

EXCITED TO BE PART OF THE WACONIA COMMUNITY



BRIAN GERSICH
Superintendent, Waconia Public Schools, ISD ONE10

On July 1, 2022 I started my time as the superintendent of ISD 110, and the past four months have shown me time and time again, it was the right decision to pursue this opportunity and join this community.

Waconia had always been on my list of most desired positions to serve as Superintendent, for reasons including the growing community, the geographic location, and its reputation as a great place to live. As my transition period is now winding down, I feel even more fortunate to be part of this community, one that values public education.

I have spent a good amount of time meeting and greeting many of you out in the community. Whether it was at Nickle Dickle Day, the Homecoming parade, a Rotary Club meeting, or a school board candidate forum, everyone has been welcoming, and has shared encouraging perspectives about our school district. We also appreciate the many community and business partnerships that make our school and community that much stronger and more effective.

I am also lucky to have an extremely committed school board, who has welcomed me and made me feel valued and supported in my short time here. With an election coming up soon, I have attended two school board

candidate forums, and am confident that our school board will continue to move the district forward in the years ahead.

Having spent a significant amount of time in our schools and classrooms, I now understand why we hear so many stories about our amazing team of teachers, support staff, and of course, our students. In Waconia Public Schools, we encourage students to explore their passions and create their success. That is made possible by the wide range of academic, athletic and fine arts programs that are offered and led by our talented core of teachers and staff.

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The future is bright here in Waconia Public Schools, and as I visit with our education professionals, or when popping into a classroom, I can immediately sense the dedication and desire of our team to not only make a difference in the lives of their students, but to ensure that Waconia Public Schools remains one of the best school districts in the State of Minnesota.
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This school year is off to a great start and I am excited to continue to meet more of you as the year progresses. If you happen to see me at an event or out in the community, please don't hesitate to stop me and introduce yourself.

GO WILDCATS!

WACONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NAMED A TOP-20 MINNESOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT BY NICHE

Waconia Public Schools has been named a top-20 public school district in the state of Minnesota by Niche, an online platform that annually ranks K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities.

In Niche's 2023 rankings, which were released on Monday, Sept. 26, Waconia Public Schools was ranked 19th on the platform's list of Best School Districts in Minnesota.

The school district earned either an A-, A or A+ grade in eight major categories including Academics, Teachers, Clubs & Activities, Sports, Resources & Facilities, College Prep, Administration, and Food.

ISD 110 also earned high placement on several of the platform's other ranked lists. The school district is ranked 15th out of 361 on Niche's list titled "Districts with the Best Teachers in Minnesota." On the list titled "Best School Districts for Athletes in Minnesota," the school district is ranked 34th out of 357 districts.

In addition, all three of the district's elementary schools were ranked in the top 15% of the state's 887 elementary schools that Niche chose to rank for 2023.

“This news is a result of the combination of our rigorous academic programs, a dedicated and highly qualified group of teachers and staff, and our commitment to providing opportunities to our students in the areas of athletics, fine arts and other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.”

– BRIAN GERSICH
ISD110 Superintendent



“Rankings shouldn't necessarily define a school district, but they are a piece to the puzzle when families are choosing where to live and send their kids to school. I think what this particular set of rankings says is that there are a number of good reasons why a family would choose to send their kids to Waconia Public Schools,” Superintendent Brian Gersich said.

Niche's methodology includes a number of data points including state assessment proficiency, graduation rates, student to teacher ratios, and Advanced Placement enrollment, as well as parent and student survey data.

Visit <https://bit.ly/WaconiaNiche> to view the school district's Niche profile page and to learn more about the platform's 2023 rankings.

FOUR SCHOOL BOARD SEATS UP FOR ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 8

The Board of Education for Waconia Public Schools will have four seats up for election on the ballot on Tuesday, November 8. Members are elected to serve four-year terms that will begin in January of 2023 and expire in December of 2026.

Candidates include Chad Almjeld, Kelly Amott, Jesse Bergstrom, Tyler Gangestad, Melanie Hagen, Kimberly Kelzer-Breeden, Steve Minor, and Katherine Sodey.

