VOL. 2, 2022

#### SUPERINTENDENT PAT DEVINE REFLECTS ON 38 YEAR CAREER







PAT DEVINE Superintendent, Waconia Public Schools, ISD ONE10

I want to share my immense gratitude to ISD ONE10 for the wonderful capstone to my professional career. ISD ONE10 is the best experience I have had in

my professional career. I feel so honored and privileged to finish my career in education at ONE10. Throughout my 38 years in education, I have always had one driving passion...to do what is best for kids. I believe this comes from me being the uncle who took care of so many nephews and nieces growing up in a family with 13 older siblings.

I have always had a passion to create great experiences for kids and that passion molded my career.

That is why ONE10 was such a perfect match for me. At ISD ONE10 students are at the center of everything we do, everything we plan and are what drives decisions at our schools.

It is so great to work in a school that cares so much for kids.

When you have an organization that places kids first, it attracts employees who have that same philosophy. I am so impressed by the quality of our ONE10 staff and how they always do their best to give our students great learning experiences as they create a wonderful, caring culture. ONE10 also attracts families who want this wonderful learning culture.



I am very proud of the work we have done throughout my career at ONE10. The collaboration, teamwork and "All as ONE" philosophy has produced wonderful outcomes for our students, staff and community. The community has given ISD ONE10 wonderful support so we could achieve some of the following accomplishments in my time at ONE10:

#### Amazing Facilities (a footprint for decades)

- New WHS Campus to include an impressive activities complex, amazing auditorium and great facilities for every activity we offer.
- New Laketown Elementary School with modern design for education.
- Remodeling Bayview and Southview to install AC and other enhancements.
- Moving WMS to a school with high school amenities and other enhancements.
- Expanded/Remodeled our Early Childhood Center to include a great playground.

#### **Expanded Activity Offerings**

- Created our own Girls Hockey Program
- Created our own Boys Swimming Program
- Started Boys and Girls Lacrosse Programs
   Started Boys and Girls Tennis Programs
- > Expanded our Theater Program
- > Became a Unified Champion School District



#### **School Program Enhancements and Improvements**

- Delivered on Student, Staff, and Parent Daily Desired Experiences expectations.
- Initial implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for students
- Developed SPED Center Based Programming
- Created Authentic Learning Experiences and Business/Manufacturing/Medical Partnerships
- Enhance our Professional Learning Community process for student support
- Initiated a BYOD One to One Technology Partnership with parents and Best Buy
- > Enhanced our Crisis Plans
- Developed a Classroom to Boardroom Strategic Roadmap with community input
- Created a Systems for Guiding Change and School Improvement



#### **Overcoming Challenges**

- Amazing community support in passing a building referendum and two operating levies to allow ONE10 to continue offering excellent programs for our ONE10 students.
- Reducing over \$2.5 million in operating costs to respond to a SOD crisis as a result of MDE's new SPED funding formula. Setting up a future that pays off the debt with a surplus budget and still maintaining great programing for students.
- Navigating through a pandemic that affected operations for more than two years, yet ONE10 staff, students and parents still worked together to deliver great outcomes for our ONE10 students.

As I reflect back on my time at ONE10, I have fond memories of all the wonderful relationships that I have been able to create and all the amazing work ONE10 has done for kids.

It always warms my heart to see students who work so hard to accomplish goals they set and then achieve them at such a high level....State and Conference recognitions, High rankings in many academic, fine arts and clubs. I feel fortunate to have observed this over and over again in our athletics, fine arts, activities, clubs, and excellence in academics...way to go Wildcats! I also really enjoy seeing how staff members excel in their work when they explore ways to improve their already

Through my time here I have witnessed excellent enhancements, improvements and achievements by staff and students.

Congrats ONE10!!

