

A special BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
section of  
**THE NEW  
PRAGUE TIMES**  
Thursday, August 13, 2020



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Responding to a pandemic

**Tim Dittberner**  
*Superintendent*

A few years ago I read Jack Canfield's book, "The Success Principles." Canfield explains in the book a very simple but very important concept. The formula is:  $E + R = O$  (Event + Response = Outcome). Every outcome you experience in life is the result of how you have responded to an earlier event or events in your life. If you don't like the outcomes you are currently getting, there are two basic choices you can make.



Dittberner

One choice is you can blame the event (E) for your lack of results (O). This is what most people do. They don't change their response – they simply continue to complain, blame and make excuses about their situation. A second



choice is to simply change your responses (R) to the events (E) – the way things are – until you get the outcomes (O) you want. You can change your thinking, change your communication, change your behavior – the things you do. That is all you really have any control over. If you don't like your outcomes, change your responses.

The event right now is the COVID-19 pandemic. How are we going to respond in these challenging times? We cannot allow ourselves to spend time complaining about this pandemic, blaming state leaders, or make excuses of why we can't succeed. We have to take responsibility and focus on what we can control, and not waste time talking about

things we cannot control. We must be committed to our mission of engaging students in high levels of learning whether it is the daily in-person model, hybrid model or distance model.

The New Prague Area School District is fortunate to have strong community and parent support, and a caring staff. The District's top priority as we head into a school year during the midst of a world-wide pandemic is to ensure a safe learning/working environment for all students and staff. We will welcome them, keep them safe, and continue to provide the best education possible. It will take a collaborative effort to accomplish our mission.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and young people. We will accomplish great things together!

## Health Services Department making schools safe

**Jen Schoenecker**  
*Director of Health Services*

The Health Services Department has been working with our school building administrators to implement mitigation strategies to safely



Schoenecker

welcome students and staff back into the buildings. This is being done by following required and recommended guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Education. All components of the guidance focus on optimizing education, mitigating risk and promoting the health and

safety of both students and staff.

The mitigation strategies include social distancing, face coverings, hygiene practices, cleaning and materials handling, monitoring and excluding for illness and handling suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. Parents are asked to monitor their children for symptoms prior to attending school each day. Please remember to keep

your child home if they or anyone in the household is not feeling well or has recently been exposed to COVID-19. Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the school day will be isolated in a designated area under staff supervision until they are able to be picked up.

As we move forward, New Prague Area Schools will continue

to follow the guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Education. As the guidance changes, so will our practices. We appreciate your continued support as we work together to reduce viral spread within our community and make our schools safe for students and staff.

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## Community Education redesigns offerings

**Janelle Kirsch**  
*Director of Community Services*

New Prague Area Community Education is proud to offer a plethora of classes and activities this fall while following guidance from the MN Department of Health. Many of our offerings have been redesigned with the participant's health and safety in mind. During the COVID crisis our classes will:

- Have smaller class sizes or classes held in larger spaces, following the latest guidance from the Department of Health
- Start times may be staggered with separate entrances and exits
- Individual supplies will be used as much as possible
- Increased cleaning of common surfaces and areas will be conducted prior to and after classes
- Participants will be encouraged to practice social distancing as much as possible
- Staff and participants over



**Kirsch**

the age of 5 are required to wear face coverings as per the governor's Emergency Executive Order

- Increased hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer is stressed
- Staff and students will be asked to conduct individual health screenings
- Anyone who is exhibiting signs or symptoms associated with the virus must not attend
- Depending on your comfort level, a variety of in-person and online classes are available for all ages

Kids' Company is prepared to provide child care for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade at each of the elementary schools. A plan for care has been developed and will be in effect whether we are in-person, in a hybrid model or if our district goes to distance learning. Our WRAP program is available for three to five year olds during the time that these children are not in preschool. Limited spaces are still available in both programs so we encourage families to register soon if they anticipate needing care

this school year.


A condensed version of the fall catalog will be mailed the week of September 1st. With the unpredictability of COVID-19, sometimes classes may have to be moved to different dates, times or locations. We encourage individuals to visit the Community Education website, [ce.isd721.org](http://ce.isd721.org), to find the most up-to-date information. Some of our classes will take you directly to a waitlist. If that is the case for a class you are interested in, we recommend that you go ahead and add your name; individuals will be added to the roster in the order they appear on the waitlist and payment will be collected at that time.

