



Fridley Middle School students earn third place in math competition



Congratulations to the Fridley Middle School 7th and 8th grade students who earned third place in the 51st annual St. Cloud University Mathematics Contest on April 5, 2018.

Three 8th grade students, Andrew Ramirez, Christina Hoglund and Eddie Nordin, placed in the top 10 percent, while Andrew Stevenson placed in the top 15 percent. With those four students leading the way, the 45 member strong 8th grade team earned third place out of 28 middle school teams. Over 1,200 7th and 8th grade students from both Minnesota and Wisconsin competed in this

year's contest.

The annual contest is hosted by the St. Cloud University department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Computer and Information Technology department.

During the competition, students are given a challenging 35 question mathematics exam to complete in one hour. Following the exam, students are scored individually and as a team per each grade level.

Participation in the contest is open to all Fridley Middle School students. Prior to the event, students prepare to

compete by working on problems during extended math class sessions, as well as attend after-school sessions to practice in contest format.

Fridley Middle School math teacher Benjamin Richards said working on these problems allows students to exercise and apply the concepts they are currently working on in algebra, geometry and algebra 2. Additionally, the students are introduced to concepts they have yet to study specifically, which promotes inquiry of asking teachers questions

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and doing their own research online.

Richards said participating in this event is valuable to our middle school students, as they can gain math competition experience prior to joining the high school math team.

"This opportunity also really highlights the idea that there are many ways to answer math questions," Richards said. "It's so fun to see a smile on a student's face when they show the rest of the group a creative way to solve problems, sometimes that us teachers can't even see. It's great to see them finding their own way to do it and then explain it to their peers."

This year, Fridley Middle School has initiated an after-school Math Camp. The camp is open to all students and focuses on interesting math questions, games and activities for students to build confidence in mathematics.



Three Fridley Middle School 8th grade students Christina Hoglund, Andrew Ramirez and Edward Nordin placed in the top 10 percent in the math contest. Additionally, Andrew Stevenson placed in the top 15 percent. Pictured from left to right: Hoglund, Ramirez and Nordin.



Fridley High School Science Club promotes Earth Day with fun activities

The Fridley High School Science Club provided fun activities throughout Earth Day week. In addition to selling Earth Day t-shirts to raise money for the club, students enjoyed activities such as planting seeds, collecting plastic bags to recycle, watching the Lorax movie and more!





Fridley students participate in YIG state conference

Over 50 Fridley High School and Fridley Middle School students attended the Youth in Government (YIG) Model United Nations Conference from April 5-7, 2018 at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center. This conference is part of the YMCA's YIG program, which provides experiential government learning opportunities to students in grades 7-12.

Model United Nations is a simulation in which students represent United Nations member states and meet to find solutions to common world issues. Participation in this world government simulation allows students to practice the arts of compromise and diplomacy, while finding answers to tough questions and respecting opposing points of view.

Prior to the conference, students research their assigned country and complete a 'status report' so all members fully understand the country's origin and current state. Research aspects include major wars and conflicts, geography, economy, natural resources, culture and more. Students also write position papers which help them prepare for discussion in their assigned committees. The paper topics are based on those discussed by actual United Nations committees and delegates. Some of the topics discussed this year included surveillance and the right to privacy, access to safe water and sanitation, and genetically modified organisms in international trade.

According to Fridley YIG advisor Jessica Schuette, Model United Nations is an excellent opportunity for students to engage in debates about global issues in a realistic out-of-classroom experience.

"It makes these issues real and asks



Over 50 Fridley High School and Fridley Middle School students attended the Youth in Government (YIG) Model United Nations Conference. The Fridley YIG program allows students to gain a deeper understanding of civics through fun and realistic government simulations.

students to learn about and even debate those issues from the perspective of another country, which can be difficult if it does not match their own feelings," Schuette said.

YIG Model United Nations is an excellent opportunity for students to engage in debates about global issues in a realistic out-of-classroom experience.

- JESSICA SCHUETTE
YIG ADVISOR

She added that Model United Nations, as well as other YIG programs, is youth-led, meaning that the confer-

ence is led by appointed and elected high school students and college-age former participants of the program.

"Many of the choices for the conference are decided by a steering committee made up of student participants, putting young people in the position to make the conference their own," Schuette said. "Also, with over 900 students registered this year, it is a great opportunity for our students to meet others from all over the state and make connections."

The Fridley YIG program is popular among high school and middle school students, boasting one of the largest delegations in the state. Participation in YIG allows students to develop leadership, public speaking and research skills, as well as receive a valuable civics education.

