

# DISTRICT BULLETIN

DISTRICT PARENT  
SURVEY RESULTS - PAGE 4

CLASS OF 2018 SENIOR  
SPOTLIGHTS - PAGE 12



**FRIDLEY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## preparing for college AND CAREERS

How Fridley High School's International Baccalaureate Career-related  
Programme is preparing students for post-secondary success  
*see page 16*



### CONGRATS GRADS!

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATED  
197 GRADS AT ITS 60TH COMMENCE-  
MENT CEREMONY ON MAY 31, 2018  
IN ROY WILKINS AUDITORIUM.

SUMMER  
2018





## GRADUATION NEWS pg 8-11

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS pg 12-15

Congratulations to all our 2018 graduates! We celebrated 197 graduates on May 31 in Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul at Fridley High School's 60th Commencement Ceremony.

Among the Class of 2018, we highlighted seven graduating seniors who we are proud to call Fridley High School alumni.



### feature story: College & Career Ready

Fridley High School's International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme is helping students prepare for post-secondary success. With two career-specific pathways, the program allows students to develop a strong foundation by learning workforce ready skills, as well as offer opportunity to earn certifications and college credits.

page 16

### pages

7 Construction Update

20 Our Students

25 Our Staff

26 School and District News

### DISTRICT BULLETIN SUMMER 2018

The Fridley Public Schools District Bulletin is published three times a year and is mailed to every home in the Fridley School District.

Fridley Public Schools District 14  
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**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Dr. Kim Hiel

#### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

**Fridley High School**  
Principal: Patty Hand  
Assistant Principal: Kelly McConville

**Fridley Area Learning Center**  
Principal: Jason Bodey

**Fridley Middle School**  
Principal: Amy Cochran  
Assistant Principal: Danielle Peterson

**Hayes Elementary School**  
Principal: John Piotraschke

**R. L. Stevenson Elementary School**  
Principal: Daryl Vossler

#### DISTRICT OFFICES

Activities: 763-502-5606  
Buildings/Grounds: 763-502-5008  
Business & Finance: 763-502-5004  
Communications: 763-502-5020  
Community Education: 763-502-5100  
Educational Services: 763-502-5009  
Enrollment: 763-502-5081  
Human Resources: 763-502-5013  
Nutritional Services: 763-502-5021  
Special Services: 763-502-5025  
Technology: 763-502-5032  
Technology Integration: 763-502-5037  
Transportation: 763-502-5026  
IB (DP): 763-502-5062  
IB (MYP): 763-502-5036  
IB (PYP): 763-502-5228 / 763-502-5317



## DISTRICT PARENT SURVEY 2018

Fridley Public Schools conducted a parent survey in the spring of 2018. The survey asked parents of Fridley Public Schools students a number of questions to better understand parent perceptions on their schools and gather feedback on strengths of schools, as well as areas of improvement. The survey was conducted between April 9 and May 4 and was available online in both English and Spanish.

## SUMMARY

- A total of 636 surveys were completed and submitted – 12 of those were in Spanish.
- Responses per school were as follows: FHS 166 (27%); FMS 162 (26%); RLS 128 (20%); Hayes 128 (20%); Preschool 35 (5%); Transition 3; and ALC 2.
- 436 (69.1%) of the responding parents were district residents while 188 (30.1%) were open enrolled parents.
- 110 parents indicated that their children had Individualized Education Plans (IEP).
- 552 of our responding parents reported that English was their first language.

• SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL RESULTS



(Back row, l-r): Mary Kay Delvo, Chris Riddle, and Carol Thornton (Front row, l-r): Donna Prewedo, Avonna Starck, and Kim Sampson

### FRIDLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Mary Kay Delvo - Chair  
Chris Riddle - Vice Chair  
Kim Sampson - Treasurer  
Donna Prewedo - Clerk  
Carol Thornton - Director  
Avonna Starck - Director

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The Fridley School Board regular meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month in the Fridley Council Chambers at Fridley City Hall, located at 6431 University Avenue NE, Fridley, MN. Meetings begin with a work session at 5:30 p.m., followed by a public forum at 7:00 p.m. and a business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

### LOCATION CHANGE

Due to the relocation of Fridley City Hall in fall 2018, the Fridley School Board will hold its meetings in the media center at Fridley High School beginning September 2018.

All school board meetings and work sessions are open to the public. For more information, visit [www.fridley.k12.mn.us](http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us) and click on "School Board," or call 763-502-5060.



## on the cover:

Jozefa Vescio Schreiner (left), Joe Junkert (center), and Parker Thompson dig into a computer harddrive in the A+ Programming class, a career-focused elective. The class is also part of the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (CP) at Fridley High School.



Facebook.com/FridleyPublicSchools  
Twitter.com/FPS\_District14  
Youtube.com/FridleyPublicSchoolsMN





# DISTRICT PARENT SURVEY 2018

## What type of parent training and information would you be interested in?

Parents reported they would be most interested in the following:

SUPPORTING MY  
**54%**  
CHILD'S EDUCATION

SUPPORTING MY  
**39%**  
CHILD'S SOCIAL  
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

LEARNING MORE  
**33%**  
ABOUT THE  
CURRICULUM

**26%**  
HOW TO PREPARE  
MY CHILD FOR  
HIGH SCHOOL

**18%**  
BEHAVIOR  
SUPPORT FOR  
CHILDREN

**18%**  
RESOURCES TO  
STRENGTHEN  
PARENTING SKILLS

**10%**  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION AND  
SERVICES

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

# 636

PARENTS REPORTED WHETHER THEY  
STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE/NEUTRAL/DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE  
TO THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS:

### Q1

MY CHILD'S SCHOOL IS A FRIENDLY PLACE:

**78%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**9%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**10%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

### Q2

ADULTS AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL TREAT STUDENTS WITH RESPECT:

**79%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**13%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**6%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

### Q3

I AM WELL INFORMED ABOUT  
HOW MY CHILD IS DOING AT SCHOOL:

**69%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**12%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**18%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

Summer 2018



## WE SURVEYED FPS PARENTS ON:

- COMMUNICATION
- FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- SCHOOL CLIMATE
- QUALITY OF PROGRAMS

**Q4**

ADULTS IN MY CHILD'S SCHOOL SEEM TO WORK WELL TOGETHER:

**71%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**22%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**7%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

**Q5**

MY CHILD'S SCHOOL HAD A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE COMMUNITY:

**59%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**21%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**20%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

**Q6**

MY CHILD'S SCHOOL TRIES TO GET FAMILIES TO BE PART OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

**75%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**15%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**10%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

**Q7**

DIFFERENCES (FOR EXAMPLE GENDER, RACE, CULTURE ETC.) ARE RESPECTED AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL:

**75%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**16%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**9%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

**Q8**

THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL MEETS OR EXCEEDS MY EXPECTATIONS:

**65%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**18%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**16%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 1% no response

**Q9**

MY CHILD HAS BEEN HARASSED OR VERBALLY ABUSED MORE THAN ONCE AT THIS SCHOOL:

**31%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**17%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**51%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 1% no response



**Q10**

MY CHILD'S SCHOOL PROVIDES  
QUALITY PROGRAMS TO MEET  
THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS:

**63%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**19%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**17%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 1% no response

**Q13**

ADULTS IN MY CHILD'S SCHOOL  
SEEM TO WORK WELL TOGETHER:

**72%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**14%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**13%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 1% no response

**Q11**

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES IS DONE  
IN AN OPEN AND RESPECTFUL MANNER:

**78%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**12%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**10%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

**Q14**

MY CHILD'S SCHOOL HAD A GOOD  
REPUTATION IN THE COMMUNITY:

**72%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**17%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**9%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 2% no response

**Q12**

IN MY CHILD'S SCHOOL, THERE ARE CLEAR  
RULES AGAINST PHYSICALLY HURTING  
OTHER PEOPLE (SUCH AS HITTING, PUSH-  
ING, OR TRIPPING).