Two separate candidate forums were held in late September and early October. Video recordings of those events can be found on the respective Facebook pages of the Waconia Education Association and the League of Women Voters for Eastern Carver County, who hosted the two forums.

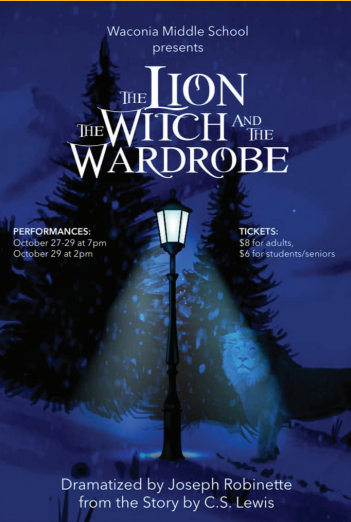
Early voting is currently available. To find out more information about early voting, absentee voting, in person voting on Election Day, as well as polling locations and hours, visit the Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/.

Ind. School District No. 110
512 Industrial Blvd
Waconia, MN 55387

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MIDDLE SCHOOL
THEATRE
PROGRAM
TO PRESENT
THE LION, THE
WITCH, AND
THE WARDROBE
OCTOBER 27-29



The Waconia Middle School Theatre Program will present its fall play, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, with four performances scheduled for Oct. 27-29 at the Waconia Middle School Auditorium. Performances will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 27-29,

with an additional 2:00 p.m. matinee slated for Saturday, Oct. 29.

Tickets are general admission and are now available for purchase online. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for students, and can be purchased by visiting www.bit.ly/WaconiaTickets.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe story is about the adventures of the four Pevensie children – Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy – who discover a magical wardrobe that transports them to the fantastical world of Narnia. Narnia is cursed by an evil White Witch who makes every day winter but never Christmas. Talking Beavers introduce the children to Aslan, a lion and the King of Narnia, and work with him and his loyal followers to defeat the witch and restore Narnia to its former glory.

Waconia Middle School’s production of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe is dramatized by Joseph Robinette and produced by special arrangement with the Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

WHS THEATRE
PRODUCTION
OF MAMMA MIA!
A SMASHING
SUCCESS



The Waconia High School Theatre Program presented Mamma Mia! in four separate performances, Oct. 13-15. Thank you to everyone who came out to see the show and support our talented and hard-working students.

THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



L to R: Cadence Peterson, Jack Gootzeit, and Annabelle Herold.

Three Waconia High School seniors have recently been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for achieving high scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which is taken by more than 1.5 million 11th graders each year.

Senior Jack Gootzeit is one of approximately 16,000 students across the nation who took the PSAT/NMSQT to be named a National Merit Semifinalist for 2023.

Gootzeit will now have the opportunity to fulfill several requirements to be named a finalist in February and potentially earn one of the 7,500 National Merit Scholarships that will be awarded next Spring.



Seniors Cadence Peterson and Annabelle Herold have both been named National Merit Commended Students for 2023, meaning they placed in the top 3% of students who took the PSAT/NMSQT. About 34,000 Commended Students are recognized throughout the nation each year for their exceptional academic promise.

“We are incredibly proud of Jack, Cadence and Annabelle for being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program,” Waconia High School Principal Paul Sparby said.

“These honors are a testament to not only their personal dedication and hard work toward their academic studies, but also the rigorous academic programs and dedicated teachers we have here at Waconia Public Schools.”

- PAUL SPARBY
Waconia High School Principal

ISD 110 EMPLOYEES HONORED WITH
ESSENCE AWARDS

Waconia Public Schools is such a great district because of the people. We have talented students, dedicated teachers and a supportive community. We come together for the success of our students. It’s the commitment of everyone, in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

ISD 110 has many incredible employees. The Essence Awards were created to celebrate those employees behind the scenes – people who may not otherwise receive much public recognition. These are the employees who work day after day to continue building the vibrant learning community we have here at Waconia Public Schools.



