

A PLATEFUL OF HEALTHY AND ECO-FRIENDLY CHOICES AT CAFÉ #110



Over the summer months, an abundance of nutritious food options have cropped up at Café #110. The staff has been busy with program development, offering new, made-from-scratch food choices and implementing eco-friendly practices that reduce waste and save money. Not only are students eating healthier and saving the environment, but by sourcing ingredients with local farmers the food simply tastes better too! The teams at Café #110 serve nine cafeterias within the district: the high school, middle school, three elementary schools, Southwest Metro, transitions students, Kids’ Company, and the Waconia Learning Center. They serve many, and do it well!

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Café #110 was recently named the grand champion of the Minnesota Department of Education’s Farm to School program.
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With new homemade recipes, eco-friendly milk dispensers, and locally produced foods, Café #110 remains committed to preparing and serving nutritious meals for students.



MADE-FROM-SCRATCH RECIPES WITH HEALTHY CHOICE OPTIONS

Café #110 has developed meals that provide students with healthy and natural food options from a variety of made-from-scratch recipes using quality ingredients. Some of the delicious, new items students will see on the menu include fresh beef stew, square pancakes, pizza bites, pesto ravioli, ramen noodle bowls, pierogies, and pot stickers. Many of these items are created using “Martha,” the Italian-made, industrial-grade pasta maker that is the first of its kind to be used in a school setting in the United States.

MADE-FROM-SCRATCH CAFÉ #110 OFFERINGS

- » Signature salad dressing
- » Variety of pasta and pierogies
- » From scratch à la carte snacks
- » House granola
- » House breads
- » House bakery items
- » Signature cookies
- » Ice cream toppings
- » Signature syrups
- » Signature sauces

See full list at <https://cafe110.org/flourshop/>.

District 110 students have a variety to choose from. “Each day there are two entree options at the elementary level, and four or five entree options are available at the middle school and high school levels,” Barb Schank, director of Nutritional Services, states.

The Café #110 team understands that children can also be particular about fruit and vegetable selections and offer a wide variety of colorful choices. As a companion to the veggies, the staff makes five different dressings and dips that have been developed with input from students. Last, as an alternative to artificial ingredients and flavors in many popular beverage choices, the Waconia High School Café #110 offers freshly brewed signature teas and lemonades for purchase.

FRESHLY BREWED SIGNATURE TEAS AND LEMONADE OFFERED AT WHS

- » Fresh raspberry lemonade
- » Fresh mango lemonade
- » Thai bubble tea cooler
- » Cold press coffee
- » Iced coffee

CAFÉ #110 SWITCHES TO SELF-SERVICE MILK DISPENSERS

Saves 400,000 milk cartons annually district-wide

A classic cafeteria beverage container that will take new form this year is the milk carton.

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At the start of the school year, the five main cafeterias in the district received bulk milk dispensers as part of a grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.
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More commonly found in colleges and hospitals, milk dispensers are becoming a bigger movement across the country in grade schools, according to Schank. Schank continues by addressing that the dispensers “are cost-effective and have environmental benefits. It’s estimated that this change reduces the waste of 400,000 milk cartons from our landfill each year.” With the switch to reusable cups, there will be less packaging waste. There is also a conservation impact on the energy used for the dispensers versus the large milk coolers.

A dairy princess helps students with new milk cups and milk dispensers.

Aside from cost and environmental benefits, there are direct student advantages as well. The milk has a better taste outside of the cardboard container, and the dispenser allows for a colder temperature. Students may also enjoy mixing the milk options available and are more likely to drink the milk that they pour because they can see it through the glass.

Students were already accustomed to recycling trash items and dispensing leftover food into the compost. Now students can observe reduction in wasted cardboard by using reusable cups. To help assist and educate students on dispensing and drinking milk, local dairy farmers volunteered in the cafeterias during the first week of school.

“At Café #110, we want to share our values in community health and conservation of waste. By teaching these life lessons, it’s our hope that students will consistently choose environmentally friendly and cost-effective options on their own.”

BARB SCHANK
Director of Nutritional Services

CAFÉ #110 PARTNERS WITH LOCAL PRODUCERS AND ARTISANS

By partnering and sourcing with local farmers and artisans across the state, an abundance of new farm-to-school products has been added to the meal program—wild rice, honey, strawberry rhubarb sauce, strawberry juice, refrigerator pickles, vanilla, rhubarb, stewed tomatoes, tomato juice, apples, and maple syrup to name a few. Schank and her team are also in the process of adding burgers and meatballs to the list of menu items offered, using local beef and wild rice.



On property grounds, the Waconia Edible Classroom, a seed-to-table project founded in 2008 with a half-acre vegetable garden and 65 fruit trees, has also provided items for students to enjoy: apples, cherries, green peppers, and numerous herbs. Finally, the bee project hosted at Waconia Middle School will source nearly three gallons of honey to be used in the cafeterias. Busy as bees, the Café #110 staff will continue to enhance student learning by offering nutritious and eco-friendly options for overall health and well-being.