As the virus continues to redefine our normal, we ask for your flexibility and understanding as we work together to offer the best opportunities available under the current circumstances. Thank you for your continued support of New Prague Area Community Education, we look forward to serving you either in person or online throughout the school year.

## Early Learning Offering Distance Learning and In-Person Options for Families

**Mary Bartusek**  
*ECFE Coordinator  
Community Education*

We know that children need to feel safe, secure, loved and a sense of belonging to learn and grow. The challenges we are facing right now can adversely affect children and their development. Our programs will help your family develop some routine and create a sense of normalcy whether you participate in in-person or online distance



**Bartusek**

learning. Feeling safe, secure, loved and a sense of belonging has been our mission and continues to be. Safety has taken on another level since COVID 19.

New Prague Area Preschools will be offering in-person preschool starting September 8th. Classes are offered at the Central Education Campus in New Prague and at Eagle View Elementary in Elko New Market. Our programs will be following the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education guidance that offers safe instruction during COVID 19.

Students that attend any Early Learning Program (Preschool, ECCE and Early Childhood Screening) are not required to wear masks, as stated in the governor's Executive Order. Classroom size will not exceed 50% of the room capacity. Each section of preschool and ECCE will be divided into two groups and each group will have their own space for instruction and learning. Hand washing upon entering a classroom has always been a priority. Our programs will have participants wash hands more frequently while attending programming. Manipula-

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## Falcon Ridge Elementary Back to School 2020-21

**David Giesen**

*Falcon Ridge Elementary Principal*

We are looking forward to welcoming both students and staff back for the 2020-2021 school year, following an unexpected conclusion this past spring due to the Coronavirus pandemic. While there are plenty of unknowns as we lead into the fall, the summer has been spent preparing our building and working to grow professionally.



Giesen

Our staff will soon be returning to the building, and we are looking forward to welcoming families to our Fall Assessment Conferences on August 25 (11 a.m. - 8 p.m.) and 26 (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.). Our first full day of school will be on Thursday, September 3. This will once again be a chance for families to meet their new teacher, drop off supplies, and tour the school. Staff from Nutrition Services and Health Services will be on hand to assist and answer questions

if needed. Again this year, Lifetouch will be present in our main gym to take student pictures before or after their assessment conference. We are asking that families only bring one parent for each student that will be attending Falcon Ridge. Additional family members and siblings are discouraged from attending.

We will be announcing our plans for the start of a new school year very soon, and even though there are details that are in the process of being finalized, be assured that the safety and well-being of our students will continue to be our top priority. Additionally our collective efforts will be on ensuring high levels of learning, along with growing our students academically, socially, and emotionally. We are looking forward to partnering with our families, and are excited for the 2020-21 school year!

We are looking forward to welcoming the following new staff to Falcon Ridge:

Sam Chlan - Special Education  
Emma Busch - Americorps Tutor

## Welcome back to Eagle View

**William Remmert**

*Eagle View Elementary Principal*

Welcome back to our Eagle View students and families! This year is definitely going to be a new and challenging school year for everyone but we are confident that we will all work together to make it an excellent one. With nearly 600 students attending in person and through Distance Learning, we will be taking extra precautions to ensure the health and safety of all our students and staff, we are excited to continue to build on the collective work that has become our standard at Eagle View - working in collaboration to ensure high levels of learning for all students.

We are excited about our annual Fall Assessment Conferences on August 25 (11 am-8 pm) and 26 (9



Remmert

am-6 pm) with all students beginning school on Thursday, September 3. Assessment Conferences are the chance for families to meet their new teacher, drop off supplies, and tour the school. Lifetouch will also be present in our main gym to take student pictures before or after their conference. Additional family members and siblings are discouraged from coming along if it doesn't pertain to their conference, in order to maintain social distancing for the health and safety of all.

Finally, this school year we only have one new staff member at Eagle View and it is our school psychologist, Julianna Bowen. The entire Eagle View staff is excited to welcome her and all our students for the 20-21 school year!

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to New Prague Area Schools. Please reach out if you have any questions.

