

# We Are PONIES!

*Celebrating our long-tradition of excellence in education*



## Shareholder Report Features:

- ▶ What's Ahead for 2022-2023
- ▶ 2021-2022 Year In Review
- ▶ Introducing the Class of 2022
- ▶ Celebrating our Students and Staff



**Stillwater**  
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Community. It's a word we throw around a lot when we talk about our school district. And it's no wonder. Our district is made up of 18 different and unique communities, and we have strong communities within each of our schools and programs.

And yet, we often overlook the importance of this simple word. In the past two years as the leader of this school district, I've come to understand and experience "community" in an entirely new way. Community is about more than people sharing a common space. It's a feeling of belonging. A sense of togetherness. It's about sharing common interests and attitudes and working toward common goals.

Most of all, it's about coming together in both the good and bad times to support one another and make sure the needs of all are being met.

This care and concern for others has been on full display throughout the pandemic. Our community has poured its heart and soul into the lives of our children during a time of uncertainty, constant change and unrest. Families have rearranged schedules and lifestyles to make sure their children can keep learning. Businesses and organizations have helped donate food and supplies to make sure children were fed and outfitted with school supplies. Staff have given up lunches and prep times to cover for others who have been out sick. And voters, many of whom do not have school-aged children, approved a tax increase to ensure students have access to a high-quality education.

The past two years have been messy, and we've had more than our share of challenges and frustrations. But together, we've shown up for our kids again and again. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served along with you for the past two years, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of this amazing community in my new role at Brookview Elementary School next fall.

I truly believe there is no better school district in the world, and no stronger community than this one. Thank you for all the ways you support our schools and pour your love into our kids.

With gratitude,



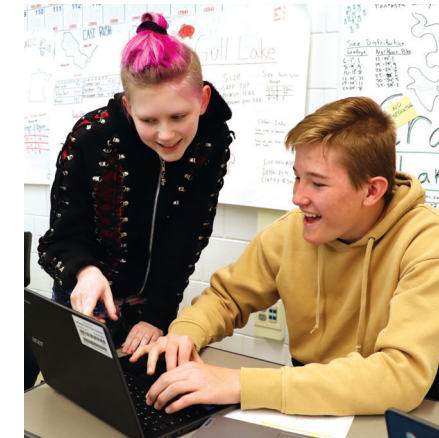
Malinda Lansfeldt, Superintendent



# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2022-2023

## Technology levy brings new devices to Stillwater schools

More than 5,000 Chromebooks have been ordered and will be in the hands of students this fall, thanks to funds from a new technology levy approved by voters in November. A new 1:1 device program will ensure all students have regular and reliable access to technology to support their learning. Students in grades 6-12 will be issued their own device this fall to use at home and school, while our youngest students will have access to devices within their classrooms and to use at home as needed.



The technology levy will also ensure teachers and staff have reliable devices, equip classrooms with audio and visual equipment to support instruction, provide additional technology staffing to support students and teachers, and increase information system security to keep up with growing cyber threats.

## Operating levy keeps kids learning

While many neighboring districts will be facing budget cuts next year, Stillwater schools will be spared from having to make reductions in programs and services. New funding from the recently approved operating levy is providing relief as we face increasing costs across all areas of our budget. The operating levy doesn't provide money for new programs, but will help stabilize the district's budget and address rising costs due to inflation and other factors.

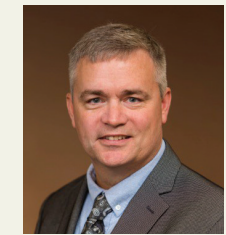
## Brookview Elementary expansion to open

The doors of eight new classrooms will be opening up to students at Brookview Elementary School in Woodbury this fall. The district's newest school has been expanded to make room for about 200 more students. The new addition, as well as recent attendance boundary adjustments, will help address growth in the southernmost part of the school district.

## A new home for Bridge Transitions

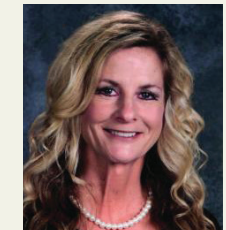
After many years of making do in an elementary school setting, students in the Bridge Transitions 18 to 21-year-old program will have a specialized space of their own in the coming year. Renovations are underway to turn a wing of the former Oak Park Elementary School into a learning space for young adults of various abilities to hone their work and life skills. The remodeled facility will include classrooms and common spaces, as well as unique simulated work and home environments to help students practice the skills they will need for independent living and employment. Students and staff should be moving into the new space this winter.

## Leadership changes in store for the coming year



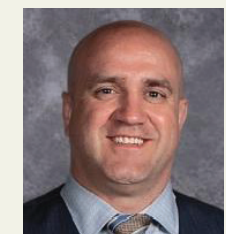
### Dr. Michael Funk joining district as new Superintendent

Dr. Michael Funk will be joining the district this summer to serve as the new superintendent of schools. Dr. Funk previously served as the superintendent of Albert Lea Schools for the past 13 years.



### Lansfeldt to lead Brookview Elementary School

Malinda Lansfeldt, who has served as interim superintendent for the past two years, will be moving into a new role as principal of Brookview Elementary School over the summer. As one of the district's most veteran administrators, she's served a variety of leadership roles in her nearly 15 year tenure. In addition to district-level positions, she's previously been the principal of five district elementary schools including Lily Lake, Andersen, Withrow, Marine and Afton-Lakeland.



### New principal selected to lead Stillwater Middle

Dr. Josh Krebs is the new principal of Stillwater Middle School. Dr. Krebs has spent the past nine years serving as an assistant principal in the Centennial Public Schools, providing leadership for both the middle and high school.

