthuhn hosts a series of "Office Hours in the Schools" to give parents and neighbors an opportunity to talk with her face-to-face. School Board

ng by Listening

With a sharpened focus on listening, Mounds View Public Schools continues its mission to remain a responsive district.

members also participate in countless school building functions to listen to what parents and students are saying.

Technology also has enhanced our ability to listen. The District's new web site, www.moundsvIEWSchools.org, provides electronic opportunities for community/school interaction. Soon, District residents will be able to subscribe to e-mail listserv options that will deliver regular updates about our schools and offer opportunities for response.

This year, however, the District moved listening to a higher level by facilitating two special projects to gauge community beliefs. The first initiative was a series of 15 Community Themes meetings sponsored by Witthuhn. The second was a Board-directed series of eight sessions designed to learn what the community values related to budget development for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

From those meetings, the District heard some consistent messages and identified some themes:

- Communication is a major priority. We must find innovative ways to provide information in more depth and detail.
- The community values accountability. We must be accountable not only for individual, student performance but for evaluating programs as a whole.
- We must address the reality that our communities are changing and that changing communities mean changes in our schools.
- We must continue to work for stronger relationships with the business and non parent communities.



“Sometimes when we listen in depth, we uncover the real values that drive the community’s demands,” says Superintendent Jan Witthuhn, shown here during a Community Themes meeting this spring. “We can’t provide classes of 15 to 1, although we’d like to, but we can work toward creating instructional group sizes that allow teachers to meet the specific needs of each child. We believe that’s what parents are really searching for when they promote small class sizes.”

- We must continue to build awareness of the impact of legislative action on schools and work toward a more organized effort to influence that action.

In several instances, community input like this has prompted direct action. For example, parents said that they’d rather pay higher fees for high school co-curricular programs than see programs cut to balance the budget. They also said they’d put up with changes in transportation scheduling if it would result in fewer cost reductions in the classroom. The District incorporated both messages into the 2001-2002 budget.

But in other cases, the District may make decisions that some in the community don’t support. Sometimes parent demands are contradicting. Other times, requests require greater resources than are available. Whatever the reason for its decisions, Mounds View Public Schools strives to explain its actions as clearly as possible.

“Not all of our community members will agree with our decisions,” says School Board chair Cathy Moynihan. “But that doesn’t mean we haven’t listened to their ideas. We’re genuinely interested in hearing

Learning by Listening

what the community thinks. We also realize gaining consensus isn't always possible. Above all, we try to act in the best interest of our students with an eye on fiscal responsibility to taxpayers as well."

This year's sharpened focus on listening will not become an isolated event. Currently, Board members are examining their changing roles and are adopting a new decision-making model that encourages broad collaboration in gathering facts and creating options and strategies for addressing issues. And at the school building level, principals are creating ways to give parents a stronger voice.

"We are a learning community and a listening community," says Witthuhn. "We always need to operate in a mode of continuous improvement."



District parents prioritized what they valued in education as part of District budget planning meetings this year, hosted by the School Board.

What's on your mind?

Looking for ways to make your voice heard? Mounds View Public Schools offers many opportunities for you to participate in the work of the District.

Here are a few examples:

In the schools

Each school in the District has a PTA or parent advisory group working closely with building staff throughout the school year. In addition, many schools have facility, technology and budget committees. Irondale and Mounds View high schools have advisory committees on co-curricular activities as well. For more information, call your neighborhood school.

At the District

The District has more than a dozen committees that address a wide range of curriculum issues and invite parent or community membership. The District

also often convenes task forces and ad hoc committees to provide input on specific issues. For more information about committee membership, call the Instructional Support Department at 651-639-6213 or the Superintendent's office at 651-639-6118.

Community Education

Programs like Community Education also rely on input from the community. Opportunities exist for participation on the Literacy Action Committee, the Community Education Advisory Council, Early Childhood Family Education/School Readiness Advisory Committee and on the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.



The Legislative Involvement Committee identifies and researches legislative issues impacting education, communicates with the community and with legislators and monitors legislative activity.

For more information about these groups, call Community Education at 651-639-6020.

If you would like to talk with someone about other issues in your school, call your neighborhood school office. To discuss topics of a District-wide nature, call the Superintendent's office at 651-639-6118.

You spoke, we listened.

Community Themes Meetings

For the second time in her tenure, Superintendent Jan Witthuhn hosted 15 meetings around the District this year to gauge community opinions.

Overall, participants said that the District had done the best job in:

- Developing a long-rang plan.
- Maintaining high student achievement.
- Communicating effectively with parents.

Participants also said the District needs to improve by:

- Maintaining small class size.
- Increasing awareness and support in the non-parent and business communities.
- Providing opportunities for students in the areas of world language and technology.

Considering initiatives that are conflicting, participants expressed satisfaction with the District's approach to balancing:

- The level of co-curricular activity with funding for academics.
- The need to meet individual student needs while not reserving an inappropriate amount of resources for behaviorally disruptive students.
- The focus on college preparation while also providing career education.
- The reduction in expenditures while maintaining valued programs.

In other areas, participants suggested greater emphasis on:

- Influencing government to increase education funding rather than simply living within the District's current means.
- Providing programs like music, art, problem-solving and character education rather than focusing solely on a foundation in the basics.

The School Board and the administration will use information from the Community Themes meetings in their planning and their work to revise the District mission and vision statements.

Community Budget Meetings

In January, Mounds View Public Schools faced a projected \$4 million deficit for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. In light of the shortfall, the School Board sponsored eight meetings in schools throughout the District to engage the community in a discussion of what it values in education.

