

INSIDE YOUR SCHOOLS

A newsletter for our District Residents.



SUMMER 2017

WELCOME NEW SUPERINTENDENT

I'm honored and excited to have been hired as the Superintendent of Winona Area Public Schools, and would like to share some information about myself. Having been born and raised in Lake City, I'm a life-long Minnesotan. I grew up spending a lot of time in and on the river: fishing with my grandparents and swimming & boating with friends. I have family in Red Wing, and have always loved the river towns along the Mississippi.

With two sons who are recent college graduates, I'm an extremely proud father. My oldest, Nolan, graduated from Winona State University in December 2014, with an Elementary Education degree. He had wonderful years in Winona, spending time in the local schools, coaching a soccer team, and enjoying the local parks. Nolan is currently teaching third graders in Manama, Bahrain. My younger son, Nick, graduated in December 2016 from the University of MN, with a Computer Science degree. Nick lives in Minneapolis and works at a software firm in Medina.

I'm also proud of my role as a life-long educator, having worked as a math teacher and coach in St. Clair and Mankato; a teaching-mentor in a partnership between Mankato Area Public Schools and Minnesota State University, Mankato; an assistant principal at Mankato East High and a principal at Mankato East Junior High; an adjunct professor at MSU, Mankato and Concordia, St. Paul; and in my current position as superintendent

of Medford Public Schools. Throughout my career as an educator, I've had a goal of maintaining high expectations for myself and others, while providing the support necessary to ensure success. One constant has been my belief in the importance of equity: I believe passionately that everyone can be successful if given an equal opportunity.



Finally, I'm a life-long learner. I believe in the power of education, and will always actively pursue opportunities to gain new knowledge and skills. While living in Mankato, I earned degrees in Mathematics Education (BA), Education Leadership (MA), and Education Administration (Sixth Year Certificate), along with my Superintendent's licensure. During my spare time, you can find me attending local concerts, theatre, ball games, or lectures, doing volunteer work, or staying active on my bicycle or a basketball court.

I've been impressed by the WAPS staff who I've been able to meet so far, and I'm looking forward to learning more about Winona Area Public Schools and the Winona community. I'm anxious to move to Winona and get started, working together with the entire community to make Winona Area Public Schools a great place to learn. Go Winhawks!!!

Rich Dahman

EDUCATING THE FUTURE: **Preschool Engineering**

Early this fall Preschool Coordinator Stephanie Gilliland, applied to be in a pilot program with Engineering is Elementary and the Wee Engineer company. The mission of Wee Engineer is to create fun activities appropriate for preschool settings that allow children ages 3-5 to act as engineers and engage in an engineering design process. After two electronic interviews and then a live phone interview Community KIDS Preschool was accepted as a pilot program! To bring engineering opportunities into our classrooms is very exciting for our district.

Stephanie emphasizes that children need to be able to think about the designed world in which they live. We also, as educators, need to positively impact children's attitudes about their ability to engineer. Children are intrinsically creative and love to work with their hands. Preschoolers have a natural desire to help people and solve problems.

Engineering helps children build math and science

skills as well as promotes classroom equity. We are constantly trying to build 21st century skills like teamwork, critical thinking and communication. Stephanie finds it very rewarding to help children see themselves as competent, engaged problem-solvers.

Our preschools have already started to incorporate engineering in our classrooms. Jean Bronk's Bright Beginning classroom has an Explore Station where children have the opportunity to navigate different materials. In Angela Hefel's Smart Start classrooms, students are engaging in the Billy Goat Block Challenge building bridges, using only 20 bricks, strong enough to hold the weight of a toy goat. Community KIDS Preschool believes piloting the Engineering is Elementary will be well received by our students!



FOUNDATION BLUES & BREWS: Recap

As we look back on the frosty blue ice of winter, the Foundation for WAPS was all about the blues with their annual fundraising event this year, "Blues and Brews". Island City Brewing Company, with their taste sensations of craft beers and Jefferson Pub & Grill with their mouthwatering appetizers, hosted this soulful and "bluesy" event. "Blues music is about life, the good parts and the bad parts." At the Foundation for WAPS, we were definitely coming together to celebrate life and the great things happening in public education.

The Foundation and 2017 Event Committee set out on a journey to raise money for Academics, Arts, Athletics & Activities for all Winona Area Public Schools. As a Foundation, we were proud to serve so many needs in this category last year, so we decided to repeat the effort. We are so proud to partner with the Winona Area Public Schools where our goal is to expand, enrich and enhance education.