As much as I love it at ONE10, there comes a time in a career when it's time to exit. That time for me has come. My wife, Kathy, and I plan to stay in Waconia and it is our hope that all at of ONE10 will continue to greet us with your welcoming spirit as you see us in the community. My passion for ONE10 will always be alive and it is my deep desire that ONE10 will continue to thrive and keep getting better. I look forward to watching the good things that will come to ONE10. Thanks for being the Best school district and community that I could ever imagine.

YOU Are the BEST!....WE Are ONE10!!

# WACONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERS WITH CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS APP

In an effort to keep ONE10 students and staff as safe as possible, Waconia Public Schools recently launched a crisis communications app called VOLO. "VOLO brings everyone together at a moment's notice in an emergency," Pat Devine, superintendent, stated. "Obviously, we hope that we never have a real situation but, if something does happen, VOLO saves time when seconds count."



VOLO uses what is called "geo-fencing" and is able to pinpoint the location of staff when it matters to know where they are in the building. Paul David, ISD 110 communications director, spent the first quarter of 2022 training staff. VOLO is currently being rolled out with Carver County Sheriff's deputies, Ridgeview, City of Waconia and Waconia Fire Department.

"The support for this program that we have received from all stakeholders has been remarkable," Devine concluded. "It just shows how much everyone in our communities cares so deeply for kids. We are always looking for opportunities to increase safety and security in all of our buildings and VOLO allows us to do just that."

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# THANK YOU FOR SERVING ONE 10!

Each year the ONE10 family says farewell to many long-time employees. Please help us in congratulating our 2022 retirees! Thank you for your dedication to the success of all at ONE10!



Dave Grandy

Director of Building & Grounds

Educational Services Center

17 years in ONE10



Kathy Oliphant

Director of Teaching
and Learning,

Educational Services Center

34 years in ONE10

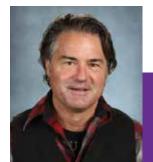


Tracy Asplund

Educational Assistant Special Education

Waconia High School

14 years in ONE10



Clark Machtemes

Social Studies Teacher

Waconia High School

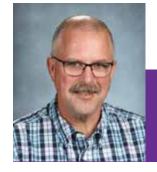
33 years in ONE10



June Rolf

Administrative Assistant,
Laketown Elementary

21 years in ONE10



James Bettcher
School Counselor
Waconia High School
23 years in ONE10



Karen Maiser

Educational AssistantSpecial Education,
Southview Elementary
32 years in ONE10



Kathleen Schultz

Educational Services Center
Laketown Elementary

13 years in ONE10



Pat Devine
Superintendent
Educational Services Center
8 years in ONE10



Tom Maiser

Day Lead Custodian

Waconia High School

28 years in ONE10



Kay Young
Learning Disabilities Teacher
Bayview Elementary
29 years in ONE10



Julie Foust

Educational Assistant
Bayview Elementary

30 years in ONE10



Jean Masterson
Head Cook
Laketown Elementary
16 years in ONE10

#### HAPPY RETIREMENT!

#### WACONIA STUDENTS LEARN FROM THE PROS AT TCO STADIUM

Special Olympics MN invited WHS Unified athletes to spend some time at TCO Stadium to learn from and hang with some MN Vikings players. Seven Vikings players spent time with students to work on punting, catching, running, drills and practicing their touchdown dance. Vikings players included: Harrison Phillips; Janarius Robinson; D.J. Wonnum; Armon Watts; T.Y. McGill; Julian Taylor; Greg Joseph. After practicing drills, they played a scrimmage. What an incredible opportunity for our WHS Unified athletes!









# ISD 110 CELEBRATES UNIFIED CHAMPION DISTRICT STATUS



For eight years, Waconia High School's
Unified programming has offered students
with or without disabilities the opportunity
to participate together in a Unified Sport,
Unified WILD time or Unified Club. Athlete
Sophie Battis, who most enjoys Unified
Basketball, says that when she is playing, "I
feel heart-happy."