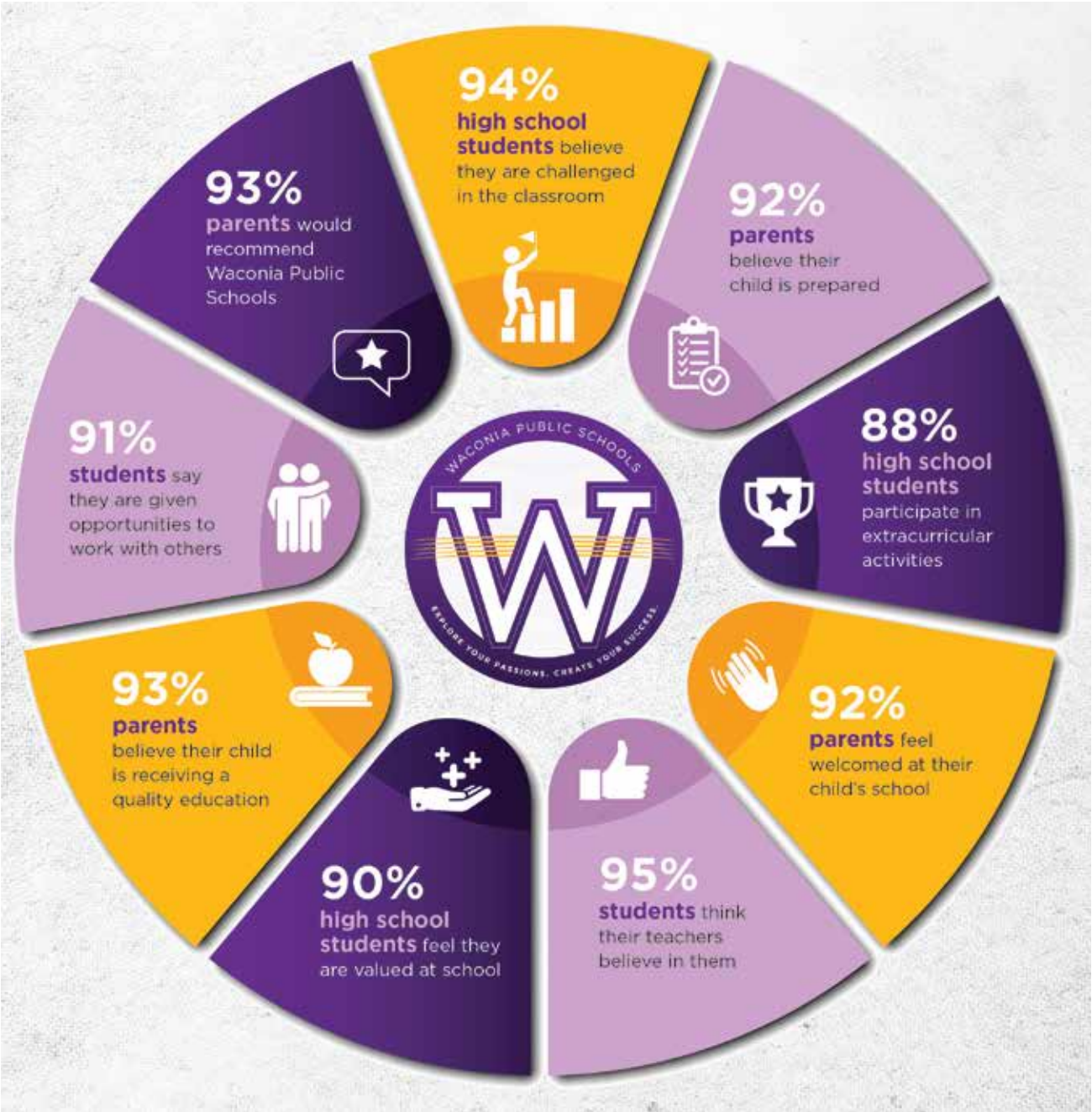
Community members who would enjoy getting involved by greeting, supporting, and assisting students with the milk dispensers, condiments, and recycling are encouraged to reach out to Barb Schank at (952) 856-4512 or bschank@isd110.org for volunteering opportunities.



Ind. School District No. 110
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ISD ONE10 CONTINUES TO BE A GREAT SCHOOL DISTRICT THROUGH TOUGH FINANCIAL TIMES

By Pat Devine, Superintendent



At Waconia Public Schools, we are proud of how our students get to explore their passions and create their success. To make that happen, our dedicated staff delivers on providing great learning experiences every day. I am pleased to report that the results of our parent, student, and staff surveys

show that we are definitely delivering on the desired daily experiences for all of our stakeholders.

Most of the results were in the high 80 percent to high 90 percent approval range. Students agree that their teachers believe in their ability to learn, staff enjoys working here, and parents agree that their child is receiving a high-quality education and would recommend Waconia Public Schools to a friend, a neighbor, or family member.

As much as I am proud to release these extremely positive results, it is important that we use this data to identify areas of improvement to ensure that we are providing the best education possible for every ONE10 student.

We have used our survey data to identify the initiatives within our Strategic Roadmap Operational Plan. The district-wide survey results as well as the operational plan are on the website at: isd110.org.