These top priorities emerged:

Elementary Schools

1. Create small instructional groups in reading, language arts and math. Some parents maintained that class size should be minimized throughout the school day.
2. Use resources strategically to ensure that students meet learner outcomes in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, art, music and physical education.
3. Offer a comprehensive program of academic content and opportunities for participation in fine arts and enrichment activities. Provide additional resources for high potential and at-risk students.

Middle Schools

1. Create small, manageable teams of students consistent with the "school within a school" concept.
2. Emphasize core subjects like math, reading, science and social studies.
3. Support a nonviolent, safe, healthy school environment.

High Schools

1. Provide a range of course options for students at all academic levels.
2. While strong academic programming is critical, co-curricular programs which offer academic, athletic and fine arts activities are equally important.
3. Promote a nonviolent, safe and healthy school environment.

District-wide

1. Provide a standard District calendar for all elementary and secondary schools with the same conference days, work days and student contact days.
2. Maintain separate buses for elementary, middle and high school students.

The School Board used community input to establish guidelines for school budget committees as they developed staffing models for the 2001-2002 school year.

For complete summaries of community meetings, call Becky Sather at 651-639-6118.

Around the District

Here's the latest news from Mounds View Public Schools.

Construction moves to high gear as four schools break ground this spring

Four schools broke ground this spring for renovation projects to be funded by the District's \$80 million bond referendum in 1999.

The schools are Bel Air Elementary, New Brighton; Island Lake Elementary, Shoreview; Pinewood Elementary, Mounds View; and Highview Middle School, New Brighton.

Projects at all four schools include heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, upgrading and expansion of technology, expanded music spaces, remodeled administrative offices and work to address building deterioration.

Construction at Bel Air and Pinewood also includes new classrooms.

The Island Lake project features a new gymnasium, expanded outdoor play space and small-group learning spaces.

The Highview project includes a new gymnasium, an expanded media center, new classrooms and an expanded cafeteria.

Renovations at Irondale High School begin this fall.

Meanwhile, work continues at Pike Lake and Valentine Hills elementary schools and Mounds View High School, the three schools which began construction last summer.

Work is almost complete at Pike Lake. Summer projects will focus on landscaping and parking lot improvements. At Valentine Hills, construction continues on new classrooms and an expanded front entry. Work is scheduled for completion in 2002.



Bel Air Elementary School broke ground for its construction project in early May. Pictured here during the ground breaking ceremony are: (left to right) Dave Paeper of Perkins and Will Architects, School Board member Dave Stimpson, student Stephanie Spielmann, teacher Sharon Pfiffner, School Board member Barb Bollum, Superintendent Jan Witthuhn, School Board member Lori Grivna, Bel Air administrative assistant Rosemary Spielmann, School Board member Wendy Benson, New Brighton mayor Steve Larson, student Gus Connelly, PTA president Nancy Hedman, teacher Deb Raymond, Bel Air principal Mike Holmgren, School Board member Cathy Moynihan and teacher Judy Jacobsen.

Work moves into high gear at Mounds View High School this summer. Due to the level of construction activity, the building will be completely closed. Summer

activities normally scheduled for Mounds View High School have been relocated to other sites. The

Due to construction, Mounds View High School is closed this summer.

high school office will move to temporary facilities on school grounds. Work at Mounds View includes a student commons, new classrooms, a new auditorium, an expanded administrative area and a remodeled cafeteria. Construction is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2002.

Construction updates are available online. Go to the District home page at www.moundsviewschools.org and click on the construction hardhat icon.

Construction timelines

Phase I schools

Pike Lake Elementary (2000-2001)
Valentine Hills Elementary (2000-2001)
Mounds View High School (2000-2002)



Phase II schools

Bel Air Elementary (2001-2002)
Island Lake Elementary (2001-2002)
Pinewood Elementary (2001-2002)
Highview Middle (2001-2003)
Irondale High School (2001-2002)

Phase III schools

(Work is scheduled for 2002-2003)
Snail Lake Elementary
Sunnyside Elementary
Turtle Lake Elementary
Chippewa Middle
Edgewood Middle

Irondale begins student mentor program



Irondale students Chelsey Mikrut (10) and Patti Gamboni (10) looked over materials during a mentor training workshop in May. As part of its School Improvement Goals, Irondale is initiating a student-mentor program in September. All incoming freshmen will be paired with trained mentors to help them make a successful start on a high school career. During the workshop, the student mentors learned about effective mentoring techniques, active listening, communication and confidentiality.

A global outreach

Highview Middle School Student Government participated in the Operation Days Work (ODW) program this spring. As part of ODW, students spent a day working in a local business or community organization. They donated the wages they earned to help a developing country with its educational program. Highview was paired with Nepal and donated \$1,500 for the purchase of teaching materials, desks, benches and building repair.

A life-saving message

“Think twice before you smoke,” was the message members of the Irondale High School Youth Advocacy and Tobacco Prevention Team delivered to Edgewood Middle School students during a multimedia, half-hour presentation in April. Besides working with younger peers, the team partners with the Irondale Student Council as advocates for antismoking efforts.

A whale of a project

Everyone knows duct tape has a lot of uses. Few people, however, have been as creative as the students in Rick Seidenkranz and Beverly Krieger’s science class at Chippewa Middle School. As part of a science project, they used duct tape and plastic sheets to build five 22-foot inflatable Pilot Whales. When the project was complete, students invited parents to tour the whales, inside and out. “The students learned a ton about whales,” Krieger says.



Celebrating diversity

The Mounds View High School Diversity Council sponsored its first Diversity Week this spring. Events included an Asian Night, a Diversity Theater Night and a Diversity Dance with demonstrations of dance from China, Peru and India. Mounds View initiated its Diversity Council in January in response to student open forum comments that the school needed to do more to raise awareness concerning diversity issues.