Unified programming generates feelings of joy and inclusion throughout WHS, according to Unified Club and Unified Sports Advisor Kari Klein. Starting next year, ISD 110 will be a Unified Champion District, meaning Unified programming will span districtwide, from preschool to high school. ISD 110 will be around the fourth district in the state of Minnesota to become a Unified Champion District.

To have "Champion" status, a school must show evidence of the three pillars, defined by Special Olympics - Inclusive Youth Leadership, Whole School Engagement, and Unified Sports. For Inclusive Youth Leadership, WHS' strong Unified Board of teachers and students meets regularly, with special emphasis dedicated to planning Unified Week -a fun, awareness-raising event, with themed dress-up days and interesting schoolwide activities. For Whole School Engagement, students receive Advisory time lessons, participate in Kindness Week and take "Spread the Word to End the Word" pledges.

Spread the Word to End the Word is a movement to end the use of the "r word". Students watch a video about Special Olympics, learn the history of the word, and why it is offensive. Students are more aware of it in their vocabulary and how it can be hurtful, Klein said.

For each of Waconia's Unified sport teams (Bowling, Basketball, Soccer, or Track & Field), 25-30 students practice five to 10 times per season and compete in games against other schools. All practices and games occur during the school day to accommodate busy high schoolers' schedules. Unified Club, WILD time, and a new Unified Explorations class are all additional ways that WHS students can build communities of belonging.

Athlete Gavin Minzel-Boyd shared that playing tag together in Unified PE is really fun. And, he shared, "This year, I am going to prom." Minzel-Boyd is attending with another student in Unified. Athlete Mya Andrews described how friendships that started in Unified activities now go beyond classrooms and gym walls.

Ninth grader and first-year Unified participant Kyja Holm really enjoys the time she spends in Unified activities, "because everyone is so fun to be around, and we are all just there to have a good time." Logan DeMarce, who is also involved with many Unified Sports, describes the happiness he feels "when I know I'm making someone's day and I'm making someone's dream come true of playing in a sport and getting better and better... The crowds and this community get touched by the games played because all of it is very cool and heartfelt...This community is so inclusive, so supportive, and I suggest being a part of this in some way."

There are many "repeat" Unified student participants, and Klein notes the younger students join, the more consistently they return. Schoology messages, posters, and teacher recommendations also generate student interest and participation.

Katy Battis, the sister of Sophie Battis, has participated in Special Olympics Unified activities since elementary school. As someone who wholeheartedly chooses to do all-things Unified, Battis said the impact is easy to feel schoolwide (whether one directly participates in Unified or not), and it has yielded new levels of understanding and many friendships along the way.



Unified gives me an opportunity to be surrounded by super positive people, and to me, that is some of the greatest value of all."

- KATY BATTIS
Unified Club Participant

Battis is often asked how to get involved, and she encourages students to try a WILD time or join a sport—she hopes her Unified experiences never end.

Unified Board member and student Ariana Ryskoski says she wants to eventually work with Special Olympics to teach Unified classes. She also wishes an out-of-state family member could experience the Unified programming we have in Waconia—and she says not even the coldest temperature could stop her from doing the Polar Plunge again.

Approximately \$30,000 of the total funds generated at this year's successful 2022 Waconia Polar Plunge are marked specifically for ISD 110 Unified programming. Waconia Middle School designated the Polar Plunge as a schoolwide fundraiser and ROCKED it, Klein noted.

To introduce Unified programming districtwide, this spring, ISD 110 kindergarteners through high schoolers will enjoy Unified Track and Field events. Next fall, the district will introduce Unified PE across all ages, and the district will learn from these experiences to grow additional programs.

Klein emphasized that being a Champion District is a BIG deal!  $\mbox{``}$ 

#### GO WILDCATS!

By starting programming early, we will have a consistent group of students that is there to make a huge impact on each other. We are VERY excited for what the future holds for Waconia Unified programming!"