I am a firm believer that one of the reasons this district is so great is the fact that we work together in both good times and challenging times.

We know we are a great district, and the survey data show it. Yet, we are going through some financial challenges and are still in Statutory Operating Debt (SOD). SOD means that we have a negative fund balance and therefore we must have a yearly budget moving forward that is balanced and does not deficit spend.

We went into SOD for a variety of factors, including a new state special education (SPED) funding formula that caused our special education cross-subsidy to rise by 76 percent. The cross-subsidy is the mandated SPED costs that are unfunded by the state and paid for by Waconia Public Schools. The Minnesota Department of Education is always two years delayed on calculating the SPED funding dollars, therefore the impact of the new 2016 SPED funding formula was not known until the 2018 audit that was released in December.

The unforeseen negative financial impact on ISD 110 resulted in \$2.5 million in 2016 and \$3.6 million in 2017—the total of which is a \$6.1 million adjustment in our budget. We remain extremely grateful that our voters approved the 2018 operating levy. At the time, that would have been what we needed to continue moving forward with a positive fund balance but the unfunded SPED costs (cross-subsidy) continued to rise at unforeseen rates, pushing us into SOD. For this fiscal year, we made \$1.4 million in reductions. It should be noted that enrollment is a related factor that is also affecting the budget. Even though we are a growing district, enrollment did not meet budget expectations.

With these unforeseen factors that impacted our budget, we currently have a projected negative fund balance of \$6.6 million. In SOD, the state of Minnesota requires districts to have a balanced budget and make an effort to buy down the debt. We are making decisions to get us where we need to be, and the school board has put together a plan that has the least amount of impact on students and programs.

Together, we will continue our strong partnership between staff, students, and parents to help get us through these challenging financial times.

Delivering on the daily desired experience for students, parents, and staff sets our expectations and will continue to be our focus. It is our goal to work together to continue providing an excellent education at ISD ONE10.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



SIMPLEGIFTS WITH BILLY MCLAUGHLIN

Friday, Nov. 29 • 7:30 p.m.

As longtime fans will tell you, SimpleGifts makes musical magic by bringing a modern flair to traditional Christmas carols and hymns. Staying close to the heart of Christmas by avoiding commercial and pop holiday repertoire has become the trademark of this award-winning six-piece ensemble.

SimpleGifts combines violin, Celtic whistle and bagpipes, piano, acoustic guitar, and percussion with angelic three-part female vocals to create a “modern Old-World” sound. There is nothing ordinary about the arrangements this team delivers, both in the studio and in concert.

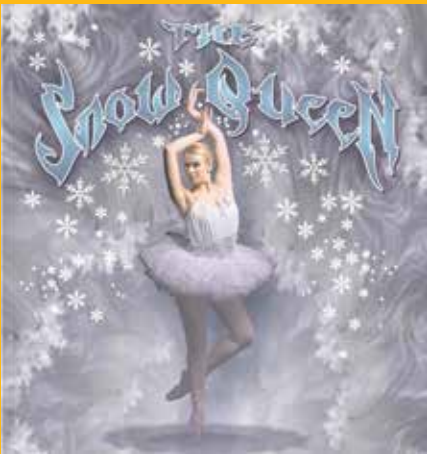
Adults: \$30; \$35 at the door

Students and Seniors: \$20; \$25 at the door

ISD 110 Choir Members: FREE—Must enter provided code for pricing to work. This can be done after selecting seats or before selecting the show.

Choir Members’ Families: \$20 per person

Please note: A \$3 processing fee is added to each ticket.



THE SNOW QUEEN PRESENTED BY RIVER VALLEY DANCE ACADEMY

Saturday, Dec. 7 • 6:30 p.m.

River Valley Dance Academy is celebrating its 21st season and is delighted to bring their holiday performance of The Snow Queen to the Waconia High School Performing Arts Center.

Family friendly, this hour-long production is a great introduction to theatre for children and is a charming way to continue your holiday festivities!

\$12 reserved seating, online in advance

\$14 reserved seating, day of show, at the door

LORIE LINE

The 30th Year Anniversary Celebrating Christmas Sunday, Dec. 15 • 3 p.m.



Pianist Lorie Line once again brings the true meaning of Christmas to town with her 2019 holiday concert.

Make plans now to celebrate Christmas with Lorie Line and her Pop Chamber Orchestra! All reserved seating.

\$56 per person. \$51 per person for groups of 10 or more. This show is appropriate for ages 4 and up.

Please note: A \$4 service fee is added to each ticket.

A WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF BEES

The Waconia Middle School bees are now part of a unique and interactive educational experience for seventh-grade science students.

“As part of a unit on the characteristics of life, students are understanding the complex behavior and characteristics of bees, along with an awareness of the importance of bees to our ecosystem. Students are directly linking what they are learning in class to an important part of our community’s ecosystem.”

