

# CommunicAT

SUMMER 2019



## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2019!

By Pat Devine, Superintendent



It has been quite a memorable year at Waconia Public Schools. I would like to congratulate all of our graduates—from preschool all the way to our high school seniors. The senior class of 326 was the biggest graduating class in Waconia's history. As principal Mark Fredericksen said, "This class definitely made their mark and they will be missed."

.....  
We started a new, really fun tradition this year called the Wildcat Walk.  
.....



The idea came from our Explore Wild Ideas employee campaign and involved all of the seniors making the rounds to all the schools in their gowns on the Friday before graduation. It was a huge success and will definitely be a standing tradition for years to come!

The senior class has achieved some impressive numbers when it comes to academic accomplishments. Through Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), and Concurrent Classes (college-level courses offered at the high school), students earned more than 4,500 college credits. This translates to about \$2.7 million saved in college credit costs. Nicely done!

This is also the time of year when some staff decide that it is time to retire. We had several longtime teachers retire at the end of the school year. All of our retirees had a huge impact on student learning, some of which lasted generations. Thank you to everyone for all of your service and dedication!



Eduardo Navidad, incoming Laketown Elementary principal

Among the retirees is Nancy Wittman, who is stepping down as principal at Laketown Elementary. Eduardo Navidad will take over this fall as the new principal at Laketown. As much as Nancy will be missed by the Laketown community, we are happy for her as she moves into the next phase of life and we look forward to welcoming Eduardo to the ONE10 family.

.....  
Enjoy the summer, everyone, and we will see you in the fall!  
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### CLASS OF 2019

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 326** Graduates
- 209** Academic Letter Winners
- 98** Honor Students
- 67** National Honor Society Members



## LAKETOWN ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, NANCY WITTMAN, RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS IN EDUCATION

While it may be difficult to picture Nancy Wittman as anything but an educator, she entered college as an accounting major at University of Wisconsin, River Falls but quickly found her passion for teaching. "I don't know that I would have ever thought that this is how my career would have been, but it all happened for a reason," Wittman reflected.

After earning her master's degree in curriculum instruction and a principal's certificate in administration, Wittman became principal of Eastern Carver County's Bluff Creek Elementary. She came to Waconia to help open Laketown Elementary and create a unique identity for the school.

"What makes me most proud are the teachers. We now are a Laketown community, and there is a Laketown way. Some of it is combined from a Southview and a Bayview way," Wittman stated.

“ Mrs. Wittman has plotted a course and given us the confidence and skill to make sure that we stay on course. We all could not be prouder to have been on this journey with her as our principal and captain.”

COREY WEDGE  
Waconia Fifth-Grade Teacher

Wittman has also impacted many families in the district. "She has worked tirelessly with dignity and grace, which has been reflected on the students and staff as they have thrived with her guidance. We will miss her immensely and wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement," Kathy Thaemert, Laketown parent, said.

“ It was her heart for service that wove together staff, students, and parents who had never worked together before under the same roof, into the thriving Laketown community that exists today.”

SARA GUETHLING  
Waconia Second-Grade Teacher

Wittman plans to travel in retirement but, in the final weeks and days on the job, she focused on the kids. "I'm really trying to be in the moment. I tell myself to pay attention: You may have similar experiences, but you won't have these experiences again. There's nothing better than being around kids and being a part of their lives."



## 2019 ISD 110 STAFF RETIREMENTS

**Aggie Bluemke** - Paraprofessional and Media Assistant, first at Southview Elementary and, more recently at all locations of Waconia Middle School, 41 years

**Laurie Denbrook** - Educational Support Professional, first at Southview Elementary, more recently at Waconia High School, 28 years

**Reva Hortsch** - Physical Education Teacher, Waconia Middle School, 19 years

**Leslie Kurtz** - Elementary Teacher, first at Southview Elementary, more recently at Bayview Elementary as Grade 5 Teacher, 32 years

**Lisa Lozito** - Vocal and Classroom Music Teacher, Southview Elementary, 25 years

**Janet Ramm** - Kids' Company Instructor at Bayview Elementary, 10 years

**Doug Sayles** - Elementary Teacher, at Southview Elementary, most recently Bayview Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, 32 years (also Head Boys' Basketball and Golf coach at Waconia High School)

**Linda Simonson** - Family and Consumer Science (FACS) Teacher, Waconia Middle School, 18 years

**Kari Werdahl** - Vocal Music Teacher, first at Southview Elementary, more recently at Bayview Elementary, 33 years

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS BUILD A COMPANY FROM THE GROUND UP

Eighth-grade students at Waconia Middle School are learning how to build a company, one cut at a time. The Industrial Technology entrepreneurship course teaches students how to work together as a team to take a product from concept to creation. The end product is actually marketed and sold in the community.