Josh Jevne
3rd Grade Teacher
Southview Elementary School



Lynn Nygaard,
Administrative Assistant,
Waconia High School
Activities Department



Kari Sell
Educational Assistant,
Waconia High School



Susan Watts
Educational Assistant,
Laketown Elementary School



Dave DeLaney
Technology Support
Specialist, Waconia
High School



Britta DeVinny
Science Teacher,
Waconia Middle School



Jocelyn Grant
Kindergarten Teacher,
Bayview Elementary School

CONGRATULATIONS!

HOMECOMING EVENTS BRING SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Waconia Public Schools celebrated Homecoming Week, Sept. 12-17, with a student council-led revamped schedule of events that included students of all ages and the wider community.

Events earlier in the week included themed spirit dress-up days, an outdoor movie night, and a pep fest at the High School.

Friday, September 16 was packed with events as High School students coordinated a traveling pep fest that visited each of the elementary schools as well as the Middle School.

A Homecoming Parade that included more than 30 floats and hundreds of attendees made its way down Community Drive on Friday evening prior to the Homecoming football game.

Before kickoff, members of the Homecoming Court were recognized and seniors Max McEnelly and Hallie Roitenberg were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

The Wildcat football team capped the night with a 31-14 victory over Orono as McEnelly rushed for 171 yards and two touchdowns.

A Homecoming Dance was held on Saturday, Sept. 17 as more than 800 attendees enjoyed a photo booth, a DJ and raffles.

WHS STUDENTS NAMED STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES



Waconia High School students Stella Atkinson and Sam Stanton were sworn in as Student Representatives on the School Board at the board's Regular Meeting on Monday, Sept. 26.

Atkinson and Stanton were selected from a pool of seven candidates following an interview process with Superintendent Brian Gersich, Chair Dana Geller, and Vice Chair Jackie Johnson.

Atkinson is involved in the Newspaper Club at Waconia High School and also spends time volunteering at Lowry Nature Center.

Stanton is a member and captain of the boys tennis team, plans to go out for the swimming and diving team this year, is part of the Speech Club, and is a student manager for the girls tennis team.



UPCOMING KEY DATES & EVENTS

OCTOBER

27-29 Middle School Theatre Presents
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Various Times | Middle School Auditorium

NOVEMBER

1 End Quarter 1 - WMS
8 Election Day
11 Teacher In-Service Day (No School E-12)
14 School Board Work Session
7:00 p.m. | Laketown Elementary Media Center
18 End of Trimester 1 – (K-5, 9-12)
21-23 Teacher Work/Flex Days. (No School E-12)
24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School E-12)
28 School Board Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m. | Waconia City Hall

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

DECEMBER

6 Middle School Choir Concert
12 School Board Work Session
7:00 p.m. | District Office Conference Room A
13 Middle School Band Concert
19 Truth in Taxation Public Hearing
6:00 p.m. | Waconia HS Room C107 (School
Board Regular Meeting to immediately follow)
23-30 Winter Break (No School E-12)

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

26 7:00 p.m. | Class of 2023 Graduation
29 Memorial Day (No School E-12)

JUNE

1 Last Student Day
2 Last Teacher Work Day

We're Hiring!

CURRENT OPENINGS

TEACHING

Social Studies – WMS
Language Arts – WHS

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Educational Assistants
Security Monitor

SUBSTITUTES

Teacher Substitutes
Educational Assistant Substitutes
Nutritional Services Substitutes

CUSTODIAL

Custodial Cleaners

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Associate
Substitute Health Associate

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Recreation Assistant
Kids' Company Aides & Leads
Driver Education Instructor

COACHING

Boys Lacrosse Head Coach
Boys Basketball Assistant Coach
Student Concessions Workers

Apply Here! [WWW.ISD110.ORG](https://www.isd110.org)

#WeAreONE10!

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isd110.org

Early Childhood Family Education Classes

Registration
begins
in late
November

- Engaging family education for parents and their children from birth to kindergarten
- Enjoyable learning experiences, support, and new connections
- Your children meet new friends doing creative activities in a stimulating and caring environment

Visit bit.ly/110ECFE for more info or call (952) 442.0613