

# News

About Northwest Suburban Integration School District

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NORTHWEST SUBURBAN  
INTEGRATION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*A Global Community Learning and Growing Together*

## Magnet School Lotteries Performed!



**The Northwest Suburban Integration School District Magnet Lottery** for the 2019-20 school year was performed the first and second weeks of January 2019. **NWSISD placed over 800 students from over 1,250 applications into 26 magnet schools.** Letters were successfully mailed to all applicants. Families had until February 7 to contact schools and enrollment centers of their intentions to keep their assigned placement or to go back into the waiting pool for the Tier 2 lottery. Blaine CEMS, Coon Rapids BioMed, and Anoka MS for the Arts had earlier assignment deadlines due to class registration which happened earlier than the NWSISD assignment deadline. The magnet lottery application closing date has been extended and will close on March 11, 2019. The application

portal will reopen on March 18, 2019. **Tier 2 lottery will take place the week of March 14.** Families will be notified of their Tier 2 lottery assignments the week of March 18, 2019.

**Magnet Lottery Priority Application Time Period** Students who applied during the priority application period of October 15 through December 31, 2018, will continue to have the best chance of being assigned to the magnet school of their choice during the Tier 2 lottery.

**Sibling Priority** First priority will be given to the applications of siblings of students who are currently attending and will continue to attend the same magnet school. In order to receive sibling priority status, applications must have been received by December 31, 2018.

**Limited seats remain available at the following magnet schools and programs:**

### Elementary:

Birch Grove - Arts  
Earle Brown - STEAM  
Hayes - IB  
Montrose - STEAM  
Rockford - Arts  
Stevenson - IB  
Zanewood - STEAM

### Middle Schools:

Brooklyn Center - STEAM  
Fridley - IB  
Rockford - STEM

### High Schools:

Brooklyn Center - STEAM  
Buffalo - Arts  
Coon Rapids - STEM  
Fridley - IB  
Park Center - IB  
Rockford - IB



**LEARNING WHILE HAVING FUN -** Professional development with NWSISD. Read more on page 2.



**STUDENT ACTIVITIES -** Catch up with our student group field trips. Read more on page 3.



**NEWS FROM AROUND THE NWSISD COLLABORATIVE** - Read all about it on page 4.

## Professional Development - Sharing and Exploring

### NWSISD Awarded \$12 Million Magnet School Assistant Grant

The U.S. Department of Education announced a new cohort of Magnet School Assistance Grant awardees and the Northwest Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD) was named a recipient. The NWSISD grant application, "I Be" STEAMing ahead for success!" was awarded \$12,133,647 to the following schools for the next five years:

- Earle Brown Elementary and Brooklyn Center Middle and High School STEAM (Brooklyn Center Community Schools)
- Montrose Elementary STEAM (Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District)
- Fridley Pre-K PYP program (Fridley School District)
- Zanewood Elementary STEAM (Osseo Area School District)
- Rockford High School MYP/IB Diploma (Rockford School District)

NWSISD's grant application submission includes funding for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) as well as International Baccalaureate (IB) programming in six schools across five school districts.

### NWSISD Field Trip to Somali Museum of Minnesota



Founded in 2001, the Somali Museum of Minnesota opened its doors in 2013 as the world's first and only museum devoted entirely to Somali culture. The museum is home to over 700 pieces of Somali art and cultural items. The museum offers educational programs about art, culture, creativity, with the goal to help diminish prejudice and misunderstanding of the Somali people and culture. On November 1, educators from across the NWSISD consortium enjoyed the tour and

had the opportunity to ask questions of our docent about Somali culture and how that has been an influence on our Minnesota Somali population. Participants enjoyed an authentic Somali meal at a local restaurant. (This event was an Inter-District Partnership Opportunity.)



### The Art of Storytelling

What is a story? In the art of storytelling, stories are stories that teach, they are stories that inspire, and stories that we learn from about culture and traditions. Nothando Zulu and Xiongpaoo "Xp" Lee led our December Inter-District Partnership event engaging staff from across NWSISD consortium by telling their stories. Xp, born in a refugee camp in Thailand, shared his story through poetry. Speaking in his native language, and explaining in English, Xp's story used storytelling through spoken word to engage his audience about his native country and culture. Telling stories from

a cultural perspective helps others to see similarities in their own narrative. Well-known storyteller and local legend, Nothando Zulu, performed her story with a twinkle in her eye and a lot of wit to encourage everyone to share their story. Stories that speak to you say you need to share me. We need to hear each other's stories to see what is similar in our lives, our cultures. Stories help overcome obstacles. Stories need to be told by us to carry on traditions, to move our narrative to the next generation, but ultimately to share ourselves, our culture, our beings with others. A good place to start is the story of your name.