- KARI KLEIN Unified Club and Unified Sports Advisor

#### BERIT FITZSIMONDS NAMED STATE EXCEL WINNER



Congratulations to Junior Berit Fitzsimonds for not only being selected the 2022 WHS ExCEL Award but also a 2022 Minnesota State High School League STATE ExCEL Award Winner! Berit's selection

as a State ExCEL winner was recognized during the 2022 MSHSL Girls Basketball State Championships.

Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, ExCEL (Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership) is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for high school juniors.

Students who are active in fine arts and/or athletic activities, who show leadership qualities, and who are model citizens are eligible for the award.

As a well-rounded young adult, Berit shares her time and talents regularly with her community. Impressively, she has recorded more than 500 volunteer community service hours with her church, local senior centers, and area youth. She has mentored and coached youth in athletics, church events, and summer activities. A favorite volunteer activity is playing music for senior citizens in assisted living or memory facilities.



Berit truly personifies excellence in community, education, and leadership. She is one of the strongest musicians I have ever had the pleasure of working with, but it is her kindness and strong work ethic that truly makes her such a strong leader."

- FORMER TEACHER





#### STUDENTS GO ON ADVENTURE FOR EARTH DAY



Waconia fourth-graders got to take a walk in the woods last Friday, plus an opportunity to start their own forest.

The combination Earth Day/
Arbor Day event was held in
"Bayview Woods" behind
Bayview Elementary, hosted by
Waconia High School Conservation
Club students under the direction
of science teachers Wayne Trapp

and Mike Jensen.

Students from Bayview, Southview and Laketown embarked on an ecology adventure that afternoon learning about mammals, owls and other raptor/predators, and trees.

There was even a Sasquatch sighting - actually a Conservation Club member dressed up like Bigfoot, the purported creature said to inhabit the forests of North America.

Fun facts from Conversation
Club members: Minnesota's
state tree is the red pine and
there are several mature red
pines in Bayview Woods
planted by some of the first
WHS Conservation Club
students. The tree is fire
resistant, according to club
members, with thick bark that
insulates the tree core from
light to moderate intensity fires.

In recognition of Arbor Day,
each student got to take home
a spruce sapling to plant courtesy
of SouthPoint Financial Credit Union.

SouthPoint Financial donated some 500 trees this year to area schools, including Waconia Public Schools, Trinity, St. Joe's and Cologne Academy, according to Tom Battis, Waconia branch president.

"I remember the day well when I was given a sapling to plant when I was in elementary school," he said. "The last time I drove by my family's old back yard the tree was still there!"



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#### SIGNING DAY AT WACONIA HIGH SCHOOL



The Waconia Works
Signing Day is an
opportunity to
recognize Waconia
High School seniors
for their decision to
enter the workforce
post-graduation with
a local company in the
area of manufacturing
or trades; and to
highlight the local
businesses that
provide those
opportunities.

#### Class of 2022 Students and Employers

- Konrad Breeggemann
   Modern Design Cabinetry
- Jake Schramm
- Waconia Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
- Cole Machtemes
   Mike's Electrical Contracting
- Devin Bielke
   Crimson Copper



The relationship we have with the local business community is amazing. Congratulations to this year's class and the businesses that are supporting them in their careers. This is such a great program that provides ONE10 students incredible opportunities."

- PAT DEVINE

Waconia Public Schools Superintendent

## KIDS' COMPANY: REWARDING JOB FOR READY-TO-PLAY EMPLOYEES



ISD ONE10 is looking for responsible youth and adults who enjoy building positive relationships with young children.

Interested candidates should contact Jenny Merritt at jmerritt@isd110.org or apply online: isd110.org/ Human Resources/ Job Postings

Rhonda Bjerke, current Kids' Co Lead/Site Supervisor at the Waconia Education Center (preschool), has enjoyed



her 14-year role of being an important part of "the village" it takes to raise a child. As a Lead, her responsibilities are to plan activities and to interact with children attending Kids'

Co to make sure they are having fun and being safe. "What could be more rewarding than being the light in a child's eye when he sees you at Target?" Bjerke says.