"I get to have over 300 students throughout the year, and all kids can participate. The majority of students are trying something in my class that they've never done before," John Kelzer, industrial technology instructor, said.



Sydney and Summer tracing patterns with industrial technology teacher John Kelzer.

Students work together, just as employees of a company would, to make a product that the customer ordered. If the class company performs well, there's an opportunity for commissions to be paid out. "Paying bills and getting paid is a real-life experience," Kelzer added.

For one of the products this year, students cut the name "Waconia" into a board that had been cut in the shape of an arrow. Previous classes have made trivets in the shape of the state of Minnesota, coasters, family names cut into various patterns, and more.



Above: Mateo using the router. Below: Andrew using the band saw.



"Not only do students create and mass produce products for sale, they learn about the challenges of starting and running a business," Kelzer concluded.



This course mirrors the core values of our school: kindness, respect, integrity, responsibility. I believe that students leave the middle school a better person because of these skills."

**JOHN KELZER**

Waconia High School Industrial Technology Teacher

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DESIGNING HER FUTURE

Waconia High School junior Grace Gesinger has discovered her passion for interior design. Through class and internship opportunities, Grace expanded her professional horizons by interning with Kaeding Architecture.

Grace was first introduced to business owner Jennifer Kaeding in class. Kaeding is a guest FACS (Family and Consumer Science) instructor. This one-of-a-kind opportunity came as recommendations from both Grace's counselor, Lynette Alger, and Kat Mann, Waconia High School FACS teacher.



Having an architect in town who is so open to having students come in has been fantastic."

**KAT MANN**

Waconia High School FACS Teacher

During her time spent at Kaeding Architecture, Grace worked closely with Kelcey Albers, a Waconia High School alum and interior designer, learning about specs of products, materials, and flooring. "This industry is about putting all the pieces together and making sure they fit. We work to put together a creative, yet logical puzzle using math, drawing, and spatial planning," Kaeding explained.



Grace playing with color, textiles, and fabric.

Grace says she is happy she had the chance to learn more outside of the classroom and encourages other students to give internships a try. Grace said of her future, "I'm interested in continuing to learn more about interior design and would also like to tie these concepts of design materials into my passion for the environment."



Kelcey, Jennifer, and Grace looking over blueprints.

## KALEESA HOUSTON RECEIVES ATHENA AWARD



Kaleesa Houston is one of 55 female high school seniors from around the state honored for their outstanding athletic, academic, and service achievements. She received the Athena Award this spring. Athena is known as the goddess of wisdom and skills.

Kaleesa was given the award for excelling in competition and in the classroom.

Her stand-out cross-country accomplishments include current Section 2AA champion, state qualifier 2016-2019, all-conference 2016-2019, team captain, and current 5K girls' school record holder. In track, Kaleesa was all-conference 2016-2019 and a 2018-2019 state qualifier. She also set a new school record this track season in the 3200m.

In the classroom, Kaleesa's academic record reflects multiple academic all-state and spotlight on scholarship recognitions. As one of four officers in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), she helped raise drug addiction awareness with a red ribbon project, created posters, and made "stay sober" goodie bags for prom. Her well-rounded background also includes a black belt in karate and service as a Carver County Library volunteer.

Cross-country teammates Addy Kaeding and Kate Ulrich describe Kaleesa as incredibly kind, supportive, and extra welcoming. "Kaleesa takes legitimate interest in your success for the day and leads the team in having fun, finding ways to laugh even during hard workouts," Ulrich shared. "She never stops pushing herself and leads us through example, making her incredibly deserving of her long-standing position as 5K record holder and fastest distance runner on the team. We will all miss her next year, and I know she will find success, both in her college running career and academics."

Kaleesa plans to attend North Dakota State University where she will run on the cross-country and track teams and pursue an exercise science degree to become a physical therapist.

## LAKETOWN STUDENTS PERFORM AT AUBURN MEADOWS

On May 24, fifth-grade students from Laketown Elementary performed Shakespeare plays at Auburn Meadows, an assisted-living and memory care center. In the spring, students studied Shakespeare in order to identify books they had read over the school year that referenced Shakespeare.