BRITTA DEVINNY
Waconia Middle School Science Teacher



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Last spring, 3,000 bees were shipped from almond groves in California to the middle school as part of a grant through the Whole Kids Foundation.
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Over the summer, beekeeper and WMS social studies teacher Michele Melius tended to the bees and created an educational bee center on the roof outside her classroom window. The bees were busy over the summer pollinating plants for the middle school’s Edible Classroom garden and increased their population tenfold. The hives now house roughly 30,000 bees.

“It is neat to have a natural resource that you would usually find on a farm right here at our school.”

SAVANNAH SAMS
Student



WACONIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE HIGH NATIONAL HONORS

Each year more than 1.5 million of the top 11th-grade students in the United States take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) and enter the competition to be named a National Merit Scholar. Of the 1.5 million students who take the test, about 50,000 students across the country are recognized as the top scorers. Approximately 34,000 of these students are recognized as Commended Scholars, but they do not move forward in the competition. The remaining 16,000 students are semifinalists and move forward with the hope of being named a National Merit Scholar.

Waconia High School is proud to announce that two students, Brady Compaan and Abraham Stroschein, are Commended Scholars and four students, Josh Hebeisen, Natalie Meath, Jack Van Nurden, and Gabriel Willis, have been named Semifinalists. This is the first time Waconia High School has ever had four students named Semifinalists, and we are thrilled with the prospect of all four reaching National Merit Scholar status.

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Congratulations to all six of our recognized students and their parents, and good luck as our Semifinalists move to the next stage!
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Semifinalists (from left): Jack Van Nurden, Natalie Meath, Gabriel Willis, Joshua Hebeisen. Commended Scholars: Brady Compaan, Abraham Stroschein.

GO WILDCATS!

NEW WORD STUDY PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED THIS FALL

Research has proven that systematic and multisensory approaches in reading instruction create a more solid reading foundation in young learners. That’s why Waconia Public Schools is implementing a new reading program, Word Study, in K-2 classrooms.

Wilson Foundations is based on the science of reading. It uses teaching methods that ensure the success of our educators in teaching individuals with diverse learning abilities to read, including students that may have dyslexia. This supports our district’s goal of helping each student become an independent reader, allowing everyone to achieve success in and out of school.



“It is a shift in our phonics instruction. With the new training our teachers and support staff received, reading instruction will be more systematic, direct, and explicit with a multisensory approach to teaching reading skills,” said Sarah Klitzke, district teaching and learning manager.

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In the classroom, students will be learning to tap words out on their fingers (utilizing tactile motions), echoing and repeating their teachers (practicing direct auditory and verbal responses), and manipulating word tiles (applying interactive reading and writing techniques).
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This shift in instruction came after a yearlong curriculum review. According to Klitzke, the Wilson Foundations’s Word Study program was chosen by teachers and staff because it was the best program to fit kids’ needs, as well as a more cohesive district-wide approach to teaching students how to read.

“No matter if students are gifted readers or struggling with reading, this curriculum builds the strongest possible foundation of reading, which every student needs to have. By providing a solid foundation of reading skills in grades K-2, by Grade 3, students won’t just learn to read, they will read to learn.”

SARAH KLITZKE
District Teaching and Learning Manager

DIGITAL SCOREBOARD SPONSORSHIPS
FILLING UP



When the new digital scoreboard was installed at Waconia's stadium field, the plan all along was to invite local businesses to purchase a sponsorship. There are 10

spots for major sponsors and, to date, six of them have been claimed. The district is in conversations with many additional businesses to fill it up.

"Since the scoreboard was so new to the community, it took a little while to get some traction to get the word out that these opportunities were available," Jill Johnson, activities director, said. "But, once people learned about the opportunity, I was really impressed with the positive response we got from the local business community. We can't thank them enough for supporting our programs and our athletes."

The six anchor and founder sponsors are Matousek State Farm Agency, Waconia Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram, Waconia Kwik Trip, Jimmy Johns, and Ridgeview Medical Center.

"We are relatively new to town and we thought that there's no better way for our insurance business to get involved in the community than through supporting the schools," Nate Matousek, Matousek State Farm, said. "There really wasn't much to think about. We wanted in as soon as we heard about the opportunity."

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Anyone wanting information about the remaining sponsorships can call the district office at (952) 442-0600 and ask to set up an appointment with Superintendent Pat Devine to discuss scoreboard sponsorship opportunities.
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WILDCAT OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX
NOW OPEN

Did you know that 85% of our high school students participate in at least one extracurricular sport or activity? With participation like that, it is no wonder that the new Wildcat Outdoor Sports Complex is already being put to good use. This was the last piece of the 2014 bond referendum.

People can play tennis, go ice skating, and play pickleball and basketball at the new complex. This is a collaborative effort between the school district, the city of Waconia, and the Waconia Hockey Association—everyone came together to help create this wonderful facility.



PADDLE POWER

The entire Waconia Middle School eighth-grade class got a lesson in navigation in a small watercraft. The annual St. Croix River canoe trip was a little colder than usual—and there were a few tipped canoes—but in the end, everyone did a great job and safely made

the roughly eight-mile trek from Taylors Falls to the Osceola (Wis.) Canoe Landing. It was a great way for students to continue to build community and celebrate the beginning of their last year of middle school.



