



## Leadership Team Highlights

### Elementary Schools:

**2019-20 Kindergarten Enrollment:** Elementary Schools registered 273 Kindergarten students. Kindergarten students and their parents previewed the Kindergarten programs at each of our Elementary Schools. We welcome the Class of 2032 for the 2019-20 school year.

**Cycle Health:** We are creating a new cycle of health by encouraging our students to build movement into their daily lives. Students made a commitment to exercise and the culminating activity was the Kidarod which combined climbing, pulling, sliding, running, and obstacles into an unforgettable 2-mile winter adventure. Waconia students participated in the nighttime glow racing option. Just like Alaska's famed Iditarod, there are sled dogs at the Kidarod too. Only at this race, it's the humans who provided the horsepower. Students showed winter who's boss by taking on the Kidarod course, and feeling like a million bucks at the finish line.

**Gr. 5 Skiing:** As part of our 5th grade physical education curriculum Gr. 5 students participated in a day of skiing at Hyland Hills Ski Area. Lifetime fitness is a goal of our P.E. program, and skiing offers students a lifetime sport which can be done individually or as a group. Students received lessons by certified ski instructors and had to pass a simple skiing test on the bunny hill before they were allowed to ski on the bigger slopes. Living in MN, we give our students ample opportunities to embrace winter!

**MN Student Survey:** Our school district is asked students in grades 5, 8, 9, 11 & ALCs to participate in the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS). The MSS is conducted in schools across our state every three years. Questions on the survey are about many topics relating to young people's lives. The survey asks about how well school is going, future plans, out-of-school activities, physical and mental health, relationships, substance use and more. High school students are asked about sexual behavior. This useful information about their thoughts and behaviors helps communities and schools develop effective programs and provide better services to meet the needs of our students.

**MN Bus Driver Appreciation:** The State of Minnesota celebrated the third annual School Bus Driver Appreciation Day on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 to highlight the dedication and integrity of these professional drivers, our humble heroes. Elementary Student Councils showed appreciation and gratitude for our bus drivers with goody bags for both AM and PM routes.

**End of Trimester 2:** We brought a close to the second trimester of school on Thursday, February 28, 2019. On Friday, March 1 teachers finalized trimester grades and prepared report cards that were available to parents online on Friday, March 8, 2019

**2019-20 Planning:** In the months of March/April our Elementary Faculty puts a focus on planning for the upcoming school year. It's a busy time of year for us as we reflect on our school year thus far and plan ahead for the next school year. Our staff is very conscientious about planning a learning environment that builds student success for their future. In the months to come we will prepare class lists, set goals in the areas of learning, respect, and



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building school community, set the budget, and finalize our school event calendars in partnership with our PTO. Strong parent partnerships are important to us. We always appreciate parent input on planning for the upcoming school year. As the months unfold we will seek input in selected areas from our parents and PTO.

### **Waconia Middle School:**

Two nights of 3rd quarter midterm parent-teacher conferences were held on Thursday and Monday evenings. Parent attendance was lighter than expected and could be attributed to a wide variety of factors. When asked for insight regarding low parent attendance, a couple of parents commented that there has been an excellent amount of regular communication on Schoology, Infinite Campus and the Weekly newsletters. The takeaway-- families feel well informed on progress and school activities and events. Other factors may include family conflicts with the re-scheduled elementary conferences or families were just plain worn out from moving a lot of snow. There is still a belief that even with all of the electronic communication, it should not replace the face to face communications and the continuous building of parent teacher partnerships.

Our annual district band concert was held on Tuesday, February 19th. It featured all 847 Waconia band students from grades 5 -12 along with guest conductor Lisa Lozito - Southview General music teacher. We are very proud of all of our band students and it was a treat to fill the entire gym with more than 3000 people in attendance!

On Thursday, WMS PTO President, Kristen Guse, and school administration recognized the **February's Teacher of the Month, 6th grade teacher Mrs. Jahnke**. Mrs. Jahnke was nominated by current students Ally Newsom and Jennavive Blasig. Their nomination letter shared, "Mrs. Jahnke shows the core values by always helping students when they need help. We do really fun projects in Social Studies and Science. Mrs. Jahnke should be the Teacher of the Month because she goes above and beyond for all of her students." Mrs. Jahnke and both girls received a gift card and some sweet treats. Mrs. Jahnke also receives the traveling trophy, an hour of principal class coverage and the TOM parking spot near the main entrance. Student nomination letters for Teacher of the Month can be turned into the main office.

WMS Student Council conducted their annual sales of the famed "**Lip Suckers**" Lollipops at lunches Monday, February 25th - Thursday, February 28th. This has been a middle school tradition for many years that the students really look forward to. There was a limit of buying 6 per day and the sales went really well. 50% of the profits is a donated to our Pennies for Patients campaign.