## Educational Services Department has been buzzing with activity

**Maren Bahler**

*Director of Curriculum and Assessment*

The Educational Services Department has been buzzing with activity this summer! Teachers from various departments and grade levels came to the District Office (either in person or remotely) to intentionally focus on ways to continually meet the needs of all students by planning and adjusting instruction accordingly during this dedicated time. Specifically, our high school counseling team updated college and career readiness and social-emotional learning content that will be delivered to all students in grades 9-12 via advisory and elementary primary grades teachers have been working on implementing a new phonics program called Foundations. The work that has occurred this summer has helped our teachers prepare for an incredible 2020-2021 school year!



Bahler

We continue to provide professional development on best practice literacy instruction as we work on building a systematic literacy framework among our three elementary schools. Our literacy framework focuses on small group, whole group and independent reading instruction using the Teachers College curriculum as our primary resource. Additionally, many elementary teachers are working to incorporate a structured writer's workshop this upcoming school year as guided through summer professional development!

## Welcome Back To School - Raven Stream Elementary School

**Jeremy Engebretson**

*Raven Stream Elementary Principal*

Our staff is excited to welcome students back to school for the 2020-2021 school year at Raven Stream Elementary! As we all know, the start of this year has been anticipated like no other year. Whether students are present in-person or learning at home, our teachers will develop caring relationships and support high levels of learning. The 2020-2021 school year will mark our fifteenth year at Raven Stream Elementary School. We opened our doors in September of 2006.

Parents and students will notice a few staff changes when they return.

- Jamie Gibson - Grade 2
- Kyle Zander - Grade 3
- Sue Karmann - Nurse

At Raven Stream, our goals this year will focus on continuing to create an environment of respect and caring for all students. Our teachers will work to instill a passion for literacy through a variety of approaches in their classrooms. Our students will continue their growth as problem-solvers in math. As in the past, our teachers will begin getting to know their students at the assessment conferences on August 25 & 26.

We're eagerly awaiting the chance for our students to explore the new additions to our outside area. Thank you to our families for supporting us financially through last year's fundraiser. Our paved area has two new areas with chutes and ladders and a target throwing game. We're also introducing a natural playground area. Students will have the chance to imagine anything they choose as they build forts in our two new structures and play in the large lodge pod soon to be covered in natural growth. We've added a fun section of stepping logs for students to hop between and also use as an outdoor classroom space. A special thanks goes out to Miranda Vertnik and Sarah Kallal for heading up the projects. There were also donations of time or resources given by: Billy Bartusek, Ben, Lucas & Alex Scheffler, Dan, Tommie & Patrick Sullivan, Paul, Brandt & Taelyn Tisdell, Simon, Charley, Julia & Livie Kallal, Drew Hemann, Matthew Kudrle, Jacob Lee, Thomas Johnson, Brendan Pieper, Ethan Chromy, The Consdorf Family, Willis Bowman, Kierstan Dahl-Shetka, Melissa Kreuser, Dan Skluzacek, The Den Hartog Family, Johnson Services, Ace Hardware, and Cedar Brook Garden Center.

We are all looking forward to seeing everyone soon for the 2020-2021 school year!



Engebretson

## School start dates for New Prague Area District

**Thursday, Sept. 3**

K-12 - Group A

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School

**Friday, Sept. 4**

K-12 - Group B

**Tuesday, Sept. 8**

District Preschool

Holy Cross Catholic School

## New Prague Area Schools Phone Numbers

New Prague  
Area Schools  
District Office  
**952-758-1700**

New Prague  
High School  
**952-758-1200**

New Prague  
Middle School  
**952-758-1400**

Raven Stream  
Elementary  
**952-758-1500**

Falcon Ridge  
Elementary  
**952-758-1600**

Eagle View  
Elementary  
**952-758-6000**

Compass  
Learning Center  
**952-758-1745**

Pre-School and  
Early Childhood  
**952-758-1674**

St. Wenceslaus  
School  
Little Spirits  
Preschool  
**952-758-3133**

Holy Cross  
Catholic School  
**952-652-6100**

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- Move your toothbrush around to make sure you are reaching every tooth.
- Look for a soft toothbrush with rounded bristles.
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# Middle School Highway to Success

**Brad Gregor**  
*Middle School Principal*

We would like to welcome back all families to New Prague Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year. I am looking forward to having our students back in the building this year in some capacity. This school year will be like no other year that we will experience. Our staff has been preparing and planning for in-person learning and distance learning. When possible learning will be in person and we will be offering distance learning for students that opt for that learning platform. We ask for your patience, understanding, and support as we could be moving in and out of in-person learning and distance learning throughout the year. We will have routines and procedures in place for the safety of our students and staff as required by Minnesota Department of Health's Stay Safe Minnesota Return to School Plan.

