

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

October 2021

Elementary:

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

Faculty Focus: On Friday, October 1 elementary teachers (K-5) were provided Guided Support for PGRE. Teachers identified strategies they will use for Identifying Critical Content. Teachers also engaged in extended PLC. They focused on cementing their understanding and procedures for Standards Based Grading and Reporting in Mathematics. Elementary Mathematics report cards will be available in a standards based format.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: We continue to have strong parent support and attendance at conference time. Fall conferences are used to explain the results of our fall assessments to parents and set up goals and expectations for the upcoming school year. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held virtually via Zoom.

Book Fair: All elementary sites are hosting an In-Person Book Fair! We look forward to the excitement of reading in all our elementary schools.

Homecoming Week: We love our WILDCAT school spirit! All elementary schools are celebrating Homecoming week with dress up days and Pep Fest!

Waconia Middle School:

8th-grade students had a great day at the annual Canoe Trip down the St. Croix River on Wednesday. Thank you to the 8th grade staff and the 20 plus chaperones for making the trip safe and fun.

Friday we were able to have our first event on the new gym floor with an all school Homecoming Pep-Fest. It was an excellent way to start building new memories in a space that feels brand new. Thank you to the high school students and staff for leading a fun event. PE teachers are excited to get back in the gyms beginning next week.

Friday after school we held our Homecoming Spirit Fest. The turn was awesome and students enjoyed a wide variety of events. Thank you to the WMS Student Council and the WMS PTO for organizing and operating the event.

Waconia High School & Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Waconia High School had four seniors that were recognized as "Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program." Commended students placed in the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test. WHS students are Grace Bedford, Noah Hebeisen, Nathan Langer, and Kaethe Ludford. Congrats to all of these students. WHS senior Delaney Sebora has advanced and is a National Merit Semi-finalist!

Homecoming week was a success! The student council and their advisor, Ms. Barrie, did a fantastic job of coordinating the events for the week that started with a pepfest at the high school on Monday morning. During the week, they had a bunch of activities going on such as dress up days, a movie night on Wednesday night, a traveling pepfest on Friday morning to ECFE, the elementary buildings, and middle school, and a tailgating party on Friday night before the football game. The week was capped off by the crowning of our king and queen on Friday night followed by our football game vs. Chanhassen. A huge thank you to our student council members and Ms. Barrie.

The fall musical 'Into the Woods' will run this week with performances on October 14th-16th. Congratulations to the entire cast, crew, and directors Amanda Byrne and Daniel Greco on another outstanding production.

Thanks to the Duck Cup Foundation, our WHS students will be able to participate in a virtual presentation on Oct 14th with a speaker on mental health and coping skills. Duck Cup is an organization based out of New Prague, MN. They are a non profit organization that is dedicated to providing resources for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Their sponsored events reach over 10,000 students, parents, teachers and community members on an annual basis.

Parent-teacher conferences will be taking place at the high school on Monday, October 11th and Monday, October 18th. Conferences will be held virtually via Zoom.

Community Ed:

Community Education is gearing up for winter programming! Our winter/spring online brochure will be going live the week of November 22. Early Childhood is working on their winter/spring class schedules.

The basketball deadline is Wednesday, October 13. There is still time to register for basketball this year. This is for grades 1 - 6 boys and girls.

Kids' Company is in need of Lead teachers. If you know anyone that is looking for a job and wants to work with kids. Please send them to Community Education!

Human Resources: All Minnesota School Districts must complete and submit an annual Assurance of Compliance to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) by November 15. School Districts are required to complete this process to assure compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. By completing the Assurance of Compliance, the School District is providing written assurance that it does not discriminate in its use of funds provided through both the federal and state government and that all mandated reporters have been informed of their mandated reporting duties under the state law. Our School District is in compliance with the requirements and will verify that compliance to the MDE through the electronic submission process. A copy of the proposed submission is attached to the School Board's Consent Agenda and will be submitted to the MDE following the School Board's approval. School Board approval is required per Minnesota Rule 3535.9910.

Support Services:

The Special Education Staff made over 350 parent contacts during the last 2 weeks of September to ask parents if they wanted to meet regarding Covid recovery services which I previously mentioned in the September Board highlights. Now the staff will go about scheduling the meetings for parents that wished to meet and completing the required paperwork. About 20% of the parents wanted to meet, adding another 70+ meetings to an already busy time for teachers.

On the early release on October 1st, Special Education ESPs were trained on their new performance review process and rubric.

Superintendent:

Great School - Great Start!