**72%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**14%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**13%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 1% no response

**Q15**

MY CHILD'S SCHOOL TRIES TO GET  
FAMILIES TO BE PART OF  
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

**74%** AGREE  
STRONGLY AGREE

**13%** NEITHER AGREE  
OR DISAGREE

**12%** DISAGREE  
STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* 1% no response



## NEXT STEPS

Fridley Public Schools would like to thank all Fridley Public Schools parents who took the time to complete the survey and offer valuable feedback. The communications department, administer of the survey, is currently meeting with school leaders to share information and insight gathered. Action plans will be communicated to parents and community members during the 2018-19 school year.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

This summer, Fridley Public Schools began the third and final phase of construction projects that began in the summer of 2016. Much needed upgrades and renovations were made possible through the generosity of the Fridley community that passed a \$27,500,000 bond referendum in 2015. During the past two summers, safety and security upgrades, technology upgrades, HVAC upgrades, deferred maintenance, site improvements and kitchen/cafeteria upgrades have been completed at all schools. In addition, classrooms have been added at the elementary schools; gymnasiums have been renovated at the middle school and high school; and the high school auditorium has been upgraded.

This summer, the district's construction projects will include security upgrades, technology upgrades and deferred maintenance, as well as renovations to be completed at the Fridley Community Center and high school. Listed below are a summary of the projects which will limit access to buildings and parking over the course of the summer.

## Fridley Community Center:

- Offices will be reorganized and Enrollment Center will move from the ALC location to the FCC
- Entrances and hallways will be redesigned to maximize security
- Outdated technology wiring will be replaced

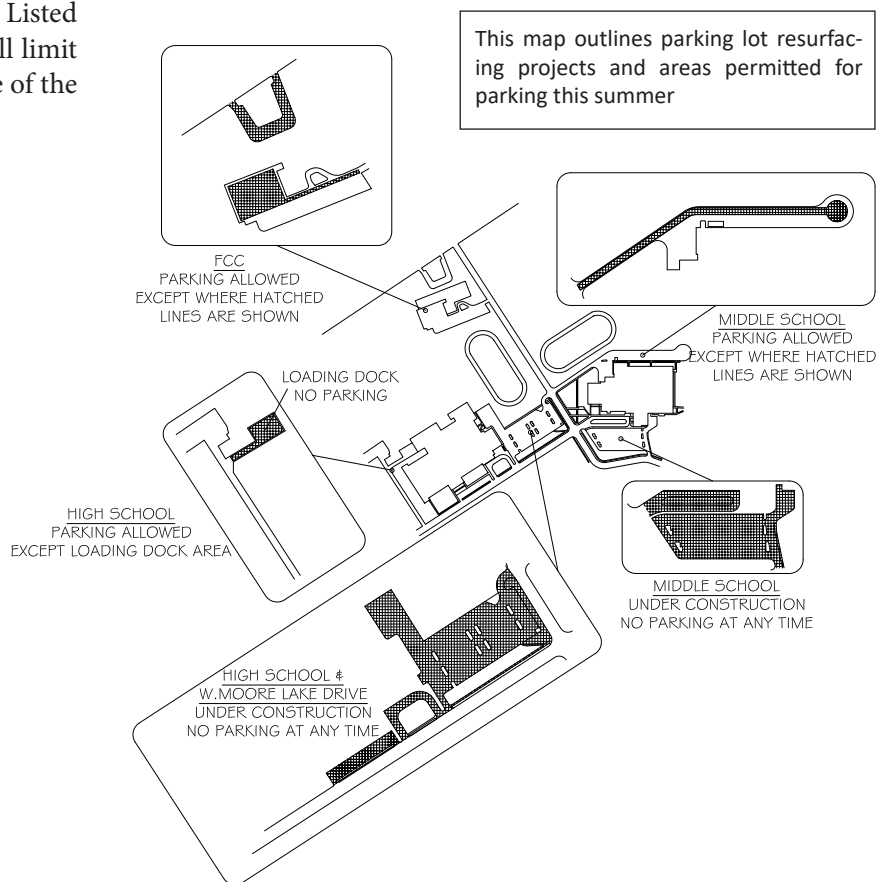
## Fridley High School:

### Front Office Reorganization

- New main entrance will be Door 1. Door 2 will no longer be for public access – only staff
- New design will provide a more secure entry for students and parents
- Beginning September 2018, School Board meetings will be held in the high school media center (City of Fridley has built a new city hall in Spring Lake Park school district - board meetings need to be held in the Fridley School District)

### Gymnasium Entrance

- New entrance design (Door 15) will provide a prominent and secure entry for school events.
- This entrance/exit will provide entrance/exit for bus students
- Parent drop off/pick up will be in the horseshoe, where bus drop/pick up is currently located
- Bus drop off/pick up will be located at the west side of the current parking lot (east of football field)
- Traffic will only enter at the north entrance of the parking lot and exit at the east side of the parking lot.



## Parking Lots:

Fridley High School and Fridley Middle School parking lots are being resurfaced this summer through abatement bond funds.

### High School Parking Lot Resurfacing

- North parking lot (north of the football field) will be resurfaced and curb replaced.
- East parking lot (front of the building) will also be resurfaced and expanded.
- Door 3 (southeast corner) will be summer access for staff and public. The City of Fridley will also be doing construction on West Moore Lake Drive so parking on the street may be restricted.

### Middle School Parking Resurfacing

- East parking lot will be resurfaced with additional sidewalks added to provide for safer student drop-off by parents. Jersey barriers currently in place will be replaced with sidewalks.



## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018



### Class of 2018

Among the Class of 2018, students earned the following designations:

- 18 full IB Diploma Candidates
- 26 IB Scholars (four or more IB diploma courses with external exams)
- 2 students graduated with Associate's Degrees from Anoka Ramsey Community College
- 23 AVID Students
- 14 Presidential Education Award students
- 25 graduated with Honors (GPA 3.25-3.49)
- 17 graduated with High Honors (GPA 3.5-3.74)
- 27 graduated with Highest Honors (GPA 3.75 and above)







# 197 seniors

graduated from Fridley High School on May 31, 2018

Seniors celebrated and tossed their caps in the air as they officially became Fridley High School alumni at the 60th commencement ceremony in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.



## Class of 2018 student speakers



1. Miranda Olson & Jasmine Pierce 2. Christen Doe & Pajai Xiong 3. Tenzin Choesang 4. Nicolas Fite, 5. Jennifer Ollila 6. De'ovion O'Neal

## Graduating seniors return to past elementary schools

As the Class of 2018 prepared to walk across the stage, they walked through their former elementary school hallways first, providing inspiration for the next generation. A longstanding tradition in the district, Fridley High School seniors paid a visit to Hayes and R.L. Stevenson Elementary Schools on May 25, 2018. Excited elementary students lined the hallways and gave the seniors a hero's welcome, holding signs, giving high-fives and cheering on the soon-to-be FHS alumni.

Pictured below is senior Goamar Pal, placing his graduation cap on beaming Hayes Elementary kindergarten student Bilal Ahmed. In addition to the nostalgic moments for the FHS seniors, this tradition provides inspiration for the district's youngest learners.



CELEBRATING

# FRIDLEY GRADS

Graduation  
Celebrations  
Around  
Fridley Public  
Schools



## Area Learning Center Graduation

The Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC) held its graduation ceremony on May 22, 2018 to honor 21 students who earned their high school diplomas.

"I'm amazed by the great things that happen at our school each and every day," said ALC Principal Dr. Jason Bodey. "I want to say thank you to the parents and family members for your collaboration and support." He added that without the ALC staff, this would not be possible. "You make each day a great day for our students, and you are a big part of why these students are here today as well," he said.

