



A Message from Superintendent Eric Melbye



A Year Like No Other



For more than two years we've navigated a global pandemic and the challenges it presents. During this time, we have not wavered in our care and concern for the mental and physical well-being of students and staff.

We set a goal this year to Reconnect, Refocus and improve our Relationships with students, families and our team of dedicated educators, leaders and support staff. Lofty goals that were not easy to attain. Yet we were steadfast in our belief that a consistent learning environment is best for students academically and socially, and that time away from school creates challenges for families and disrupts routines that students need to be successful. To achieve what students have been able to accomplish this year would not be possible alone. We know when schools and families work together, children have a far better chance of being successful in school and in life.

While some may focus on learning loss of the past two years, I view it as a learning opportunity. In addition to academics, activities and socialization with friends and peers, our students also learned flexibility, coping and adapting skills.

As I wrap up my first year leading the district, I wish to extend thanks and gratitude to the following groups:

- Our parents, caregivers, families and incredibly supportive community for their confidence and grace.
- All staff for their incredible effort to teach, guide and engage students under very difficult circumstances. The fortitude displayed is inspiring. Like our students, staff developed resilience, determination, grit, patience and hope.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am confident we are emerging stronger and better prepared to help every student succeed.

The past year has taught us a lot. It underscored gaps and barriers we must address. It reminded us of the challenges we face and the positive steps that change can bring. Amid our successes and missteps this year, we witnessed extraordinary capacity of our students, families and staff.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am confident we are emerging stronger and better prepared to help every student succeed. Reflecting on the past year with gratitude, I find looking ahead to a new school year with hope for more positive change to come.

New Leadership Appointments

We are pleased to announce new district and school leaders for the 2022-23 school year.



Kelly Tennison will lead Valley View Elementary School as the new principal. Tennison is currently assistant principal at Hopkins High School, and previously served as a K-12 English Learner (EL) teacher, coordinator, equity and instructional coach, and building administrator in Roseville Public Schools.

Mariah Pringnitz joins the Jefferson High School administrative team as an assistant principal. Pringnitz is currently an assistant principal at Intermediate District 287 and previously served as a special education teacher and department leader at Preble High School in Green Bay, WI.



Molly Hollenbeck was selected to become the new Kennedy High School principal, following two years as one of the school's assistant principals.

Anthony Sicoli will become the assistant principal at Valley View Middle School. Sicoli is currently an administrative dean at Chaska Middle School West. He was previously a middle and high school math teacher, and served as professional development plan coordinator and equity lead at Franklin Middle School in Minneapolis Public Schools.



Parents, Residents Praise District



Bloomington residents and parents uniformly praised the school district’s leadership and staff, quality educational programs, handling of the pandemic, fiscal responsibility and communication efforts in the latest community survey. The survey was administered to 400 randomly selected adult residents and 400 parents of BPS children.

Safe and Innovative Schools Referendum Renewal 2022

The Bloomington School Board approved a resolution to place a capital projects levy renewal question on the Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 ballot. The current school safety and technology referendum is expiring in 2024, necessitating the need to seek voter approval to renew the same tax rate.

If the renewal is approved, the levy authorization in the amount of 5.858% times the net tax capacity of the district will fund approximately \$9.8 million the first year, and is renewed for 10 years, from 2025 to 2034. The approval will result in a no tax increase on property owners as a whole, unless property values increase in the future.

The levy will continue to cover costs related to the purchasing, support and maintenance of classroom and district technology systems and programs, and school safety and security improvements, including a



visitor management system, upgrades in video and an emergency communications systems, and expanded training in threat

assessment, incident command and traumatic injury response. If the renewal is not approved by voters, it will result in the loss of \$9 million each year on technology and school safety spending.

Bloomington relies on voter approved referenda for operations (approved in 2017) and capital projects (approved in 2013). Local referenda are part of school funding in Minnesota, and all locally approved referendum dollars stay in Bloomington schools.

School-based information teams of parents and staff will be sharing information with respective families and residents. A community referendum committee is also forming to provide additional information and advocacy efforts this fall.

Thank you for 1,306 years of service

A Celebration of Service will honor 67 employees with a combined 1,308 years of teaching and supporting students. The annual reception recognizes employees with 10 or more years of employment at the time of their retirement or departure.



Susan Duffey

32 years of service
Grade 1 teacher

Duffey has been a teacher at Olson Elementary School for her entire 32 year career with Bloomington Public Schools. She started as a half-day kindergarten teacher and has taught first grade for 32 years.