## High school named among the best in the country

Stillwater Area High School has once again been named one of the top high schools in the nation and state! U.S. News and World Report analyzed data from more than 24,000 public high schools and ranked SAHS in the top 10% in the country and top 4% in Minnesota.



# 2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST

2021

Welcomed 8,341 students back to school!



OCTOBER

2021

- Two student journalists from the high school were named finalists in the National Scholastic Press Association individual story contest.
- Hundreds of high school students participated in college and trade school visits - in person and virtually - as part of the Pathway programs "Game Day" college and career planning.

NOVEMBER

2021

- Voters approved two levy questions - one to renew and increase an expiring levy and the second to provide a new technology levy.
- The girls soccer team won the state championship!
- The Stillwater Mountain Bike team earned its 4th straight state championship title. The middle school team also rode to a state championship.
- Girls swim and dive team placed third at state.

DECEMBER

2021

- The Stillwater Middle School's First Lego League robotics team competed in the state competition.
- School board approved new attendance boundaries for the 2022-2023 school year to accommodate growth in the southern schools.

JANUARY

2022



- The Stillwater FFA finished strong in virtual Career Development Events hosted by the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

FEBRUARY

2022



- Two SAHS students were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists - among just 15,000 seniors in the nation to earn the recognition.
- 13 high school musicians were named All-State - 6 in choir, 4 in band and 3 in orchestra.
- The high school's Unified Basketball team won the state championship.
- Two Stillwater students won the Congressional App Challenge - the most prestigious prize in student computer science.



- Pony alum Jessie Diggins wins silver and bronze medals in nordic skiing at the 2022 Olympic games.
- The girls alpine ski team placed 2nd at state.

MARCH

2022

More than 100 students and staff participated in the Polar Plunge and raised more than \$21,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota and the high school's Unified programs



- Hundreds of future ponies visited their future classrooms as part of Kindergarten Orientation.
- Pony alum Noah Cates makes his National Hockey League (NHL) debut with the Philadelphia Flyers.
- Pony alum Sydney Peterson won gold, silver and bronze in cross-country skiing in her Paralympics debut.
- Stillwater singers received 26 superior ratings and three excellent ratings in the vocal Solo and Ensemble Competition, and both choirs received superior ratings as well. Stillwater was also awarded 3 out of 4 "best of site" awards.
- The high school's wrestling team placed second at the state tournament, and three wrestlers took home individual state championships.

APRIL

2022

- Stillwater's speech team placed 7th in state - their highest showing ever.
- Dr. Michael Funk was selected as our next superintendent.

MAY

2022

The synchronized swim team won back-to-back state titles



- Current and former Stonebridge Elementary students gathered to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary!
- Six high school students competed in the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference.

JUNE

2022

- 14 high school students were named All-State Musicians. They were chosen through statewide blind auditions.
- More than 680 students graduated from Stillwater Area High School



SEPTEMBER

2021

Thousands of kids and adults turned out for the 4th annual Pony Homecoming Carnival!



- Three high school students were honored by the College Board National Recognition Program for their exceptional academic achievement and outstanding performance on Advanced Placement exams.
- The high school's FFA chapter earned a Grand Champion Award and Blue Ribbon in the FFA Landscape Design and Construction Competition at the Minnesota State Fair.
- A high school student was named to the prestigious Top 300 Broadcom MASTER's list - the nation's premier STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) competition for middle school students.

# CELEBRATING OUR STAFF

## Teachers and staff surprised with Partnership Awards

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Partnership Awards! The awards, given by The Partnership Plan, recognize teachers, staff and retirees for their work on behalf of students at Stillwater Area Public Schools.

This year's recipients were:

- Brenda Aarness, Oak-Land special education teacher
- Bobbi Anderson, Lily Lake paraprofessional
- Staci Brown, High school science teacher
- Jeff Fosse, Technology support
- Paula Harrison, High school Unified Physical Education teacher
- Diane Johnson, Afton-Lakeland 2nd grade teacher
- Sheryl Johnson, Andersen food service
- Angie Olson, Lake Elmo 1st grade teacher
- Liz Tomten, Retired Stillwater Middle School teacher

Each award winner was given \$1,000 by The Partnership Plan to designate to their school of choice. The Partnership Plan is a nonprofit educational fund that gives grants to teachers with great ideas to make learning deeper and more meaningful for students in Stillwater Area Public Schools.



## Coach Luke inducted into state hall of fame

Ponies swimming and diving coach Brian Luke was inducted into the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Hall of Fame. Luke has led the Stillwater boys and girls program for 47 seasons, coaching them to four MSHSL state championships, seven True Team state titles and 29 individual titles. He is the fifth Stillwater coach to enter the MSHSL Hall of Fame, joining Len McGuire, James Graupner, Bill Simpson and George Thole.



## Yearbook advisor earns Lifetime Achievement Award

Retiring Stillwater Area High School teacher Laurie Hansen was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Journalism Education Association. Hansen, a Master Journalism Educator, is one of just 12 people across the country honored for their significant contributions to student journalism. She has advised the Kabekonian yearbook and Stylus creative arts magazine at SAHS for 33 years. She also advised the Pony Express newspaper for 10 years.



## Stillwater teachers recognized for outstanding work

Stillwater teachers Elizabeth Peloquin and Kari Pidde were honored by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF), named as Outstanding Collaborating Professionals by UWRF's College of Education and Professional Studies. Peloquin teaches social studies at Stillwater Area High School and Pidde teaches first grade at Brookview Elementary.