ALC alumna Tiffani Little, as well as Teacher on Special Assignment Josh Thurston and ALC Social Worker Mackenzie Laurion, gave speeches during the ceremony. Students then received their diplomas, with the opportunity to speak to the crowd and show their appreciation.

ALC graduate Antania Goff (*pictured above*) expressed her gratitude. "I want to say thank you to everybody. The ALC most definitely changed my life a lot," Goff said. "Thank you to my best friend's family, boyfriend, my family, especially my sisters and my mom, and very special thank you to my teachers." Goff credited the ALC teachers and staff for helping her gain admission into Saint Cloud University, where she will be studying this fall to become a social worker.

ALC graduate Danielle Hoff thanked her teachers for encouraging her to keep going. "If it wasn't for Phil [ALC social studies teacher], I wouldn't be here today. Every time I wanted to stop, he encouraged me to keep going," Hoff said. She added special 'thank yous' to all the ALC teachers for helping her continue on her journey.

## FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2017-18 GRADUATES

21

Fridley Moore Lake Area  
Learning Center graduates

4

students graduated from the  
Fridley Transition Program

19

students graduated who were  
involved in the Fridley English  
Learners (EL) Program during  
their time in the district

114

4-year-old Fridley Preschool  
students graduated from the  
district's Voluntary Preschool  
Program





## Fridley Preschool Graduation

Proud parents and families watched their kindergarten-ready 4-year-olds graduate from Fridley Preschool on June 7, 2018. The 114 preschool students, who will make up the future class of 2031, happily waved and smiled at their parents as they lined the stage, sporting their own self-decorated graduation caps.

Graduation ceremonies were held for both the morning and afternoon preschool sessions. Students performed songs they had practiced in class and walked across the stage as teachers presented them with certificates. The excited preschool graduates squealed with happiness as they called themselves 'kindergarteners' for the first time at the conclusion of the ceremony.

## EL Program Graduation

The Fridley High School English Learners (EL) program held its annual Senior Farewell celebration on May 11, 2018. The purpose of the celebration is to honor all the graduating seniors who have participated in the EL program at the school over the last four years. By featuring the graduating EL students and showcasing their hard work and success inside and outside the classroom, the celebration aims to inspire current EL students to achieve similar or greater levels of success themselves.

"It is always thrilling to see students succeed and to honor their accomplishments," said EL teacher Rachel Imholte. "The 2018 EL graduates are a wonderful group of students who are hardworking, intelligent, and perhaps most important, compassionate. I will miss their enthusiasm and their willingness to take risks. However, I am happy to see them move on and embrace new challenges." The class of 2018 has a total of 19 seniors who have been involved in the EL program.



## Transition Program Graduation

Fridley Transition held a graduation celebration to honor its graduating students on June 6, 2018. The program focuses on assisting students ages 18-21 as they progress from an educational high school setting toward living and working as independently as possible. The four students graduating this year are Anthony Flowers, Eric Tjader, Grae Wilson and Erik Wolfe. For the student-led ceremony, the new graduates decorated the room, created a guest list, sent invitations and planned the program.

"They really take ownership in the process and it serves as a culmination for all the work they have done during their time at Transition," said Alissa Blood, Fridley Transition teacher. "The goal for every student in the Transition program is for them to become as independent as possible. Graduation serves as a nice example of their growth to both themselves and their families."

Blood said all students have shown unbelievable growth during their time through the program. "They know themselves so much better. They are setting goals for their future that are going to help them be successful long term," she said. "As a teacher, I'm very proud of these students, but the most powerful thing about the graduation ceremony is how proud they are of themselves."



**THE NEXT CHAPTER:** On May 31, 2018, Fridley High School celebrated its 197 new graduates as they officially earned their diplomas at the 60th commencement ceremony in Roy Wilkins Auditorium.



From humble beginnings and richly diverse backgrounds, the Fridley High School Class of 2018 has excelled over the course of the last four years. This hard work and dedication has developed some of the most high-achieving students, many of whom are living out their parents' "American Dream." Here is a short glimpse of seven students, some of whom have overcome unimaginable challenges, who we are proud to call Fridley alumni.

## TENZIN CHOESANG

Tenzin Choesang grew up within the Fridley school district, from Hayes Elementary School, Fridley Middle School, to graduating from Fridley High School. A highly successful and motivated student, Tenzin is proud to represent his Tibetan roots and rich culture.

His father fled Tibet due to Chinese sovereignty, reinforced by military occupation in 1950. He settled in Nepal, where he met Tenzin's mother, later immigrating to the United States in the late 1990s. Tenzin is thankful for the opportunity to pursue higher education as a first-generation college student. He will attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and is considering majors in political science or international relations.

"I'm interested in knowing more about international law. In Tibet, there is a lack of human rights and I believe that I could someday bring more awareness

to that issue and help," Tenzin said.

Tenzin has participated in numerous activities and clubs, including student council, performing arts club, speech team, and Key Club. One of his most memorable moments was the Key Club Socktober Sleep Out, an annual fundraiser and event that raises awareness about homelessness. The event collects socks for those in need and students also spend the night outdoors housed in cardboard boxes.

"It was really cold, windy, and I woke up the next morning with a severe cold," Tenzin said. "It's ironic because you don't forget being in that space, but some people go through that everyday. I'm glad I was able to help raise supplies and awareness for this issue."

Tenzin said his favorite class



TENZIN DELIVERED THE WELCOME ADDRESS AT THIS YEAR'S FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL 60TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ON MAY 31, 2018.

was Theory of Knowledge, taught by his favorite teacher Tim Leistikow. "He's a great person and a great teacher," Tenzin said about Leistikow. Tenzin is also thankful to his parents, father Tashi Nyima and mother Dolma Tsering, who have always encouraged and supported him.

As for words of advice for incoming freshmen, Tenzin said students should never be afraid

to take a challenge or risk. He recommends to Fridley students to take advantage of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP).

"One of my biggest regrets is not doing full DP," Tenzin said. "I know I had the potential to do it. Take the risk and challenge yourself. If you don't challenge yourself, you won't grow as a person."



Starting school in the United States was no easy task for Halah Abbood. Growing up in war-torn Iraq, the amount of challenges she has already overcome is incomparable to many students of her age. She and her family struggled, moving from city to city across Iraq to avoid the ravages of war. Luckily, Halah and her immediate family were able to immigrate to the U.S. in 2014.

"When I came here, I knew close to no English," said Halah. "Day after day, I was learning more words. Even at home, I was watching movies without subtitles, listening to English songs. I never gave up. I was always working so hard."

She began at Fridley High School in the English Learner's program as a freshman. Since the beginning of her senior year, Halah is out of the EL program. She proudly earned impressive

grades in her International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme classes, has been part of National Honor Society since junior year, and is now graduating near the top of her class with high honors. Celebrating immense success, Halah said one of her favorite memories at Fridley High School was the first time that she was honored at a ceremony for National Honor Society.

"When I was back home in Iraq, I used to get high grades but they couldn't honor me because of the issues and everything that is happening," she said. "They don't have the things that can make students happy. It was my first time being honored here for my high GPA. I was so happy and proud. When I looked at my parents and they were proud of me, that was the best thing ever."

Halah is appreciative of all the aspects of her journey through

Fridley High School. "I appreciate my friends who always stuck by me. I appreciate my teachers, what they've taught me and have made me grow as a person. I appreciate every memory here because all of them were positive."

Particularly, Halah is thankful for Ms. Imholte and Mr. MacDonald. "They always listened to me and helped me through a lot. They were very supportive to me and encouraged me." She also is thankful for her mother Shaymaa Al-Zaidi and her father Ghassah Alwan.