“It has been a privilege to have worked with such outstanding people and families,” Duffey said. “I couldn’t have asked for a

better career or better teams to be a part of. The excitement the students have for learning is the most motivating part of my day. I will truly miss that and the day to day smiles, hugs, and laughter from them as well as the camaraderie from my colleagues. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Bloomington Public School organization.”

We thank the following dedicated professionals and with them success in their future endeavors.

Colleen McLaughlin	Speech Language Pathologist	36
Michelle Engel	Speech Language Pathologist	34
Connie Oldfather	Kindergarten Teacher	34
Judy Bergstreser	Administrative Secretary	32
Susan Duffey	Grade 1 Teacher	32
Michelle Mccarty	Pre-Kindergarten Teacher	31
Debra Pike	Elementary School Secretary	31
Stephanie Bruggman	Occupational Therapist	30
Tracey Hetland	Registration Clerk	30
Jane O’Connell	Family Consumer Science Teacher	29
Kathryn Banisky	Grade 7 Teacher	28
Joan Hubbard	Cook Manager	28
Marilyn Benson	Elementary School Secretary	27
Kevin Coenen	Technology Integrationist	27
Jeff Evens	Health / Physical Education Teacher	27
Sandra Stevens	Attendance Clerk	26
Matthew Wise	Homebound Teacher	25
Rebecca Lee Anderson	ECSE Teacher	24
Fredrick Ballew	K-5 Computer Science / Band Teacher	24

Christine Everett	Counselor	24
Julie Knose	Media Center Clerk	24
Lori Kosey	Grade 1 Teacher	2224
Karolyn Shelstad-Otto	Teacher	23
Deborah Wagner	Paraprofessional	23
Jeffrey Juenecke	Pre-Kindergarten Teacher	22
Gretchen Johnson	Counselor	22
Sean Mckamie	K-5 Physical Education Teacher	22
Joseph Zimmermann	Math Teacher	22
Carol Seal	High School Secretary	21
Marilisa Wallace	World Language Teacher	21
Elizabeth Greenblat	Paraprofessional	20
Gary Peteler	Bus Driver	19
Lori Gerhardson	Paraprofessional Tech Support	17
Joan Maland	Elementary Principal	17
Dana Martodam	Grade 4 Teacher	17
Lori Matlon	Media Center Clerk	17
Helen Wells	STRIVE program teacher	17
Patti Arteel	Teacher	16
Michelle Friedland	Grade 4 Teacher	16
Mary Lanoue	Special Education Teacher	16
Cory Wade	Dean of Students	16
Eric Egger	IT Specialist	15
Deborah Lingen	Program Management Professional	15
Stephen Searl	Assistant Principal	15
Laurie Wehr	Food Services	15
Krista French	Youth and Family Coordinator	14
Harold Alsup	Bus Driver	13
Todd V Anderson	Math Teacher	13
Leticia Borgen	Program Management Professional	13
Rodney Daniels	Bus Driver	13
Lisa Gauper	Administrative Clerk	13
Molly O’Brien	Youth and Family Coordinator	13
Dennard Shelton	Program Management Professional	13
Mark Eggers	Social Studies Teacher	12
Maria Bonete	Food Services	11
Jude Desotelle	Speical Education Teacher	11
Blanche Hamilton	Instructional Assistant	11
Jacob Hodgson	Assistant Coordinator	11
James Hunt	Bus Driver	11
John Jones	Paraprofessional	11
Minal Sahu	Activities Leader	11
Lisa Schenk	Science Teacher	11
Charles Guth	Maintenance Tech II	10
David Heistad	Excecutive Director	10
Julie Lawal	Program Management Professional	10
Michelle Ratike	Program Management Professional	10
Emily Smeltzer	Teacher / Intervention Specialist	10

Work with Us!

Join our dynamic team of professionals dedicated to helping all students achieve their greatest potential.

Bloominton Public Schools has immediate openings for full and part-time staff in many areas including teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, health service providers, custodial and maintenance food services and reserve positions.

The BPS team includes 2,600 teachers, paraprofessionals, support and district staff serving more than 9,800 students.

Visit or call to learn more about our competitive starting pay and benefits package.

bit.ly/bps-careers





IN THE KNOW

Summer Community Education Programs

Bloomington Community Education offers a wide variety of early childhood family education, preschool, youth and adult classes over the summer. Visit bit.ly/CE-summer-2022 to view offerings and register for a class!

bit.ly/CE-summer-2022

District-Wide Food Drive Results

Bloomington Public Schools and its business and civic partners collected nearly 12,000 pounds of food and \$10,378 in cash donations during its 12th District-wide Food Drive last month. The annual food drive was postponed the past two years due to the pandemic. This year's total collection of 49,171 pounds when the cash donations to pounds conversion is applied will provide nearly 50,000 meals. The annual food drive has collected 588,815 pounds since its inception in 2009. All of the food and cash is donated to Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP).

