



**BLOOMINGTON  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
1917-2017

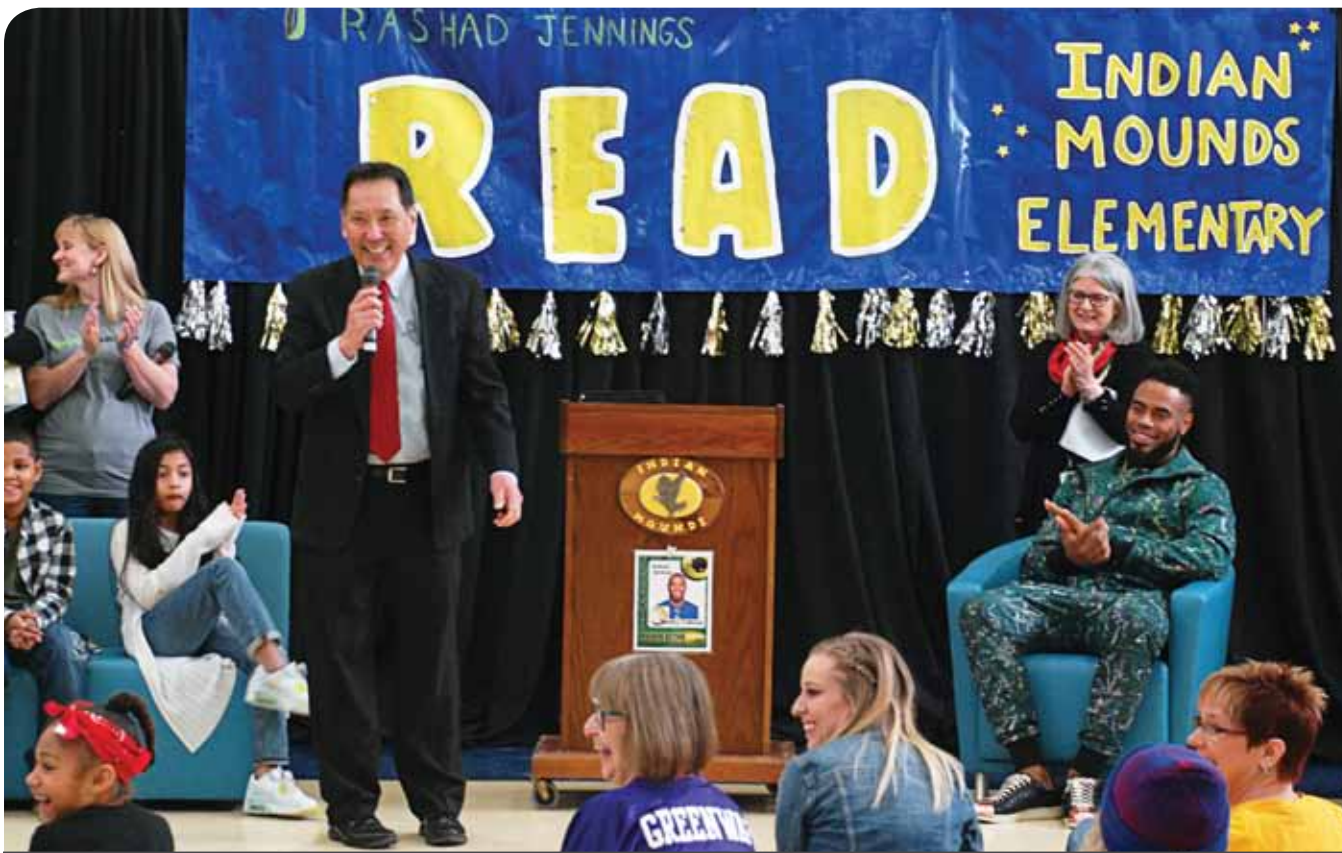
# SCHOOL PAGES

Spring 2017-18



A Message from Superintendent Les Fujitake

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH CHOICES FOR COLLEGE OR CAREER



Superintendent Les Fujitake congratulates Indian Mounds Elementary School on a successful reading challenge during a school rally with former NFL running back and Dancing with the Stars champion Rashad Jennings.

Weeks are away from spring break, a time when families and staff take a respite before closing out the school year. It's also a time when our high school seniors are in the midst of making a tough decision: where, and if, they should go to college.

While that decision is best made by each student and his or her family, it is our responsibility to empower students to make informed choices that best fit their needs, aspirations, desires and abilities. Helping students identify where their passions lie is key to helping them see the connection between their studies and what will benefit them after graduation.

When we give students options in the form of college and career choices, they are better prepared to make one of the most difficult choices in their young adult life. Why? Because research shows that students feel more engaged in school when they see the connection between their education and real-world opportunities.

Connecting students to real-world experiences is the goal of our efforts to foster early career awareness among middle school

students and career pathway programs for high school students.