WACONIA
HIGH SCHOOL
FORMING DECA
CLUB



DECA, a nation-wide business, marketing, and leadership club, is a new opportunity this year for Waconia High School students.

According to Mary Mitchell, DECA advisor and business education teacher, "There are opportunities for students of all interests: marketing, management, fashion merchandising, retail, food marketing, finance, human resources, sports and entertainment . . . and the list goes on."

DECA has positively influenced the lives of millions of students since being founded in 1946. Mitchell realized the potential impact that having a DECA chapter could have on Waconia students.

“ There are four pillars to DECA that really help shape leaders of tomorrow. The program integrates classroom instruction, applies learning, connects to business, and promotes competition. I'm really excited for what DECA can offer our students.”

MARY MITCHELL
DECA Advisor and Business Education Teacher

Those interested in learning more can contact Mitchell at the high school.

HERO COALITION:
SIGNS OF VAPING



E-cigarette smoking, otherwise known as vaping or "Juuling," is becoming more and more popular for teens. In fact, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

says e-cigarette use in young people is now considered a public health concern.

The HERO Coalition is committed to teaching students the harmful effects of vaping and educating parents. Here are some things for parents to look for as possible signs of e-cigarette use:

- **Increased thirst and increased urination** – Vaping removes hydration from the skin, mouth, and throat. In order to account for dehydration, kids will often over hydrate, leading to increased urination.
- **Nosebleeds** – Vaping dries out the nose, which can lead to bleeding.
- **Cutting back on caffeine** – Vaping with use of caffeine can cause anxiety and mood swings. Often teens will decrease their coffee intake to avoid the side effects.
- **Sweet smells** – Unlike tobacco, e-cigarettes have sweet-flavored odors. Flavors come in many varieties and often are fragrant during use and directly after.
- **Irritability** – Nicotine withdrawal often leads to mood swings. If your teen is moodier than usual, this could be a sign they are vaping.
- **Finding unfamiliar USB drives or battery chargers** – E-cigarettes have liquids and cartridges that have to be replaced; check for spare wires, small containers often resembling eye drop bottles, or unfamiliar devices around the house or in the garbage.

Visit herocoalition.org for more information.

CONSERVATION CLUB CLEANS HOUSE ON CONEY ISLAND

Members of the Waconia High School Conservation Club did their part to help bring Coney Island back to life. About 35 members and their parents spent a recent Saturday morning on the Lake Waconia island cleaning it up.

“There were about five sites they wanted us to go through,” Mike Jensen, Waconia High School life sciences teacher and Conservation Club master, said. “We worked with the county, and I think they were really surprised at how fast we moved.”

As students picked up glass and sorted through metal heaps and old building sites, they looked for “cool stuff,” as Jensen put it.

“If we found something that looked interesting—we had two historians with us—we would bring it to them to look at and possibly tag and preserve.”

MIKE JENSEN

Waconia High School Life Sciences Teacher and Conservation Club Master

One of the more interesting items found was a rusty saw tied to the end of a long stick. “I’m guessing they would use that to saw high branches. They had to make it because, back then, it’s not like they could run to Home Depot to buy one,” Jensen explained.

The Conservation Club has 150 active members. It’s a group formed by high school students for high school students to explore, expand, and protect natural resources through service and making connections with professionals in the environmental community.

“We are hoping to inspire a generation of kids who care about the outdoors,” Jensen concluded.

Upcoming events for the Conservation Club include a fall camping trip to Baylor Park, a Pheasants Forever hunt, and the Ice Fishing Extravaganza for all fifth-grade students.



GOODBYE, WILLIE. HELLO, PAWS.

After spending countless seasons cheering on the Wildcats, the Willie the Wildcat mascot is enjoying retirement after handing duties over to the new mascot, Paws.

Paws was introduced to the community during Homecoming Week.



Students and staff submitted potential names and then voted on a list of 14 ideas. Paws rose to the top after the results from the elementary students were tallied. ISD ONE10 would like to thank Old National Bank, Waconia Fire Department, Waconia Lions, and the PTOs at Bayview, Laketown, Southview, and Waconia Middle School for helping bring Paws to Waconia!

2019-2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

OCTOBER

29 End of Quarter 1 – Middle School

NOVEMBER

8 K-5 In-Service/Middle School Flex or In-Service/High School In Service (No School K-12)
15 End of Trimester 1
18 Teacher Work Day/Middle School In-Service or Flex Day (No School K-12)
27 Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)
28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School K-12)

DECEMBER

12 Middle School Evening Conferences
23-31 Winter Break (No School K-12)

JANUARY

1 Winter Break (No School K-12)
8 High School Evening Conferences
13 High School Evening Conferences
15 End of Quarter 2 – Middle School
20 MLK Day/Teacher Personalized In-Service Day (No School K-12)

FEBRUARY

6 K-5 Evening Conferences
7 K-5 Conferences/High School In-Service/Middle School Flex Day (No School K-12)
14 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
17 Presidents’ Day/Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)
20 Middle School Evening Conferences
24 Middle School Evening Conferences
27 End of Trimester 2
28 Teacher Work Day/Middle School Flex Day (No School K-12)