### **This week we celebrated MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEK....**

Dress Up Days included: Mon - Neon/Color Splash Out, Tues - College/Sports Day, Wed - Hat Day, Thur - Class Colors Day 6th - Purple/Gold, 7th - White Out, 8th - Black Out



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Each morning of Middle School Week LUCKY students from each grade were called down for a Waconia Middle School T-Shirt...50 T-Shirt Prizes per grade were given away!

Thursday was an all school celebration highlighted by many fun student events. the finalists from Waconia's Got Talent performed (8th Grade: Gavin Minzel-Boyd and Reilly Sazdoff, 7th Grade: Katy Battis, Abby Hayes, Rinn Swoboda and 6th Grade: Sarah Zimmerman). Students also competed with staff in wacky Olympic competitions, the Pennies for Patients 3 on 3 basketball finals were played, and teachers and students alike took a facial pie smash for reaching fundraising challenges. We ended with a short dance party that was earned by students reaching a milestone in the Pennies for Patients Campaign. It was an exhilarating end to middle school week and the start of Spring Break!

Auditions for the WMS **Spring Musical, *Seussical Jr.***, took place February 25, 26 and 27. Directors include Sharayah Bruce and Liz Smith with choreography and musical directors Hannah Janssen and Evan Jones. Close to 90 students auditioned for roughly 70 spots. Callbacks were on Thursday, Feb. 28th and the 1st rehearsal will be Monday, March 11th. Performances will take place in early May.

### **Waconia High School:**

It's been a mad scramble to complete the second trimester. Both students and staff have been juggling schedules, modifying curriculum and dodging snowflakes in order to get everything done. While it doesn't seem like we should need a break, I'm certain everyone is looking forward to time away (and the promise of spring).

The students in Mr. Moen's Start Your Own Business class presented a Community Showcase of their projects. The students completed "real-life projects with seven local businesses (The Stash, Mackenthun's, Safari Island, Vandy's Grille, Waconia Food Shelf, Hardware Hank, and Waconia Performing Arts) where they examined the businesses, conducted research, and shared strategies to improve their sales and profits. The showcase was an impressive display of the school and local businesses partnering to provide a hands-on, real-life experience that benefited both the students and local businesses.

37 students and staff members participated in the Polar Plunge on March 2. Each year the Polar Plunge raises over 2 million dollars for the Special Olympics program. The Waconia plungers raised over \$12,000 for the cause, and some of those dollars will be returned to our ONE10 community to support our Unified Sports programs.

Congratulations to all of winter sports athletes; they do a fabulous job of representing Waconia High School and the entire ONE10 community. Special congratulations go out to gymnasts Sydney Shea, Katelyn Hawkins, Danielle Miller, wrestlers Tyson Pietz, Tim Stapleton, Cade Mueller, Mitch Garnitz, Bram Fitzsimonds, Bennett Weber (and the entire team), and swimmer Bryce Borland who swims with the Delano team and will compete at the State meet this weekend.



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**Activities:** [www.waconiaathletics.com](http://www.waconiaathletics.com)

The **Wildcat Wrestling Team** defeated Scott West to advance to the **2019 MSHSL Wrestling Team State Tournament!** The Wildcats earned the Section 2AA Championship title by defeating Section competition, St Peter (61-3), TCU (51-16) and Scott West in an impressive championship dual (26-25) on Saturday, Feb 16th!

The complete Wildcat Section roster performed remarkably and the team effort resulted in the State Berth! The Wildcat roster includes: **Tyson Peitz, Andrew Torres, Riese White, Josh Wagener, Alex Riley, Bradee Dwinell, Max McEnelly, Gage Mueller, Todd Jager, Will Burroughs, Karson Dobmeier, Tim Stapleton, Mitch Garnatz, Cade Mueller, Kyle Tenor, Jackson Boberg, Bram Fitzsimonds, Sam McEnelly and Bennett Weber.**

The Wildcats will begin **State tournament competition at the Xcel Center on Thursday, February 28 beginning at 9am**

Congratulations to our **SIX Wildcat Wrestlers that have earned an opportunity to represent our team in the State Wrestling Tournament as individual competitors**, two of which advance as the Section 2AA Champs! The state individual competition is scheduled to begin **Friday, March 1st at 9am and continue through Saturday, March 2nd at the St Paul Xcel Energy Center.**

Representing the Waconia Wildcats are:

**Cade Mueller** (Senior) advancing as the Section 2AA Champion in the 160# weight class with a record of 47-1. Cade returns as the 2018 Defending State Champion in the #160 weight class!

**Tim Stapleton** (11th Grade) advancing as the Section 2AA Champion in the 152# weight class with a record of 40-1. Tim returns as the 2018 State Runner-up in the #145 weight class!

