

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

July 2021

Elementary:

July brings excitement in planning for a new school year. At the elementary level we are excited for a new school year that will hopefully allow us to bring back many of the procedures that COVID prevented including eating lunch and enjoying recess as a whole grade level versus learning pods! Our elementary summer school students will be wrapping up the summer session in the coming weeks. We are so proud of the students for their grit and determination to continue their learning throughout the summer. A big shout out to our summer school teachers and Mr. Jake Hockinson for his organization of the summer school program.

A big thank you also goes to our custodial crews who are hard at work preparing our elementary buildings for the teachers and students to return in August.

Middle School:

Staffing Update

We have hired a total of 8 new staff and we have two positions left to hire before we welcome students back in August... a long-term 8th grade ELA substitute and a general education ESP. We have been busy interviewing a lot of great people, and ISD 110 continues to be a destination district for educators. A big thanks to the following staff for helping with the most recent hiring committees; John Klezer, Amy Fischer (WHS), Sarah Christian-Garceau (WHS), Kat Kukulski, Mary Beth Ostlie, Wendy Grundhofer, Kenya Jahnke, Vanessa Lemmerman, Dan Benham, and Irv Andrews.

Update from the WMS Edible Garden managers Michele Melius and Rachel Deodhar

The Edible Classroom. Orchard and Apiary are looking GOOD! With the help of 2 interns and summer school students, we have planted, wood chipped and reshaped the garden. The orchard is getting ready for its first harvest-sour cherries! Our apples, pear, and plum trees are heavy with fruit, so we are excited to see how they mature over the summer. The bees are doing GREAT! Summer school students are learning about the important role pollinators play in the garden and the foods we eat. We are excited to have the kids be active participants in all aspects of our outdoor classroom. A quote from one of the students, "This was a lot more fun than I thought it would be." A few pictures are attached.

WMS Summer School Highlights

Under the leadership of Jake Hockinson, Summer School at WMS is off to a great start! We have a talented teaching staff. They are supporting students academically in the core areas of mathematics and reading, and also in general school skills. With 26 students enrolled, our program is smaller than in the past. Students are divided into three small groups with a mix of incoming 6th and 7th, and a separate incoming 8th-grade section. Students attend from 8 am to noon each day, and spend their time equally between Language Arts with Heather Millikan, Mathematics with Patti Henslin, and School Skills with Jamie Langer. Together they have been able to create a well-balanced and fun experience for our summer school students to practice and maintain their skills through the summer months.

WMS Student Enrollment Numbers 2021-22

Enrollment numbers at WMS are trending upwards as planned and we still are receiving new enrollments each week. Current enrollment shows this will be the biggest 6th-grade class Waconia has ever had. With all dirt work for new neighborhoods and new homes happening throughout the city, these numbers should continue to rise.

Current 6th Total 338 (Class of 2028)

Current 7th Total 302 (Class of 2027)

Current 8th Total 312(Class of 2026)

High School:

The custodians have been hard at work with cleaning, scrubbing, shampooing, and waxing and getting the building ready for the upcoming school year. Unlike last summer, we have had activities going on in the building and it has been good to see the kids. On Wednesday we hosted over 60 teams for all levels of high school basketball for the Breakdown Tournament. The building was filled with high school students from all over the state and it seemed “normal” once again!

As of now (knock on wood), our hiring for the upcoming school year is complete. We have added Brooke Compton (business); Sam Porthan (industrial tech); Nicholas Hansberry (band); Hannah Fuller (social studies); Rachel Grant (sped); Ruth Albie (sped) and Jamie Koslofski (nurse). We are excited to get them into the building and get started next month. This was an unusual year for WHS with the number of new staff we have added. I want to thank all of the staff that assisted with interviews and the selection process...there are too many to name!

Tonya Constantine, our new AP started this month. She has been busy meeting people and getting to know names and faces. The past few weeks we have been busy with updating handbooks and policies for the upcoming year and working on our school improvement plan.

In a few weeks the building will really be busy as we fire up fall activities...can't wait!

WHS Enrollment Numbers for 2021-2022

9th Grade: 353
10th Grade: 358
11th Grade: 327
12th Grade: 293
Total: 1331

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

It is our pleasure to announce that **Coach Anthony Reynolds** has been selected as the new Waconia High School Head Boys' Hockey Coach. We are thrilled to have hired an individual with Coach Reynold's knowledge, relationship and leadership skills to work with our student athletes and lead our Wildcat Boys' Hockey program!