## Theatre director named educator of the year

Congratulations to theatre director Grif Sadow who received the 2022 Theater Educator Award from Spotlight Education. Sadow has coordinated theatre programming and productions in the district for the last seven years, serving our early childhood, elementary, and middle school populations and is the producer and artistic director for our high school and community theatres.

# Celebrating Our 2022 Retirees

Congratulations to the 36 employees retiring from Stillwater Area Public Schools this school year. Please join us in thanking the following employees for making a difference in the lives of children and our community:

**Nancy Anderson**, Teacher, Lily Lake Elementary, 29 years

**Sandy Bealka**, Paraprofessional, Lake Elmo Elementary, 8 years

**Dale Bengston**, Custodian, Brookview Elementary, 16 years

**Renee Clark**, Nutrition Services, Stillwater Middle School, 11 years

**Julia Coe**, Counselor, Oak-Land Middle School, 21 years

**Valerie Corman**, Instructional Coach, Rutherford Elementary, 31 years

**Gary Detlefsen**, Custodian, Stillwater Middle School, 35 years

**Beverly Engesether**, Teacher, Stillwater Area High School, 22 years

**Sabrina Falzone**, Nutrition Services, Rutherford Elementary, 17 years

**Colleen Feldman**, School Psychologist, Stillwater Area High School, 19 years

**Pamela Hall**, Nutrition Services, Districtwide, 15 years

**Ralph Halvorson**, Activities Supervisor, Middle Schools, 10 years

**Laurie Hansen**, Teacher, Stillwater Area High School, 33 years

**Barbara Holman**, Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Family Center, 15 years

**Robert Johnson**, Custodian, Stillwater Middle School, 34 years



**Sheryl Johnson**, Nutrition Services, Andersen Elementary, 27 years

**Wendy Johnson**, Paraprofessional, Andersen Elementary, 18 years

**Richard Keller**, Teacher, Stillwater Area High School, 27 years

**Carolyn Kirby**, Paraprofessional, Andersen Elementary, 18 years

**Monica Leo**, Building Secretary, Andersen Elementary, 19 years

**Allison McGinnis**, Paraprofessional, Stillwater Area High School, 30 years

**Diane Olson**, Nutrition Services, Mahtomedi Schools, 15 years

**Mitchell Olson**, Paraprofessional, Oak-Land Middle School, 6 years

**Chris Otto**, Principal, Stillwater Middle School, 28 years

**Karen Paulson**, Paraprofessional, Rutherford Elementary, 8 years

**Roxanne Pechacek**, Bookkeeper, Stillwater Area High School, 13 years

**Lisa Peterson**, Teacher, Stillwater Middle School, 10 years

**Rhonda Place**, Secretary, Lake Elmo Elementary, 18 years

**Janet Radke**, Paraprofessional, ECFC, 26 years

**Michell Sherlock**, Nutrition Services, Oak-Land Middle School, 17 years

**Alane Stickan**, Teacher, Rutherford Elementary, 34 years

**Terri Swenson**, Teacher, Early Childhood Family Center, 32 years

**Mary Jo Vene-Loida**, Teacher, Stonebridge Elementary, 21 years

**Sandra Weaver**, Counselor, Stillwater Area High School, 32 years

**Thomas Wendt**, Teacher, St. Croix Valley Area Learning Center, 24 years

**Iris Wotzka**, Teacher, Lake Elmo Elementary, 27 years

## In Their Words

*"We are so humbled and grateful for the teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and entire staff at all of the Stillwater schools. We are just so impressed with the genuine care [our son] gets every day from the staff. We recognize how hard each of you work every day to give your whole selves to these kids - even in the face of extreme pressure and uncertainty. And for that, we are so blessed. Thank you."*