Honoring volunteers

This spring, the District Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Early Childhood Family Education programs honored their volunteers. In the ABE program, some 30 tutors contributed more than 500 hours working with adult students. The 130 ECFE volunteers donated more than 2,180 hours in a variety of service projects.

Community Education honors individuals and organizations

Alma Stepanchak and Jerry Blanski were honored for their volunteer efforts during the Mounds View Schools Community Education Leadership Breakfast this spring. Stepanchak received the Outstanding Individual Award and Blanski received the Roy Meyer Memorial Volunteer Awards.

The New Brighton Eagles and Auxiliary received the Outstanding Organization Awards. Both groups provide significant financial support to Community Education’s Care-A-Van program which provides transportation for senior citizens.

Physics fair sparks teamwork



Mounds View High School physics students Katie LeFevre (11), David Bates (12), Lindsay Jansen (12) and Jon Kleinman (12), put the finishing touches on their project for the school’s annual physics fair this spring. Students accepted the challenge of putting together a table top contraption in which a miniature hovercraft, a robotic dinosaur, a catapult and a propeller car worked together to perform task. Once the individual teams completed their projects, the teams in each class faced the hurdle of linking all the projects so that they, too, worked together. The 230 participating students demonstrated their innovations at the physics fair where engineers from area businesses evaluated their work.



With Honors ...

Superior achievement is a hallmark of Mounds View Public Schools.

This spring, seniors from Irondale and Mounds View high schools received almost \$180,000 in scholarship money from local businesses, fraternal and civic organizations, individuals and memorials through a program coordinated by the student services departments in both high schools.

In addition to the dollars they provide, local scholarships offer acknowledgment and encouragement to deserving young people as they begin their post-high school education. We'd like to thank the donors who make this program possible.



Irondale seniors Ben Hinrichs and Kyle Konecny look over the commencement program as they wait for the June 5 ceremony to begin. Both were awarded scholarships from local donors this spring.

Memorial Scholarships

Jim Bergstrom Memorial
Trent Riter, MVHS

Wallace E. Butler Memorial
Jacqueline Wurst, MVHS
Scott Vanmeter, MVHS
Renee Donahue, MVHS
Johathan Kleinman, MVHS
Richie Jain, MVHS
Ami Shah, MVHS
Laura Nilan, MVHS
David Bates, MVHS

Jason Hronoski Memorial
Andrew Kale, IHS

C. A. Johnson Memorial
Michael Grover, MVHS

Emily Longnecker Memorial
Cali Jirsa, MVHS

Sabrina Lindberg Memorial
Priscilla Cheng, IHS

Ali McKee Memorial
Katherine Zonino, MVHS

Tom Mischke Memorial
Benjamin Miller, IHS

Michael D. Manley Memorial
Matthew Hauer, IHS

Leo Murphy Memorial
Christopher Brossart, MVHS

Mounds View Lions Rita Waste Memorial
Traci Ohlenkamp, IHS

Mounds View Lions Roger Witte Memorial
Christopher Chesla, IHS

Melissa Peterson Memorial
Tonya Moritz, IHS

Shana Peterson-Pfeilsticker Memorial
Tara Dejarlais, MVHS

Scott Pajerski Memorial
Kyle Schmitz, IHS
Erick Tharaldson, IHS

Shoreview Lions George Silver Memorial
Benjamin Firkus, IHS
Melanie Goetsch, IHS
Jacqueline Spielmann, IHS
Christopher Kollodge, MVHS
Lisa Klein, MVHS
Kelsey Peterson, MVHS
Lisa Sullivan, MVHS



Education, School Organizations, and Athletic-sponsored Scholarships

916 Foundation

Joseph Phillippe, IHS
Mark Beissler, MVHS
Emily Blageo, MVHS

Century College

Joseph Phillippe, IHS

Honoring Mounds View Coaches

Millicent Talaska, MVHS
Lindsay Jansen, MVHS
Samuel Adegoke, MVHS

Irondale Drum Corp

Heather Amundsen, IHS
Benjamin Firkus, IHS
Brian Schutta, IHS

Irondale Pride in Excellence (Most Improved GPA)

Adam Frank, IHS
Carly Christensen, IHS
Natasha Anderson, IHS

Irondale Pride in Excellence (Perfect Attendance)

Anna Schovanec, IHS
Jason Yang, IHS

Irondale Leadership Award

Krista Halvorson, IHS

Irondale Staff Award

Julie Norman, IHS

Irondale Student Council

Mira Olson, IHS
Angela Junker, IHS
Jacqueline Spielmann, IHS

Joseph F. Kunze Fund

Kristina Quello, MVHS

Mounds View Alumni Association

Benjamin Dahl, MVHS

Mounds View Alumni Choir

Brittany Olson, MVHS
Jody Stadler, MVHS
David Orr, MVHS

Mounds View Basketball Association

Rachel Melena, MVHS
Samuel Adegoke, MVHS
Kevin Schwartz, MVHS
Ryan Hatteberg, MVHS
Molly Olson, MVHS
Joseph Doerer, MVHS

Mounds View Education Association

Shannon Betker, IHS
Ross Jahnke, IHS
Angela Junker, IHS
Ethan Olson, IHS
Jacqueline Ritacco, IHS
Annalee Ritter, IHS
Stefanie Swanson, MVHS
Grant Carlson, MVHS
Jennifer Biebl, MVHS
Laura Campbell, MVHS
Scott Sather, MVHS
Greta Knaeble, MVHS

Mounds View High School

Molly Olson, MVHS
Alexandra Early, MVHS
Meaghan Flanagan, MVHS
Jennifer Johnson, MVHS
Gillian Lawrence, MVHS
Howard Lei, MVHS
Erika Schornstein, MVHS

Mounds View Peer Prize

Joseph Turgeon, MVHS

Mounds View Student Council

Sarah Scullin, MVHS
Alexander Bearden, MVHS

Mounds View Viewettes

Anne Dao, MVHS
Kara Schutz, MVHS

Shoreview Area Babe Ruth Baseball

Kelly Degross, IHS
Josh Howard, MVHS

Corporate, Business and Professional Association Scholarships

Catalog Marketing Services
Lisa Nguyen, IHS

Community Businesses
Mark Newman, IHS

Cummins Inc. (Onan Corp.)