Our building theme this year is **"Highway To Success."** This theme was chosen by our incoming 8th graders and you can expect to see and hear this phrase referred to often as we provide educational opportunities during the school year. Another theme you will hear often at our school this year is "Kindness Matters at NPMS." Like last year our staff will be working with our students to promote



Gregor

various activities throughout the year relating to kindness and respecting differences throughout our building. Our teaming concept provides a student-centered learning environment that best meets the academic, social, and emotional needs of middle school students. It allows our staff to really get to know the students in the smaller learning environment. Our goal is for every student to reach his or her full learning potential. We also believe in the importance of students being involved in activities and we offer many athletic and fine arts activities for our students outside of the school day. We will try to keep this model intact as much as possible but changes could be made due to staffing situations. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and limiting the number of large gatherings we will not be having an open house this year. We will be having some optional open building dates for students that want to come in and find their classrooms and walk the building. This will be done by a sign up that will be sent out to families once student schedules are finalized. We are excited to have the following addition to our staff: Tucker Coil-Personal - Wellness and Fitness teacher. We are looking forward to having a great year at New Prague Middle School. If you have any concerns during the year, please feel free to contact us. Let's have an outstanding school year.

# Ready, Set, and Go....

**Kim Doyle**  
*St. Wenceslaus Principal*

The time has come for our school to be back in session. The summer has been adventurous as you are well aware, but little by little plans are syncing together to open our 2020 fall school year. St. Wenceslaus Catholic School is aligned with 79 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis under the leadership of Archbishop Hebda. We are excited to be bringing students back into our schools in a few weeks. We are so thankful for so many people who supported our school throughout these past few months, making this possible. We have seen incredible generosity, compassion, kindness, and support for our school and our staff. St. Wenceslaus will have students in the school building for live face to face instruction. We are offering a five-day per week schedule, where we will continue to have our Christ-centered family atmosphere that provides an excellent academic program to our students in preschool through 8th grade. Many specific protocols are now in place to keep our students and staff as healthy as possible. These include forming classroom clusters, planning how to travel in the hallways,



Doyle

or using the restroom to avoid intermingling of different age groups, and changing what was normal. Students will have daily health checks, face coverings will be worn, desks will be spread apart, lunch will be served differently, and so much more to help mitigate the virus. Despite these new ways, we will be able to teach our students and continue developing our strong bonding relationships with our school family. Like all others, our school is prepared to also move into a technology-based distance learning plan if the health of our community dictates that directive. We pray that everyone in the New Prague area stays healthy and makes good and wise choices so that our teachers and students can have a wonderful year together in our school building. We welcome several new teachers to our staff this year. We are excited to have them join us. We are more richly equipped with skills to educate our children as our team has participated in many fantastic training sessions over the summer months. We have some new curriculum, including a robust study of social studies and world issues, which is timely in today's circumstances. We look forward to using prayer, compassion, kindness, and generosity to form our students into genuine Christ-centered people within our Catholic environment. We are ready! We are set! So let's go!

# New distant learning model at High School

**Nicole Adams**  
*High School Principal*

Despite the unusual circumstances, New Prague High School looks forward to welcoming students back to the building or back to a new distance learning model. Last year's school year took a course that no one in August of 2019 would have predicted. Despite the ever changing and evolving nature of the pandemic that requires constant readjustment, we now know and understand that being adaptive to new circumstances is the "new normal."

We have been tackling every aspect of reopening schools during a pandemic since May. We are recalibrating every facet of schooling from facilities, procedures and systems to support high levels of learning despite the challenges. We ask for your patience, understanding as we continue to rebuild and reshape systems on data that shifts quickly and comes to us on shortened timelines. Our goal is to be as fluid and as responsive to the varied needs of our families and students as possible. We will continue to share and communicate information in the most timely and concise manner as possible and as needed. We will have routines and procedures in place for the safety of our students and staff as required by Minnesota Department of Health's Stay Safe Minnesota Return to School Plan. We will be sharing specifics