This was the first time these students came to visit Auburn Meadows through our community outreach program, and it was magnificent! Folks were tickled pink by the energy of the fifth graders. I think the kids really enjoyed it, and I know the residents appreciated it."

**PATTI MELANCON**

Auburn Meadows Staff Member

## BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AT AN EARLY AGE

When a young student starts school, there is great excitement and many unknowns for both students and parents alike. To better navigate this transition, Waconia Public School's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program uses a common-sense approach called the Pyramid Model that outlines clear ways to teach social and emotional skills along with effective ways to intervene when kids need support. It's an inclusive curriculum that establishes consistent, equitable learning environments across all of the district's preschool and child care offerings.



managing them. “Teachers are reading books with emotional language, and in the classroom, we are hearing 3- and 4-year-olds using words, like ‘frustrated’ and ‘anxious’ instead of doing something more negative like taking a toy from another student,” Froehlich said.

Moving up the pyramid into phase two, students practice problem-solving strategies and how to be a “Super Friend.” Teachers use stories and model what secure friendship looks like, then acknowledge and celebrate when students put those skills into practice.

At the top of the Pyramid Model are intensive strategies that utilize collaborative problem-solving personalized for a child. Sometimes an individualized plan is helpful for any child, and to create it involves gathering and analyzing data to understand the function of a child’s behavior—or what a behavior is trying to accomplish. By teaming together—teachers, family, and child care providers—the shared information leads to insightful changes that positively support a child.

“This has really helped us solution-find with families and staff, using evidence-based, environmentally supportive, developmentally appropriate, logical tools.”

JENN FROEHLICH  
Special Education Manager

To support the school-home partnership, families and caregivers regularly receive a “Skill of the Month.” One skill reminded parents to give five forms of positive feedback for every one re-direction to fill a child’s “emotional bank account.”

Mary Weber, preschool teacher, shared, “Knowing children and where they come from organizes my expectations, helps me to be understanding, establishes routines, allows me to have fun with my students, and creates a safe learning environment.”



When dismissing students for playtime, Weber asks questions—but not “yes or no” questions—about the students themselves or the theme they are learning.

Terri Bessire, an early childhood special education teacher who co-teaches in a preschool classroom with a regular education teacher, appreciates how the model promotes picture schedules and predictable routines, thereby enabling students with individualized education plans (IEPs) to remain in and better participate in classroom settings. “When we do team meetings with regular education teachers, assistants, and paraprofessionals, we all have common goals around what we want to work on in classroom,” Bessire added. “We are all on the same page, and we know the data support what a positive impact it has on children.”

“If we can start kids feeling good about themselves and about school—at ages 3, 4, 5—if we can have that impact already going into kindergarten and have kids



seeing themselves as learners, as a Super Friend, as part of a community, to see themselves as having a solution to a problem . . . to me, these are great gifts we can give kids,” Froehlich said.

“We know that if children have a solid social and emotional foundation, they’re much more able to acquire academic skills because the regulation skills are in place,” explains Sue Forster, early childhood programming supervisor. “The lifelong skills that we need to navigate the world come from this social-emotional foundation.”

Waconia Public Schools was awarded a state grant to implement the Pyramid Model over the next five years. Through intensive staff coaching and partnership between regular and special education, the idea is to have the program help deliver on the district’s goal of offering high-quality, inclusive programming for all kids. The model also bolsters the district’s efforts to prepare students for more seamless transitions to kindergarten.

“It creates an environment where all kids can be successful and be included,” Jenn Froehlich, special education manager, said. “We’ve implemented the model into our child care program [Kids’ Company], so kids with us throughout the day go to preschool and then return to the child care setting and have the benefits of consistent adult reactions, common language, and common expectations.”



At the base of the pyramid are many ways that build beneficial relationships and environments for all early childhood students. There is deliberate connection time for students and teachers, and transition times between one activity and the next. Visual schedules are frequently referenced, as are examples that explain what it looks like and sounds like to “Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible”—outside, in the hallway, and in the classroom. Common language and behavior expectations are defined for shared spaces.

This foundational phase also teaches kids about big feelings along with the words and strategies for

## SOUTHVIEW ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TEACH GRATITUDE

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Southview Elementary may be helping people in the district live happier lives. It started with a challenge: How might we spread gratitude in our community?