MARCH

2-6 Spring Break
24 E-Learning day for Grades 9, 10, 12 ACT testing for Grade 11
27 End of Quarter 3 – Middle School

APRIL

10 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
13 No School K-12
27 High School Evening Conferences

MAY

24 Class of 2020 Graduation
25 Memorial Day (No School K-12)
28 Last Student Day
29 Last Teacher Day

All Academic Calendars
High School Activities Calendars
visit isd110.org

2019 ESSENCE AWARD WINNERS

Way back in 2009, ISD ONE10 began an annual award that honors our amazing employees. There are so many people who make Waconia Public Schools such a great place for kids. Some of those people are front and center, and others are more behind the scenes. Each is just as important as the other.

The Essence Awards are given out to those who are the epitome of our schools—kind of like the unsung heroes.

Please help us in congratulating this year’s winners!



Jan Johnson
Bayview Elementary



Kathleen Schultz
Laketown Elementary



Lisa Bock
Southview Elementary



Tracy Hart
Waconia Middle School



Craig Stanton
Waconia High School

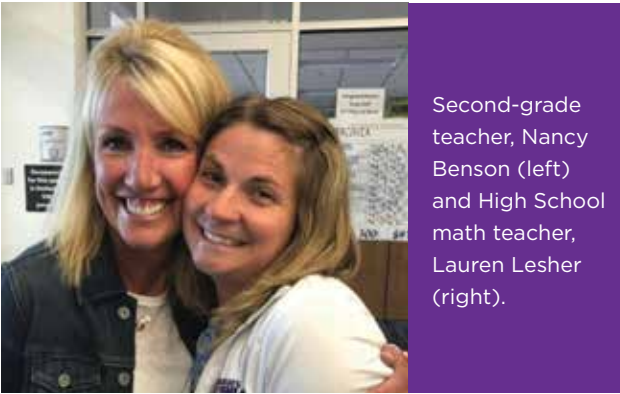


Chris Steffen
Educational Services Center



Karen Whalen
Wildcat Activities

NANCY BENSON AND LAUREN LESHER AWARDED AS ACCOMPLISHED WACONIA EDUCATORS



Second-grade teacher, Nancy Benson (left) and High School math teacher, Lauren Leshner (right).

Nancy Benson, second-grade teacher of 26 years, and Lauren Leshner, high school math teacher of 18 years, won the 2019 Accomplished Waconia Educators Award. Nominated by students and parents, Benson and Leshner were celebrated for their love of teaching and commitment to their students.

“Mrs. Benson is an amazing teacher! She goes above and beyond to help each child learn,” commented Nicole Rogne, second-grade parent. “Mrs. Benson should be the No. 1 teacher, not just for this year but for every year she has been teaching. She is an amazing person inside and out!”

“Mrs. Benson has a love of learning that is contagious and excites my daughter to go to school each day. Beyond her love for each student, she exudes passion for teaching. Without a doubt, she is the type of educator who should be celebrated”.

SARA LUETH
Second-Grade Parent

Benson earned her elementary education degree from St. Cloud State and her master’s degree from Saint Mary’s University.

Benson’s classroom philosophy is centered around love. She wants her students to feel loved, accepted, and safe in her classroom, so they share stories, laugh together, and celebrate each other’s successes by singing songs.

Benson says teaming up with parents through emails, phone calls, and notes is essential to creating a supportive environment for the kids.

“Behind every successful teacher are 25 amazing students, supportive parents, and caring staff,” Benson said when she received this award. “I am surprised and truly grateful! Each day second graders walk into our classroom with a smile, excited to be here. It is an honor to work here in District 110, and I am really blessed to be part of such an amazing district and Bayview family!”

High school math teacher Lauren Leshner also received high praise from the students who nominated her. “She is one of the best teachers I know. She really helped me understand math but also made me feel like I could understand it—she encouraged me to always try my hardest,” stated Maddie Lane, student.

“I believe that Mrs. Leshner is worthy of this award because while teaching mathematics at the perfect pace, she also teaches life lessons that can benefit us students in the future. She acknowledges the fact that you are not going to do everything perfectly and that is okay,” said Diego Ramirez, student. “She uses humor

to try to make math fun and adjusts the daily schedule based on the needs of you and your classmates. She deserves this award because she is a great teacher,” commented Wyatt Boberg, student.

Leshner earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and her master’s from Saint Mary’s University. “I was very humbled to receive this award alongside Mrs. Benson. One of my children was fortunate enough to have Nancy as a teacher, and I wholeheartedly agree with her recognition, and I am very honored to share this award with her,” said Leshner.

Leshner focuses her classroom environment on life skills, rather than just math skills.

“I do not believe math is the most important thing in my students’ lives,” said Leshner.

I really want them to understand that mistakes are normal and how they react to them is the true art of learning. I try to get my students to see the bigger picture and take ownership in their learning through the subject of math. Math phobia is real, but getting a student to believe they can is always my main goal in teaching.”

LAUREN LESHER
Waconia High School Math Teacher

Congratulations to Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Leshner!