All students create a Personal Growth Plan starting in middle school and use a program called Naviance to help map out interests, career options and the post secondary education or qualifications needed for their career choice.

High school pathways such as Bloomington Career and College Academy, Advanced Placement, concurrent enrollment courses, Post Secondary Enrollment Option and project-based learning in our classrooms, including internships and mentorships, broaden students' understanding of careers and college opportunities.

Communities across Minnesota and throughout the country are facing significant workforce challenges in the years ahead. Our business community is rallying around students and helping them to engage in learning that sets them up for success in college or career, or both.

When we engage students in considering the possibilities, it creates a sense of hope and optimism about their future.

## Radar rules in school

Therapy dog finding a place among students, classrooms

A new furry friend joined the Oak Grove Middle School community earlier this school year, and he's staying quite busy.

Radar, a labrador retriever therapy dog, was welcomed last fall and has spent the time since getting to know the school, visiting classrooms, walking the halls, and bringing a calming presence to students and staff alike.

Therapy dogs are increasingly common in school settings, with student benefits ranging from having access to a non-judgemental listener to increased focus and confidence and decreased stress levels. Some of Radar's work at OGMS includes...

- Helping to calm students with significant anxiety
- Helping non-verbal students open up to staff members in times of stress and dysregulation
- Facilitating connections between students and school
- Helping students develop a sense of responsibility in caring for Radar

Principal Brian Ingemann says the school's mental health professionals include Radar in their work with students on a daily basis. In an average week, Radar participates in 30 mental health sessions with students and spends time every day with STRIVE students on walks and in small group sessions with other students.

Outside of his official duties, Ingemann says Radar's calm, gentle disposition has helped him make plenty of friends: "Students stop to say hi to Radar when he is in the hallways and come visit him throughout the week."

As his primary handler, Ingemann went through extensive training to become a certified therapy dog handler. Radar goes home with Ingemann when he's not at school.

"He gets along great with our other dog Toby," said Ingemann. "They enjoy chasing each other around, going on walks and napping together on the couch. He's become part of the family!"





# New online courses offer flexible learning

High school students will have 13 new online courses to choose from next school year.

BPS Online courses will provide Jefferson and Kennedy high school students high quality online learning experiences aligned with district standards. The courses are created and taught by Bloomington teachers, allowing for student support and progress monitoring, alignment with other coursework and ease of transition back to in-person class if needed.

“Online learning presents a dynamic, interactive, flexible learning opportunity to meet the diverse needs of all of our students,” said Karen Qualey, secondary digital learning coordinator.

These new courses offer students more control over the time, place, path and pace of their learning, while encouraging students to develop self-reliance and confidence for a lifetime of independent learning. Students who are already motivated, well organized, disciplined and have strong time-management and technology skills will likely do well in an online environment. All students have access to teacher support at their high schools to further develop these skills.

BPS Online is the product of a year-long collaboration between the Digital Learning Team, Learning and Teaching Team and teacher course writers to prepare engaging online learning experiences.

Early registration numbers for BPS Online courses show a growing interest in our online learning program, as an increasing number of students



have turned to external online courses in recent years to accommodate schedule constraints. Development of BPS Online courses will benefit students and teachers as we aim to provide flexible options that work best for individual learning styles and family schedules.

Learn more about the BPS Online program at [bloomingtonschools.org/online](http://bloomingtonschools.org/online).

## 2018-2019 Calendar

The 2018-19 school year calendar is now available: [bloomingtonschools.org/full-year-calendar](http://bloomingtonschools.org/full-year-calendar)

The new calendar allows for elementary assessments to be completed before the start of the 2018-19 school year. Dates for the assessments are Wednesday, Aug. 29 (also workshop week) and Tuesday, Sept. 4 (the traditional first day of school). Kindergarten and elementary students will begin classes on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Teacher leaders, Instructional Team members, the Superintendent Advisory Committee and administration worked together to schedule early assessment days prior to the start of school.

Four early release days have been added to the new school year calendar to accommodate professional development for all staff. The high schools currently have early release days, so the new calendar expands early release to the elementary and middle schools. Early release was preferred over late start so all students have the opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch.

Kids' SAFARI will support child care needs on early release days.



### BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- School in Session
- Teacher Professional Development, Conference\* or Work Day
- Elementary Assessment Day
- K-12 Early Release Day

#### START AND END DATES

Sept 4	First Day of School 6-12
Sept 5	First Day of School K-5
June 6	Last Day of School K-12

#### KEY DATES

Aug 27-31	Teacher Professional Development
Aug 29	Elementary Assessment Day
Sept 3	No School K-12 – Labor Day
Sept 4	No School K-5 – Elementary Assessment Day
Sept 4	First Day of School 6-12
Sept 5	First Day of School K-5
Oct 17	No School K-12 – Conference* or Workday
Oct 18-19	No School – Education Minnesota Conference
Oct 22	No School K-12 – Teacher Professional Development
Nov 21-23	No School K-12 – Thanksgiving Break
Nov 28	Two Hour Early Release Day K-12 – Professional Development
Nov 29	Two Hour Early Release Day K-12 – Professional Development
Nov 29	End of Trimester 1
Nov 30	No School K-12 – Conference* or Workday
Dec 24-Jan 4	No School K-12 – Winter Break
Jan 21	No School K-12 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb 1	No School K-12 – Elementary Professional Development, Conference* or Workday
Feb 18	No School K-12 – President's Day
Mar 5	Two Hour Early Release Day K-12 – Professional Development
Mar 6	Two Hour Early Release Day K-12 – Professional Development
Mar 6	End of Trimester 2
Mar 7-8	No School K-12 – Teacher Professional Development, Conference* or Workday
Mar 25-29	No School K-12 – Spring Break
Apr 19	No School K-12
May 27	No School – Memorial Day
Jun 6	End of Trimester 3
Jun 7	Teacher Work Day

JULY 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
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30	31			

AUGUST 2018				
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SEPTEMBER 2018				
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OCTOBER 2018				
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NOVEMBER 2018				
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DECEMBER 2018				
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JANUARY 2019				
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FEBRUARY 2019				
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MARCH 2019				
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MAY 2019				
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JUNE 2019				
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\*Individual schools determine actual school conference dates  
Approved by the School Board February 12, 2018

# Get ready for summer fun!

Enjoy all that Bloomington Community Education has to offer this summer!

Visit [bloomingtonschools.org/communityed](http://bloomingtonschools.org/communityed) for more information.

## Elementary and Middle School Programs

**SLAM** — Weekly sports, enrichment and recreation camps and classes for students in grades K-9.

952-806-8616 // [bloomingtonschools.org/SLAM](http://bloomingtonschools.org/SLAM)

**GRASP** — Reading and math correspondence lessons for students in grades 1-8.

952-651-6111 // [bloomingtonschools.org/GRASP](http://bloomingtonschools.org/GRASP)

**Youth Enrichment** — Music lessons and other enrichment opportunities, including Arts, Sports, Stem, Robotics, for students pre-K and older.

952-681-6132 // [bloomingtonschools.org/youth-enrichment](http://bloomingtonschools.org/youth-enrichment)

**Camp SAFARI** — Full-day childcare service offering thematic programming and two field trips per week with breakfast and snack daily for students pre-K - grade 6.

952-681-6128 // [bloomingtonschools.org/summer-kids-safari](http://bloomingtonschools.org/summer-kids-safari)

**Super SAFARI** — Week-long child care services for students in grades K-6. Extended field trips, breakfast and snack daily.

952-681-6128 // [bloomingtonschools.org/summer-kids-safari](http://bloomingtonschools.org/summer-kids-safari)

**Summer Musical Jr.: Seussical** — Performing opportunity for students in grades 3-7. Auditions in April; performances July 19-21.

[rpurdy123@gmail.com](mailto:rpurdy123@gmail.com) // [bloomingtonschools.org/summer-musical](http://bloomingtonschools.org/summer-musical)

**Galaxy Youth Center** — Drop-in center offering a variety of youth leadership activities and service learning opportunities for students in grades 6-7.

Before June 15: 952-806-8606 After June 15: 952-681-5807 // [bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec](http://bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec)

**The View** — Bloomington Parks & Recreation program for students in grades 2-5.

952-563-8877 // [bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec](http://bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec)

**Mini View** — Bloomington Parks & Recreation program for students in preschool - grade 1.

952-563-8877 // [bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec](http://bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec)

**Camp Invention** — Fun, hands-on science and creativity day camp for students in grades K-6.

800-968-4332 // [campinvention.org](http://campinvention.org).



## Secondary Programs

**Summer Musical: Footloose** — Performing opportunity for students in grades 7-12. Auditions in April; performances July 25-28.

[rpurdy123@gmail.com](mailto:rpurdy123@gmail.com) // [bloomingtonschools.org/summer-musical](http://bloomingtonschools.org/summer-musical)

**Drivers Education Classroom Training** — Two-week class including 30 hours of classroom training for students ages 14.5 and older.

952-681-6111 // [bloomingtonschools.org/driver-ed](http://bloomingtonschools.org/driver-ed)

**Summer Galaxy 2.0** — Program offering fun field trips and academic enrichment for students in grades 8-10.

952-681-5807 // [bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec](http://bit.ly/bloomington-parks-and-rec)

**Operation Adventure** — Trip for students in grades 7-8 to explore geology, social studies, camping and canoeing in Minnesota and Wisconsin state parks and forests.