Grant Miner, IHS
Bradley Pitlick, IHS
Xue Xiong, IHS
John Palmer, MVHS
Arjun Menon, MVHS
Christopher Clifford, MVHS

Mengelkoch Co.

Kevin Schwartz, MVHS



North Suburban Family Physicians

Linsay Jemtrud, MVHS
Jeanna Fortney, MVHS

Papa John's Pizza

Kevin Erion, IHS

Pepsi Corporation

Nathan Porath, MVHS
A. J. Olmscheid, MVHS
David Berg, MVHS
Jordan Francke, MVHS
Christine Duellman, MVHS
Adam Yazbeck, MVHS
James Sammartano, MVHS

Regency Beauty Academy

Laura Nordgren, IHS

Risdall Linnihan Advertising

Vanessa Bjerke, IHS

Mary Rue Schutta, LPA

Katie Erickson, MVHS

Stahl Construction

Jennifer Kramer, IHS
Todd Anderson, MVHS

Sysco Minnesota

Ryan Schute, IHS

Thermo King Sales and Service

Lane Elmer, IHS

US Bank

Angela Junker, IHS
Katie Erickson, MVHS

Wells Fargo Bank-Arden Hills

David Berg, MVHS

Western Bank

Kelley Blomberg, IHS
Rachel Melena, MVHS

Western Bank and Mounds View Lions

Niral Desai, IHS

Service Organizations and Community-Related Scholarships

Arden Hills-Shoreview Rotary

Community Service

Emily Brown, MVHS

Arden Hills-Shoreview Rotary Strive

Alica Jenkins, MVHS

Ashbach Family Scholarship

Sarah Nielsen, MVHS

Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie #3718

Bethany Beisswenger, IHS
Melanie Larson, IHS
Crystal Larson, IHS



Joseph Yursi, IHS
Cal McHale, MVHS
Kerry Meath, MVHS
Matthew Marek, MVHS
Jontue Howard, MVHS

Fraternal Order of Eagles,

Aerie #3718 Auxiliary

Anna Schovanec, IHS
Molly Costanzo, MVHS

Fridley American Legion Post #303

Joel Anderson, IHS
Dustin Jacobson, IHS

Meredith Schuman, IHS

Fridley American Legion Auxiliary

Patricia Willhite, IHS

Kopp Family Foundation

Andrew Ashwood, IHS
Kimberley Beggin, IHS
Rachel Hall, IHS

Katherine Herman, IHS

Kwadwo Mensah, IHS

Erin Milway, IHS

Mira Olson, IHS

Daniel Sinykin, IHS

Kejia Sun, IHS

Pamela Trainor, IHS

David Kuban, MVHS

Stephen Larson, MVHS

Athena Eleftheriou, MVHS

Erin Arboe, MVHS

Falesha Jaglowski, MVHS

Elsa Henning, MVHS

Candice Bartelle, MVHS

Nora Mogck, MVHS

Kathryn Smith, MVHS

Melissa Schoenecker, MVHS

Laurel Weiske, MVHS

Dawn Utne, MVHS

Brittany Olson, MVHS

Christine Norgard, MVHS

Heidi Pound, MVHS

Samuel Adegoke, MVHS

Christina Dorr, MVHS

Maria Bremer, MVHS

Stephen Berg, MVHS

Stephanie Dalager, MVHS

Kraus Hartig VFW #6587

Andrew Barthel, IHS

Carolyn Greene, IHS

Chris Johnson, IHS

Kraus Hartig Cootie Sandburrs

Derek Jacobson, IHS

Kraus Hartig VFW Auxiliary

Nicole Reed, IHS

Kraus Hartig VFW Senior Club

Kyle Konecny, IHS

Light Brigade, Inc.

Robert Fink, IHS

Kristin Murray, IHS

James Sammartano, MVHS

Sarah Pagenkopf, MVHS

Make a Difference

Kathryn Thompson, MVHS

Minnesota National Service Scholarship

Katie Myrmel, IHS

Mounds View Lions Club

Rebecca Huisken, IHS

Deborah Kim, IHS



Mounds View High School seniors Grant Carlson, Ben Dahl and Chris Brossart were honored during the school's scholarship ceremony in May.