ROCKIN’, ROLLIN’, AND READIN’

Every fall, all three of the elementary schools host their school-wide themed events that are always a huge success—and this year was no exception. Southview’s Fit-a-Thon, Laketown’s Move n’ Groove, and Bayview’s Read-a-Thon are major undertakings that are organized and run by each school’s PTO. The events are one of the major fundraisers for the elementary schools, and each is an incredible event. This is the type of parental support and community involvement that make our schools such a great place for kids. Thank you to everyone who helped make these events such a success! WEareONE10!



FARM EXPERIENCE TEACHES THE SCIENCE OF AGRICULTURE



Waconia High School Environmental Studies students traveled about an hour west to a farm outside of Olivia, Minnesota, to study food and agriculture and its impact on social, economic, and environmental factors. The field trip idea was established by local business owner Kim Mackenthun of Mackenthun’s Fine Foods, who is passionate about educating students regarding our local agriculture.

Students traveled to Revier Farms and Revier Cattle Company to get a firsthand look at how food gets from the farm to the kitchen table. Revier Cattle Company and Mackenthun’s Fine Foods, both fifth-generation companies, talked at length about agriculture, sustainability, and the environment over a grilled Angus beef hamburger lunch.

THE FARM EXPERIENCE

Within the scenic autumn backdrop of crops and farmland, business owner and farmer Tom Revier and his team showed students the entire process—from the business offices, to the boardroom, the commodities trading space, onsite production facilities, and, of course, the cattle.

“I like to know where the meat comes from, so I appreciate them showing us how it gets from the farm to our table. I also like the sustainable factor; it is good for the environment,” Kort Oelfke, Waconia High School senior, said.

Revier Cattle Company is known for producing highly sustainable and quality beef that is distributed across the country to grocers, restaurants, and even cruise ships.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LESSONS

Crops – The crop cycle and rotation was explained to students. First, Revier Farms raises corn in local soil, fertilized with manure (nutrients) from Revier Cattle

Company operations. Next, the crop rotation ensures protection of soil resources. Finally, the cattle feed is a blend of fresh ingredients for high nutritional value to the animal.

Feed and Cattle – Tom Revier explained to students, “We don’t use antibiotics or anything that’s negative to the animal. The feed is not loaded with starch and fat and contains only 20 percent corn. The tenderness and flavor are because of the diet.”

Carbon Footprint – Students also observed how the farm has found ways to raise better beef through humane treatment while preserving and protecting the land and water. The science and engineering that’s involved in this type of farming process is highly technical. “Our production allows for a 73 percent reduction in anaerobic digestion, a 12 percent reduction in diesel fuel, and a 40 percent reduction in groundwater use for healthy animal hydration as a result of feed ratio,” stated Revier. The company continually strives to reduce its carbon footprint by purchasing other necessary feed ingredients locally. After hearing about the specifics of the farm operations, sophomore Lily Roelofs expressed, “It’s important for me to realize how they deal with large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane gas in their operations in an environmentally friendly way.”

Business Operations – Students then spent time in the boardroom for a bonus lesson on business operations. A high-level description of supply chain management and branding of the company was explained.

Amara Jones-Myers, a junior at Waconia High School, indicated how the experience will help her with an upcoming course project. “I’m going to take what I’ve learned to focus my class project on how schools could use some of these environmentally friendly concepts.”

Environmental Studies is a project-based course that explores a variety of topics, including meat science, climate change, and aquaponics.

After spending time on the farm, a consensus among the students was the priority of quality and sustainability. Junior Isabelle Honkomp shared, “Sustainability is really important to me, so it’s cool how Revier makes that a major part of how they produce the meat.”

“VALIANT VITO” HONORED IN PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS

“The reason we support Waconia Public Schools comes down to four letters: Vito,” explained Vito’s mother, Nicole Skaro. “Vito passed away two months after his second birthday due to brain cancer. When he was diagnosed, we had no family up here. We had three kids and were expecting our fourth at the time. Waconia rallied around us in so many ways.”

The Skaro family recently donated two interactive televisions that have been placed in the Wildcat Preschool rooms.



“ It isn’t lost on us that these are the kids who Vito would have grown up with. There’s something that brightens our hearts knowing they are smiling and laughing, in a way, because of Vito. They will never know him but there will be joy and giggles and singing because of him, and that’s the greatest impact we can ever imagine.”

NICOLE SKARO
Vito’s Mother

Nicole Skaro doesn’t want to stop there as the family’s ultimate goal is to offer multiple grants to kids when they graduate in 2033—Vito’s graduating class.

“They will not be academically tied, rather, in the spirit of giving and changing lives and love,” Skaro said. “When you lose a child, there’s no words. You wonder what they’d be like as they get older. This allows us to carry him with us and feel a connection with kids we know would have been connected to him.”

Skaro concluded that she is “ecstatic every year that the district lets us help because it brings so much honor to our lives.”

WACONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NAMED “SEIZURE SMART”



Waconia Public Schools has been named a Seizure Smart school district. Only a handful of districts across Minnesota have received this distinction. Receiving the Seizure Smart Schools distinction means that the district brought together students, teachers, school nurses, staff, and families to create an understanding of epilepsy in the schools.