Halah's words of advice is to never give up on learning. "Learning new things will make you successful," Halah said. "Do



your work, just don't give up, and always be respectful."

Halah has an interest in dentistry and will be attending Anoka-Ramsey Community College this fall. Her goal is to transfer to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities after two years.



Kane Kollie works day-in and day-out to make his parents proud. Since he was little, he has always been thankful for the blessing of life because his mother struggled through her pregnancy.

"My mom fled Liberia due to the civil war. It wasn't safe for her to be there, especially with her being pregnant with me at that time," Kane said. "I almost wasn't born because my mom contracted a sickness, and every hospital

she went to couldn't help her."

By miracle, Kane was born as a healthy 9-lb baby in a small refugee camp in Ghana. He was raised in the camp until he was four-years-old when his family qualified for citizenship in the United States. They first arrived in Houston, Texas, and later relocated to Minnesota.

"My dad and my mom have worked so hard, that's why I work so hard and do what I do now," Kane said. "Everything that they

## KANE KOLLIE

KANE WITH HIS PARENTS, KAREN AND RANSFORD, AND BROTHER, KANIEL, AT THE SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET ON MAY 18, 2018.

have been through up until now, it means so much to me. I have always promised myself that I will pay them back. I know for a fact that I will pay them back."

Kane added that he trying to set a good example for his six-year-old brother Kaniel Asare, who always looks up to his older brother.

At Fridley, Kane has played basketball and participated in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a college-readiness program.

"AVID really changed me," said Kane. "When I was in middle school, I was a huge procrastinator. But I think that AVID has taught me to be responsible and I'm more articulate speaking in front of people. Also in AVID, we're all so diverse and you get the chance to meet and work with everybody. I like the team-bonding activities that we do."

Kane described his experi-

ence at Fridley to be fun, loving, and overall great. "You meet so many types of people," he said. "It's a small school, so the friends that you make, you see them everywhere. I like seeing the same faces. It's definitely like a family environment."

Kane gave a special thank you to his favorite Fridley High School teachers: Ms. Jensen, Mr. Nalepka and Mr. Holt.

His advice to freshman is to "just do your work" and "never procrastinate." "Even if you think you'll have time later, you will not have time," Kane said. "Never procrastinate and you won't have anything to regret when the deadline hits."

Kane will be attending a local community college to pursue his interest in business management and network marketing.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

## ASHLEY HARRISON

As a 17-year-old, Ashley Harrison has stresses that many of her fellow students are not burdened with. Ashley lives in the United States, while her mother, father and brothers live in Mexico, separated and strained by the immigration system.

Ashley was born in Minnesota, but moved to Mexico when she was 10 years old due to her parents' immigration status.

"When it came time to start looking for colleges during my junior year, the only ones I was considering were across the border," Ashley said. "It took awhile for my parents to decide that I should come here, but they knew it was best."

Ashley began at Fridley High School in 2016, the middle of her junior year. Since moving away, she has been able to support herself, working hard for money to buy groceries and her basic living needs.

She is thankful for the friends that she's made along the way. She echoes the sentiment, "Fridley Friendly," as everyone has been understanding and welcoming since she first arrived at the school.

"I will always remember coming here alone, and everyone was just so nice to me, the teachers, the students," Ashley said. "It was such a nice surprise. I remember crying tears of joy to my mom on the phone."

Ashley's words of advice is to always find a balance. "When you balance your personal life, your school life, your work life, it makes you a better adult. You learn responsibility and how to manage your time." She said she found that balance by learning from her mistakes.

"We have this saying in Mexico, 'Don't trip with the same rock twice,'" she said. "Always learn from your mistakes and remem-

ber what you felt like when you made the mistake."

Ashley has found a second-family in the teachers at Fridley and gives a special thank you to Ms. Jensen, Ms. Latzka, and Ms. Hatling.

"They go above and beyond; they are like my parents here," she said. "They are constantly checking in on how I'm feeling or how I'm doing at school, physically and mentally. All my teachers have been amazing."

Ashley is thankful for her parents' emotional support, mother Aydee Jacinto and father Cesar Harrison. She is also thankful for her godmother Andrea Ojeda, who has been one of her biggest

supporters through her journey at Fridley High School.

Ashley will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire this fall with a major in pre-med. Her goal is to become a plastic surgeon. Her mother survived breast cancer and she aims to someday help people in similar situations through reconstructive surgery.



ASHLEY AT FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S 60TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ON MAY 31, 2018.

## FRANK VALTIERREZ

Frank Valtierrez is determined to excel in everything that he does, a quality of himself that he credits to his hardworking parents. His parents are from Guanaceví, Durango, Mexico. His father was independent at a young age and came to the United States at 17 years old.

Frank said his father didn't have the chance to even enter high school because the last grade available to him was 8th grade.

"Coming over here, my father had no one else to support him. There wasn't an opportunity to enroll at a school or continue education," said Frank. "So it's from them, my mother and father, that I get most of my motivation to succeed in life. I want to give them everything that they sacrificed and more because I know they deserve it. They want me to succeed and I just have to put the effort in."

At Fridley High School, Frank

is a three-sport athlete. He was a captain in football, as well as a strong leader in both baseball and basketball. He is also part of Become Worth Following, a student-athlete leadership program; Link Crew; and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Frank's words of advice are to "take the risk." As a full International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme candidate, he said the hard work is a stepping stone to continue on a successful life path.

"Doing the Extended Essay and all those hours of community service was hard, but you learn that in life, you're going to need those kind of skills to succeed," said Frank. "It allows you to establish a platform for yourself. You know what you're capable of and what you can handle as far as stress level, ability to do quality work, and manage your time. It's very helpful when you know

you can achieve whatever you want to do."

Frank appreciates the close-knit group of friends that he has made at Fridley High School over the years.

"To me, Fridley has a community that is just not matched anywhere else because of how close-knit everyone is here," said Frank. "I've gotten to know the same core of people in class, activities and just walking down the hallway. I've made friendships with people that I wouldn't see myself talking to years ago, but it's been a fun time getting to know new people and making friends along the way."



FRANK WILL BE ATTENDING CARLETON COLLEGE THIS FALL.

He extends thank you's to his favorite teachers, Mr. Nalepka, Ms. Jensen, and Ms. Latzka, as well as his football coach Justin Reese, coach MacDonald, and all his Fridley coaches.

Frank will be attending Carleton College in Northfield, Minn, where he plans to major in economics and minor in Spanish.





## SHADIN ELKHAIR

SHADIN & HER FAVORITE TEACHERS AT THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE ATHLETE SIGNING CEREMONY. FROM LEFT: LIZ JENSEN, ELIZABETH WINKELMAN, SHADIN AND CHRISTINE NALEPKA.

From balancing athletics, academics, family and a social life, Shadin Elkhair has worked hard to find success at Fridley Public Schools.

Shadin's parents are from Sudan and won a visa lottery in 1999 to immigrate to the United States. Born and raised in Fridley, ever since she can remember, Shadin recalls her parents diligently working day-in and day-out to support their family.

"It's been hard; we had it rough growing up," Shadin said. "I never asked for anything when I was younger because I knew our situation, and I know how hard my parents work. My older sister (who is four years her elder) would take care of us. Then

when my sister got a job at 16, it was just me taking care of my little sister."

Her younger sister, Shatha, is in 7th grade at Fridley Middle School. Shadin tries hard to spoil her and care for her as much as she is able. "I try to set a good example for her and challenge her. I feel like it's my responsibility to care for her," she said.

Shadin said she is fortunate to have found a second family at Fridley Public Schools. Some of her teachers, who she considers to play mother-figure and sister-figure roles, have helped her through tough times.

"I've definitely built a bond with Ms. Jensen. We have our highs and lows, but I look at her

like a mother-figure. She is someone that I can talk to, especially this year, when things were getting stressful with preparing for college and everything."