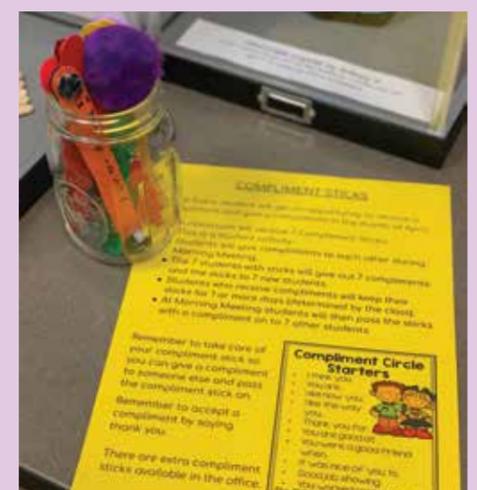
Southview Elementary students Noelle and Tyler deliver their gratitude project to Jennifer Templin at Main St. Floral.

It is a proven fact that those who live grateful lives are generally happier people. So, Southview students got to work on how to spread gratitude in the community.

Students worked in teams to create prototypes to visualize gratitude and create reminders to be grateful. They used what’s called the Human-Centered Design process and showcased their ideas in a community gallery.

Students worked on this project in partnership with All’s Well, a local nonprofit organization focused on improving the mental and physical health of everyone in the area.

Many of their creations are currently on display in the community. The students and All’s Well encourage you to look for them and, if you see something you like, try to incorporate the concept into your daily life.



GRATITUDE JARS will encourage people to thank one another.

GRATITUDE FLIPPERS, or flip books, will teach about different aspects of gratitude.

GRATITUDE BRACELETS can be given to someone you are grateful for and then they can pass it on.

GRATITUDE GAME includes spaces that say something to brighten someone’s day.

GRATITUDE FRISBEE includes compliments for the receiver.

THE CARING COMIC reminds people to be nice no matter the situation.

GRATITUDE TRAIN delivers heart stickers to wear to remind us to be thankful.

GRATITUDE SNOWMAN will bring happiness to those in the hospital.

GRATITUDE COFFEE CUP Grab a warm fuzzy out of the Gratitude Coffee cup and give it to someone with a compliment.

GRATITUDE BAKERY includes gratitude quotes to say “Thanks!”

## WACONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISE MORE THAN \$16,000, ONE PENNY AT A TIME

Waconia Middle School has participated in the Pennies for Patients campaign for the past 20 years, and in the last decade it has been repeatedly recognized for its achievements in raising near the top dollar, or penny, amount. This year was no exception. The grand total for the 2019 donations was \$16,625.74.

The campaign supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

In planning the campaign, students and teachers set numerous milestone goals for the three-week fundraising period. For example, at the \$6,400 milestone, the teachers received a "Pie in the Face" at a student assembly.

The \$9,600 milestone was the "Principal's Challenge: Egg Smash Trivia Roulette." During a lunch period, principal Shane Clausen and assistant principal Keith Baune took turns answering questions. When they were

wrong, students got to smash an egg over their head. In the end, there were many broken eggs because, according to students, some of the questions were "ridiculously hard."

The largest milestone was \$16,000. When that amount was raised, "Ms. Hart Gets a Mohawk." Students gathered before school to support and cheer on their teacher as stylist Jessie Hamble cut and styled Hart's hair into a Mohawk. The hair was donated to Wigs for Kids, a nonprofit organization that helps children suffering from hair loss.



Ms. Hart's Mohawk.

The school plans to continue this tradition of raising donations in fun and interactive ways

for the kids. "We're empowering students to take on the leadership, focus on other people, and support a greater cause," Clausen said.



## LAKETOWN STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER TO BE ACTIVE, RESOLVE CONFLICTS

Fifth-grade students at Laketown Elementary put on an "Active Play" film festival to show classmates and younger students how active play helps improve the whole school day.

High school students Dawson Martin, Will Koppi, Hunter Swanson, and Brady Amundson also got involved by demonstrating peaceful ways to resolve conflict and answered questions about how they stay active. Laketown's fifth graders led by example the entire school year on how to put Laketown PRIDE (Peaceful, Respectful, Inclusive, Determined, Engaged) into action, learning to use the peaceful path when problem-solving.



Kindergartners playing the game, "I Love My Neighbor."

## WACONIA HIGH SCHOOL IS CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

### Students partner with community businesses to solve local problems

Entrepreneurs at Waconia High School worked directly with local businesses to solve real problems. By the end of their trimester, students in the Start Your Own Business course researched, strategized, and provided recommendations to their community partners.

"We found that there are a lot of things that local business owners want to test but just don't have the time. This partnership gives local businesses that opportunity while providing students with an authentic real-world experience."