Anthony Reynolds grew up in Loretto, MN and is an alumni of Delano High School where he played high school hockey. While he was attending Saint John's University he began coaching youth hockey in the Sartell youth hockey program. Upon his graduation from SJU, he returned to his home program of Delano to coach bantams and take on the responsibility of the ACE Coordinator for the youth program working to standardize the development model, be a bridge between the high school programs and youth program as well as develop coaches to fully implement the ADM into the Delano program.

Anthony is excited to begin to work with Wildcat hockey players of all ages and be a leading force behind the development of Waconia Hockey as a whole. He believes in a culture of servant leadership from all players, coaches and the hockey community which he believes will drive the success of development of large groups of skilled hockey players.

Anthony lives in Minnetrista with his wife Bailey and their young daughter Crosby (1). He's extremely excited to get immersed into the community and lead a successful high school hockey program built around a new culture, right here in Waconia. Congratulations Coach Reynolds on your selection as the Waconia Wildcat Head Boys' Hockey Coach!

Nicholas Hansberry - WHS is very excited to announce our new Director of Marching Band, Nicholas Hansberry. We had a lot of really good applicants for the position. Nicholas separated himself during the interview process with his experience, personality, and passion for music and working with students.

Nicholas is originally from Alexandria, MN and after high school he attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. After finishing college, Nicholas took his first teaching position in La Crosse, WI where he worked from 2016-2019. After La Crosse, Nicholas went to Arvada West High School in Arvada, CO where he has been employed the past two years. Nicholas and his wife are moving back to Minnesota and he was excited to see the opening at WHS and said "the opportunity to be the director of bands at WHS was too good of an opportunity to pass up!" We are excited to have Nicholas on staff and for him to continue building and growing the great reputation of the WHS band program.

Community Ed:

Community Education is in full swing! It is so great to be able to offer so many programs this summer.

There are 286 kids signed up for our summer Kids' Company program this year.

Our fall brochure is going online the week of July 12. There is so many program options in there for both youth and adult

The baseball/softball, lacrosse and soccer summer seasons are wrapping up. Registration is now open for all of our fall recreation options - volleyball, football and soccer

Human Resources:

Twelve teachers achieved continuing contract status with our School District effective July 1, 2021. They earned this honor by providing excellent teaching and leadership services to our district's students. Each one is a valued member of our district and our administrative staff is confident they will continue to promote the school district's commitment to exceptional teaching and the pursuit of educational excellence. Minnesota law provides that a teacher has a right to a continuing contract in a public school district after they have successfully completed three consecutive years for that district (or one year if they had previously obtained continuing contract rights in another Minnesota public school district). All twelve teachers have been mailed letters congratulating them on their achievement and inviting them to be recognized at the School Board's September 13, 2021 regular board meeting.

Teaching & Learning:

Elementary Summer School Update - Submitted by Jake Hockinson, Instructional Coach

Elementary age students have had the opportunity to enroll in a 5-week summer school program. Daily average attendance is around 95 with a total of 119 students enrolled in the program. Eight dedicated teachers have kept students busy and engaged in various learning activities with a focus on the foundations skills of reading. Following are a few excerpts from a parent update:

- We have been working on increasing fluency through a few different activities including partner reading, stations, and small group reading.
- We worked on letter sounds, short vowel sounds, tapping/sounding out CVC words. Played a fun game of Sparkle to practice spelling!
- This week we are working on stretching out a sentence and adding more details (who, what, when, where, why, how). We continue to practice capitalization and punctuation. We are also working on putting a story into sequential order and organizing parts of a story.
- Students have had opportunities to read in small groups and independently. Many students have enjoyed books involving animals, history, and mysteries.

- We read a book together and talk about what good readers do! For example, good readers notice that characters have feelings, what characters might be thinking, and how to notice patterns in a story, then give characters advice.
- The students began working with RAZ Kids reading short stories at their level focusing on fluency and comprehension.

WLC Summer School Update - Submitted by Tim Koschinska, Secondary Teaching and Learning Manager

The Waconia Learning Center had a very successful summer school program. Over the 4 weeks of summer school we were able to support 122 different students from Waconia, Norwood-Young America, Lester Prairie and Mayer-Lutheran High Schools. These students worked extremely hard to earn 288 credits. A couple important milestones for some of our students. Four seniors were able to walk away with their diplomas after completing their summer work. We also had multiple students, that due to the pandemic, had not been in a school building in over a year. They attended summer school in-person and began to build back their in-person learning stamina. Overall, 122 students are in a better position to begin the next school year or whatever lies ahead for them.