Shadin added that Ms. Winkelman and Ms.

Nalepka have helped her through many challenges this year, as well as given her opportunities and helpful advice.

Her two best friends, Jamia Johnson and Ben ZayZay, are also incredibly supportive, attending her track and field meets and achievement banquets.

"I'm thankful that I've found my group of people," she said. "They are like family. We always look out for each other and we do everything together."

Shadin is very involved with sports and clubs at Fridley. She was a captain in both soccer and track, and participated in Become Worth Following (a student-athlete

leadership program), National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and Vice President in African American Student Union (AASU).

Being part of AASU is one of her most memorable experiences at Fridley High School. When Shadin joined during her sophomore year, the club wasn't as big as it is today. She said she's learned a lot from participating in the club and was designated Vice President during her senior year.

"We've all grown so much since the beginning of AASU and we've really become more of a family," she said.

Shadin will be attending Augsburg University where she will focus in mathematics, with hopes to pursue a future in architecture or art design. She will also be throwing discus on the Augsburg track and field team.

## SIAFFAH KIAZOLU

Siaffah Kiazolu is now an official Fridley High School alum, and although his path to graduation was an untraditional route, Siaffah persevered through challenges that showed he had true Tiger GRIT.

Siaffah joined the Fridley school district as a freshman. He and his family had moved to Brooklyn Park, and when it came time to enroll in high school, he and his sister were immediately interested in attending Fridley. Coming from a small, private school in Minneapolis, his family was searching for a district like Fridley - small school size and close-knit community.

Admittedly, Siaffah said he did not take school seriously from freshman to junior year.

"When senior year came around, I realized I was missing credits," he said. "That's when I transferred to the ALC (Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning

Center)." With this switch, another burden arose - Siaffah lost reliable transportation to get to school. He knew that if he did not finish his required classes, he would not graduate with his class. Siaffah stayed focused and determined to earn his credits.

"I was told by everyone that I couldn't do it," he said. "I wanted to prove them wrong. I wanted to make my family proud, my mom proud, and myself proud." And he would do it, walking to school through rain and snow. Living in Brooklyn Park, Siaffah's walk to school was more than an hour. "I just had to get to school, that's all I was thinking about while I was walking - just getting to school to get my work done."

Siaffah's mother, Williametta, supported her son all the way. "I know my child and what he was capable of," she said. "I knew he could do it with the right opportunity and support. I'm so happy

that he was able to conquer all the obstacles that were in his way."

He said the entire situation gave him a new perspective on things. "It's my own actions that led me to where I was, but I was motivated to change it. I'm thankful that I was given the opportunity to change it."

As a young child Siaffah was always interested in the inner workings of devices and machines - taking apart cable boxes, watches, vacuums - just to learn about the mechanics inside. Siaffah is still considering his options for college plans this fall, but he knows he would like to pursue a degree in a technology or an engineering field.

Siaffah said the best advice



SIAFFAH EARNED HIS FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA THROUGH THE FRIDLEY AREA MOORE LAKE AREA LEARNING CENTER PROGRAM.

that he received is that he is in control of his future. "The choices that I make today will affect me today, tomorrow and the rest of my life. Now, I see my future as very bright. If you focus, you have the opportunity to do whatever you want."

His true grit paid off, Siaffah celebrated his high school graduation with the class of 2018, walking across the stage one day before his 18th birthday.

# College & CAREER READY

*Fridley High School's International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme teaches specialized and vocational skills for post-secondary success*

Whether pursuing a four-year degree or studying a skilled trade, Fridley Public Schools has provided a pathway for students to become “college and career-ready.”

In 2016, Fridley High School earned the International Baccalaureate (IB) Career-related Programme (CP) authorization, becoming one of three high schools in Minnesota to offer the full IB continuum. Like the Diploma Programme (DP), the CP is an academic option open to students entering their final two years of secondary school. The focus of the CP is to provide students the option of learning varied and practical skills, providing a strong foundation for those who are interested in a specific career path. The classes offered

as part of the CP also allow students the opportunity to earn college credits, as well as earn nationally-accredited certification, all prior to graduating high school.

Fridley High School currently offers the Emergency Medical Technician/Emergency Medical Responder (EMT/EMR) pathway and Information Technology (IT) pathway. According to Fridley IB Coordinator Jessica Baker, both career paths are up-and-coming and garner a valuable skill set.

“We chose these pathways by looking at Minnesota workforce data and its projections in the next 10 years. Healthcare and IT careers are some of the highest in demand, and don’t necessarily require a four-year degree,” said

Baker.

As part of enrollment in the CP, students also partake in rigorous coursework by taking two IB Diploma Programme classes, an IB Personal and Professional Skills class, participate in service learning, and take language development classes, as well as completion of the Reflective Project - a culminating project in which students focus on an ethical dilemma in their chosen career field. Under the IB CP framework, students develop the skills and gain experience to be ready for whatever post-secondary option they may choose, whether it be transferring into a two- or four-year university or immediately entering their career field.

“With all these components mixed in, it raises the rigor of the CP so students graduate from the program as well-rounded, competitive and employable young adults with a certification in their career track,” said Baker.

## Pathways to success

At Fridley High School, all students partake in at least three DP classes, equalizing the exposure to college preparatory classes. Similarly, all Fridley students are eligible to participate in the electives offered on each CP pathway. Over 100

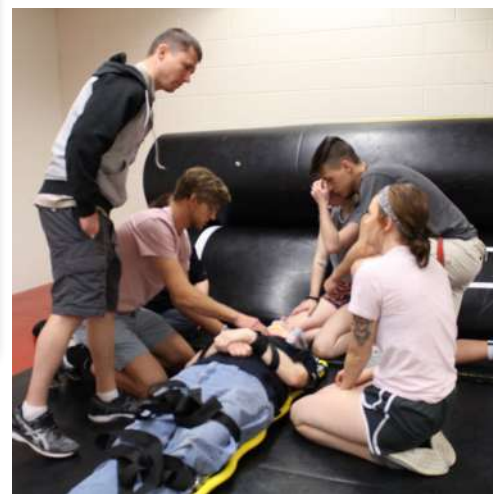


BARBARA LEMIEUX (LEFT), DESTINY SAMUEL-LAWSON (CENTER) AND MATTHEW MESSERICH PRACTICE THEIR HANDS-ON SKILLS IN THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN COURSE AT FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL.





**TOP PHOTO:** OLIVIA RICHARD (LEFT) AND SAMANTHA KIENTOP (RIGHT) FIT A CERVICAL COLLAR ONTO A VOLUNTEER EMS PROFESSIONAL. **RIGHT PHOTOS:** SENIORS NATE SOTO AND NOAH COUWENHOVEN ASSIST OLIVIA AND SAMANTHA IN MOVING THE PATIENT ONTO A STRETCHER. THROUGH IN-DEPTH BOOKWORK AND WEEKLY HANDS-ON SKILLS TRAINING WITH PROFESSIONALS, STUDENTS LEARN THE NECESSARY INFORMATION AND SKILLS TO PREPARE TO BE CERTIFIED EMRS AND EMTS.



students have taken advantage of these career-focused classes in the past year.

## EMT/EMR Pathway

On the EMT/EMR pathway, students participate in Fridley High School's Occupational Emergency Care (OEC) program, which features the EMR and EMT class electives.

EMR, the prerequisite to EMT, serves as an overview of basic first responder and pre-hospital care. Within the first two weeks of class, students earn certification in health care provider-level CPR and AED training, the top-level CPR certification. Upon completion of the course, as well as a passing score on both a skills and written test, students can earn EMR certification through the state of Minnesota.