Daniel Ormand, IHS

Anthony Estrella, IHS

Christine Hjelle, IHS

New Brighton/Mounds View Area Chamber of Commerce

Glen Cordle, IHS

Shannon Gates, IHS

Peter Gokey, IHS

Djuna Gulliver, IHS

Sarah Kalina, IHS

Stephen Keimel, IHS

Jessica Kromrey, IHS

Margaret Moynihan, IHS

Susan Ollanketo, IHS

Joseph Phillippe, IHS

New Brighton Lions Club

Heather Amundsen, IHS

Kirsten Chapman, IHS

Jonathan Haidet, IHS

Melissa Olson, IHS

Megan Powers, IHS

Junqing Xin, IHS

Christina Hainlen, MVHS

Nayan Shukla, MVHS

Cody Herrick, MVHS

Michaelynn Huber, MVHS

Jessica Lin, MVHS

Carly Faber, MVHS

New Brighton/Mounds View Area Rotary

Jonathan Lindberg, IHS

Katie Myrmel, IHS

Nina Panda, IHS

North Suburban Youth Foundation

Ty Cody, MVHS

Representative Phil Krinkie

Ryan Brown, MVHS

President's Student Service Scholarship

Priscilla Cheng, IHS

Alicia Baik, MVHS

Adam Erickson, MVHS

Staples Lions Club

Kimberly Gedde, IHS

Tri-City American Legion Post #513 and Auxiliary

Kimberly Gedde, IHS

Laxmi Krishnan, IHS

Jackie Webb, IHS

Caitlin Dahl, MVHS

Robert McBride, MVHS

Sonya Larson, MVHS

Tusler Summit Masons

Brad Swanson, MVHS

Ana-Maria Ristea, MVHS



Mounds View High School senior Stefanie Swanson helped Georgianna Thomas with finishing touches to her cap and gown just before their commencement ceremony on June 4. Swanson is the recipient of one of this year's Mounds View Education Association scholarships.



With Honors ...

Superior achievement is a hallmark of Mounds View Public Schools.

STUDENT NEWS

Safety patrol honored

The safety patrol at Turtle Lake Elementary in Shoreview received a Meritorious Achievement Award during Youth Safety Day at the Minneapolis Convention Center on May 4. Turtle Lake patrol member Dode Cairncross received Patrol of the Year honors from the Ramsey County School Patrol Foundation.

Irondale BPA wins nationally

The Irondale Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter received three awards for outstanding programs during the BPA national conference this spring. Deborah Kim (12) received the Ambassador Torch Award, and Shannon Gates (12) was a finalist in Network Concepts.

Knowing where it's at

Want to know where to find the Rub al-Khali or the Kara Kum? Need some information about the world's leading opal mining regions? Forget Rand McNally. We've got Brian Regan.

The Chippewa eighth-grader took second place in the Minnesota Geographic Bee in April, bowing only to Duluth's Erik Johnson who advanced to national competition.

It's quite a feat considering that more than 400 Minnesota schools competed in the local bees eventually yielding 100 contestants for the state event.

Regan who's always been "pretty good" in geography, claims he didn't



Brian Regan took second place in the Minnesota Geographic Bee this spring.

cram or do anything special to prepare for the state finals. "I just went," he says.



The orchestras from Edgewood Middle School in Mounds View and Chippewa Middle School in North Oaks were two of only six statewide chosen to rehearse with the Minnesota Orchestra and perform in concert at Orchestra Hall in April. The honor was the result of their performance at a competitive music festival sponsored by the Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association. Pictured here is Deb Sittko conducting the Edgewood orchestra during the school's fine arts fair in May.

Volunteer service winners

Irondale High School senior Stephen Keimel and Mounds View High School senior Emily Brown are winners of New Brighton/Mounds View Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Service Awards.

World language news

Eight Mounds View High School students placed in the top 5 percent of those taking the National Spanish Exam this year. Mounds View High School won 47 medals, more than any other high school in the state, in the State Spanish Contest in May. Students from Mounds View and Irondale high schools won more than 30 medals in the State German Contest.

Salute to youth awards

Mounds View High School seniors Melissa Damman and Alicia Baik received Salute to Youth awards from the Degree of Honor Protective Association. The awards recognize young people for school achievements and community involvement.

Academic and leadership awards

A number of Mounds View High School students received academic and leadership awards during a ceremony this spring. They include: Elizabeth Jaster (11), Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award; Katherine LeFevre (11), Rensselaer Medal; Jennifer Johnson (11), Yale Book Award; Tyler Beane (11), University of Rochester Humanities/Social Sciences Award; Nicha Chitphakdithai (11), Harvard Book Award; Teresa Weigel (11), Girls State; Brian Park (11) and Mohan Dutt (11), Boys State; Theodore Trautman (10), Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award; Caitlin Dahl (12), Principal's Leadership Award and DAR Good Citizens Award; Sonya Larson (12), Prudential Spirit of Community Award; Abby Wikelius (11), Middlebury College Book Award; Marit Johnson (11) and Molly Olson (12), Minnesota Society of Engineers Award; Charles Drobinski (12), Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation Award; Michaelyn Huber (12), Monica Waldera (11) and Jonathan Weinhagen (12), Student Achievement Awards.

Student Council Awards

Both Irondale High School in New Brighton and Mounds View High School in Arden Hills came away with multiple awards following the Minnesota Association of Student Councils (MASC) spring meeting. Irondale received the MASC Advisors Student Council of the Year Award. Irondale senior Angey Junker was named MASC Student Council Officer of the year, and junior Brent Ramaker was elected MASC secretary for the coming year.

Mounds View High School won honors as one of four student councils statewide to receive Outstanding Student Council Status, and junior Ashley Keohen was elected as Youth Advisory Representative to the executive committee. She will also serve on the Minnesota Youth Advisory Board. In addition, senior Jon Kleinman recently completed a term as delegate-at-large to the Capital Division Student Council.

Presidential Scholar semifinalist

Irondale High School senior Meredith Schuman was one of 12 Minnesota students to be named a semifinalist in the 2001 Presidential Scholars program. The program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

ALC students compete at state

A team of students from the Area Learning Center in Shoreview competed in events at the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) STARS Conference in St. Cloud in April. Students who placed first in their events are Gina Villavicencio, Kassie Hafoka, Amanda Loycano, Lisa Habiger, Tom Nutzmann and Justin Ballesteros. Students who received top recognition for their performance in demonstration events are Mike Chambers, Kat Hamlin, Lisa Habiger, Kevin Melnick, Tom Nutzmann, Adrian Ogimachi, Justin Ballesteros, Kassie Hafoka and Amanda Loycano.

MAAP STARS is an organization for students in alternative education programs that allows them to demonstrate Graduation Standards competencies through competitive and demonstration events.