**Tyson Peitz** (Senior) advancing as the Section Runner Up in the 106# weight class with a record of 36-14.

**Mitch Garnatz** (Senior) advancing as the Section Runner Up in the 170# weight class with a record of 40-12.

**Bennett Weber** (11th Grade) advancing as the Section Runner Up in the 285# weight class with a record of 37-10

**Bram Fitzsimonds** (10th Grade) advancing as the Section Runner Up in the 195# weight class with a record of 32-16

**Congratulations and Good Luck at State Wrestlers!!**

### Community Education:

The Community Education Summer brochure will be mailed out to the public the week of March 4. This brochure will have all of our summer camps, clinics, and youth enrichment classes. Along with information about the ECFE summer programming that is offered There will also be information about our youth baseball and softball opportunities for kids Pre-K - 6th grade. Check out the brochure and sign up for a class/camp today!

### Human Resources:

The School District's Insurance Advisory Committee learned at its February meeting that our Blue Cross Blue Shield medical insurance renewal will be at an increase of approximately 5% for the 2019-2020 plan year with no plan design changes to any of the district's three health insurance plans. After discussion, the Committee's unanimous recommendation to the School



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District was to maintain its long-term relationship with Blue Cross and move forward with the proposed renewal without plan design changes. Blue Cross also provided our School District with a rate cap of 8% for the 2020-2021 plan year, which could be helpful due to the increase in medical claims paid over the past two plan years. The Committee discussed ways to educate employees on actions they could take to help control rising medical insurance costs and collaborated on a brochure to provide to employees this spring during faculty and department meetings as well as a brief presentation.

The District's Insurance Advisory Committee is comprised of a cross-section of employees from across the district that volunteer their time to meet regularly during the school year to collaboratively work together to ensure the School District's insurance benefits meet the diverse needs of all ISD 110 employees.

### Teaching & Learning:

**New Teacher Training and Support:** Instructional coaches, Jake Hockinson and LeAnn Millender, have dedicated time for training and support for our new teachers. As part of their Impact Challenge Goal, new teachers have met monthly to engage in various professional development topics. These topics have included:

- Communication Strategies
- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC)
- High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS)
- Professionalism
- Professional Learning Communities
- Technology Integration

Jake and LeAnn, along with faculty mentors, have done an outstanding job to ensure professional learning, growth and support for our new teachers.

**Gifted Services Design Challenge:** Gifted services students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 are engaging in a Design Challenge Project that puts 21st Century skills into action through critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration. The central question of this year's challenge is: "What could you add or change to your community to make it a better place?" We look forward to a community showcase on May 7 at Southview, May 8 at Laketown, and May 9 at Bayview. Many thanks to Mr. Hockinson, Ms. Millender for coordinating this rich learning experience.

**Assessment:** Following spring break, the first round of MCA testing is set to begin at WMS and WHS.

- Grade 10 Reading - T1 and T2 Students - WHS
- Grade 10 Science - T1 and T2 Students - WHS
- Grade 8 Science - Semester 1 Students - WMS

Thanks to Tim Koschinska, Tracy Edsill, the tech team, and the principal team for scheduling and preparation. The process is running very smoothly.



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### Technology:

### Student Services:

#### *Polar Plunge:*

On March 1st, 9 District 110 staff and students braved the icy elements and icy water to participate in the Minneapolis Cool School Polar Plunge. This team raised over \$4,210 .

The following day, on March 2nd, 25 District 110 staff participated (and survived) the Polar Plunge in Minneapolis. The team raised over \$7,500 to support Special Olympics and Unified Sports in Waconia.

### Superintendent:

#### **Weather Related School Cancellation**

The month of February was very eventful filled with highs and lows. To start with the weather related closures made for a very interesting month. Hopefully we get some reprieve in March, but I am concerned that will not happen. Currently we have canceled four days of school due to weather. We have two days built in and one the Governor has verbally stated that we would not be penalized for closing. So right now we plan to make up day four with teachers only with a professional development plan. If we were to go to a fifth cancellation we would need to look at making it up with students. Stay tuned.

We are working with Koch Bus to enhance their abilities to communicate to parents when bus issues arise by utilizing our Infinite Campus communication system. This is part of our communication plan for emergencies and we are in hopes our partnership work to complete this initiative with Koch Bus in the next month.

#### **Statutory Operating Debt**

At the end of January we submitted a plan to MDE on how ISD 110 would get out of SOD. I was able to give a presentation about our financial situation to all staff before informing the community. We wanted staff to know first. Among the multiple communications with staff and the community, we shared the following message once the reductions were approved by the school board.