Students then move onto the EMT course, an intensive emergency medical service class. The class prepares students to earn national certification as an EMT following the course. Through in-depth bookwork and weekly hands-on skills training with professionals, students learn the necessary information and skills to prepare to be certified.

EMTs are also required to have 10 patient contacts, which is made possible to Fridley students through ride-along experiences through North Memorial Ambulance Service in Forest Lake. Students must be 18 to participate in the ride-along, so an alternative option for 17-year-olds is ride-along medical responses in partnership with

**“I knew that earning certification as an EMT would help me along the road. I’m able to get jobs as an EMT and start my medical career before I even graduate high school.”**

SAMANTHA KIENTOP  
FHS SENIOR

Fridley Fire Department or Fridley Police Department.

Senior Samantha Kientop has a goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. “I knew that these classes would help me tremen-

dously in my journey to my BSN (Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing). I knew that earning certification as an EMT would help me along the road. I’m able to get jobs as an EMT and start my medical career before I even graduate high school,” she said.

In addition to nationally-accredited certification, Fridley’s OEC program offers concurrent enrollment with Pine Technical and Community College. Students can earn three credits in the EMR class, while EMT offers six. As part of the Minnesota state school system, the combined nine credits are easily transferable to any Minnesota public college or university, as well as private colleges which offer similar courses.

Fridley OEC Instructor Eric Anderson said students who take his courses are interested in a variety of career paths, including law enforcement, physical or occupational therapy, pre-med and nursing. Anderson added that there are also many students who don’t necessarily want to pursue this career, but are interested in learning these life-saving skills.

“There have been several instances where students have told me that



they've used their life-saving skills outside of school," Anderson said. "It's pretty cool to teach them those life lessons. We're not just a class that offers college credit. Our students are actually out there saving lives, whether they are doing it as a career or not. I think that's rewarding in itself, and our current students always enjoy hearing those stories."

### Information Technology Pathway

On the IT pathway, students take both Introduction to Computer Science and A+ Programming, a hardware and software computer class. Each class is taught every other year and readily prepares students to earn CompTIA A+ certification, an entry-level credential for computer support specialists.

The classes offer articulated credit, which means students can earn college credit if they choose to attend a community or technical college in partnership with Fridley High School, including Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Hennepin Technical College,

among others. This is a common path for many Fridley grads - to earn general education credits at a two-year community college and later transfer to earn a four-year degree.

No matter the path, students can

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**"We're learning about how these systems work and how do you solve the problems that you're going to run into when you're working in the industry. Our students really get that hands-on experience and know exactly how this work can be applied."**

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MICHELLE MINER  
CAREER & TECH ED TEACHER

benefit by earning the CompTIA A+ certification while in high school. This certification is the preferred qualifying credential for entry-level technical

support and IT operational roles. According to the CompTIA website, it is recommended to have at least nine to 12 months work experience prior to testing for CompTIA A+ certification. Fridley's classes teach hands-on field-work skills, making it a valuable experience for high school students. With this certification, students can work part-time at a highly-skilled job while in college, or immediately enter the IT field if they so choose.

"We're learning how to run a Windows platform, how to troubleshoot, all the components of hardware and software," said Michelle Miner, Career and Technology Education teacher. "We're learning about how these systems work and how do you solve the problems that you're going to run into when you're working in the industry. Our students really get that hands-on experience and know exactly how it can be applied."

Senior Mohamed Ahmed said both IT pathway classes have been valuable in further developing his computer skills. "I was first interested in computer science after watching programmers on YouTube," Mohamed said. "In these



classes, I've learned a lot through the hands-on work, when we get to take apart computers and put them back together."

Mohamed said he enjoyed when Miner would allow the class to take explore the computers, digging into the hard drives, finding certain parts and describing their function.

"We just learned from there," Mohamed said. "You can't really learn IT work any other way. I'm a visual learner, so there's nothing like learning kinetically."

### Career-ready graduates

For the first time since CP authorization, Class of 2018 graduates Jozefa Vescio Schreiner and Justin Anderson are the first to complete the full CP at Fridley High School. Both Justin and Jozefa are planning to complete a two-year computer engineering/computer science program at Hennepin Technical College upon graduation. With the valuable hands-on skills that they have gained from CP, both are confident in their abilities and look forward to the future ahead.

Jozefa knew that the CP would be a great opportunity to take specific technology classes while in high school. "I've learned a lot in my computer science classes and tech classes," Jozefa said. "The CP pathway gives you a very marketable

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**"The CP pathway gives you a very marketable skill. Especially with the rise of technology, more and more companies are hiring specialized tech workers. It's really been a great experience to get into technology before you're out in the real world."**

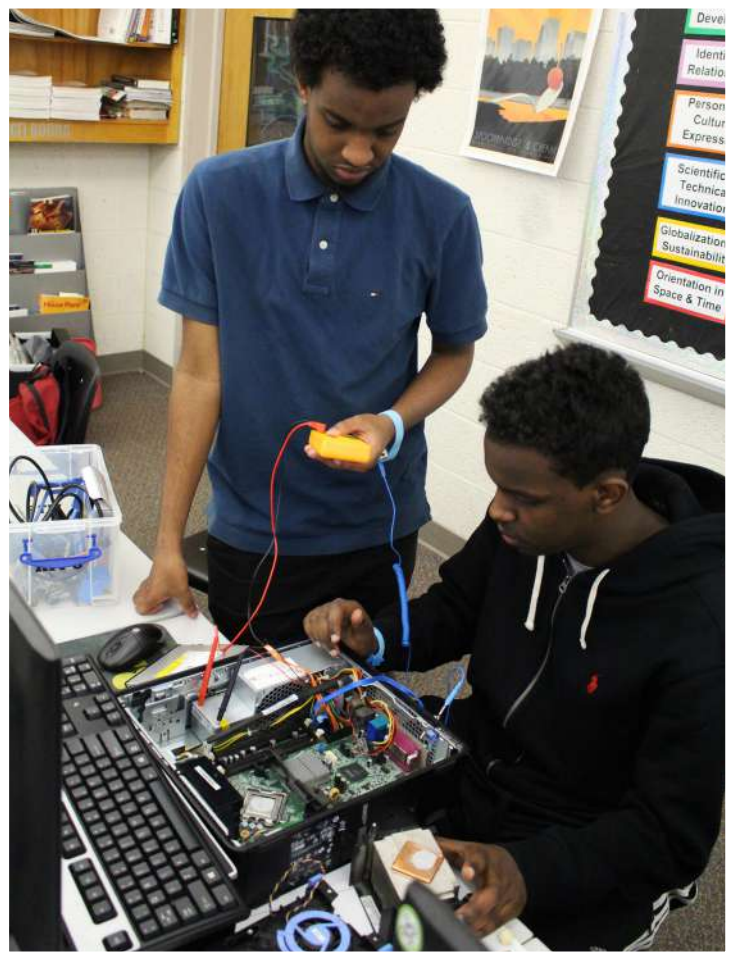
JOZEFA VESCIO SCHREINER  
FHS SENIOR

skill. Especially with the rise of technology, more and more companies are hiring specialized tech workers. It's really been a great experience to get into technology before you're out in the real world."

"If you're thinking about attending a technical college or thinking about a skill-specific career, then CP is a great option," said Miner. "CP is attuned to what your needs are, so you're getting the skills that you need to be successful after you leave Fridley."

Miner encourages students to learn more about the CP if their interests align with either pathway at Fridley High School.

"Even if you aren't on the pathway, you can still take advantage of these classes. We want our kids to look back at their Fridley education and know that they are prepared in whatever they aim to do. With the CP pathways, we can get you ready, you can walk out of school with credits and certification, and be ready for a career. We just want our kids to be prepared for their futures."



