

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

November 2020

Elementary: The elementary schools ROCKED the Vote on November 3rd. Our students voted on items such as favorite color, school lunch, animal and instrument. Now that all ballots have been counted, we will honor the winning vote with a day or activity to celebrate. We will play the winning game, wear our favorite color and eat our favorite school lunch. We know how important it is to have our voices heard by voting.

Students continue to thrive in our pod model, we have schedules down and all staff across the three buildings are focusing on the same priority standards and keeping our pace as close as possible. Our monthly Wednesday distance learning day allows us to collaborate across the district as grade level PLCs. We use this time to pace out the upcoming month, discuss teaching strategies and priority outcomes. We are also using this time to proactively get our distance learning plans and schedules in place. All staff will be an integral part of delivering this model if needed.

A huge thank you to our families and community for supporting the District 110 Referendum. We are proud to be part of a district that has such amazing support from our community. We are extremely grateful and proud to be District 110 Wildcats.

Middle School:

It is exciting to share that the WMS PTO One and Done annual fundraiser was a wonderful success this year! \$6250 has been donated so far, and there are a few donations still coming in. We are continually thankful and appreciative for the family support of the PTO programs at WMS.

We made it to the end of the 1st quarter and 2nd quarter classes will start on Monday, November 9th. Hybrid and distance learning have required increased independence for our middle school students and parents are encouraged to examine 1st quarter progress to set new goals for the second quarter based on what went well and what can improve. Students clearly deserve recognition for their efforts to adapt and meet new learning methods and independent expectations. For those that struggled through the 1st quarter, a clean slate provides for fresh start to adjust learning habits.

The election has captured the attention of our nation this week and for many months leading up to Tuesday. Although the results are still not final at the writing of this newsletter, WMS and

WHS students had an opportunity to participate in a presidential mock election ahead of Tuesday. The results of the mock elections were:

WMS: Donald Trump 46.4%, Joe Biden 40.6%, Kanye West 11%, Other Candidates 2%

WHS: Joe Biden 49.6%, Donald Trump 37.5%, Kanye West 9.3%, Other Candidates 3.6%

Recently, we honored our first WMS Teacher of the Month for the 2020-21 school year. Longtime sixth-grade teacher, Mr. Benham, was nominated by a former student, seventh-grader Oliver Lyons. Oliver wrote about the fun and enjoyment of being one of Mr. Benham's students last year. He also shared that Mr. Benham was nice, laid back, and had the ability to always cheer him up. Congratulations to Mr. Benham, the WMS October Teacher of the Month and thank you to Oliver for submitting a great nomination letter. The PTO shared that there was a lot of nominations this month and it was very difficult to select just one. Both Mr. Benham and Oliver received a box of Laketown chocolates and a Target gift card as a token of appreciation from the PTO.

The year the WMS PTO has created a method to recognize the important groups at WMS that go above and beyond to make WMS great. The October Above and Beyond Group is our custodial and maintenance staff. The award states, "On behalf of the parents, students, and staff, THANK YOU for going above and beyond to ensure that our students have a safe and healthy environment to come to every day. We couldn't do any of this without you. "

Presented to: Isaac Hanson, Jackie Hill, Edna Kenyi, Illaria Martinez, Ron Stacken, Freddy Villegas, and Bonnie Wurzer.

High School:

We're pleased to present "Spoon River" this weekend for your viewing pleasure. This is our first attempt at creating and presenting a virtual drama production. Congrats to the student cast and director Amanda Byrne.

Each year we work with the Carver County League of Women Voters to register our 18 year old students and encourage them to exercise one of their greatest freedoms; the freedom to vote. In addition to voting in the "real" election, we conducted a mock election that was open to all of our high school students. When the final votes were tallied, Joe Biden received 49.5% of the votes, Donald Trump 37.5%, and Kanye West 9.5%.

There has been a noticeable uptick in our COVID-related absences, particularly with staff who are being quarantined. Our sub pool is extremely limited, but we've been able to get by because our teachers have been giving up their prep time to sub. We're so fortunate to have a staff willing to help out in any way they can.

A huge thank you goes to the ISD #110 community for their support in passing the referendum. To pass a referendum in the middle of a pandemic and turmoil speaks volumes to the value our public places on education. Thank you!

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Thank you for your energetic support of Wildcat activities as we celebrated our 2020 Girls Cross Country and Girls Soccer Section Championships with a community parade on October 30th! The student athletes enjoyed all of the excitement and recognition that came from our entire school and business community, much appreciated! As our winter sports and activity seasons get underway, we look forward to providing our student participants with even more opportunities this upcoming season!

Mark your calendar - Our WHS Fall play, "Spoon River" to be shared via Youtube this weekend, November 6-8! Congratulations to Director Amanda Byrne and the entire cast and crew on a very successful, mostly virtual, drama production this fall!