According to the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy. This program stresses the importance for everyone to recognize the signs and symptoms of seizures, and to know how to respond if a student has a seizure.

WACONIA HIGH SCHOOL BAND INSTRUCTOR JOHN POHLAND NOMINATED FOR A GRAMMY AWARD IN MUSIC EDUCATION

John Pohland, high school band director, was nominated for the Music Educator Award for the 2020 Grammys.

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This award goes to teachers who have made a significant contribution to the field of music education and are committed to keeping the subject in schools. Pohland is one of 3,300 nominees and is now one of 189 quarterfinalists.
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Pohland has been an educator at Waconia Public Schools for the past 13 years. With an undergraduate degree in music education and trumpet performance from the University of St. Thomas and a master's degree from Michigan State University, Pohland helped create an award-winning marching band program and heightened the Waconia music program.

“His job as a music teacher is more than just a job to him, it’s a way to reach students. He’s shown me that music is more than just an art and a practice—it’s a way to communicate with people.”

SIMON RAZIDLO
2019 Senior Band Student

So what makes Pohland different than other music educators around the country? “John makes people want to be better, and the students never want to let him down,” said band parent Van Colson. Mark Fredericksen, Waconia High School principal, agrees, saying “much of his influence is unrelated to music—he creates this desire to be a better person.”

The Waconia Band program has become a place for every student because of Pohland. “His connection to the students is what sets him apart,” said Razidlo, “He makes it more than just a band, he makes it a family.”



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Pohland said it’s just an honor to be nominated, but even more so because his nomination came from his students.
.....



Some of Pohland’s favorite teachers from his youth were the ones who made personal connections and genuinely cared for him. One of those teachers being his father, Pohland tries to emulate these ideals in his classroom. “I care about these kids becoming better people more than about the music we actually make together,” said Pohland. “I know that the vast majority of them are not going to be music majors or even teachers, they’re going to be contributing members of society and I hope that through music we all learn to become better people.”

Most people who know Pohland can see that he is passionate about his job—it’s evident in his commitment to his students. Most students who interact with him feel his effort to get to know them as a human being, rather than just a student. “John has a positive impact on every person that he comes in contact with and has created that ripple effect with his students,” said Allison Wilmes, Waconia High School instrumental music teacher.

“He is one of the most genuine and down-to-earth people I have ever met. As a colleague, his support for the entire program has helped our staff build the Waconia band program to what it currently is and is also helping to pave the way to the future.”

PHIL SNYDER
Waconia Middle School Band Director

Pohland dedicates this honor to all of his colleagues. “My name is just a placeholder for Waconia Bands, Waconia Music, and all the teachers who currently do or have worked here. It has, is, and will continue to be such an honor working with each of you and being part of a program that is so much bigger than one person.”

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Pohland will find out if he makes it to the semifinals in the coming weeks. If he wins this award, he will attend the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Jan. 26, 2020.
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BOARD APPROVES CALENDAR FOR 2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR



2020 – 2021
Academic
Calendar

NOVEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

3 End of Quarter 1- Middle School

13 K-12 In-service (No School K-12)

24 End of Trimester 1

25 Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)

26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School K-12)

30 Teacher Work Day/Middle School Flex Day (No School K-12)

MARCH 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 Middle School Evening Conferences

4 End of Trimester 2

5 Teacher Workday/Middle School Flex Day (No School K-12)

8-12 Spring Break (No School K-12)

AUGUST 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

24-27 Teacher Workshop

26 K-12 Open House (evening)

31 First Day of School (Gr. 1-12)

DECEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

10 Middle School Evening Conferences

23-31 Winter Break (No School K-12)

APRIL 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2 End of Quarter 3 – Middle School 2-Hour Early Release K-12

5 No School K-12

19 High School Evening Conferences

21 High School Evening Conferences

SEPTEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2 First Day of School (Kindergarten)

3 Early Childhood Open House (evening)

7 Labor Day (No School K-12)

18 Homecoming

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 Winter Break (No School K-12)

18 MLK Day/Teacher Personalized In-service Day (No School K-12)

21 End of Quarter 2 – Middle School

25 High School Evening Conferences

27 High School Evening Conferences

MAY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

30 Class of 2021 Graduation

31 Memorial Day Holiday (No School K-12)

OCTOBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1 Middle School Evening Conferences

2 2-Hour Early Release K-12

12 Middle School/High School Evening Conferences

13 K-5 Evening Conferences

14 K-5 Conferences - Day Middle School/High School Flex Day (No School K-12)

15 Ed MN State Conference (No School K-12)

16 No School K-12

21 High School Evening Conferences

FEBRUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

4 K-5 Conferences – Evening

5 K-5 Conferences - Day High School In-Service Day Middle School Flex Day (No School K-12)

12 2-Hour Early Release K-12

15 Presidents’ Day – Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)

25 Middle School Evening Conferences

JUNE 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

3 Last Student Day

4 Last Teacher Workday

Approved: 10/14/19