MOHAMED AHMED (LEFT) AND OMAR AHMED EXPLORING A COMPUTER HARD-DRIVE IN MICHELLE MINER'S A+ PROGRAMMING CLASS, ONE OF THE TWO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES AT FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL.



preparing for college  
& careers at FHS

*On each CP Pathway, Fridley High School students have the opportunity to test for entry-level, nationally accredited certifications.*

#### EMT/EMR PATHWAY

- Healthcare provider-level CPR and AED training
- EMR Certification (State of Minnesota)
- EMT Certification (nationally recognized)

#### IT PATHWAY

- CompTIA A+ Certification





## OUR STUDENTS

### FMS students earn third place in St. Cloud University Mathematics Contest

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.



### FMS students honored at Academic All-Stars Celebration

Over 270 Fridley Middle School students were honored at the Academic All-Stars Celebration the morning of May 4, 2018. The purpose of the annual event is to recognize the hard work and persistence that middle school students have shown in pursuit of their education. To receive an Academic All-Star invitation, students must have at least 80 percent of their reported scores as Mastering or Excelling on their Achievement Scores and Meeting or Exceeding on their Process Score.



### FHS senior athletes sign letters of commitment



Congratulations to ten Fridley High School seniors who signed their letters of commitment on May 2, 2018 during the Senior Signing Day celebration. Proud parents, family members, friends, Fridley coaches and teachers celebrated the athletes as they signed off on their official college commitments.

Fridley Athletics Director Dan Roff said College Signing Day is always an exciting culminating moment for him and Fridley students.

“We’re proud to be building a college-going culture here at Fridley. It’s important to honor these students. It’s a real commitment and we are very proud of them.”

DAN ROFF  
FRIDLEY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



## FHS junior selected as 2018 Bank of America Student Leader

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



## FHS seniors honored at 60th Scholastic Achievement & Recognition Banquet



Fridley High School held its 60th Scholastic Achievement & Recognition Banquet on May 17, 2018. The Scholastic Banquet, sponsored by the Fridley Lions Club, is held annually to honor Fridley High School students who have earned high achievements and accolades. The Fridley Schools Foundation awarded 77 scholarships totaling over \$115,000 thanks to generous donations from community members and organizations. Three students were also awarded a total of \$6,000 Sterling Award scholarships given by the Fridley Alumni Choir.

This year, 18 students graduated as International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) Candidates and 25 students graduated with the IB Scholar distinction. IB Diploma Candidates have completed the requirements of the IB DP and are eligible to earn the internationally-recognized IB diploma. An "IB Scholar" is a student who chose to complete a rigorous program of study during the past two years. The students completed at least four IB DP courses, including the completion of the final IB exams. Sixty-nine students earned honors designation, while 14 students were awarded the Presidential Education Award.



## Fridley Middle School holds 8th grade recognition ceremony

Fridley Middle School honored the future class of 2022 at the annual 8th grade recognition ceremony on June 1, 2018. A total of 252 students received a Fridley Middle School recognition certificate for completing 8th grade.

Sixty students earned the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, while 80 students earned the Presidential Award for Academic Distinction, both prestigious awards which recognize students who have earned some of the highest educational achievements. Recognition was also given to students who earned a high school athletic letter, placed in the History Day competition, the St. Cloud Math Contest. In addition, students who participated in various activities were recognized, including student council, Builder's Club, choir and theatre.







## 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 was part of the YMCA's youth-led 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.

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 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.

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.

## AVID students participate in NWSISD Leadership Conference

Fridley High School AVID 10-12th grade students attended the Northwestern Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD) Leadership Conference



on May 14, 2018 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. The conference allowed students to take part in various competitions and workshops, attend a college and career fair, and participate in forums. Students from the Fridley African American Student Union, many of whom are also enrolled in the AVID program, presented their own workshop on "microaggression" to conference attendees.

## FHS Young Women's Group raises money for Puerto Rico



The Fridley High School Young Women's Group worked to raise money for clean water efforts in Puerto Rico through organization H2O For Life. The Young Women's Group (YWG) is a group of female GEAR UP seniors. GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a college readiness program provided to Fridley students in a partnership with Hennepin Technical College. The program initiated in 2012 when the current seniors of the Young Women's Group were in 7th grade.

Through H2O For Life, the students raised money to purchase Waves For Water filtration systems for residents in Puerto Rico. The students bagged groceries at Cub Foods, sold H2O For Life t-shirts, and organized a fundraiser at Chipotle to help the cause.

## Fridley Robotics Team earns 7th place in state tournament

Congratulations to the Fridley Robotics Team who earned 7th place in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Minnesota state tournament on May 19, 2018. The tournament was invitation-only, with the top 36 teams competing for the state title.

The Fridley Robotics Team qualified for the state tournament after competing in the regional tournament in Duluth in early March, where they ranked 9th out of 60 teams.







## Hayes celebrates a week of world culture

Hayes Elementary School celebrated the diversity of its students with World Culture Week from May 21 to 25, 2018. The annual event allows students to learn about different countries and cultures around the world, as well as celebrate their own cultural backgrounds.

“The most important part of World Culture Week was the pride students felt at having their cultures validated and affirmed,” said Laura Charles, Hayes art teacher who helped organize the week’s activities. “They learn through these experiences that we need to see and appreciate our differences, but also see that we all smile the same, enjoy many colorful clothes, beautiful music, and fun games, no matter where we are born or where we grow up.”

Students learned greetings in various languages, listened to cultural music and played games. Students also enjoyed an “art walk around the world” activity, where they viewed and studied various forms of art displayed in the hallways around Hayes. Students stamped their “passports” as they saw art from each continent. The week culminated with a world culture fashion show and assembly. The clothing in the show came from students’ families and teachers - featuring traditional Hmong dresses, star quilts from the Lakota tribe, East African and West African attire, among many others. Hayes staff also performed their own rendition of the song, “We are the world.”

## Stevenson Elementary celebrates student success at Integrity Celebration

Stevenson Elementary held an end-of-the-year Integrity Celebration to recognize student success and achievements on May 18, 2018. Integrity Celebrations are held throughout the school year as part of the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program, with the purpose of celebrating students both academically and behaviorally.



At the celebration, students were awarded special t-shirts in recognition of their participation in Perennial Math and Bedtime Math. The final exciting activity at the celebration was a visit from Stacy the robot. Stacy belongs to an all-ladies robotics team from Mounds View High School called the Ponytail Posse. The Ponytail Posse has visited several different schools and community events to demonstrate their robot and share their mission: to encourage young girls to pursue their interests in science, math and engineering.

## FHS senior earns third place at Congressional Art Competition

Fridley High School senior Lana Yang earned third place at this year’s High School Congressional Art Competition on April 23, 2018. The competition entries are selective, with about 30 entries from a total of 11 schools. Lana’s artwork, “Cut,” was one of the three art pieces to be honored and will be displayed in 5th Congressional District Representative Keith Ellison’s office in Minneapolis for one year. This fall, Lana plans to attend the Minneapolis College of Arts and Design and major in animation.



## FHS students earn prestigious awards at MSHSL Art Competition

Fridley High School fine arts students were honored at the 4AA and 5AA Minnesota State High School League Arts Competition on April 21, 2018. The awards earned were 11 Superior Awards, the highest possible earning, and five Excellent Awards, also recognized as a high honor. Each of the 13 judges also selected a "Judge's Choice" personal favorite, and Fridley had two art pieces selected for this prestigious award.

Fridley High School senior Lana Yang earned four Superior Awards, as well as a Judge's Choice Spotlight on the Arts Award for "Dead-And-Alive." Senior Jakob Peets earned three Superior Awards and two Excellent Awards, as well as a Judge's Choice Spotlight on the Arts Award for "Headspace." Senior Christen Doe earned three Superior Awards, including a perfect score from two judges for "My Demons." Senior Layee Dukuly earned one Superior Award for his piece, "Flower Girl," as well as three Excellent Awards.