Adams

around these procedures with students and families as soon as possible. For those returning to the building for in-person learning in any form, school will likely feel very different. Nevertheless, these changes do not diminish how excited staff are to have you back at NPHS. Our students are truly the heartbeat of our building and we have missed them everyday since March 13. We can't wait to see you all soon, whether it's in person or online for students who prefer that to start. We are excited to have the following addition to our staff: Naseeba Ramjan - School Counselor. Ms. Ramjan comes to NPHS from Hyde High School in the Bronx, NY. She has been a school counselor for seven years. She attended Columbia Teachers College where she earned a master's degree in teaching and learning as well as a master's in school counseling. She is well-versed in restorative practices. Her colleagues and students from Hyde High School describe her as having an incredible ability to understand many perspectives, build rapport through empathy, an incredible work ethic, commitment to excellence and deep knowledge of best counseling and instructional practices. Ms. Ramjan is in the process of relocating to Minnesota and we look forward to welcoming her to the New Prague High School staff. We are thrilled to have her on our team. We are looking forward to having a great year at New Prague High School. If you have any concerns during the year, please feel free to contact us.

**Constance Krocak**  
*Holy Cross Principal*

Greetings from Holy Cross Catholic School! If you haven't already heard, we are planning on opening our school year for our students on campus on September 8. We have spent much of the summer writing pandemic preparedness plans, ordering safety and cleaning equipment, and rearranging our facility to keep our students as safe from COVID-19 infection as we possibly can. There are some new faculty members joining our ranks this fall. First, Mrs. Mary Duecker is joining us in our middle school and will teach our ELA classes. She has taught at both Bethlehem Academy and All Saints Catholic School and brings both that experience and her faith to Holy Cross. Mrs. Shari Eischens, a New Prague resident, has had many years of experience in early childhood education. Most recently a teacher at St. Hubert's, Mrs. Eischens will be taking on the role of Kindergarten teacher. Finally, Mr. Michael Smith comes to us straight from the University of Alabama and the U.S. Army. He is our new Social Studies teacher for Grades 5-8. New to Minnesota, Mr. Smith is already looking forward to experiencing a true, Minnesota winter. We are excited to have these wonderful educators



Krocak

join our faculty. They have much to offer our students in pedagogy, academics and in faith! Technology continues to play an important role in the education of our children. In this age of pandemic preparedness, each of our students in Grades K-8th has their own technology device. Chromebooks and iPads will not be shared at school, and will be ready and available to all should we need to move to distance learning at a point in time during the school year. Holy Cross is very fortunate this year to be one of the schools in the Archdiocese that will be partnering with Groves Academy, a national expert in reading instruction, to transform our literacy instruction. The program is called Believe and Read. Believe and Read is a three-year initiative that brings Groves Academy's methodology to Holy Cross through outstanding professional development and teacher coaching. Our goal is to ensure that every student at our school reads at or above grade level. It's an exciting program that students will happily embrace. It looks to be quite an exciting year filled with stimulating and enjoyable learning experiences for all learners at Holy Cross Catholic School. While some of our classes are already filled, if you are interested in joining our school community, please contact us, come for a tour and see what we have to offer. We are always happy to meet you!

# Nutrition Services is still smiling

**Kim Harren**  
*Director of Nutrition Services*

NPAS Nutrition Services staff is busy preparing for an atypical start to the school year. We were very appreciative of the community's support of meals for distance learners last spring and what we have learned from that process has helped us plan for the new year. Some noteworthy changes are highlighted in this article. Last spring, USDA granted all school nutrition programs in the country a waiver to be able to offer all breakfasts and lunches for free. At the time of writing this article, USDA has not renewed that waiver for the 2020-21 school year. NPAS Nutrition Services is preparing to operate breakfast and lunch programs following the regulations that were in effect and followed prior to last spring's school closure. All meals will be charged to K-12 students based on their free or reduced-price meal qualification. It is important that families complete and submit the Application for Educational Benefits prior to school starting so that unwanted negative balances are not accrued. This is especially important for families whose financial situations may have changed due to circumstances related to COVID-19. In addition to receiving free meals, each family that qualifies for free or reduced-price meals assists the district with increased revenue streams and qualifica-



Harren

tion for grant programs. As with restaurants and buffets around the country, self-service of food is prohibited. Students will be served all foods and beverages chosen. Nutrition Services is strategically planning menus to keep variety and choice, but also allow more efficient serving as well as accounting for supply chain issues. The requirements and recommendations from the MN Department of Health are guiding the district when planning where students will eat breakfast and lunch this year. Middle School and High School students will have a new way to pay for meals in school this year. Instead of entering a PIN number, each student will be issued a card that can be scanned without contact to access their meal account at the point of sale. Cash and checks will also no longer be accepted in the breakfast or lunch lines, and all transactions will be processed through the students' meal accounts. Students who are opting into distance learning, or those who are at home during their hybrid rotation, will still have access to school meals. Families will be able to pre-order breakfast and lunch in advance through the Infinite Campus School Store and pick up their meals at a designated time and location to be announced. Nutrition Services staff are embracing the changes that this school year will have and are looking forward to seeing students in the buildings again. We will still be smiling, even if it is from behind a mask!