Because of the support of so many, the Foundation for WAPS was able to purchase musical equipment and instruments, reading program books, art supplies, pre-K through 12 educational materials, bluetooth speakers, outdoor classroom and recess equipment, learning chairs, broadcasting equipment, and so much more. Again, the Foundation for WAPS is here to support the kids and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you!

For more information about the Foundation for Winona Area Public schools, contact Shelley Milek at 494-1004.

www.foundationwaps.org.



2017 SENIOR SALUTES



Alyse Kamrowski '17: Winona High School gave me the opportunity to take Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). This helped me decide to go into the nursing field with a career goal as a Midwife.



Creighton Soukup '17: I have enjoyed being a part of the Tech Nest for the past two years. My favorite part of my senior year is getting the chance to live stream school events with my Tech Nest team.



Angel Najera '17: I have been part of the Miller Mentoring programs since 6th grade. They have helped me become the person I am today. I am excited about my future in the computer science and business field.



Justina Blasi '17: I will always remember all the opportunities Winona Senior High School has been able to offer me. I have been able to shadow a teacher at the Middle School and love it!

Congratulations Seniors!

ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS OH MY!

- Football placed 2nd in State
- Girls Swimming (1) student and the 4x100 relay team qualified for State
- Cross Country (1) student qualified for State
- Music Listening qualified for State
- Girls Basketball placed 2nd in State
- Gymnastics (3) students qualified for State
- Nordic Ski team placed 16th in State. (1) student qualified for State
- Boys Swim and Dive (7) students qualified for State (1) student won (2) events at State
- Wrestling (1) student qualified for State and finished 3rd
- Robotics qualified for nationals
- FFA sent (9) students to the State competition
- State Science Fair (1) student qualified for the State Science Fair and advanced to the National Fair



Follow Activities Director
@CaseyIndra





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903 Gilmore Avenue
Winona, MN 55987

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WAPS RETIREES

Cynthia Dosier
Dixie Ruppert
Doris Haney
Gayle Steinquist
Janice Holtet
Kathy Thomas
Katy Smith
Kevin Seales
Kimberly Wirt
Lawrence Indra
Luann Gilberts
Mary Cappel
Nancy Nelson
Rod Schwarz

MARCHING BAND JUNE SCHEDULE

June 17
BK5K Performance

June 18
Steamboat Days

SUMMER GED & ABE

FREE Classes
Monday & Wednesday
6:00-8:00 pm
June 12-28
July 10-26

Central School
317 Market St.
Winona, MN
507.494.0900

SUMMER KEY KIDS: Free Meals

Summer Key Kids is school age child care for children entering grades K-6th. Key Kids is located at the Winona Middle School and utilizes the 6th grade East and West house areas and classrooms. They also use the commons and the gyms. Key Kids is open Monday-Friday from 6:30 am - 5:30 pm.



Programming is based on a summer camp theme. Children participate in a variety of summer camps which last two weeks in length. Participants are divided up into camps by age. Children entering kindergarten are kept together in Little Bear Camp. Camps range from sports, water, science and crafts to Survivor, Fear Factor, etc. There is something for everyone at Summer Key Kids. Key Kids also takes weekly field trips. Each Wednesday they visit the Winona

Aquatic Center. Every other Friday they go on a larger field trip to such destinations as High Roller Skating in La Crosse, the La Crescent Aquatic Center, local county fairs, etc.

Children who attend Summer Key Kids are also invited to participate in the school's summer food program at no additional charge. Students under the age of 18 are served breakfast and lunch through the school's food service program. Key Kids provides an afternoon snack as well.

For more information call our Key Kids office at 494-0910, or visit our website.

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS 18 AND UNDER
WAPS School Nutrition has six locations that offers fun activities, healthy free meals and an opportunity to meet old and new friends. For meal times please contact 507.494.0830 or visit district website for updated menu.

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:
Bob Welch Aquatic Center
Maplewood Townhomes
Ridgeway Community School
Winona Library
Winona Middle School
Winona Area Learning Center

COMING SOON!

Coming August 2017 WAPS will launch a new and improved district website! One new feature is an all access district calendar. It will offer easy access to a parents tab and a navigation that is clear and easy to follow.

FOLLOW US @WAPS861