CHRISTINE FENNER  
Business Education Coordinator

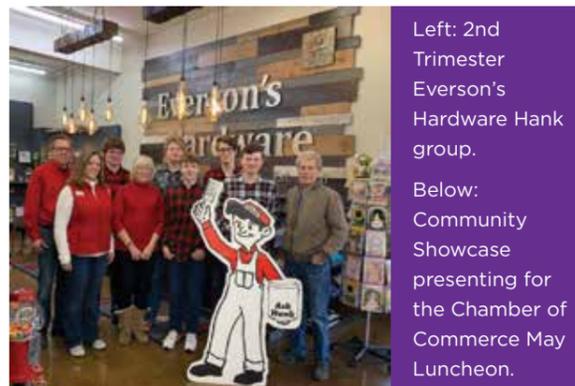
"It's not a textbook-structured class where you have tests every couple of weeks. It's on the kids to figure out the pace and make sure they're meeting deadlines," Lee Moen, business instructor at Waconia High School, stated.

For example, students working with Mackenthun's Fine Foods, which was planning a major store remodel, produced a video encouraging shoppers to give input regarding items that should be included in their new "Grab and Go" section. "Considering that we were just starting our remodel, the results of the survey were very timely," Jessa Theis of Mackenthun's Fine Foods, said.

Some of the other student groups focused on different issues facing local businesses, such as appealing to the next generation of shoppers—whether it's a hardware store or a clothing boutique.

Students working with Everson's Hardware Hank came up with ideas to engage younger shoppers by offering how-to seminars and make-and-take classes. The ideas were so successful that staff at Everson's Hardware Hank shared their story with the National Retail Hardware Association magazine.

Other students worked with The Stash, a Waconia clothing store, to research fashion trends and create social media marketing strategies. "Having teens tell



Left: 2nd Trimester Everson's Hardware Hank group.

Below: Community Showcase presenting for the Chamber of Commerce May Luncheon.



me what teens want from a clothing store is golden in terms of marketing research," Summer Jensen, who owns The Stash, said. Students developed the idea to create a "pop-up clothes stand" for Sister Saturday, a retail shopping event in Waconia. The Pretty Little Stash, clothing designed specifically for teens, debuted at the May event.

The Waconia United Food Shelf attributes some of the success of its 64% increase in online donations during their March Match campaign to the work of the students.

"We believe that our online fundraising and social media efforts contributed to this increase and are grateful for the support from the students and the community," Brittney Cole, Waconia United Food Shelf board member, said.

## BEEES HAVE KIDS BUZZING



Mrs. Melius tending to bees in a beekeeper suit.

There is a buzz at the Waconia Middle School, and it's all about the bees. With new hives located on the roof, the eighth-grade students can observe these Californian bees outside the window from their desks. But what's the bees' role inside the classroom?

The goal is for the beehives to help students understand, engage, and learn

from honeybees. Waconia Middle School social studies teacher and beekeeper, Michele Melius, shared, "By using the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center as a template and partnering with the Department of Agriculture, I'm really excited to be sharing my passion for bees with the kids and teaching about the impact on our food system and economy."

The equipment, bees, and educational materials were purchased through a grant that was secured by Melius. "Learning about bees offers multiple opportunities to promote critical thinking and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) skills," concluded Melius. "The final steps will be to split the hives and pay it forward to another school to experience and understand our role in the ecosystem."

The classroom that has the view of the beehives will be transformed into an education center, open to anyone who visits. The bees also compliment the middle school's Edible Classroom garden by pollinating the plants. Over the summer, it is expected that the bees will produce 75 to 100 pounds of honey—some of which will be used by Cafe #110 in the upcoming school year.

## WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO . . .

Waconia High School students were given the chance to answer that ever-present question: “What should I do when I grow up?” The high school worked in partnership with the Waconia Chamber of Commerce to book about 45 leaders from various area businesses and organizations for the Career Exploration Fair this spring.

.....  
**Different than a job fair, this was more about giving students the opportunity to network with potential employers and learn about different industries in the community.**  
 .....

Numerous students commented on the variety of industries that connected with their future career interests. For example, one participating student stated that he’s going to college for finance and visited every finance-related booth available. Another expressed interest in the trades and appreciated the variety that was offered in that industry. Others were interested in the field of health care.



The communications table at the Career Fair displayed the work of the Wildcat Media Productions team.