# Transportation update

**Steve Trcka**  
*Transportation Supervisor*

Due to COVID, we have had to make, and are continuing to make changes in the way we are routing, and how we are transporting students. We will be following the guidelines and requirements set forth by the MDE, MDH, and CDC. In the past we have requested that parents fill out a simple transportation form if they have moved, changed daycares, etc. This year we have removed all students from routes and have asked parents to fill out a transportation form only if they need transportation. If a child needs transportation this year, the form must be filled out. If the form is not filled out, we assume transportation is not needed. If in the future something changes, we ask that parents simply fill out the transportation request form, and we will get the child on a bus. Parents, school staff, and drivers need to



Trcka

work with and educate students on how to keep everyone safe on the school bus. In order for a child to be safe on the school bus he/she must stay seated and face forward any time the bus is in motion. Students that decide not to follow the rules will lose the privilege of riding the bus, so we can keep everyone safe. Busing information can be found on the Campus Portal and will be updated nightly. As families move in and out of the district, change daycares, etc., pick up and drop off times, locations, and bus numbers may change. Please be sure to look at busing information often, and especially the day before school begins. We appreciate the confidence families have placed in us to get their children to and from school safely. We also appreciate the opportunity to work for such an amazing District and the great students that attend New Prague Area Schools! We look forward to another year of serving all of the families attending New Prague Area Schools, St. Wenceslaus and Holy Cross!

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# 2020-2021 Activities Department

**Brad Skogerboe**  
Activities Director

The New Prague Area Schools Activities Department is excited about the 2020-2021 school year. The 2019-2020 school year was a difficult one due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we are hopeful that things return to a form of normalcy this year. The 2019-2020 school year saw WCC East Championships in Girls Basketball and Wrestling with a large number of individual successes as well. There were 3 senior basketball players that scored 1000 points in their NPHS careers: Amanda Giesen, Parker Johnson, & Emily Russo. We also had 3 wrestlers reach the state finals (Joey Novak - Gr. 9; Nick Novak - Gr. 11; & Will Busch - Gr. 12) with a total of 6 wrestlers placing in the top 6 of the state tournament. Our Adapted Floor Hockey team finished the regular season with an undefeated record and were poised for a strong postseason appearance before the cancellation of the State Tournament.

The Spring season cancellation took away opportunities for our Spring athletes and fine artists and I'm confident there would have been more successes if they were allowed to compete, or perform. I was happy with the way our program leaders, and students, handled the difficult news and I was happy for the virtual opportunities that our coaches/advisors provided. It was far from an ideal Spring (or Summer), but everyone worked together to try to provide the best possible experiences for our students. I was very appreciative, and

proud, of everyone's efforts during these tough times.

Due to guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health, there will still be some obstacles for the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We must monitor crowd size and enforce face coverings to try to ensure the health of our students, and our communities. As a result of the crowd size limitations, we are going to provide live streaming options this school year. I feel this will be a great option for many reasons and we will provide more information in the near future.

For the third year, our department is handling all Activities at the Middle School and High School. Kevin Kleiner, Assistant A.D., is in his second year in this position and we are lucky to have 2 great assistants in Colleen Osborne (Middle School) and Lynn Swaggert (High School). We all work together in an effort to create great experiences for the students of ISD #721. Please feel free to contact any of us to get your questions answered in a timely manner. You can also find information about our athletic, fine arts, and club opportunities at [www.nph-sathletics.sportngin.com](http://www.nph-sathletics.sportngin.com).

The 2020-2021 school year will be the first year for Varsity Boys & Girls Lacrosse. Both programs started two years ago as JV squads in 2018-2019 and were supposed to have their first varsity season last Spring. Due to the Spring cancellation, however, their first varsity season will be this Spring. Coaches Julie Bowers-Wegner (Girls) and Paul Newton (Boys) will do a great job with these programs and we're extremely happy with the program's development in such a short period of time.