Nora Edsill, a Kids' Co Aide, plays basketball, helps with homework (or gives students extra math problems), colors and crafts, and leads group games with elementary students.



The thing I find most rewarding about my job as an Aide is seeing the kids' smiling faces. Being a partner during a game is a blast because I get to see them enjoy their time at Kids' Co and laugh".

- NORA EDSILL Kids' Co Aide

#### Q&A WITH JENNY MERRITT, KIDS' CO PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:

#### Q: How much experience in working with kids does a candidate need?

**A:** Experience babysitting or helping to lead youth groups are a plus; however, if you have a passion for wanting to work with children, we are willing to train

#### Q: How flexible are you with hours?

**A:** We work very hard to be flexible for staff who may be involved in other extra-curricular activities. We have a history of working around sports, show choir, marching band, and school plays.

We ask that staff are available for a minimum of three days per week but are very flexible on how this may work. This job involves no nights or weekends.

- Q: What kind of arrangements do you offer to help employees work their shifts?
- **A:** During the school year, staff are able to ride the bus to the elementaries to work.
- Q: Do you want after-school employees for Kids' Co right now? How about summer employees?
- **A:** Yes, we need staff now, and we need seasonal summer staff, along with staff who would want to work into the fall.

#### YOUNG AUTHOR'S CONFERENCE, MUSEUM OF FAILURE ARE AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR WACONIA STUDENTS

Approximately 64 Waconia middle schoolers and 42 fourth and fifth grade students from Southview Elementary attended the 31st annual Young Author's Conference (YAC) at Bethel College this spring.

This year's theme, "Writing with Courage," was a strong fit for middle schoolers, according to WMS Gifted and Talented Coordinator and eighth grade Language Arts teacher Brittany Tonneson.



"Encouraging students to speak their truth and share their work is so important at this age, when many teenagers are concerned with what their peers think," Tonneson said.



All in all, students had positive feedback from the day that they could brainstorm, write, and share in a supportive and engaging environment, while learning strategies from professional writers and authors."

- BRITTANY TONNESON

WMS Gifted and Talented Coordinator and Eighth Grade Language Arts Teacher

Students described a wide variety of take-aways, as offerings spanned across the writing process. Example sessions: "Tacos, Tortillas and Ice Cream: Finding the Story in Our Food," and an open mic event. Eighth grader Natalie S. said she explored storyboarding, while James W. enjoyed the down-to-earth style of author Ty Chapman who led a compelling character-development session. Leo T. described the YAC as a "best day ever" of learning, while Noelle W. appreciated the relaxed environment and chance to develop drawing skills. Maguire K. liked trying a different thought process to create a short story.





As Southview students Jonah E., Oliver B., Blake W. and Sullivan D. ate lunch in the gymnasium listening to musicians, they commented how cool it was to spend time on a college campus, with real, published authors. They tried different types of poetry and said "it was cool getting to free-write" in any direction they wanted.

.....

Southview Elementary's Media and Digital Learning Coordinator Erika Monson has been accompanying students on this field trip for many years and shared, "Many times students end up loving the classes that they didn't get to choose because it pushes them to write outside of their perceived comfort zones."



In addition to YAC field trip, Tonneson also planned a field trip for her 6th grade prescribed learning period (PLP) to attend the Museum of Failure and FlyOver America at the Mall of America this past fall. Tonneson's PLP has set themes of perseverance and growth mindset as focus areas, so the timing of the Museum of Failure exhibit being in Minnesota coincided well with her goal to show students it's okay to not be perfect, and it's okay to make mistakes.

#### It's okay to not be perfect, and it's okay to make mistakes.

When Grace W. observed the variety of products displayed at the Museum of Failure, she noted, "Some of the failed inventions were really cool. Even though they made some mistakes, I could see how these inventions could be altered in different ways and made better."