WHS junior Allie Saunders commented, “I am very grateful that the high school offered the Career Exploration Fair. The business representatives were easy to talk to, and I

gained an abundance of valuable information. I will be completing my nursing assistant certification (CNA) this spring, so it was beneficial for me to interact with representatives from Auburn Homes, Good Samaritan Society, and Ridgeview Medical Center.”



City of Waconia employee Jackie Schwerm has students play the “what’s your city superpower” game.

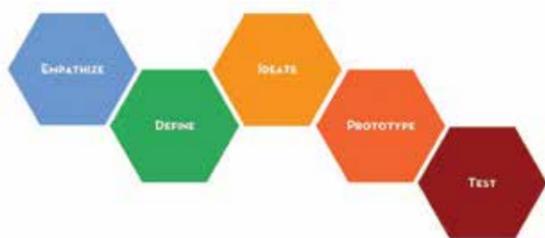
According to Superintendent Pat Devine, “Events like these truly match up with our mission of helping students explore passions and create success. We want to continue to help guide and provide resources for students as they discover a career path that interests them.”

“This was our first round, and we value the feedback we received from students and businesses,” Mark Fredericksen, WHS principal, said. “We feel that the fall will be the most opportune time to host this going forward. It helps to set the stage for future class offerings based on interests and also allows time for students to register for internships and independent study options for course credit.”

The next Career Exploration Fair is set for early November.

## ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OFFER WAYS TO REDUCE SCREEN TIME BY GETTING ACTIVE

Third- through fifth-grade students at all three elementary schools—Laketown, Southview, and Bayview—worked on a yearlong project trying to answer the question, “How might we build better places and spaces in our community?”



They were led through what is called the Human-Centered Design (HCD) process by teaching and learning instructional coaches LeAnn Millender and Jake Hockinson. HCD is an innovative process being used by businesses everywhere to better understand challenges and implement quality improvements. Millender and Hockinson hope this may eventually grow into the formation of a student-led Innovation Team.

Among the student ideas:

- ▶ The Great Maze: Real-life interactive maze with different terrain and obstacles
- ▶ Waconia Entertainment Center: A place with lots of choices of interactive entertainment for all ages
- ▶ Trampoline Park: Kids can climb walls, jump on trampolines, and zipline while parents can relax and watch
- ▶ Winter Nickle Dickle Day: Winter-themed Nickle Dickle Day
- ▶ Waconia Pier Park: Boardwalk along the lake with boutique shops

The process began last fall with students being asked to build a better backpack. One of the big ideas that came out of that was to put a clear pocket on the outside. For the banana—so it doesn’t get squished. From there, students looked at how to build a better classroom and their capstone project was how to build a better community.



Bayview students explain the benefits of having an obstacle course in Waconia.

Throughout all of it, students used the HCD process, which extends learning through empathy and communication with others. Students conducted interviews, defined problems, and tested and shaped their solutions. Their final products were displayed during Design Showcases held at all three elementary schools.



Laketown students present their idea of creating a Trampoline Park.

One team identified trash reduction as a huge community benefit, with a solution of using more biodegradable agar for beverage containers instead of plastic bottles. Another project aimed to assist senior citizens with getting outdoors more, with an easy-to-enter golf cart vehicle for around-town transport. Yet another suggested light-rail, to get to and from Edina, to overcome icy roads, and increase restaurant access.

## BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE NEWS

Parents with students who are going to be in fifth grade in the 2019–2020 school year will have three options in the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program:

**Option 1:** Purchase a device through the district’s program in collaboration with Best Buy—there is a \$100 coupon that comes with this option. The window to purchase a computer opens in August, and emails will be sent to parents with instructions on how to participate.

**Option 2:** Students may bring a device of their own, so long as it meets standard criteria.

**Option 3:** Borrow a district-owned device.

More information about the program will be sent to parents of incoming fifth graders in the coming months.

The district’s website, [www.isd110.org](http://www.isd110.org), contains details about the BYOD program and the standard criteria required of a student-owned device. Click on “District Departments” and then “Technology.”

Jeff Jeska, technology director, is available to answer questions at: (952) 442-0606, or [jjeska@isd110.org](mailto:jjeska@isd110.org).

Best Buy is the only vendor that offers this discounted purchase opportunity. This unique program helps provide technology resources for students to support the district’s technology goal of supporting more engaged and individualized learning while strengthening critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTORS TEACH LOCAL STUDENTS

Artists with Broadway experience visited Waconia in April for a workshop that focused on acting and stage management. Through this masterclass program, students of all ages were ready to go for their spring productions.