ISD ONE10 is well into the 2021-22 school year and there continues to be a lot of joy in the buildings. Waconia Public Schools is known for the excellent education we deliver due to an exceptional partnership with families and superb work by ONE10 staff. We are now six weeks into the school year and parent/teacher conferences at all levels will be completed by 10/13/21. As we work to create a somewhat normal school year this year, it requires students to renew some of their previous school routines. It's apparent that the endurance for a normal school schedule is something that students needed to relearn. Going to class, attending activities and maintaining a work or homelife schedule can be exhausting. Students have taken on this challenge and are getting back into regular school routines. We are proud of how our students and families have made this adjustment. Thank you for making ONE10 a great place to learn and work!!

Homecoming is a Wonderful Week to Show ONE10 Pride

There are a lot of events and activities to engage in this week at our school buildings. It is a great week to show ONE10 Pride during [Homecoming Week 2021](#). The enthusiasm and happiness at all levels is so fun to see. A Big Thank You to all those who organized great experiences for our students and to ALL who found ways to celebrate and be engaged in showing our ONE10 Pride.....WE Are ONE10!!

Continue Monitoring the Covid-19 Data at ONE10

As we moved through summer programming, our students had virtually no issues with Covid-19 and we were very hopeful for a somewhat normal school year. Now that the school year is off and running, we are seeing some Covid-19 challenges continue. We truly want to keep all at ONE10 safe and it will take everyone's help to make that happen. Our [Covid-19 data](#) is not where we want it to be, yet we are finding ways to mitigate the impact the best we can with our current [Safe Learning Plan](#). There are a lot of opinions as to what is best and we continue to share what is recommended for safety. Families and staff are encouraged to follow the [MDH recommendations](#). Knowing that we are following a choice model for personnel mitigation strategies, please make the choice that is best for you and do your best to protect others. We are very pleased that our school district is in a county that has a high vaccination rate as this continues to be one of the best strategies for keeping the virus from spreading. We encourage all eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine to consider receiving it to help our schools and community be safe.

Covid-19 Testing Options at ISD ONE10

ISD ONE10 has applied for the MN State Covid-19 Testing grant and will be able to access funding for Covid-19 testing soon. Currently, we are seeking guidance from the state on how to convert our remaining Vault tests from last year to start using immediately and also checking to see if the grant will cover staffing requirements for this. We are working with the state to order take-home Covid-19 tests. We are establishing the protocols we need to follow, determining drop off site(s), getting additional supplies and identifying our staffing needs. We are planning to offer Vault tests for symptomatic students and staff. Those choosing to use these take-home PCR tests will complete the process over a Zoom video conference. Individuals or parents will bring the Covid-19 Test to the identified ONE10 drop off site upon completion. Those taking the test are notified of results within two days.

The rollout from the state is taking longer than anticipated but we are hoping to have things in place for ISD ONE10 to supply take-home Covid-19 tests after the Ed-MN Break. In the meantime, the state is recommending the following information about Covid-19 Testing.

Promoting COVID-19 Community Testing Sites

In addition to school COVID-19 testing programs, Minnesotans can get tested at local providers, pharmacies and clinics. The state is also continuing to make free testing accessible to all communities through its test-at-home program and 11 community testing sites. To meet increased testing demand, the state recently expanded its capacity by opening new community sites.

As you communicate with your families, consider sharing the following information.

How Minnesotans can get a COVID-19 test:

- Walk in or schedule an appointment for a free test at one of the state's 11 community testing sites across Minnesota: [COVID-19 Community Testing Sites](#).
- Order a free test through the state's at-home testing program: [COVID-19 Test at Home](#).
- Find other testing options near them through the state's Find Testing Locations map, including through local providers, pharmacies and clinics: [Find Testing Locations](#).

Substitute Shortage is Concerning at ONE10

As we do our best to navigate through this pandemic, staffing concerns that are affecting many industries across the nation are also causing concerns at ONE10. The employee shortage is really impacting our ability to fulfill the substitute demands that we have at our school district. We are experiencing days where we can only fill about 60% of the substitutes that are needed to cover for the employees who are absent. Staff members are being very creative and remarkably understanding in covering this shortfall. We are so thankful for staff who are stepping up and subbing during their prep time and time off. All at ONE10 are doing the best they can to help this situation. We could use any support and help possible from those in the ONE10 community who may be willing to sign up to be on our substitute list. Please contact our [HR Department](#) if you would be willing to sub.

Workforce Data Facts: According to MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), we're now experiencing the highest number of available job openings in the educational sector in the 20 years that DEED has tracked this information. This situation has created a record number of competitors for school employees. MN remains down over 170K jobs since the start of the pandemic, most of which are in the service industry.

**Thanks for All You Do to Make ONE10 a
Great Place for Students and Staff!!
WE Are ONE10!!**