– Parent

# CLASS OF 2022

*We Love Our Ponies*

|   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| Claire Abbott<br>Jowan Abdullah<br>Amaal Abdullahi<br>Badrah Abdullahi<br>Isaiah Abram<br>Maddison Achman<br>Miguel Acosta<br>Mubaraq Adedayo<br>Sophia Agnessi<br>Zatha Ahmed<br>Justin Akwuba<br>Thuha Al-dokhl<br>Nancy Alfaro-Ornelas<br>Alice Alga<br>Ruslan Allen<br>Abigail Anderson<br>Aidan Anderson<br>Grace Anderson<br>Keira Anderson<br>Kiara Anderson<br>Westley Anderson<br>Sidney Angerhofer<br>Kade Anton<br>Abdirahman Anur<br>Isabella Appert<br>Emma Archer<br>Eric Ardolf<br>Cooper Arens<br>Anthony Argiro<br>Julia Arguelles<br>Evan Arkell<br>Hayden Armstrong<br>Sophia Arndt<br>Jacob Aronson<br>Austin Augustine<br>Estelle Auleciems<br>Hunter Ayers<br>Briah Azure<br>Ava Baggenstoss<br>Sophia Bakke<br>Margaret Balfanz<br>Emma Balisco<br>Grace Bancroft<br>Amelia Bartosh<br>William Barwick<br>Justin Beane<br>Hannah Beard<br>Ryan Beard<br>Carly Behrens<br>Pierre Belisle II<br>Johnathan Benson<br>Lauren Benson<br>Savannah Benson<br>Colin Berg<br>Annika Berggren<br>Garrett Berkowitz<br>Ryan Bernath<br>Jonah Berry<br>Morgan Biederman<br>Carter Bies<br>Ty Bigger<br>Saeed Bile<br>Samuel Bland<br>Kwonell Bloodsaw<br>Zackhary Bock<br>Nora Boehle<br>Harmony Boles | Benjamin Bollman<br>Marisa Bonilla<br>Henrik Borges Koetz<br>Cameron Bose<br>Ivan Bosquez<br>Scott Bougie<br>Marly Boules<br>Owen Bouthilet<br>Joshua Bove<br>Axel Bradshaw<br>Amelia Bretl<br>Mark Britten<br>Erykah Brown<br>Timothy Brown Jr.<br>Adam Browning<br>Gavin Browning<br>Maxwell Brummond<br>Austin Buck<br>Mason Buck<br>Seth Burg<br>Vincent Burkhart<br>Karina Burns<br>Ella Busch<br>Kyler Buse<br>Riley Buxell<br>Ella Cadenhead<br>Charles Calderone<br>Zane Canaday<br>Allison Carle<br>Jacob Carlson<br>Eden Carr<br>Danna Carrillo Arzapalo<br>Mason Carter<br>Joseph Casale<br>Noah Casement<br>Emma Cass<br>Emma Cervetto<br>Ela Chambers<br>Mackenzie Chang<br>Isabella Chau<br>Ella Chaves<br>Jacob Chaves<br>Madalyn Chlan<br>Seth Chlebeck<br>Samuel Ciegler<br>Shamus Cierley<br>Riley Cirullo<br>Tristan Cirullo<br>Annika Citsay<br>Ethan Citsay<br>Stella Cockson<br>Audrey Coleman<br>Cade Coleman<br>Alisa Collyard<br>Alexander Connor<br>Maya Coons<br>Nila Cooper<br>Mason Copic<br>Miguelangel Cortez<br>Leah Cosgrove<br>Josie Crombie<br>Owen Cummings<br>Elias Curl<br>Drake d'Amboise<br>Rachel Dagbovie<br>Gursimrat Dahry<br>Blair Dandeleit | Anders Danelius<br>Brea Davis<br>Alessia De Bari<br>Michelle De Jesus Cruz<br>Liam De Jonge<br>Dylan DeAgazio<br>Parker Dean<br>Morgan Delaney<br>Roberto Delarosa<br>Cecilia deLeon<br>Addie DeMars<br>Matthew DeMier<br>Dallas Denning<br>Noah Denton<br>Emma Deputie<br>Calli Dierkhising<br>Cadarius Dinkins<br>Jack Distad<br>Noah Dixon<br>Michael Dollerschell Jr.<br>Lucy Donar<br>Reese Dougherty<br>Jordan DuBois<br>Kainen DuFresne-To<br>Riley Dunbar<br>Joshua Dupree<br>Robert Dustin IV<br>Alexander Eberspacher<br>Aiden Ecker<br>Abigail Eder<br>Tyler Ehde<br>Matthew Eischens<br>Lillian Ellis<br>Luke Ellis<br>Aiden Erickson<br>Reyes Espinoza Aragon<br>Harper Estenson<br>Hannah Faeth<br>Alice Falkenberg<br>Shamim Farah<br>Olivia Fear<br>Alison Fedorowski<br>McKenna Fedorowski<br>Reid Fedorowski<br>Isabel Finne<br>Dalina Fishaye<br>Ryan Fitzgerald<br>Elly Flaherty<br>Ella Fletcher<br>Andrew Flint<br>Aiden Flock<br>Jacob Flom<br>Markco Floyd-Dudley<br>Martin Fogarty<br>Adeline Foote<br>Olivia Foss<br>Marisa Fredericks<br>Catherine Fredkove<br>Justin Fretag<br>Taylor Friberg<br>Dylan Friend<br>Jack Fuerstenberg<br>Ava Fugate<br>Timothy Fultz<br>Soren Gabor<br>Kylie Galowitz<br>Adrianna Garcia | Alexander Gardner<br>Marcus Gardner<br>Isabella Gatcliffe<br>Olivia Gaul<br>Cierrah Geisen<br>Lydia Geiser<br>Colby Gerardy<br>Ada Gerber<br>Kahlan Gergen<br>Lane Gessler<br>Aidan Gibbs<br>Kymarria Gibbs<br>Grace Giebel<br>Matthew Gilbert<br>Parker Gilchrist<br>Sophia Giliuson<br>Cassidy Gilliam<br>Pablo Giron Ramirez<br>Adalline Glass<br>Colin Glassman<br>Isabella Godfrey<br>Kaia Goldstrand<br>Britanni Gomez-Saligan<br>Macy Gonnion<br>Garrett Graf<br>Brooks