Elementary spelling winners

The elementary schools competed in District-wide spelling bees in grades three, four and five in May. Winners are Michelle Victora of Pike Lake Elementary in New Brighton, third grade; Natalie Wedell from Island Lake elementary in Shoreview, fourth grade; Joseph Flay of Shoreview's Snail Lake Elementary, fifth grade.

Winning history competitor

Mounds View High School sophomore Emily Trapp won the state History Day competition with her presentation about Pillsbury's role in building the Minneapolis milling industry. She represented Minnesota in national competition in Washington, D.C., in June.

District teams compete internationally

A team of eighth-graders from Chippewa Middle School finished fifth in its division during the Future Problem Solving International Conference at the University of Georgia in Athens, June 7-10. Team members are Thomas Leeper, Patrick Timmons, Andy Kruse, Colin Hottman and Kyle Thompson (alternate.) They were coached by resource teacher Donna Campbell. The Chippewa team is one of three District teams to participate in international competition this spring.

Two teams, one from Valentine Hills Elementary School and another from Irondale High School, competed in the Destination Imagination Global Finals at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, May 23-27.

The Valentine Hills team finished sixth in its division. Members are

Patrick Goggin, Peter Erickson, Dan Polasky, Kyle Nordling, Zach Keim, Sam Literski and David Strandberg, all fifth-graders. Their coaches were high potential coordinator Karen Dittler and parent volunteer Julie Nordling.

Members of the Irondale High School team are juniors Courtney Noecker, Carmen Marg-Patton, Anna Fabian, Rachel DeVries, Emily Johnson and Sarah Johnson. They were coached by teachers Robert Roberts and Amy Kline-Blount.

The teams earned the opportunity to advance in competition as the result of their performance in Minnesota finals earlier this spring.

Both Destination Imagination and Future Problem Solving are team competitions that require creative-thinking and problem-solving skills.



Chippewa Middle School's Future Problem Solving team finished fifth in its division in international competition this spring. Team members are (left to right) Andy Kruse, Patrick Timmons, Thomas Leeper, Colin Hottman and Kyle Thompson.



With Honors ...

Superior achievement is a hallmark of Mounds View Public Schools.

STUDENT NEWS

District wins three state technology competitions

Teams from Chippewa Middle School and Mounds View High School showed their prowess in three technology competitions this spring.

Chippewa won the statewide Technology Challenge competition sponsored by the Minnesota Technology Education Association and Bemidji State University in April. Students raced miniature CO₂-powered cars, built balsa wood towers and tested them for strength, competed in a knowledge bowl competition, designed and printed T-shirts, and demonstrated a Rube Goldberg machine they had created.

Chippewa students also placed second and third in a statewide Technology in Action contest at St. Cloud State University.

In late May, a 12-student team from Chippewa and Mounds View High School won the Minnesota Technology Education Association's Supermileage Challenge at the Brainerd International Raceway. Students participating in Supermileage competitions build lightweight vehicles and test them for fuel mileage. The Chippewa/Mounds View team's vehicle recorded 614.50 miles per gallon in state competition. The vehicle also won the Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association award for Best Overall Quality of Craftsmanship.

The students are coached by Chippewa technology teacher Keith Anderson.

Achievements in music

Twenty-five Mounds View and Irondale high school students are All-State Musicians in band and orchestra for 2001-2002.

The Mounds View High School choir received a Superior rating for the second consecutive year at the Region 4AA group contest this spring.

FACULTY NEWS

Mounds View High School German teacher Cheryl Wason will teach in Germany during the 2001-2002 school year as part of a Fulbright Exchange program.

Kathleen Keating, a second grade teacher at Valentine Hills Elementary School, Arden Hills, is participating in a National Writing Project Professional Writing Retreat in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this June. Twenty Writing Project members from across the country were invited to attend.

Mounds View High School activities director Lisa Johnson recently earned certification as an athletic administrator from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

This spring the Mounds View Education Association (MVEA) honored two school volunteers and one community business for their support of education. Jill Fox, a volunteer at New Brighton's Sunnyside Elementary, and Cindy Kruger, a volunteer at Highview Middle School, New Brighton, received Outstanding Lay Educator (OLE) awards. Medtronic Corporation earned an Outstanding Organization For Education (OOFE) award largely for its involvement in Mounds View Public Schools Reading Buddies program. The MVEA honored the award winners during a performance of its *Chalkboard Capers* variety show.

Donald Toner, Mounds View High School marketing education coordinator and DECA advisor, received Rookie of the Year honors at the state DECA conference for his work with the Mounds View High School DECA chapter. DECA is a national organization for students in marketing.

Doug Austin, Irondale High School student council advisor, earned Advisor of the Year honors from the Capital Division of Student Councils.

The first District teachers to participate in the Master of Education and Leadership Degree program offered through the University of St. Thomas graduated in May. They are Stacey Vanderport, Bel Air Elementary; Scott Hisken, Edgewood Middle School; Brenda Foley, Andy Schmidt, Bill Sucha and Karen Young, Irondale High School; Sharon Carroll and Melissa Dugan, Pinewood Elementary; Roberta Locke, Sunnyside Elementary; Linda Hagen, Simone Haugen, Diane Mergens and Jan Vesaas, Turtle Lake Elementary.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) teachers Sue Stoner and Heidi Thorstenson were pre-conference presenters at a conference sponsored by the Department of Children Families and Learning for ECFE and School Readiness coordinators. Their presentation focused on involving parents in school readiness.



Dr. John Kubiawicz, class of 1983, received the Mounds View High School Distinguished Alumnus Award this spring. Kubiawicz is a computer science researcher and winner of a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Pictured here during Mounds View's graduation on June 4 are Kubiawicz and Mounds View Alumni Association representative Kirsten Dawson.