*The statutory operating debt plan that is required to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education, ISD 110 will be reducing the general education budget by \$1.26 million, or 2.86%, in the 2019 – 2020 budget.*

*Over the month of February staff members gave reduction suggestions to the administrative team and the team developed a reduction plan. With input from staff, the administrative team came up with a plan where 71.4% of the reductions will be made at the district level with the remaining 28.6% of cuts occurring at the building level. These reductions can be maintained for one or two years but are not sustainable. Over time, such reductions could dramatically impact student learning. If the state does not change the special education funding formula, ISD 110 will be forced to make additional cuts on a yearly basis.*

*Budgets for various departments at the district level have been reduced in the following areas: superintendent; communications; administrative support; maintenance; technology;*





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*special education staffing; SRO; activities; professional development; special education supplies.*

*At the building level, the high school will create additional revenue by charging for parking passes. Staff at the high school will be reduced by 1.5 teachers. The middle school staff is being reduced by 1.87 teachers along with a half time educational services professional. Instructional and media center supply budgets along with professional development budgets at the elementary schools, middle school and high school will be reduced. The district will also use attrition savings to help balance the budget.*

I am very proud of the work our ONE10 Team did together to get us to a budget reduction plan that limits the impact on classroom instruction. As tough as this situation is, staff and the leadership team stood tall as one. Through this great work we will continue to have great schools that allow students to “Explore their Passions, and Create their Success”.

Due to the SPED funding impact on our finances, this year, more than ever, I am getting in front of state and federal legislators. Just this month I have met with state Rep. Dean Phillips; attended a town hall meeting with U.S. Congressman Tom Emmer; went to the State Capitol for in person meetings with multiple legislators. I am pleased to report that legislators are starting to listen and understand the inequities in MN SPED cross subsidies. Even so, there aren't any bills currently being developed to our knowledge. We will continue sharing our story and urging lawmakers to help. The SPED funding issue that is deeply affecting us even hit the news. KSTP-TV's Tom Hauser did a story about Waconia Public Schools and put it in context of what is happening across the state.

Here's a link to the KSTP-TV story:

<https://kstp.com/politics/new-special-education-funding-formula-surprises-school-districts/5258690/>

Our website, [www.isd110.org](http://www.isd110.org), also has a brief video that explains the fundamental problems with special education funding.

**We can all do our part by contacting legislators. Below are some themes that we have been speaking with lawmakers about.**

- It is fundamentally wrong to use general education funds to pay for mandated special education costs that are not funded by the state.
- In Waconia Public Schools, the new special education funding formula deeply impacted our district by increasing cross subsidy expenses by 76% over the last 4-years and forced us into statutory operating debt (SOD).
- In 2015, Waconia Public Schools was taking \$687 from our general education funding to pay for mandated special education costs and, in 2019, that cross subsidy is expected to jump to \$1,210 per general education student. We need your help to get this corrected.



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- Our voters approved a \$525 per student operating levy in November 2018. Funds generated by the new operating levy are now being used to help cover the ever-growing cross subsidy when they were supposed to support general education programming.
- Waconia Public Schools was forced to make \$1.26 million in cuts to balance the budget. More cuts are imminent in future budgets if something is not done.
- Waconia Public Schools is not alone as districts across the state of Minnesota are dealing with this issue and being forced to take money away from general education budgets to fund mandated special education costs.

Governor Tim Walz

<https://mn.gov/governor/contact/>

Rep. Jim Nash

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/15441>

Rep. Jim Davnie

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/10126>

Rep. Joe McDonald

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/15360>

Sen. Carla Nelson

[https://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?member\\_id=1178](https://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?member_id=1178)

Sen. Scott Jensen

[https://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_email\\_form.php?member\\_id=1233](https://www.senate.mn/members/member_email_form.php?member_id=1233)

Sen. David Ozmek

[https://www.senate.mn/members/member\\_bio.php?member\\_id=1203](https://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.php?member_id=1203)

## Community Showcase Day at WHS

The students in Mr. Moen's Start Your Own Business class presented a Community Showcase of their projects. The students completed authentic learning projects with seven local businesses (The Stash, Mackenthun's, Safari Island, Vandy's Grille, Waconia Food Shelf, Hardware Hank, and Waconia Performing Arts). Students examined the businesses, conducted research, and shared strategies on how to improve sales and profits. The showcase was an impressive display of our high school students partnering with local businesses to gain hands-on, real-life experiences that benefit everyone involved.

## ISD ONE10 Polar Plunge on March 2nd

If you haven't had a chance to donate to the ONE10 Polar Plunge drive. Here is your opportunity: Polar Plunge <https://reg.plungemn.org/team/11wacweareone10>





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ISD ONE10 is in the top five schools in the state of MN for donations to this great cause. The Polar Plunge really helps our local Unified Sports teams and MN Special Olympics.

**Have a Great and Well Deserved Spring Break!!  
WE ARE ONE10!**