Community Ed:

Community Ed has wrapped a successful fall recreation season. Our flag football, youth volleyball and soccer teams all finished a great fall season! Programming will be starting in late November/early December for our basketball teams and our youth wrestling program.

Our Early Childhood and Preschool programs have had a great fall. There have been a lot of new learning curves with all of the new guidelines that need to be followed. Our staff have done an outstanding job with this. Hopefully we can keep it going!!

Human Resources: The first of two "virtual" Unconscious Bias professional development sessions being held this fall took place on October 26. The vast majority of our school district's employees attended this important training last year, but the pandemic sidelined the session scheduled to take place last April. Cathy Bergland of Impact Lives conducted the training, which was interactive and engaging. She focused on what she refers to as the hidden brain (unconscious or implicit biases) and strategies that can be used to challenge, change and overcome such bias. Ms. Bergland utilized both video and group activities to provide examples of bias. The training focused on the importance of self-awareness and how the first step to overcoming bias is recognizing it.

Virtual "Preparing for Retirement" seminars are being held in October and November for all employees interested in learning more about their defined-benefit state pension plans. Employees at all stages of their careers are encouraged to attend and learn more about this important employment benefit. School district employees belong to one of two state pensions: 1) the Public Employment Retirement Association (PERA), or 2) the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA). Both organizations have placed temporary moratoriums on in-person presentations, but were happy to offer our employees virtual learning sessions.

Student Services:

Another good month of work from the entire special education department since the last update. The recent group of new hires in Special education are doing a great job with our students and families. Staff are working with kids in person, in distance, homeschool and in private schools.

We have student growth as many students are now qualifying for special education services across the District this fall because we were not able to finish their evaluations last spring. In Part C (Birth to three year olds), families are bringing the children into the building for their services since our special education staff cannot go into homes. We are seeing a large increase in referrals in the early childhood ages birth to five year olds. Despite the growth, preschool (regular education and special education) are working through year 3 of the Pyramid Model of Implementation and making good progress despite the pandemic.

Teaching & Learning:

Cultural Competence Cohort #2: This year's Cultural Competence Cohort has 53 faculty members representing grades PreK - Grade 12. As a learning cohort, our learning targets are as follows:

- Increase understanding of self-awareness as it relates to intercultural relationships
- Increase intercultural competencies related to age, gender, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation
- Build positive school culture that supports equity and inclusion

We look forward to participating in the YMCA Equity Leadership Institute with virtual sessions planned for December 2, February 10, and April 7.

Providing Support for Learning: The T&L Department continues to work closely with teachers and the administrative team to provide support for instruction and student learning.

Our outcomes for guiding this work include:

- Ensure the health and safety of district staff and learners
- Care for the social-emotional and mental health district staff and learners
- Keep learning coherent through the mapping of priority standards, learning targets, and aligned assessments
- Meet the needs of all learners through equitable services and academic programming
- Be strategic in leveraging support from ALL district staff
- Maintain regular communication with families as active partners in the learning process
- Adopt a flexible plan that allows us to pivot between scenarios throughout the 2020-2021 school year

Superintendent:

**BIG Thank You to the ONE10 Community!!
Great News for ONE10!!**

We want to thank our ISD ONE10 voters for approving the Levy 2020....50.37% vs 49.63%!!! Currently there are 94 more votes in favor of the operating levy....6409-Yes, 6315-No. ONE10 asked voters to decide the future of our schools and the decision has been made to keep us ONE10 strong! Absentee votes are trickling in and can be counted through November 10 if postmarked by November 3, 2020. We are confident that we can celebrate this great day for ONE10!! [Results](#)

Next Steps:

The school board will work with the admin team and use the district's 10 year financial modeling process to determine our budget moving forward. This process will be conducted November 2020-February 2021. We plan to follow through with what was stated in the informational campaign. Throughout the 10 year operating levy the district will:

- Pay off the SOD debt sooner
- Establish a solid fund balance and operating budget moving forward
- Continue offering high-quality programming
- Maintain current class sizes
- Continue offering electives
- Provide additional social-emotional and mental health support
- Increase advanced class offerings
- Offer even more authentic learning experiences
- Add programming based on student interests and passion

It is pretty amazing and very humbling knowing that the ONE10 community came together to support our students and staff during a pandemic. It demonstrates how much our school district is valued and how thankful our ONE10 community is for the incredible education that is delivered at ONE10!!

We are very thankful for having six candidates run for the three open seats on our ISD 110 school board. We are happy to welcome Dana Geller and her continued service on the school board. We would like to also welcome Alycia Myers and Luke DeBoer as new school board members for ONE10. Thank you to Seth Waterhouse, Mark Murphy and Amanda Hayford for their interest in becoming a school board member. [Results](#)

We are so grateful for this wonderful community support and we are thanking them in every way possible. Here is a short animated video that we put together to distribute on social media to thank voters. <https://vimeo.com/475579506>

We ARE ONE10!!!!