Graham<br>Logan Gramenz<br>Owen Granholm<br>Owen Grau<br>Gabrielle Gray<br>Taylor Gray<br>Sydney Gritters<br>Gracie Groschen<br>Maxwell Gross<br>Rachel Guarneri<br>Gabrielle Gujer<br>Zakeria Gurhan<br>Andrew Gustafson<br>Benjamin Hagel<br>Tyson Hagen<br>Ethan Hagen Espino<br>Morgan Hallas<br>Ella Hamilton<br>Mary Hammer<br>Hugh Hanlon<br>Abigail Hansen<br>Mya Harbulak<br>Katherine Hardtke<br>Adrian Haro<br>Sarah Harriman<br>Samuel Hart<br>Elizabeth Harter<br>Tyler Hartman<br>Richard Hartmann<br>Suban Hassan<br>Marit Hegstad<br>Sophia Heidtke<br>Taysha Hein<br>Stephanie Helgeson<br>Matilda Hellebrand<br>Brayden Hellum<br>Jack Hendrickson<br>Brock Hendrie<br>Addison Henschen<br>JadaRae Hermann<br>Angel Adrian Hernan-<br>dez Regalado | Wyatt Herrick<br>Elisabeth Hessler<br>Samuel Hickey<br>Blake Hilde<br>Jada Hill<br>Amanda Hill<br>Karter Hillstrom<br>Avery Hoge<br>Elizabeth Holder<br>Riley Horejsi<br>Emily Hornbuckle<br>Marissa Horwath<br>Riley Hoskins<br>Erik Houle<br>Ethan Howard<br>William Howell<br>Jack Hoyer<br>Alexander Hulteen<br>Mark Hutchinson<br>Abass Ibrahim<br>Mushtaq Ibrahim<br>Sandra Irwin<br>Adam Jaap<br>Idris Jaber<br>Benjamin Jackels<br>Ella Jackson<br>Nicholas Jackson<br>Alyssa Jacobs<br>Jennifer Jacobs<br>Maverick Jaeger<br>Henry Jansen<br>Alexis Jansen<br>Jacob Jarvis<br>Angelo Jeanetta-Wark<br>Alazar Jemal<br>Blake Jentink<br>Eva Johns<br>Andrew Johnson<br>Cassandra Johnson<br>Devyn Johnson<br>Griffin Johnson<br>Hadley Johnson<br>Kate Johnson<br>Madelynn Johnson<br>Stephanie Johnson<br>Sydney Johnson<br>Thor Johnson<br>Mayona Jones<br>Parker Junco<br>Analise Junghans<br>Kristen Kahl<br>Mikayla Kammueiller<br>Katie Kangas<br>Keely Kapfer<br>Alexander Kaphingst<br>Caleb Kargel<br>Ava Karlstad<br>Elise Karlstad<br>Emma Kasel<br>Caleb Kebede<br>Lydia Kehner-Anderson<br>Jorge Kelley<br>Kyra Kellogg<br>Sophia Kemp<br>Zoey Kieffer<br>Elizabeth Kill | Camille King<br>Tate Kiser<br>Paige Klemenhausen<br>Grace Kleppe<br>Isabel Knowlan<br>Lydia Knutson<br>Nicholas Koehn<br>Cade Koenig<br>Thomas Kolden<br>Eloise Koltun<br>Tyler Kordosky<br>Madison Koshenina<br>Leigha Kraft<br>Adrik Kraftson<br>Brandon Kramer<br>Eric Krautbauer<br>Stephen Kroeck<br>Kiran Kumaran<br>Gabriella LaFavor<br>Logan Laier<br>Alexander Lamsam<br>Hannah Lane<br>Anthony Lang<br>Christopher Lang<br>Logan Langer<br>Jayden Leach-Wirwahn<br>Alex Lee<br>Ethan Lee<br>Jaden Lee<br>Caden Lemme<br>Isaac Lien<br>Myles Ligtenberg<br>Thomas Lindeberg<br>Katherine Liss<br>Eric Liveringhouse<br>Thomas Lockwood<br>Jay Lohr<br>John Lomen<br>Christopher Longway<br>Justin Lopez<br>Benjamin Luna<br>Connor Lund<br>Carter Ly<br>Hunter Lyden<br>Morgan Lynse<br>Samantha MacDonald<br>Sophie MacDonald<br>Jenna Maddux<br>Dylan Magistad<br>Jacob Magner<br>Nicholas Magner<br>Alwyn Malinis<br>Rowan Malmberg<br>Calvin Mankowski<br>Rebekah Mansour<br>Amelia Maroney<br>Aidan Martin<br>Braeden Martin<br>Hunter Martin<br>David Martinez<br>Kevin Martinez<br>Yuliana Martinez<br>Rosanna Masters<br>Grace Mattox<br>Michael May<br>Charles Mazanec<br>Broderick McBride | Samara McClaine<br>Connor McCormick<br>Ian McDonough<br>Ryan McDowell<br>Jayven Mcgaffey-Williams<br>Elizabeth McGinley<br>Chelsea McKoy<br>Aditya Mehta<br>Austin Meis-Waskow<br>Spenser Menard<br>Louis Menge<br>Ella Metcalf<br>Kaia Michaelson<br>Emerson Milby<br>Grant Miller<br>Katherine Miller<br>Lucille Miller<br>Kaspar Millfelt<br>Dylan Minor<br>Javis Moeschter<br>Hibak Mohamed<br>Sophia Moller<br>Caroline Monty<br>Jorge Moreno Sanchez<br>Ethan Mosley<br>Paanda Moua<br>Emma Moy<br>Keira Murphy<br>Zachary Murphy<br>Ariam Mussiel<br>Jana Myers<br>Aiden Narveson<br>Max Nealy<br>Ivan Nederloe<br>Tegan Neitzel<br>Eli Nelson<br>Kayla Nelson<br>Lila Nelson<br>Margaret Nelson<br>Alwyn Nelson<br>Samuel Ness<br>Myka Neuman<br>Brian Nguyen<br>Duc Anh Quan Nguyen<br>Stephanie Nguyen<br>Nanda Nidersson<br>Hunter Notch<br>Emma Novak<br>Daniel O'Gorman<br>Edward O'Keefe<br>Daniel O'Rourke<br>Olawunmi Oduloye<br>Grace Mattox<br>Michael May<br>Charles Mazanec<br>Broderick McBride | Levi Olson<br>Zachary Olson<br>Logan