952-681-6677

**Choice Alternative High School Summer Program** — Program for grade 12 students who need to complete diploma requirements.

952-681-6172 // [bloomingtonschools.org/choice-summer](http://bloomingtonschools.org/choice-summer)

## Community Programs

**Bloomington Community Education Aquatics Program** — Swimming lessons, open/lap swim and water fitness classes, Water Safety Aide (WSA) classes and lifeguard training.

952-681-6134 // [bloomingtonschools.org/swim](http://bloomingtonschools.org/swim)





# IN THE KNOW

## Emergency Notifications

Parents and guardians may now opt in to receive a text or SMS notification in case of a district or school emergency or weather related closing, in addition to email and phone call notifications. Contact preferences are managed by parents in the Infinite Campus portal. Contact your school media director for assistance.

## District-wide Food Drive

The Tenth Annual District-wide Food Drive is April 23-27. Students, families, staff and community members are invited to donate non-perishable food items or cash to their schools throughout the week.

All food and cash donations benefit VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People), a Bloomington non-profit agency serving low-income families. Last year, food and cash donations totaled 64,786 pounds of food.

## Save the Date: Chip In for Schools Golf Classic

The 2018 Chip In for Schools Golf Classic will tee off Wednesday, July 25, at Dwan Golf Course. Tournament proceeds help Bloomington students through the Education Foundation of Bloomington's Children's Food for Thought program, Student Success Stipends and classroom innovation grants. Sponsorship information and player registration are available online at efbmn.org.

## Graduation Dates

Jefferson and Kennedy high schools' 2018 graduation ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m. June 4 and 5 respectively at the Minneapolis Convention Center.



Kennedy High School phy. ed students face community members in a game of intergenerational volleyball. The Born Again Jocks gather three times a week every winter to play volleyball at the high school activity centers. Phy. ed teachers organize student vs. BAJ games a few times each season.

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**Editor:** Rick J. Kaufman, APR  
Executive Director of Community Relations  
952.681.6403

**Writers:** Andrea George, Kate Martin  
**Photos:** Andrea George

### 2018 Bloomington School Board

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B L O O M I N G T O N



P u b l i c S c h o o l s

# POINTS OF PRIDE

■ Bloomington teachers **Whitney Determan** and **Kathryn Haddad** are this year's TIES Minnesota Technology Leader Award recipients. The award recognizes teachers who integrate technology in the classroom to improve E-12 education. **Haddad**, language arts teacher at Kennedy High School, is also the winner of the 2018 Kay Sexton Award presented by the Minnesota Book Awards. The award recognizes an individual or organization for their dedication and outstanding work in fostering books, reading and literacy in Minnesota.

recognizes high school juniors for their involvement in school activities, volunteer efforts and leadership qualities.



■ Hillcrest Community School third grade teacher **Cory Wade** was named KS95's Teacher of the Week.

■ **Rachel Graff** (Jefferson) and **Julia Monson** (Kennedy) are the 2018 Athena Award winners, presented each year to outstanding senior female athletes from schools across the metro area.

■ **Sue Martell** received special recognition from the Bloomington United for Youth (BUY) Board during its annual Volunteer Recognition Event for her dedication to the community. Martell, a 25-year employee of Bloomington Public Schools, is a placement specialist with Volunteer Connection.



■ Jefferson High School junior **Bella Phan** qualified for the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) 2018 National Tournament after placing first in the House category of Congressional Debate at the district tournament.

■ **Mabel Weismann** (Olson Middle) and **Will Spangrud** (Valley View Middle) performed in this year's Children's Theatre Company production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Mabel played Cindy Lou Who, and Will played Mini Grinch and a member of the Who ensemble.

■ **Kelsey Johnson** (Jefferson) and **Johanna Engebretson** and **Derek Flanagan** (Kennedy) received Gold Keys in this year's Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards. **Elizabeth River-Soto** and **James St. George-Schreder** (Kennedy) received Silver Keys for their works. Students receiving honorable mention include Kennedy's **Sophia Alvarado**, **Makenzie Booth**, **Renee Castro** and **Marci Schubbe**; Jefferson's **Jaclyn Crain**, **Riley De Vries**, **Haley Pinette** and **Sam Wallace**; and Olson Middle School's **Elvira Obada**.

■ This year's ExCEL Award winners are **Luci Bianchi** and **Charles Maki** (Jefferson) and **Olivia Morales** and **Ulyses Perez Perez** (Kennedy). The ExCEL award



■ The **Jefferson High School competition cheer team** earned a national championship title in the Large Game Day division at the 2018 UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando.

■ The **Jefferson and Kennedy Science Olympiad teams** advanced to the Minnesota Science Olympiad competition after placing among the top eight teams at the regional level. Kennedy tied for first and Jefferson finished seventh to advance to the state competition.