Special thanks to the following business and civic partners that participated in this year's food drive: Boyum Barescheer, Cedar Valley Church, City of Bloomington Fire Department, Martin Luther Campus, Northstar Tavern, Oxboro Evangelical Free Church, Quality Bicycle Products, United Methodist Church, and Wooden Hill Brewing.

Chip In for Schools Golf Classic

Registration is open for the 2022 Chip in for Schools Golf Classic, Tuesday, July 26 at The Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake. Tickets will cover 18-holes of golf, use of a cart, dinner and awards ceremony.

Tournament proceeds help Bloomington students through the Education Foundation of Bloomington (EFB) Children's Food for Thought and Internet Essentials programs, classroom innovation grants, scholarships and more. Save the date and register today at bit.ly/EFB-2022chipin

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POINTS OF PRIDE



Bloomington seniors **Grace Schuck** and **Susie Monson** were named Athena Award winners by Jefferson and Kennedy high schools respectively.



Oak Grove Middle School **Young Women's Leadership Forum** raised \$5,197 to benefit the Ukrainian Red Cross as part of its annual fundraising event.

Jefferson Cheer earned its sixth national championship title. It is the team's third consecutive national championship.



Jefferson High School junior **Snezhanna Medvedovski** is one of 36 finalists statewide for the 2022 Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Award.

Bloomington middle school robotics team, **Artificial Intelligence** won five awards at the FIRST Lego Minnesota State Championship and advanced to the World championships.



Jefferson senior **Joey Stedman** and Kennedy senior **Idil Hassan** earned a national gold and silver medal respectively in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.



Jefferson athletes, senior **Jon Clarke** and junior **Jackie Larsen** finished seventh and 72nd respectively in the Nordic state meet. Clarke earned all-state honors for the third year in a row.



Olson Middle School teacher **Matt Elsen** was named Class 2A (Section 2) Assistant Coach of the Year.



Jefferson and Kennedy DECA students earned recognition at the state DECA conference for individual presentations focusing on business-related fields. Four students qualified for the National DECA conference.



Hillcrest fourth grade teacher **Beth McCoy** was appointed to the City of Bloomington's Creative Placemaking Commission.



Jefferson sophomore **Daniel Freitag** made the all-Metro second basketball team. Freitag averaged 26.7 points and seven rebounds per game this season.



Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Jenna Mitchler** received a Fulbright scholarship which provides funding to travel to Tajikistan to learn about and support design thinking and educational leadership.



Jefferson sophomore **Morgan Haffenden** and senior **Joseph Shetaye** qualified for National speech competitions. Haffenden (dramatic interpretation) qualified in the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions, and Shetaye in the National Speech and Debate Association tournament.



Jefferson junior **Sofia Pehrson** received a Rising Star award from the Minnesota Aspirations in Computing awards (MNAiC) program. Pehrson is one of 110 honorees statewide recognized for their technology and leadership experiences.

National Merit Finalists
Alexander Kiner, **Jamie Melville** and **Joseph Shetaye** (Jefferson) and Isaac Stein (Kennedy) are National Merit Scholarship finalists.

MN Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists
Ridgeview Elementary Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) teacher **Angela Fritzlar** and Kennedy High School vocal music instructor **Niccole Goulet Jordan** were two of 25 semifinalists for the 2022 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award.

Minnesota Scholastics Art Awards
Jefferson and Kennedy high school students recognized in this year's Minnesota Scholastic Arts Competition:

Gold Keys: **Idil Hassan**, **Maryam Abdikarim**, **Emily Strahan**, **Isak Sevig**, **Synnove Erickson**, **Connor Wigglesworth**, **Keaton Mayhew**, **Joey Stedman**.

Silver Keys: **Julia Ohm**, **Talayah Stackhouse**, **Kenia Benitez-Sanchez**, **Peyton Baumgartner**, **Vy Nguyen**, **Grace Phan**, **Anja Urbanz**.

Honorable Mention: **Amanda Hallet**, **Taylor David**, **Tyler Jost**, **Brianna Dotter**, **Alaina Bannerman**, **Sydney Ouellette**, **Annette Flis**, **Caroline Yue**.