Onken<br>Mariana Ortiz<br>Maxine Osei<br>Nicholas Ottem<br>Ruby Ottem<br>Rachel Palmer<br>Connor Parker<br>AnnaMay Paul<br>Kady Peltier<br>Denver Penning<br>Sierra Penning<br>Nils Persson<br>Ashley Peterson<br>Cheyenne Peterson<br>Jackson Peterson<br>Sebastian Peterson<br>Tyler Peterson<br>Cullyn Pflugradt<br>Logan Picht<br>John Piekarski<br>Owen Pieper<br>Sophia Pietan<br>Brandon Pilrain<br>Sean Pineda<br>Haley Piontek<br>Richard Pitman<br>Angus Pitulla<br>Somara Plaster-Moe<br>Oyinpreye Porbeni<br>Amelia Potter<br>Carson Potter<br>Ryan Potter<br>Sophie Privette<br>Madelyn Puhrmann<br>Timothy Purcell III<br>Connor Quaderer<br>Olivia Quale<br>Noelle Quinn<br>Coltan Radke<br>Jacob Ralston<br>Vincent Ramirez<br>Madeline Ranalla<br>Caden Rank<br>Henry Redfield<br>Morgan Reilly<br>Meghan Remely<br>Martin Restrepo<br>Brendon Rich<br>Josef Richter<br>Grace Riehle<br>Hailey Rios<br>Anthony Rivera<br>Alejandra Rivera Rios | Kiera Rivers<br>Annika Roepke<br>Veda Roeske<br>Kendall Rogers<br>Thomas Rosengren<br>Elise Ross<br>Bruno Roti<br>Jonathan Roux<br>Carlos Ruiz Giraldo<br>Nora Ryan<br>Ethan Stern<br>Carley Saeger<br>Marena Saeger<br>Marcus Saffold<br>Jason Salter<br>Sophia Sample<br>Cya Sanders<br>Katrina Sanderson<br>Jorge Sandoval Chao<br>Autumn Sather<br>Brynn Savelkoul<br>Peyton Sawotin<br>Amber Scalia<br>Isabella Scanlan<br>August Schanno<br>Sydney Scheel<br>Claudia Schmitt<br>Alexis Schmitz<br>Katrina Schneider<br>Alexy Schroeder<br>Owen Schuldt<br>Hailey Schuster<br>Sydney Schuster<br>Julian Schwendeman<br>Mara Scott<br>Allie Seibert<br>Brooke Sellman<br>Maya Servais<br>Adam Shabaneh<br>Sydney Shaffer<br>Kyle Sharp<br>William Shaw<br>Lucas Shelton<br>Faith Shepard<br>Nathan Sherman<br>Benjamin Shockency<br>Ian Sieber<br>Nicholas Silbernagel<br>Julianna Silva<br>Hailey Slachta<br>Connor Slowinski<br>Catherine Smetana<br>Ryan Smithberg<br>Shawwna Sobczak<br>Cameron Sommers | Ella Sorensen<br>Greta Sorenson<br>Connor Spets<br>Ella Spitzer<br>Samuel Spivey<br>Chase Stabenow<br>Erica Stanton<br>Kendra Stanton<br>Zechariah Stead<br>Rachael Steele<br>Ethan Stern<br>Dylan Stickan<br>Ian Stone<br>Holden Stormoen<br>Carter Stratmann<br>Madeline Stricker<br>Grace Strom<br>Sarah Strub<br>Charles Stuurop<br>Dorian Swanson<br>Jacob Swanson<br>Maci Swanson<br>William Swanson<br>Chance Swenson<br>Cooper Swenson<br>Margaret Swenson<br>Michael Tague<br>Caroline Tangen<br>Griffin Weiss<br>Cecelia Taverna<br>Lea Taverna<br>Simon Tekie<br>Madelyn Teske<br>Michael Teske<br>Alana Thacker<br>Nicholas Then<br>Abigail Thibodeau<br>Tyler Thieman<br>Julia Thompson<br>Logan Tierney<br>Trent Tillett<br>Benjamin Timmons<br>Shiann Timmons<br>Ty Tollefsbol<br>Maya Tompkins<br>Sydney Topel<br>Valeria Torreggiani<br>Fabian Torres Mercado<br>Madison Truhlsen<br>Kaleb Tschida<br>Marie Tschoepe<br>Emmanuel Tsehay<br>Brady Turnquist<br>Antony Tuttle<br>Tabitha Twiss | Orion Tyrrell<br>Mason Vagle<br>Maxwell Vagle<br>Jesus Valdovinos<br>Daniel Valerius<br>Madison Van Dusen<br>Corbin Van Duyne<br>Bryan Vang<br>Zechariah Vang<br>Lydia Vang<br>Mackenzie Vang<br>Vatuazenj Vang<br>Ka'Lani Vaughn<br>Emma Villarreal<br>Cassidy Vilme<br>Tanner Voight<br>Grace Volkmann<br>Joseph Voss<br>Joshua Wallace<br>Ashley Walton<br>Harrison Walz<br>Louisa Ward<br>Cody Wasko<br>Benjamin Watry<br>Analeese Weckwerth<br>Montana Weeks<br>Ryan Weisbrod<br>Thomas Weispfenning<br>Anthony Weiss<br>Jack Wells<br>Kassy Wells<br>Charlotte Welshons<br>Jesse Welter<br>Madelyn Wenzel | Eliza Weston<br>Tommy White<br>Leah Widerski<br>Jackson Wiger<br>Nora Wilcek<br>Nissa Wilcox<br>Lauren Wildes<br>Noah Wilhelmy<br>Lauren Wilk<br>Ashley Williams<br>Tyler Williams<br>Steven Williams<br>Mason Wilson<br>Colton Windschitl<br>Brynn Winter<br>Alexis Witter<br>Annika Woodward<br>Adelee Wrightsman<br>Tucker Wyland<br>Lubnag Xiong<br>Dylan Xiu<br>Soren Yanchar<br>Alexandre Yang<br>Maifue Yang<br>Hayley Zappa<br>Aeneas Zaremba<br>Markos Zegeye<br>Yafet Zerai<br>Anthony Zillmer<br>Kylie Zimmer<br>Viggo Zinn<br>Kyle Zins<br>Lucy Zollar |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|