The FlyOver America ride was a hit, and students returned to class to create "FlyOver America 2.0" – as teams researched and collaborated to create video previews (along with a production itinerary and budget) for new destinations.

One of Tonneson's goals is to provide students with creative opportunities and authentic learning experiences outside of the classroom. As Waconia Middle Schoolers have enjoyed the return of field trips beyond classroom walls, ISD 110 has utilized COVID funding to help resume and support these experiences.

#### JULIA BARTELL WINS 2022 ATHENA AWARD



Julia's excellence and leadership in Wildcat athletics, as well as in the classroom and the community, has distinguished her as an outstanding recipient for the Athena Award. It is a unique recognition designed exclusively for female high school seniors. The Athena

Award honors the athletic achievements of 55 high school seniors in the Twin Cities metroa area. Julia, an accomplished athlete of the swim and dive team, holds the school record in six different swimming events. She plans on attending Brigham Young University in the fall on a swim scholarship.

# COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER TO BECOME ANNUAL SPRING EVENT

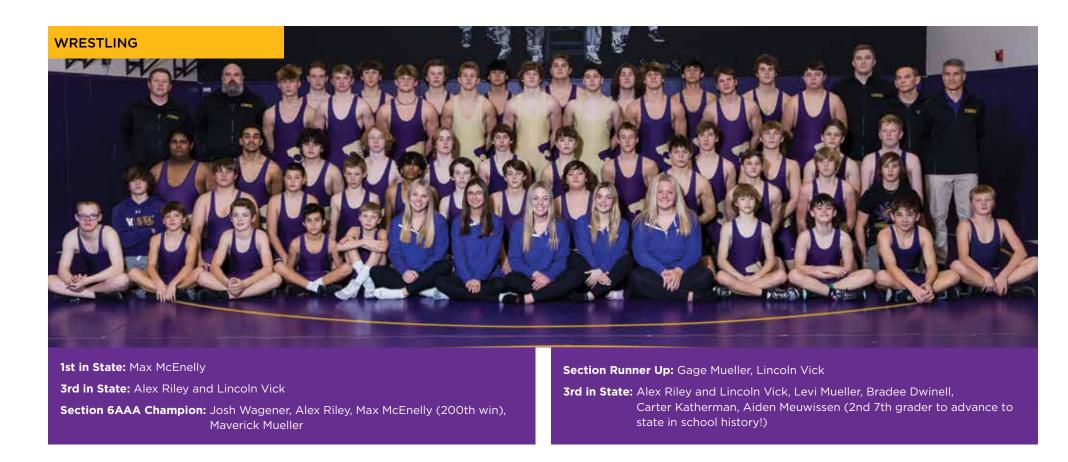


ECFE staff Heather Carlson, Amanda Vesta, Lauren Mcquillan and Christine Pedretti greet Community Baby Shower attendees.

Expecting parents and parents of newborns up to 12 months enjoyed the first **Community Baby Shower** hosted this spring by Waconia ISD 110's Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) team. Area businesses and vendors described available resources, and ECFE staff showcased their classrooms. Parents connected with other parents, visited the ECFE building and learned about community offerings. The first 40 new parents received goodie bags.