Financial Update

by Carl Colmark,
executive director of administrative support

Programs restructured to balance 2001-2002 budget

With expenditures anticipated to increase by \$4,052,977 or 5% for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and revenues estimated to increase by \$1,179,066 or about 1.5%, Mounds View Public Schools found it necessary to restructure programs by about \$4 million for the coming year.

Revenue increase estimates are based on anticipated State formula changes. Please note that at the time this report was prepared, the Minnesota Legislature was in special session and had not passed its tax and budget bill. Final legislation may well be different from the 1.5% anticipated increase.

Inflationary increases for contracted services and allowances for employee compensation increases account for the bulk of expenditure increase.

See the table at right for a picture of the 2001-2002 financial outlook compared to the fiscal year just ended.

The finance picture: A comparison between two years

	2000-01	Changes	2001-02
Revenue	\$79,073,517	\$1,179,066 1.5%*	\$80,252,583
Expenditures	\$79,935,047	\$4,052,977 5.0%	\$83,988,024
Deficit	(\$ 861,530)		(\$ 3,735,441)
Fund Balance	\$ 507,583		(\$ 353,947)
Deficit	(\$ 353,947)		(\$ 4,089,388)

* Based on an estimate. Percentage subject to change pending state legislation.

Budget planning includes community participation

During the winter and spring, the School Board sponsored a series of budget planning meetings in the community. It also engaged School Budget Committees and Building Instructional Leadership Teams to review budget allocations and provide program recommendations to school principals. The School Budget Committees include District administration, school administration, parents, teachers and school support staff.

This process is new and is part of a District commitment to implement a decision-making model that integrates collaboration at several levels. The system differs from prior years when budget and program decisions were primarily central administration responsibilities.

The School District believes that the new process will increase awareness of budget issues, improve budget communication and foster creativity.

In order to encourage creative concepts, the School Board developed a series of budget assumptions that allocated dollars within specified parameters or "acceptables." Committees had the latitude

of funding programs consistent with those parameters rather than being limited by instructional staff and class size mandates from central administration as in prior years.

Please note: State law requires school districts to adopt budgets by the end of June. Because education funding for 2001-2002 is being determined by a June special session of the Legislature, it is possible that the District General Fund budget will be amended. District publications will provide details.

Frequently asked budget questions

Q. Where are District budget dollars spent?

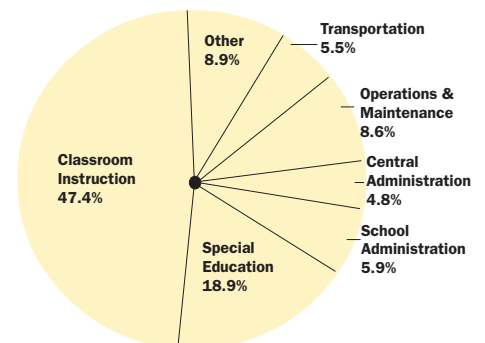
A. The pie chart reflects General Fund expenditures for 2000-2001.

Q. Are there other programs, rather than instructional programs, that could be restructured?

A. There are other expenditure programs that can be evaluated for restructuring such as school administrative support services, central administrative support services, transportation, operations and maintenance and provisions for increases in employee compensation. Perhaps the single, most important way to solve or

avoid a budget deficit problem is through appropriate funding from the Minnesota Legislature.

Where budget dollars are spent



In Our Community



In many ways, Mounds View Public Schools strengthens the community.

Arona Campus

Helping students become who they want to be

With 11 students in the graduating class, the June 6 commencement at the District's Arona Campus may not have been the most impressive ceremony in Mounds View Public Schools this spring. But it was arguably one of the most meaningful.

Students at the Arona Campus in Mounds View are recovering from chemical dependency.

"It's incredibly courageous what these students are doing."

Brad Kraushaar,
Arona Campus assistant principal

"This is a place for young people following treatment where they can learn to make good decisions and move on," says Assistant Principal Brad Kraushaar. "The focus here is on the future. In this school, students can ask themselves, 'What's next?' And we help them determine what they need to do to be who they want to be."

The school is open to students in grades nine through 12 who have completed treatment and/or have not used chemicals for at least 30 days and who have voiced a commitment to remain free of chemicals.

"Within the boundaries of District policy, we give students considerable input in school rules and routines," Kraushaar says.

The Arona Campus offers up to 14 course options during the school day. There are three full-time staff members on site. Faculty from the District's Area Learning Center in Shoreview teach some of the classes. The school's curriculum aligns to Minnesota Graduation Standards.

Parent involvement is an important component to student success. Each student develops a personalized, community-based recovery plan in collaboration with staff and parents. Each student also designs an individualized annual learning plan based on academic needs, strengths and goals.

The school has conducted several studies that show impressive results related to student achievement, attendance, recovery and client satisfaction.

"Our goal is that young people will leave here with an understanding of their own power in determining a successful future," Kraushaar says. "We help students achieve a level of accountability and insight about their own value that isn't always possible in other environments. It's incredibly courageous what these students are doing," he says. "They're learning to be honest with



Carol Walters congratulates her daughter Caroline during the Arona Campus graduation ceremony in June. Both mother and daughter were commencement speakers.

themselves and to work toward success in a culture where chemical use is the norm. They're a minority. What they're working toward here is nothing short of a miracle."

Thank you, volunteers!



Pike Lake Elementary School parent volunteer Katie Bruno shared breakfast with her children Steven and Monica during a volunteer appreciation reception at the school this spring. Two other children, Ellen and Anna, are not pictured. Many schools sponsor volunteer recognition events to thank those who give their time and talent to enhance education in Mounds View Public Schools.