More than \$400,000 dollars in community scholarships were awarded to Stillwater Area High School seniors. 69 local donors offered 123 scholarships to SAHS students. This year, 83 graduates were given awards totaling \$411,600 in first-year and renewable scholarships. That does not include national scholarships and those given from individual colleges and universities.

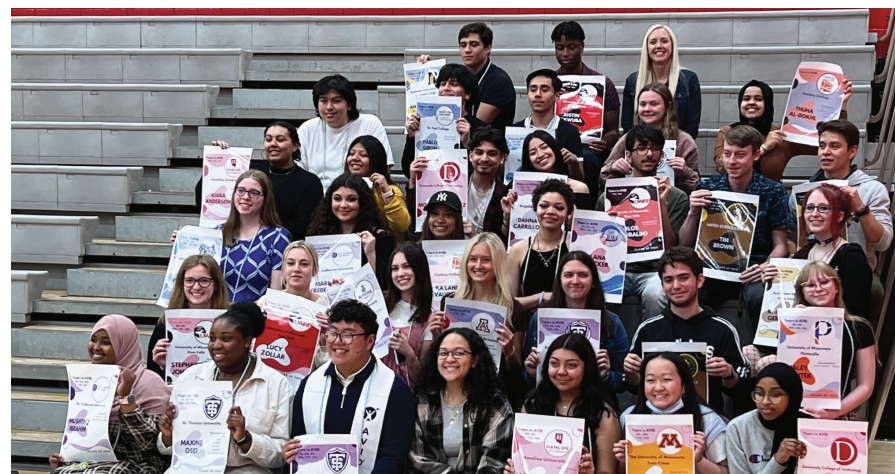
## Celebrating Our Bridge Transitions Graduates

15 students graduated from the Bridge Transitions program which allows 18-21 year olds to work on independent living skills, community access skills, and pre-employment skills.

2022 graduates are: Joey Arrowood; Tyler Chilefone; Daniel Donahue; Nathan Erickson; Christopher Geving; MacKenzie Hietala; John Lindeberg; Alexander Loskota; Colin Ludden; Broderick Murray; Anna O'Connor; Nevyn Pflugradt; Chaska Tom; Richard Utto; Mahamed Yusuf

## ALC graduates do their thing!

The district's alternative learning program gives students the flexibility they need to graduate at their own pace. Throughout the school year, a total of 44 students finished up their high school credits and graduated from Stillwater Area Public Schools. Individual ceremonies were held for students at the ALC as they completed the program, while some also chose to walk with the full Class of 2022 in June.



## AVID Graduates Moving On

34 students graduated from the high school's AVID program. AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an elective program designed to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness. 28 of the graduates are planning to attend colleges or universities next year and received a total of \$54,500 in local community scholarships. Other graduates are enlisting in the military or heading into the workforce.

## Celebrating Our Special Education Graduates

Students, staff and families gathered together to cheer on the accomplishments of five students who graduated from the high school's Special Education program.

The 2022 graduates are: Noah Dixon; Dylan Minor; Daniel O'Rourke; Maya Servais; Michael Teske.

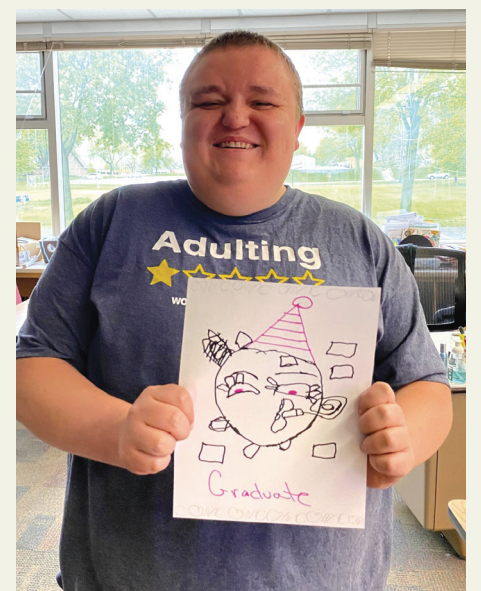


## Senior Signing Day

The class of 2022 celebrated Senior Signing Day by announcing their post-secondary plans. Many students wore their new school colors to show off their college choice. While most students will be heading to 4- and 2-year colleges and universities, others announced plans to go into the military and workforce.

## Recognizing Native American and Indigenous Grads

Five Stillwater Area High School graduates were recognized by the Stillwater Native American Parent Advisory Committee with a special ceremony in their honor. Each of the Native American and Indigenous graduates were presented with an eagle feather or medicine bag by a local elder.



# Our Portrait of a Graduate In Action

For the past several years, Stillwater’s Portrait of a Graduate has guided our work as teachers, administrators and school staff. It provides a picture of what our community wants for its children, and it identifies the skills and attributes we work to instill in each student: Critical thinking; collaboration; creativity; communication; and self-advocacy.

Learn more about how the portrait is coming to life in our classrooms.



## Collaboration

Nowhere is the skill of collaboration more on display than in the high school's Unified Physical Education class and the TRUST (True Respect Unifies Students Together) Club. Students of all abilities come together to participate in activities to promote unity and inclusion while building confidence and leadership skills. Together the students learn to respect and appreciate differences, celebrate individual contributions and seek out diverse perspectives.

### Attributes:

- Builds strong relationships
- Works effectively and respectfully with diverse teams
- Seeks out diverse ideas and perspectives
- Values the individual contributions made by each team member



## Critical Thinking

Poetry is just one way students are learning to think deeply and critically. Every week a group of 5th graders in the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program at Stillwater Middle School worked with a community volunteer to evaluate, analyze and interpret the meaning of poems written in many styles. Retired high school orchestra director Dr. Jim Hainlen met with students to study poetry and create their own prose - all in an effort to expand their critical thinking skills.