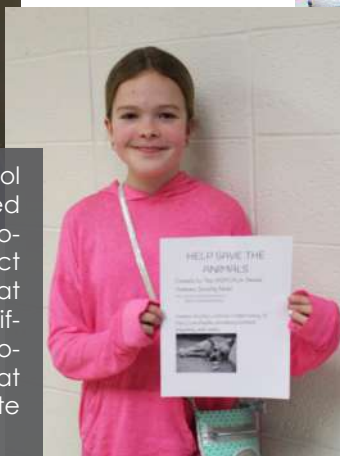


Fridley Middle School sixth graders make an impact

Students learn the power of change and positivity through **Total Wellness Impact Project**



Fridley Middle School sixth graders enjoyed taking part in the Total Wellness Impact Project, learning that they can make a difference and advocate for issues that they feel passionate about.



The Total Wellness class focuses on maintaining a well-balanced life and allowing students to realize that they have the power to make a positive impact

As part of the Total Wellness class at Fridley Middle School, sixth grade students designed their own Impact Projects to cause change to a matter that they felt strongly about.

"The main takeaway is that our students realize that they have the power to make a change if they want to," said Total Wellness teacher Melissa Damon. "The project allows them to discover how they can do this, and what steps they need to take to get there. They are also learning the process of advocating for themselves."

Sixth grader Ayeah Ben Abdallah took on an issue that affects many young lives: bullying. Ayeah created a presentation, titled "Bullying: The Issue of Today," which outlines the harmful effects that bullying can cause, as well as ways that you can combat this behavior. Following her presentation to class, Ayeah took her ideas to the 6th grade dean and Fridley Middle School principal.

"I talked with our principal and we came up with some great ideas that we are going to try to fit into our home-room schedule," Ayeah said. "It felt good to make this change because I am really passionate about anti-bullying. I

want to keep making my project bigger so we can help more people."

With an adoration for animals, sixth grader Chesney Olsen decided to focus on helping stray and homeless animals.

"I did a lot of research about two big organizations, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Animal Humane Society," Chesney

We just wanted to make a small change that *directly affects* the people around us. We wanted to *help others at our schools and bring attention to this issue.*

SIXTH GRADER ZOE DIEDERICH SAID ABOUT HER IMPACT PROJECT:
FOOD DRIVE FOR THE DISTRICT'S BACKPACK PROGRAM

said. "I created posters, flyers, and fact sheets to teach others about what they can do to help rescue animals. I'm proud of this project and I hope that I can do more projects to help animals in the future."

Sixth graders Zoe Diederich and

Isabelle Simon decided to organize a food drive to encourage donations for the Backpack Program in the district. The Backpack Program is a student assistance program that provides canned and boxed food to students to take home over the weekend.

"We just wanted to make a small change that directly affects the people around us," Zoe said. "We wanted to help others at our schools and bring attention to this issue."

Damon said this impact project fits well into the International Baccalaureate standards of being a world learner.

"We often talk about how we are just a drop in the ocean, but our drop can still make ripples and go forth. This teaches our students that their impact can go far locally or even abroad. Their positive impact can have more positive implications for many others. They are very excited about that."

The Total Wellness class focuses on social-emotional health and maintaining a well-balanced life. Damon said some aspects they work on is meditation, calming and understanding emotions, as well as recognizing that students have the power to make an impact and take on leadership roles.



Fridley High School (FHS) hosted its 6th annual Variety Show on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the high school auditorium.

This year, the show featured over 20 FHS students performing a variety of talents including several vocal artists, instrumental performances, various dancing acts, poetry reading and more.

Mandi Burian, FHS teacher and show organizer, said all the students who performed greatly impressed the audience.

"We had 13 amazing acts. Five acts were performed by seniors, but the rest were young talent. We hope to see them in the show every year!" Burian said. "The show had a great atmosphere about it. The acts were unique and well-prepared and the audience was so supportive."

"It was a great opportunity to see a different side of our students, one that you certainly don't get to see every day," said FHS teacher Andrew Haaheim, who helped organize the event.

Burian added that the show's emcees, senior Tristan Herder and junior Hunter Gunderson, did a fantastic job at keeping the show going.

Attendees were given the choice to donate money or canned goods to benefit the Southern Anoka Community Assistance Food Shelf (SACA). SACA serves families throughout the north metro region, including Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Spring Lake Park and Northeast Minneapolis. The event raised over \$200, as well as many large boxes of food to donate to SACA.