The masterclass is the Hennepin Theatre Trust’s statewide program to bring the arts to cities outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul. “We want to get in front of students, and we are committed to creating a positive impact in communities,” stated Hennepin Theatre Trust director of education, Ari Koehnen Sweeney. Actors Britta Ollmann and Fernando Collado taught skills on auditioning and first impressions. Technical artist Sarah Pierucki provided instruction on lighting and sound.

During the class, Collado also offered suggestions to students on resumes about skills, customization, and character: “Even if you don’t get the job or the part, getting a callback is still a win. There’s a million factors at play. Ask for feedback and figure out what works.” As the workshop concluded, Ollmann encouraged the students. “Being a part of a production is exciting and I love it! Never stop learning and exploring; there’s always more out there!”

“The timing of the workshop was perfect,” commented Amanda Byrne, assistant director of Waconia High School’s spring play. “The students were able to get advice and obtain resources to help them with auditions and props.”



Actors sharing auditioning tips.

## ACTIVITIES



### BOYS' TRACK

#### CONFERENCE CHAMPS 2017, 2018, 2019

2019 All-Conference Honors:

- › 4x800 - Behrens, McDonough, Capistrant, Borland
- › 4x200 - Gonzales, Kienholz, Marrs, Henriksen
- › 4x400 - Capistrant, McDonough, Hendrickson, Ma. Ryskoski
- › 800 - McDonough
- › 200 - Gonzales
- › Shot Put - Karlson (BK)
- › Pole Vault - Burroughs
- › Long Jump - Ebent

### GIRLS' TRACK

#### CONFERENCE CHAMPS 2015, 2016, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

2019 All-Conference Honors:

- › 4x800 - Vacek, Kaeding, Lindstrom, Sorenson
- › 4x200 - Theis, Stellick, Machacek, Erenstein
- › 4x400 - Vacek, Lindstrom, Carrabre, Logelin
- › 1600 - Houston
- › Shot Put - Hedtke
- › Discus - Hedtke

Representing State

- › 1600 - Houston  
10th place, 5:10.01
- › Shot Put - Hedtke  
8th place, 39-03.00
- › Discus - Hedtke  
12th place, 114-06



### BOYS' GOLF

#### STATE RUNNER-UP IN CLASS AAA

- › **Connor Glynn**  
Named 2019  
Minnesota Mr. Golf

### GIRLS' GOLF

- › **Morgan Giesen**  
All-Conference
- › **Maddie Brandt**  
Honorable Mention



## WILDCATS NAME NEW COACHES FOR 2019-2020 SEASONS

**Dustin Neibauer – Head Coach**  
Waconia High School Girls' Basketball

**Colleen Stanley – Assistant Coach**  
Waconia High School Girls' Hockey

**Jeff Bessire – Head Coach**  
Waconia High School Boys' Tennis

**Leah Johnson – Head Coach**  
Waconia High School Girls' Hockey

**Erin McNeill – Assistant Coach**  
Waconia High School Girls' Hockey

**Nick Hackman – Head Coach**  
Waconia High School Wrestling

## ACTIVITIES



### BOYS' LACROSSE (1-11)

- › **Jack Jones** All-Conference

**Team Awards:** MVP: Ben Strei, Offensive MVP: Jack Jones, Mr. Hustle: Tyler Wenger, Defensive MVP: Max Naslund, Most Improved: Isaak Woods

### GIRLS' LACROSSE

(0-12 regular season)

- › **Paige Mellgren** All-Conference
- › **Madeline Charbonneau** All-Conference Honorable Mention

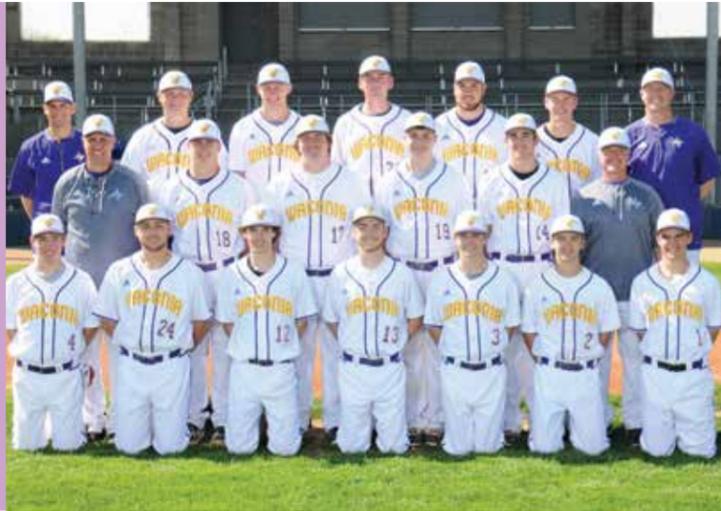
### BASEBALL (8-7 regular season)