### Attributes:

- Shows empathy for others
- Solves complex problems
- Discerns accurate, relevant information
- Reasons effectively to make sound judgments and decisions



## Creating

Students in the St. Croix Valley Area Learning Center (ALC) sewed up their geometry unit by making a quilt. The project focused heavily on geometry and included some lessons in history.

Students studied different quilt patterns and eventually decided on the Log Cabin, which was made popular during the Underground Railroad movement in the 1800s. Each block consisted of 22 strips measured carefully, then sewed with a 1/4 inch seam that had to be precise.

About 30 students worked on the project for several months. The quilt was presented to retiring ALC teacher Tom Wendt in honor of his 24 years in the district.

### Attributes:

- Courageous, takes risks and learns from failure
- Open minded and responsive to new and diverse perspectives
- Flexible and can adapt to new environments and situations
- Carefully considers ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts



## Self-Advocacy

Every morning students arriving at Andersen Elementary were greeted with the sounds of music. Fifth-grader Clay Bartelt took it upon himself to share his passion for 70s classic rock (from Journey to John Denver) with his schoolmates. What started as a one-time, impromptu performance on the old community piano soon became a daily tradition. Students of all ages gather in the school's entryway to sing along to their favorite songs before beginning their day.

### Attributes:

- Remains curious and loves to learn new things
- Understands personal strengths and areas for growth
- Is motivated and confident
- Follows their passions and interests



## Communicating

Public speaking is not an issue for members of the high school's speech team. The team finished 11th in the nation out of 206 teams who qualified for the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions (NIETOC). The tournament brings together the nation's best and brightest students and teachers in Oral Interpretation and Public Address.

Three SAHS students competed at the NIETOC, with Gursimrat Dahry becoming the school's first-ever national finalist. The two other Stillwater students advanced to elimination rounds at the tournament. Overall, the team finished as NIETOC runners-up in Division I (four entries or less).

### Attributes:

- Expresses themselves effectively in both written and oral communications
- Listens actively to others
- Shows cultural understanding and global awareness when engaging with others
- Treats others with kindness and respect



# LEARNING FOR LIFE

## Buzzing with excitement

Stonebridge preschoolers in Ms. Stegmeir's class were busy as bees. Students learned about the importance of pollinators through role play. They dressed up as honeybees and butterflies, traveling from plant to plant to collect and deposit "pollen." The kids also donned beekeeper outfits to harvest the honey from the hives. They used a yellow "smoker" to put crocheted bees to sleep so they could take the honey from the honeycomb.

The lesson wasn't only about science. Pretend play also supports social-emotional, language and cognitive development by providing opportunities for children to practice important skills with peers. They learn how to share ideas, solve problems together and build conflict resolution skills. The lesson was part of a larger unit called "growing like me" which was partially sponsored by the Partnership Plan.



## Building birdhouses and life skills

Sixth grade students at Stillwater Middle School brought lessons to life by building wooden birdhouses. The hands-on project combined both math and art curriculum. Students calculated the surface area and volume of the birdhouses and then put them together. Later, they painted them in art class. Thanks to The Partnership Plan for funding the project.

## Students experience life in the OR

Local healthcare professionals provided an incredible hands-on opportunity for high school students interested in the medical field. About 25 students participated in an interactive operating room simulation made possible by the Stillwater Area High School Pathways program. Professionals from Lakeview Hospital, Twin Cities Orthopedics and Medtronic offered their expertise and insights.

As a follow-up, one high school student even had the opportunity to shadow a Radiologic Technologist in an actual operating room during 4 surgeries: A hip arthroscopy, an internal plate fixation on the radius, a bunion removal, and a high tibial osteotomy.



## Hooked on learning!

Stillwater Area High School students pulled on their hip waders and stepped into the chilly waters of Brown's Creek to release more than 600 rainbow trout. The students in Glenn Boettcher's Fish and Wildlife class hatched and raised the 3-inch fingerlings as part of Minnesota Trout in the Classroom.

The program, which is sponsored by Trout Unlimited and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), gives students the opportunity to learn about trout embryology, growth and development, nutrition, and water quality. In addition to releasing the fish, students also joined DNR staff who used electrofishing techniques to survey adult fish in the same stream.

For more photos and videos of our students visit our Facebook page @stillwater834.

# *Celebrating the* **CLASS OF 2022**

This year's graduates have proven they are resilient, adaptable and Stillwater Strong. We're so proud of the more than 680 students graduated from Stillwater Area High School this year! See pages 8-11 for more about the Class of 2022. Videos and photos are posted on [facebook.com/Stillwater834](https://facebook.com/Stillwater834).

**Congratulations to our newest Pony graduates.**

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de esta hoja informativa, por favor llame a la oficina de su escuela para hablar con un interprete.

 **Stillwater**  
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Independent School District 834  
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## **Celebrating our distinguished alumni**

Four individuals have been honored for distinction after graduating from Stillwater Area High School. They will join more than 100 others who have been named Distinguished Alumni since the award was first given in 1987.

This year's class of Distinguished Alumni includes: Jessie Diggins (Class of 2010); Dr. Patrick Hicks (Class of 1988); Danielle Mkali (Class of 1996); and Edward W. Simonet (Class of 1967).

Read more about their impressive accomplishments on our website at [stillwaterschools.org/alumni](https://stillwaterschools.org/alumni).



**651-351-8340 | [stillwaterschools.org](https://stillwaterschools.org)**