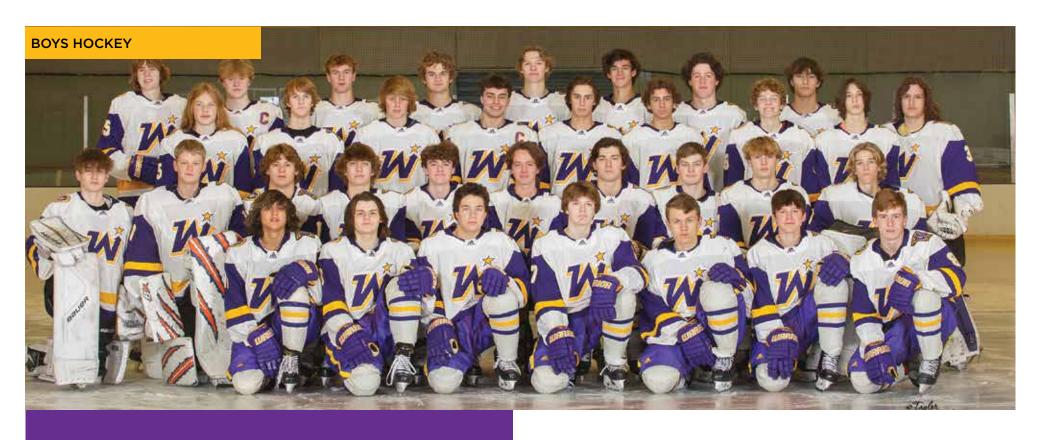


Joe, Kat and Lainey Kukulski enjoy the 2022 Community BabyShower.





All-Conference: Annika Mielke
All-Conference Honorable Mention: Kendall Miller and Kendra Borland



All-Conference: Tyson Wiese
All-Conference Honorable Mention: Ryan Molinari, Brett Siddons



**All-Conference:** Sam Sinclair, Matthew Krogman, Nolan Elg, Jack Hackler, Alex Kearney



**All-Conference:** Audrey Swanson & Ava Stier **All-Conference Honorable Mention:** Mackenzie Amundson & Grace Seim



All-Conference: Joe Meath
All-Conference Honorable Mention:
Noah Bonick Ty Miller



**All-Conference:** LiLi Raidt **All-Conference Honorable Mention:** Evie Tellers & Addie Harried

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**All-Conference:** Cassidy Hughes, Sydney Dondelinger **All-Conference Honorable Mention:** Alex Cole, Paige Andrews





<--- DANCE - HIGH KICK

DANCE - HIGH KICK --->

#### 2022-23 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

#### APRIL

- 1 End of Quarter 3 WMS
- 15 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- **18** No School K-12
- 20 WHS Conferences (evening)
- 25 WHS Conferences (evening)

#### MAY

- 7 Prom
- 29 Class of 2022 Graduation
- **30** Memorial Day (No School K-12)

#### JUNE

- 2 Last Student Day
- 3 Last Teacher Work Day

#### **AUGUST**

- 22-25 Teacher Workshop
- 29 First Day of School (Gr. 1-12)
- 31 First Day of School (Kindergarten)

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**5** Labor Day (No School K-12)

#### OCTOBER

- 7 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 19 K-5 Conferences (day)/WMS& WHS Flex Day(No School K-12)
- 20 Ed MN State Conference (No School K-12)
- **21** No School K-12

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 End Quarter 1 WMS
- 11 Teacher In-Service Day (No School K-12)
- 18 End of Trimester 1 K-5/WHS
- **21-23** Teacher Flex Days (No School K-12)
- **24-25** Thanksgiving Holiday (No School K-12)

#### DECEMBER

**23-30** Winter Break (No School K-12)

#### JANUARY

- 2 Winter Break (No School K-12 )
- 16 MLK Day (No School K-12)
- 19 End Quarter 2 WMS

#### FEBRUARY

- 3 Conferences/In-Service/Flex Day (No School K-12)
- **17** 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 20 Presidents' Day/Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)

#### MARCH

- 2 End of Trimester 2 (K-5/WHS)
- Teacher Workday (No School K-12)
- **6-10** Spring Break (No School K-12)
- 31 End of Quarter 3 (K-5/WMS)

#### APRIL

- 7 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 10 No School K-12

#### MAY

- 28 Tentative Class of 2023 Graduation
- 29 Memorial Day (No School K-12)

#### JUNE

- 1 Last Student Day
- 2 Last Teacher Work Day

#### GO WILDCATS!

For All Academic Calendars and High School Activities, **visit isd110.org**