Fridley High School students present 6th annual Variety Show

Charlie Dahl performed "Goth Girl"



Frank Valtierrez rapped "Redenbacher" with Nic Fite.



Asa Sims sang "Let Me Love You."



Top: Dance group M.A.D. (Making A Difference) performed to "Feel Happy." **Left:** Jennie Ollila played "How Far I'll Go" on the saxophone **Right:** Camryn Fagan sang "Flashlight"



Grace Lepsch performed "Ghost Garden" on the marimba



Fridley High School students explore 50 colleges at MnACC College Fair

Fridley High School students were able to explore over 50 colleges during the Minnesota Association of Counselors of Color (MnACC) College Fair at Fridley High School on April 20, 2018. College admissions representatives met with Fridley High School students to answer questions and discuss opportunities at their respective institutions, including programs of study and the admission process.

The MnACC college fair tours the state twice a year to provide students the opportunity to learn about many colleges at once. This is the second time the fair has come to Fridley High School; the first took place in fall 2016.

"Normally, it would be very hard for any student to visit 50 colleges," said Fridley High School Dean Nicole Kaiser. "So it's valuable for our students to explore all these colleges in one place, narrow their choices, and once they get to a point of touring schools, they know exactly where they want to go."

MnACC is a post-secondary collaborative dedicated to improving access to higher education for Minnesota's students of color. Member institutions are diverse, which include two- and four-year public and private colleges and universities from Minnesota and its neighboring states.

"Our students really enjoyed this fair today," Kaiser said. "They were asking good questions, finding out more about the majors available at different colleges. It was great to see all of our students taking advantage of this opportunity."



Fridley High School students enjoyed the opportunity to explore 50 different colleges and universities at the MnACC College Fair at the high school.





Fridley High School junior selected as 2018 BANK OF AMERICA STUDENT LEADER

Fridley High School junior Tenzin Ny- ingpo has been selected as a 2018 Bank of America Student Leader. This rare opportunity is provided by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, with only 225 community-minded high school juniors and seniors selected each year. The program provides students with a 7-week paid internship, as well as an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., where Student Leaders from across the country will participate in a leadership summit. The summit focuses on leadership skill building and teaches students about how government, business and the nonprofit sector work together to address critical community needs.

Tenzin said he is excited and looking forward to the Student Leaders program which will develop and refine his leadership skills, provide an opportunity to meet new friends, and learn about job and service opportunities. Every summer, he likes to fill his time with opportunities such as these. He has been participating in the Minnesota Business Venture for the past two years, where he learns about business practices, plans and presentations.

Tenzin also enjoys spending his time volunteering. He volunteers on a weekly basis at the Children's Hospital, where he is able to learn more about the medical field, as well as refine his communication and public engagement skills. He also volunteers at the Mississippi Library where he helps with the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program.

A particular aspect that Tenzin stressed in his application was his Tibetan identity. As a first generation college-bound student, he and his family are excited about the opportunities ahead of him.

"In one of my essays, I wrote about how I want to advocate for our student body, particularly the Tibetan community," Tenzin said. "That's why I'm really happy that I earned this. I'm able to represent the Tibetan community and maybe it will inspire more students to reach out and try to get into these types of programs."

Tenzin will intern at the Hennepin Theater Trust in Minneapolis with four other Student Leaders, where they will learn about marketing and nonprofit business aspects.



"I'm really happy that I earned this. I'm able to represent the Tibetan community and maybe it will inspire more students to reach out and try to get into these types of programs."

- TENZIN NYINGPO
FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR



The **Bank of America Student Leaders** program focuses on strengthening communities while developing the nation's future leaders. Only 225 students from across the country are provided this opportunity each year. Pictured is the 2017 Student Leaders Summit in Washington D.C.

Photo credit:
Bank of America



APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Jill Fite *Paraprofessional*

Congratulations to April Employee of the Month, Jill Fite! Jill is a Title One Paraprofessional at Stevenson Elementary School. She works with students who receive intervention services and collects reading data to assist teachers in making informed decisions about instruction.

Jill is described by her peers as one of the most kind and caring individuals they have ever had the pleasure of working with.

"She is committed to the kids she works with and the teachers she supports," said Stevenson Elementary Principal Daryl Vossler. "Jill is always willing to accept any task at hand. She is kind-hearted, collaborative with her team and a very motivated individual."

He added that Jill is a very creative colleague who emulates strong leadership skills, which shows in the work ethics she displays.

Congratulations Jill and thank you for all that you do!



Principal Daryl Vossler and Paraprofessional Jill Fite

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