Skogerboe

## Early Learning

tives, instructional items, toys and areas of the classroom will be cleaned and disinfected after use. Students will have their own school supplies so the highly used items will not be shared with anyone else. We are focusing on following the guidelines and using developmentally appropriate practices.

Online Preschool and ECFE Distance Learning classes have been added. If your family chooses to remain in your home this is an excellent option for you. The Online Distance Learning Preschool program will use the same curriculum

and content as in person preschool. Every month, pick up a preschool packet, each week, receive an extensive digital lesson, once a month meet online and an optional in-person small setting classroom experience is available.

ECFE online distance learning options include a brand new Baby and Me class. You can join live with other parents and their babies for this special time together. Enjoy interacting with your baby through songs, simple games and exercises. Meet other parents online to discuss parenting topics. Our families with

children ages 1-4 can attend ECFE class, pick up a packet every month, receive a weekly prerecorded circle time that you can watch and participate with your child when it is convenient for you and meet weekly online to connect with other parents. Both in person and online classes are facilitated by a licensed teacher.

To receive more information about our program offerings in person or online please visit our website <https://npa-schools.ce.eleyo.com/> or call us at 952-758-1670.

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# Many Thanks to

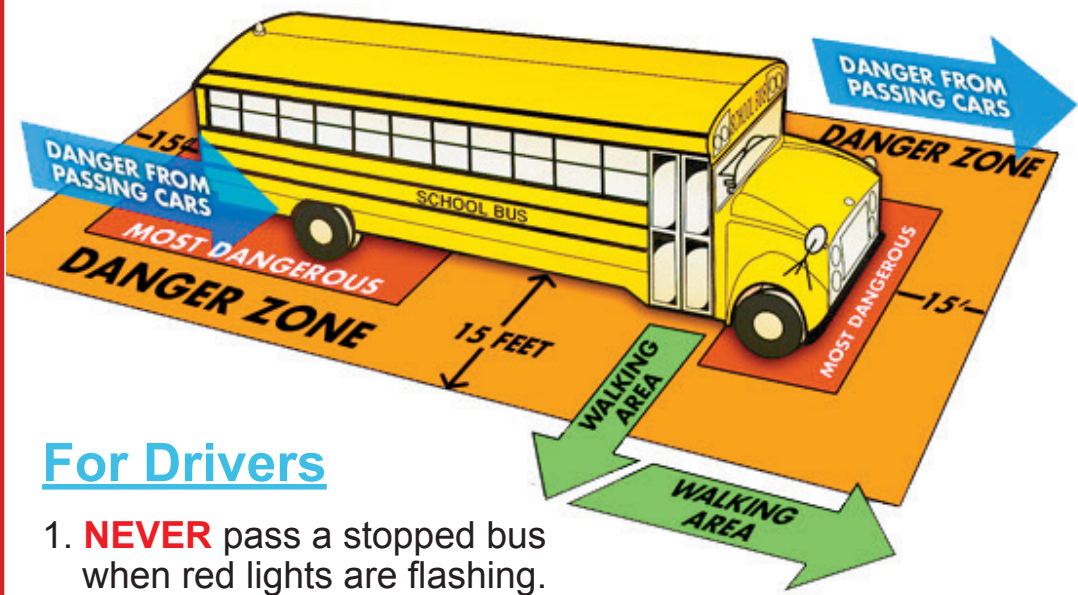
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SCHOOL BUS DRIVER'S PRAYER

Lord,  
help me be friendly  
and cautious and kind,  
and put all distractions  
right out of my mind.  
Help all of my riders  
arrive safe and sound.  
And make mine  
the happiest  
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# BUS SAFETY TIPS



### For Drivers

- 1. **NEVER** pass a stopped bus when red lights are flashing.
- 2. Watch for children in residential areas and around school zones.
- 3. Obey speed limits - especially in school zones.
- 4. Obey all traffic lights and traffic guards.

### For Children

- 1. Cross only at designated school crossings
- 2. Walk across streets - **DO NOT RUN.**
- 3. Look all ways before crossing.
- 4. Do not cross between parked vehicles.
- 5. Obey the safety patrol.
- 6. Where there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side - facing the oncoming traffic.
- 7. Never accept rides from strangers.

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