## Keeping Up With Students

**Engaging students in mentorship activities** is one of the many priorities of Northwest Suburban Integration School District. Students involved with **Step-Up Mentorship and Essence** meet twice monthly, during the school year, at the students school, to work on academic portfolios with the following concepts in mind: Increase Expectations, Define Aspirations, Seize Opportunities, and Commit to Achievement. These concepts also translate into the larger picture outside the classroom when students participate in field trips with other students from across the collaborative. Field trip experiences include company/career visits, service learning, leadership skill building, and conferences focused on career and college.

On November 2, students attended the **3rd Annual Culture Collaborative Career Day: Preparing for Your Next**



**Step at 3M.** High school STEM students from Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Brooklyn Center, Elk River, and Champlin Park high schools had the opportunity to learn about 3M, its company culture, hear from and ask questions to a panel of 3M employees, tour the 3M



Design Center to learn about different jobs within 3M, as well as eat lunch with and *speed-interview* staff from all different departments. Students learned that a career at 3M starts with a degree and a desire and that the opportunities within the company could take students in directions they never imagined.



**Base Camp** is always a thrill. Elementary students from **Park Brook Elementary School** enjoyed a snowy day inside Base Camp being a part of a teamwork field trip. Through group games, creative problem solving sessions, and rock climbing, students explored trust, leadership concepts, and personal challenge. Smiles and cheers were heard throughout the day as students encouraged each other to climb higher!



**Feed My Starving Children** was the recipient of a gaggle of students from our **Essence**



**and Step-Up** high school groups from across the seven districts of NWSISD. Community service is essential to student growth, teamwork, and future resume building. Packing meals at FMSC encourages students to work together for a specific period of time with an end goal and common outcome. Teams of 5-7 students work at stations filling bags with different components of a rice meal.



Competition between the tables is fierce to see who can fill the most bags. At the end of the packing session students know how many meals were packed and where they will be shipped.

**The Social Media Life**, something our grade 10 **Step-Up Mentorship** students are well versed in, took learning a step further with industry experts from Best Buy, Captivate Media, and North Hennepin Community College. The students were challenged with the task of how to Brand themselves as they start thinking about college and beyond.



# Schools, Staff, and Students in the News!

## NWSISD schools receive top national honors



**Anoka Middle School for the Arts, [Birch Grove Elementary School for the Arts](#), [Salk Pre-Engineering Magnet School](#), University Avenue Aerospace, Children's Engineering and Science, and [Weaver Lake Elementary: A Science, Math & Technology School](#)** have been named 2019 National Magnet Schools of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America, the national association for magnet and theme-based schools. Congratulations!!

### EXCELLENCE + INNOVATION + DIVERSITY + COMMUNITY

All magnet schools share the philosophy of executing innovative programs with a dedication to diversity and an unwavering commitment to academic standards – because that is the Magnet School 'standard.' The Magnet School of Merit Awards elevates that standard to recognize member magnet schools/programs that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs and parent and community involvement. (source [Magnet Schools of America](#))

## Eight AMSA Students receive a 2019 Scholastic Award

Congratulations to the following **Anoka Middle School for the Arts** students who received a 2019 Scholastic Award. Nearly 350,000 students from across the country submitted works of art and writing in 29 categories to the Scholastic Awards. Students work is juried by many well known leaders in the visual and literary arts. Jurors look for works that exemplify the Awards' core values: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of personal voice or vision. (source [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#)).



- Eleora Chamberlain- 2 Honorable Mention awards
- Andrew Vue- Honorable Mention
- Sophia Schmidt- Silver Key
- Reese Mulcahy- Gold Key
- Dan Ness- 2 Honorable Mention awards
- Hannah Freeman- Honorable Mention
- Paige Higgins- Silver Key
- Tristan Rothrum- Honorable Mention

## NWSISD Magnet Schools on CCX TV



• [Construction begins on Brooklyn Center Middle and High School Remodel](#) ... a long-awaited renovation. Officials say the 1960s-building badly needs it. With the exception of the performing arts wing added more recently, the building hasn't been significantly updated since it was built.

- [Birch Grove Elementary turns to CrowdFunding site for supplies](#) ... donors help make classrooms a better place to learn.
- [Brooklyn Center High School's Ashley Ceja is CCS Standout Student](#) ... Teachers say she's a shining light

**Do you have news you'd like to share with the NWSISD Consortium?** Send your good news about what your students are doing in class, what innovative ideas you or your staff are creating in and out of the classroom to Krisanthi Sikkila at [ksikkila@nws.k12.mn.us](mailto:ksikkila@nws.k12.mn.us)

### Connect with us!

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