Lana Yang



Jakob Peets



Christen Doe



Layee Dukuly

## 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.

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

## Stevenson 1st graders help grow future space food

Stevenson 1st graders are helping NASA astronauts maintain a healthy diet for their future space travels. The students are collecting data as part of the Tomatosphere project, a program that offers students the opportunity to learn from "space" tomato seeds right here on Earth. Through the project, students use scientific processes to learn about plants in space, reinforcing their inquiry and exploration skills.

The project's purpose is to gather information about the effect that spaceflight has on seeds. To better understand how plant seeds react to microgravity, tomato seeds were sent on a 37-day round-trip to the International Space Station (ISS). These seeds were then distributed to classrooms across the U.S. and Canada for a blind study where students compare "space" tomato seeds to seeds that never left the Earth.

Stevenson 1st grade teacher Breana Kalal said the project fits perfectly into the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) unit "How the World Works," which focuses on how plants and animals grow and change in predictable ways through life cycles. "The Tomatosphere project provides us a fantastic opportunity to talk about how environment can impact life cycles," said Kalal. "It raises the question: can exposure to space and lack of gravity cause the predictability of the plant life cycle to change? And if it does, how so? We can accurately predict how things here on Earth work but do they work the same in space?"

The Tomatosphere project started in Stevenson 1st grade classrooms in early May. The study will continue through the 6-week Outdoor Adventures summer school class that is open to all district elementary school students.





# congratulations 2017-18 retirees



Peggy Flathmann  
Superintendent  
13 years of service



Karen Brisbois  
Administrative  
Assistant  
27 years of service



Ingrid Guse  
Community Ed.  
Instructor  
21 years of service



Carol Neilson  
MYP Coordinator  
47 years of service



Jinny Ranallo  
Paraprofessional  
16 years of service



Terri Rieser  
Special Ed.  
Coordinator  
10 years of service



Rick Robel  
Media Specialist  
9 years of service



JoAnn Rusinak  
ECSE Teacher  
18 years of service



Marsha Savelkoul  
Paraprofessional  
6 years of service



Mattie Yamauchi  
Paraprofessional  
18 years of service



Congratulations to the 10 Fridley Public Schools staff members who retired at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Together, they have accumulated 185 years of service in the district. Pictured above are five of our retirees at the Retirement Reception held on May 16, 2018. Back row, left to right: JoAnn Rusinak, Marsha Savelkoul. Front row: Mattie Yamauchi, Dr. Peggy Flathmann, and Terri Rieser.

## Fridley Schools Foundation awards teacher innovation grants

The Fridley Schools Foundation awarded nearly \$8,000 in teacher innovation grants around the district throughout the month of May. These grants were to enrich educational opportunities for students.



Due to the generosity of the community, the Foundation surpassed its \$20,000 goal at its inaugural 2018 Black & Gold Gala. With this success, the Foundation was able to bring back the tradition of awarding these grants. Grants were awarded to Fridley High School, Stevenson Elementary, Hayes Elementary, Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center, Fridley Early Childhood Family Education, Fridley Tiger Club, and the District.



## Fridley Fine Arts Festival 2018

Hundreds of Fridley students, staff and community members enjoyed a night of artistic expression at the annual Fridley Fine Arts Festival (FFAF) on May 5, 2018. FFAF is a celebration of the great accomplishments of fine arts activities throughout the district, from pre-kindergarten through high school, and also raises money to support the fine arts programs within the district.



Attendees were immersed in the creative process experience, allowing them to not only observe achievement, but to also actively participate in artistic self-expression. Various activities included creating art, watching a cultural fashion show, viewing student artwork and performances, as well as a FFAF showcase to end the night.

## Free Bikes For Kids event serves Fridley Public Schools families

Over 300 Fridley Public Schools families attended the second Free Bikes for Kids giveaway at Hayes Elementary School on April 21, 2018. Students from Hayes, Stevenson Elementary and Fridley Middle School had the opportunity to receive a free bike and helmet. The event, organized by Allina Health, is held in partnership with two nonprofits

Free Bikes 4 Kidz (FB4K) and Bikes 4 Kids. This year, the organizations held 11 total bike giveaway events throughout the metro area. The event serving Fridley Public Schools families was the largest, with over 350 bikes given away at the Hayes location.

Fridley school staff and Allina Health volunteers helped to distribute bikes

at the event. In addition, Bikes 4 Kids volunteer mechanics helped to make last minute bikes adjustments tailored to the needs of their new owners. Many of these volunteers are former and current bike shop specialists who have all kinds of bike service and repair experience.



## Fridley Public Schools hosts annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast



Fridley Public Schools recognized and honored its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on May 10, 2018. These volunteers dedicate their time and energy to supporting Fridley students, teachers and programs in various ways that greatly benefit and enhance student learning experiences throughout the year. In its seventh year, the celebration recognizes volunteers who are nominated by each school for their year-long service to students, staff, and programs. This year, over 140 volunteers were recognized.



## ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

Fridley Public School's ongoing efforts related to the management and control of asbestos containing materials is geared singularly toward providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees and other occupants of our buildings.

In addition, continuing asbestos operations, maintenance, and regular re-inspections of all remaining asbestos containing materials will be performed throughout the District.

The District continues to rigorously follow the proper procedures and steps for the various types of asbestos removal. The Institute for Environmental Assessment (IEA) has, and will continue to design and monitor all asbestos abatement projects.

During the 2017-18 school year, asbestos-containing materials were be removed as part of the Fridley Middle School construction upgrades, which were part of the referendum projects. Asbestos removal was performed by licensed contractors and was monitored by IEA.

In summer 2018, asbestos-containing materials are to be identified and removed from any areas of the District school buildings affected by scheduled construction. Fridley Public Schools will be finishing projects in Fridley Middle School, Fridley High School and Fridley Community Center. Again, asbestos removal will be performed by licensed personnel and monitored by the IEA.

Questions about asbestos maintenance, inspections, or abatement should be directed to Jason Bichler, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at 763-502-5008.

## PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION

State law requires schools to inform parents and guardians if they apply certain pesticides on school property. This law requires schools that apply pesticides to maintain an estimated schedule of pesticide application and to make the schedule available to parents and guardians for review or copying at each school office.

The law also requires that families be told that the long term health effects on children from application of pesticides or the class of chemical they belong may not be fully understood.

If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the school's estimated schedule, please contact Jason Bichler, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at the school district office.

## MONITORING OF INDOOR AIR QUALITY

The Fridley School District has developed an indoor air quality program designed to make certain that our schools continue to provide a safe environment for students and staff. The program is simple. Each school in the district will be evaluated on a yearly basis for potential problems. If problems are found, they will be corrected.

Fridley Schools will take every precaution to assure that the air in each of our schools is safe. The yearly evaluation will include a number of steps. Ventilation systems will be examined to make sure they are functioning properly and providing adequate fresh air.

Visual inspections will be made to check for signs of excess moisture from leaks that could lead to growth of molds. Cleaning practices will be reviewed to ensure that cleanliness is maintained and that cleaning supplies are safe. This year's evaluation is planned for winter 2019 by licensed personnel from the Institute for Environmental Assessment (IEA).

Results are available in the district office. If you have questions, please talk with your building Principal, or call Jason Bichler, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at 763-502-5008.



*A World-Class Community of Learners*

**FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

6000 West Moore Lake Drive

Fridley, MN 55432

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**save the date**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018

**BACK  
TO  
SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE FAIR**

Free backpacks, school supplies, and more!  
This is a FREE event for all  
Fridley Public Schools students!

**@ FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**6100 W Moore Lake Drive NE**  
**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**



**Fridley Public Schools**

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District Bulletin Summer 2018

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