A special thank you needs to go out to all those that helped make this summer a success. We had 12 amazing teachers who gave up part of their summer to help our students. They worked tirelessly to engage our students and to keep them motivated all the way to the end. Koch bussing was unbelievable in their flexibility in getting students to and from summer school each day. Cafe 110 provided meals for students who otherwise would not have had anything to eat while attending school. Overall, it was a group effort that made it all possible.

Professional Growth, Reflection, and Evaluation Plan (PGRE Plan):

Following the update at the June 28 Board of Education Work Session, our timeline was to bring forward a recommendation for approval of the 2021-2025 Professional Growth, Reflection, and Evaluation Plan this evening. At this time, we have been informed by Nate Byrne, WEA President, of a continued delay in this process. We will continue to work together to reach consensus and shared understandings.

Superintendent:

July is the start of the 2021-2022 School Year

ONE10 is so excited to start the 2021-2022 school year. It feels very good to put the past twelve months behind us and know that we have a renewed energy as we start the new year. We learned a lot in the past 16 months and we will bring some new techniques and knowledge learned into the planning for the coming school year. Yet we are ecstatic to know that we will be able to return our ONE10 school back to some form of normalcy. We all know the Covid-19

Pandemic created incredibly challenging times for all. We are extremely proud of the amazing partnership work that all at ONE10 accomplished to deliver the best for the best. Thank You!!

Planning for 2021-2022

This summer the staff and admin team are using the lessons learned from last year to plan for this coming school year. As of today, we expect the fall of 2021 to resemble and align to what we all experienced in the fall of 2019. There will be some minor adjustments needed and we will continue to follow the requirements from the state. We will use our knowledge learned on ways to keep students safe the best we can yet create a more normal setting at school. We realize that the [CDC](#) has come out with their recommendations and we know that we will be receiving recommendations from our state governing agencies. For now we will continue to follow our current [Safe Learning Plan as communicated](#) to parents and staff. It will take new mandates to change our current plan. We are looking forward to the fresh start this fall will bring at ONE10.

Financial Reporting Enhancements for 2021-2022

Throughout this past year and especially in the past months the school board and the admin team have been exploring the best way to keep all informed with enhanced financial reporting. The financial reporting plan for this school year is coming together well. From the recommendation of the school board at the last work session and at the last finance meeting, we will be purchasing the [ForeCast 5](#) software (which is built into the prelim budget) to create more detailed monthly reports. For school board members interested in learning more, there will be a training session on the benefits and abilities of ForeCast 5 on July 26 at 6:00 p.m.

The school board passed new financial resolutions at the last work session that will allow us to get a deeper look into the impacts on our yearly budget. Budget impacts to the prelim budget will be highlighted for school board approval, which will allow us to track our finances closer. I have included a placeholder in the monthly school board meeting agenda to make sure any budget impacts are explained and any increases to expense allotments from the preliminary budget will need board approval through action items at the meeting. There are a couple IF-THEN scenarios that will need to be considered for operational purposes that are recommended at this week's meeting. These scenarios were discussed at the last work session and reviewed at the school board finance committee meeting. All these adjustments will improve our process and make us even better at ONE10.

Student Enrollment Impacts Budget Two Ways

When ONE10 student enrollment grows so does the revenue from the state which helps our budget, yet there is a balance of knowing when we need to add more staffing to ensure a quality education by controlling class size. Currently all staffing is budgeted in our preliminary budget. As student enrollment increases, we confirm that the increased revenue from this enrollment change will cover the cost of any staffing additions. We watch our enrollment and class size very closely and make adjustments when warranted with the approval from the school board.

The elementary schools create some of the biggest challenges as grade levels at each school can have different average class sizes causing us to close registration at some school's grade levels and/or move students to other buildings to balance the class sizes. These are not ideal procedures but needed to be good stewards of our finances. Over the next month we will see the biggest impact with ONE10 registrations and therefore we will monitor the changes very closely and report any staffing needs to the school board.

SWMetro E-Learning Enterprise

Just a quick update about our SWMetro Online (Distance Learning) option for our ONE10 students. The SWMetro staff in charge of this initiative are deep in the designing stages and plan to have an online option for all SWMetro school districts this fall. I will provide more information when we receive updates. We expect to have an official registration process available by mid-August to include a comprehensive description of all that will be provided to our students and families through this program.

Continue to Enjoy a Wonderful Summer!
WE Are ONE10!!