Pen pal program helps ESL students with the essentials

For people who are new to this country, there are two activities that go far in making the adjustment easier. One is lots of practice with the language, both spoken and written. Another is the chance to learn about the culture by becoming acquainted with neighbors who have lived here all their lives.

This year the English as a Second Language/School Readiness (ESL) program offered students an opportunity to do both at once.

During the year, ESL students corresponded with pen pals from the School District's seniors program. The pen pal program, developed by ESL teacher Jo Sanders, gave students an opportunity to practice written English.

In the spring the students and their pen pals were invited to a reception at the

Family Service Center of New Brighton to meet one another face to face. At the reception, pen pals brought photos, crafts and other items to share in order to get better acquainted.

The yearlong experience gave students an opportunity to ask questions and to learn more about life in the American Midwest.

For more information about ESL, which is part of the Community Education's Adult Basic Education program, call 651-639-6039.



Sergio Delgado and Sandra Bautista, students in the Mounds View Public Schools English as a Second Language (ESL), program visited with Sergio's "pen pal" Millie Reitsma during a reception at the Family Service Center of New Brighton in early May.

Pass-it-Along benefits 150 families

The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program offers many resources to strengthen families including classes for both preschoolers and their parents and a parent resource center. One of ECFE's most popular projects, however, is its annual Pass-it-Along event. The program is coordinated by the ECFE/School Readiness Advisory Committee.

Pass-it-Along is a project that provides good-condition, used infant's and children's

clothing, baby equipment, toys and books free of charge to families that need them.

Donations from the community are sorted and organized by volunteers prior to the day-long Pass-it-Along event where families "shop" for items they need.

For more information about classes and other programs sponsored by ECFE in the Mounds View Public Schools, call the office at 651-639-6028.



Parent volunteer Amy Strong sorts children's clothing during the Pass-it-Along event at the Family Service Center of New Brighton on May 15. The event served more than 150 families.

Helping neighbors

Mounds View School students and staff regularly participate in outreach programs to benefit others. Here are a few recent examples. Snail Lake Elementary students collected more than 2,500 pounds of food for the Ralph R. Reeder Community Food Shelf this spring. The students exceeded their goal by 500 pounds.

Mounds View High School students donated 12,163 pounds of food and \$1,447 to the food shelf during their spring food drive. In addition, 27 students participated in the homeless sleep-out and raised \$1,500 to benefit the homeless. Mounds View High School students, parents, staff and administration raised \$2,500 by competing in a bowl-a-thon to benefit the school's PREP program. PREP is part of Mounds View High School's special services program. The money will fund curriculum materials.

A team of District teachers and retired teachers from Delta Kappa Gamma, an educators' society, participated in the Race for the Cure on Mother's Day. Proceeds from the event benefit the fight against breast cancer.

Close to Home

Computer Learning Center provides summer opportunities

The Computer Learning Center offers computer classes for adults all summer as part of the District Community Education Program.

Located in the Ralph R. Reeder Community Education Center, 500 Tenth Street NW, New Brighton, the Computer Learning Center serves beginning, intermediate, and advanced computer users.

Classes include Introduction to the PC, Introduction to Windows, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Quicken, Front Page, Publisher and Internet classes. The Center also offers courses tailored especially to seniors.

Classes are limited to 10 students and emphasize hands-on training led by experienced teachers. A course manual is provided with each class. Morning, afternoon and evening courses are available.

For details contact the Computer Learning Center at 651-639-6227 or e-mail linda.bankston@mail.moundsview.k12.mn.us. The Center also maintains a page on the District web site. Go to www.moundsviewschools.org. Click on the Community Education link and select Adult Programs, Computer Learning Center.

District revises transportation communication system

In order to serve students and families more efficiently, the District Transportation Department is revising the way it communicates information about school bus routes for 2001-2002.



In the past, families have received lists showing each bus route and all of its stops.

This year, the Transportation Department will not distribute bus route lists. Instead, the District will mail a postcard in mid-August to the parent or guardian of each student. The card will contain the morning bus number, bus stop location and pick-up time as well as the afternoon bus number, bus stop location and drop-off time for that particular student. Be sure to watch for the postcard in August and keep it with your other back-to-school information.

A note about immunizations for fall 2001

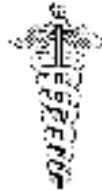
Children entering kindergarten must provide documentation of the following required immunizations:

- ✓ five dates for diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT),
- ✓ four dates for polio,
- ✓ one date for measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) which must have been given on or after the first birthday to be valid,
- ✓ three dates for hepatitis B (HBV).

Students entering seventh grade must provide documentation of the following additional immunizations:

- ✓ a second date for measles/mumps/rubella (MMR),
- ✓ three dates for hepatitis B (HBV). A two-immunization series with Merck vaccine (10 microgram dose) is approved if specifically noted by the immunization provider with vaccine name, dose and manufacturer.

The requirement for a diphtheria/tetanus booster given on or after the 11th birthday has been suspended until the 2002-2003 school year due to a national shortage of vaccine.



Students entering Mounds View Public Schools from schools in other districts, states or countries must provide documentation of immunization as required at the grade level of entrance.

Students without adequate documentation will not receive a class placement or schedule and will not be allowed to attend school until the required documentation is received.

Students having either a medical reason not to be vaccinated or whose parents are contentiously opposed to immunization must provide a legal waiver which may be obtained from the school health office.



www.moundsviewschools.org

This spring the District launched an entirely revised and expanded web site located at www.moundsviewschools.org. The site features expanded information, improved navigation, regularly updated news, a searchable directory of employees and a consistent appearance.

From the home page, users can access pages for each school building as well as District-wide information, Community Education offerings, school calendars, updates on construction projects and employment opportunities.

Mounds View Public Schools
2959 Hamline Avenue North
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