Covid-19 Positive Cases Surge in State and County

As everyone watches the Covid-19 positive case numbers rise, there are concerns surrounding what that means for ONE10. We continue to get guidance from the state on how to determine our district's educational model. We use **multiple data points** to help us make our decision. We will continue working with MDE, MDH and the State Regional Covid Support Team to make

our decisions. In a call with the Governor today he was very clear that “as of today” there is no intention to move all MN schools to distance learning. Providing the safest school environment possible that keeps our students in-person as much as possible continues to be our goal. Here is the data that we look at when making decisions:

- **[State School numbers](#)** Carver County cases continue to stay in the bottom 10 out of 87 counties in the state of MN. Our K-6 program meets the requirements of both in-person and hybrid. This helps us maintain our current K-12 model of education. The middle/high school number is getting to the point where we may have to consider a change to distance learning. We will use all the other data below to justify why we should keep our students attending in-person as long as it is safe to do so.
- **[County numbers](#)** If you click on this link and look at MDH school data tab, the current two week average per 10,000 is 25.59. We also look at the data that’s trending under the cases tab which shows a big spike between the November 2 and November 6. This will more than likely place our school number over 30 in the near future. Another data point we watch is the local numbers shown in the location tab.
- **School numbers:** At ONE10, we have had 31 positive cases to date in our schools that have gone through the contact tracing process to determine who may have been exposed. With assistance from Carver County Public Health case investigations, we have been able to minimize the number of students/staff who needed to quarantine. The ONE10 Covid-19 Advisory Team is doing amazing work and as of Nov. 4th has cleared nearly 1,120 cases of Covid-like symptoms.
- **How are activities/athletics affected:** As a district, we will follow MSHSL and MDH guidelines. It is our goal to continue to keep things as “normal” as possible. If we are required to go to a distance learning model, we will need to follow this requirement from the state:
 - If your data indicates that substantial, uncontrolled community spread is occurring and/or there is a significant degree of impact on the school community, with multiple confirmed cases or large-scale outbreaks occurring among students and staff, then you **must move to distance learning and discontinue activities and athletics for a minimum of two weeks.**
- **Covid fatigue:** As much as everyone wants to be done with this pandemic, it is important to understand that **we all must continue practicing all of our safety protocols...ON and OFF campus.** It takes a community effort to stay safe. We must all do our part.
- **Staff shortage:** If we have a high number of staff who need to quarantine, there’s concern that we will not have enough staff to offer school on campus. Combine the Covid-19 situation with normal needs for sick leave or other staff leave and that may result in some groups of students moving to distance learning. If this was to happen, we may need to have a learning pod, grade level, or entire school building stay home until we have the staffing needed. We would communicate this similar to a weather emergency day. We will do all we can to avoid this scenario.

- **Bus driver shortage:** Considering that some bus drivers also have to quarantine and/or cannot work due to other sickness or leave, we may need to ask for parents to bring their students to school. If there is a route that does not have a driver, we will notify those families early in the morning and offer a late bus ride. All students on the late bus would be excused.

We are thankful that, to this point, Carver County's Covid numbers remain lower than in other parts of the state. **Social Distance, Wear a Mask, Wash Hands.** These safety protocols will help keep students in school. Let's all be a part of the solution not a part of the problem. Thanks for all you do to keep ONE10 safe!!

Covid-19 Saliva Test Opportunity

Carver County is one of 24 Minnesota counties that were selected to provide free Covid-19 saliva tests. Feel free to order yours at [this link](#). Testing helps clear our students and staff so we know they are safe at school. A reminder to ISD ONE10 staff, you have also been provided a free Covid-19 saliva test from the state. Search your emails for "Requesting your free Covid-19 saliva test" to find your directions on how to order the state provided test. The staff Covid-19 saliva test offer expires on December 31, 2020.

It Continues to be a Stressful Time during the Pandemic

We want to acknowledge that this school year is like no other and we know that additional stress comes with this new way of educating. We continue to find ways to improve. Please communicate when students are struggling and we will do what we can to help. We also want to make sure that all students and staff take care of their own stress and mental health needs. Please reach out for support when needed and continue to find joy on a daily basis. ONE10 cares so much for all our students and staff and wants the best for them....WE Are ONE10!!

New Governor Executive Order

On Thursday, November 5, 2020 Governor Walz issued a [new executive order](#). We will make sure that we implement any of the new requirements. For the most part we are already following all the expectations. One part of the executive order is to make sure we offer 30 minutes more prep time to our staff that provide distance learning. On the Governor's call today the Commissioner stated that we have until November 30th to come up with a plan. They also stated they will be sending out more clarifying information about this executive order. We feel we will be able to work with the WEA to identify the prep time needed to meet these expectations.

**We are SoThankful for all that continue to make ONE10
a Great Place for Kids!! WE Are ONE10!!**