(#1 seed in sections)

- › **Ethan Swanson, Will Koppi** All-Conference
- › **Ryan Frisinger, JJ Langer, Max Kalenberg** All-Conference Honorable Mention

### SOFTBALL (9-14)

- › **Holly Weinberger, Claire Segner, Taylor Braun** All-Conference
- › **Libby Kuntz, Norah Schmit** All-Conference Honorable Mention



### TRAP

The 50-member Waconia High School Trap Club had a strong season: four 25 Straight Runs, with Tyson Peitz scoring three of them. Waconia had four members ranked in the top 25 of Class 6A, Conference 2: Conner Brose, Charese Brown, Tyson Peitz, and Hailey Williams. Sixteen members, with a season average of 19 or higher, earned Waconia High School Letters, and several students achieved Academic Letters. On June 15, 25 team members traveled to Alexandria, MN, for the 2019 Trap Shooting Championship to qualify for the State Tournament.



### MARCHING BAND

Waconia Marching Band performed in 12 events so far this season. Upcoming parades will be held Monday, June 24, in Roseville, MN; Sunday, June 30, in Alexandria, MN; and Thursday, July 4, in Wauwatosa, WI.



### SHOW CHOIR

This season, Show Choir competed across the Midwest, hosted their annual Star Power event (one of the premier high school show choir events in the country), and performed in the Burbank Blast in California. After taking home multiple awards, they ended the season with the Show Choir Spectacular, featuring over 300 performers in Power Company, The Current, Illuminations, Shockwave, Pulse, and the bands Watt and Megawatt.

# CommuniCAT



## 2019-2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### AUGUST

- 19-22** Teacher Workshop
- 21** K-12 Open House (evening)
- 26** First Day of School (Gr. 1-12)
- 28** First Day of School (Kindergarten)
- 29** Early Childhood Open House (evening)

### SEPTEMBER

- 2** Labor Day (No School K-12)
- 20** Homecoming
- 26** Middle School Evening Conferences
- 30** Middle School Evening Conferences

### OCTOBER

- 4** 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 9** High School Evening Conferences
- 14** High School Evening Conferences
- 15** K-5 Evening Conferences
- 16** K-5 Day Conferences/  
Middle School & High School  
Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)
- 17** Ed Minnesota State Conference  
(No School K-12)
- 18** No School K-12
- 29** End of Quarter 1 - Middle School

### NOVEMBER

- 8** K-5 In-Service/Middle School  
Flex or In-Service/High School  
In Service (No School K-12)
- 15** End of Trimester 1
- 18** Teacher Work Day/Middle School  
In-Service or Flex Day  
(No School K-12)
- 27** Teacher Flex Day (No School K-12)
- 28-29** Thanksgiving Holiday (No School K-12)

### DECEMBER

- 12** Middle School Evening Conferences
- 23-31** Winter Break (No School K-12)

### JANUARY

- 1** Winter Break (No School K-12)
- 8** High School Evening Conferences
- 13** High School Evening Conferences
- 15** End of Quarter 2 - Middle School
- 20** MLK Day/Teacher Personalized  
In-Service Day (No School K-12)

### FEBRUARY

- 6** K-5 Evening Conferences
- 7** K-5 Conferences/High School  
In-Service/Middle School Flex Day  
(No School K-12)
- 14** 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 17** Presidents' Day/Teacher Flex Day  
(No School K-12)
- 20** Middle School Evening Conferences
- 24** Middle School Evening Conferences
- 27** End of Trimester 2
- 28** Teacher Work Day/Middle School  
Flex Day (No School K-12)

### MARCH

- 2-6** Spring Break
- 24** E-Learning day for grades 9, 10, 12  
ACT testing for grade 11
- 27** End of Quarter 3 - Middle School

### APRIL

- 10** 2-Hour Early Release (K-12)
- 13** No School K-12
- 27** High School Evening Conferences

### MAY

- 24** Class of 2020 Graduation
- 25** Memorial Day (No School K-12)
- 28** Last Student Day
- 29** Last Teacher Day

GO WILDCATS!

All Academic Calendars  
High School Activities Calendars  
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