



# ISD 318 District Newsletter

## Teaching & Learning for Life to Achieve Excellence

Fall 2021

### 318pride

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#### Find us

820 NW 1st Ave  
218-327-5700

#### Find us online

[www.isd318.org](http://www.isd318.org)

#### Find us on Facebook

[facebook.com/ISD318](https://facebook.com/ISD318)

### Looking Forward to the 2021-2022 School Year

I am excited for what we have in store for the coming year. I'm looking forward to the enthusiasm and laughter that will fill our buildings shortly. The first day of school has always been one of my favorite times as an educator and this year is no different.

Although we learned from COVID-19 that things may change quickly, I'm happy to report that schools will have more local control over their COVID responses. You'll find a list of all of our COVID-19 mitigation measures inside this newsletter and on our website under the *COVID-19* tab.

As we begin to look beyond the pandemic, there are a number of important things for our community members to know, whether or not they have kids in school. This year we will begin a strategic planning effort to lay the foundation for the future of this district. The strategic planning process is a time for stakeholders and community members to share their input about our vision and mission. We want to ensure that we are offering the best educational opportunities as possible, as well as creating a great student experience for all of our learners. This work will also guide future planning and goal setting.

This year, we also intend to finalize plans for the future of our empty buildings - Murphy and Southwest Elementary Schools. Planning was delayed due to the pandemic, but we have been examining potential uses of both sites throughout the spring and summer.

I'm also excited to share that we will continue to provide regular updates with community members through our Facebook Live videos. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to connect with you and to answer your questions directly. For those who are not on social media, we also provide recordings of these updates on our website, under the *Community* tab.

More information and opportunities to share your input will be shared in mailings like this, on our website, on social media, and in our family email newsletter.

We're looking forward to a wonderful school year and I hope you are too.

  
Matt Grose, Superintendent of Schools

### Free Meals this School Year

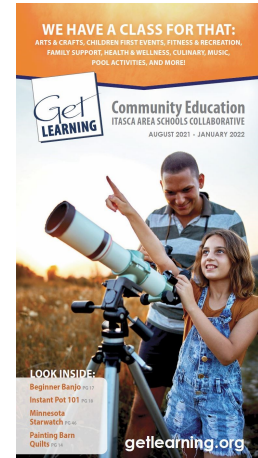
With so many families continuing to feel the financial impact of the pandemic, we are happy to announce that the district will use COVID funding to continue to provide free breakfasts and lunches to all students, regardless of ability to pay. No application is necessary to participate in the free meals. If you have questions, please contact the Food & Nutrition Department at 218-327-5771.



## New Community Education Classes Available!

We have a class for that! Get learning with Community Education by exploring the many new opportunities available to children and adults! Check out the newest catalog and come meet new people, experience new things, and develop new skills.

The latest catalog hit mailboxes last week and is also available online. For more information about the great Community Education opportunities in the Itasca Area visit [www.getlearning.org](http://www.getlearning.org), call 218-327-5730, text EDUCATE to 22828 to sign up for our monthly email notifications, and connect with Itasca Area Community Education on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.



## COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for Fall

For the 2021-2022 School Year, districts will be given more local control and COVID-19 responses will be based on community- and school-level data. The Minnesota Departments of Health and Education, following Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, have created best practice recommendations for COVID-19 prevention in schools. These recommendations will be implemented as follows:

### Masking

In accordance with the guidance from the CDC, MDE, and MDH it is recommended, but not required that students and staff wear a face covering or mask while indoors at school regardless of vaccination status. Families who are concerned about COVID transmission will be supported if they choose to send their children to school with masks. For those who are concerned about transmission, they may also contact our schools to receive a surgical mask, which will offer a higher level of protection than cloth masks.

The Center for Disease Control has determined that masks are a requirement on mass transit, and as a result, students and staff will be required to wear masks on school buses.

### Mitigation Measures

We will continue to implement physical distancing where possible and encourage frequent handwashing and hygiene breaks throughout the school day.

### Cases of COVID-19

All families should keep their child home when sick. If a student falls sick at school, a parent or guardian will be called to bring the child home.

Schools will continue to report positive COVID-19 cases to public health officials.

### Quarantines

A 14-day quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts is still considered best practice (see: COVID-19: When to Quarantine). A positive test or not getting tested will mean 10 days at home from the first day of symptoms. A negative COVID test or an alternate diagnosis could mean attending school sooner. Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine if exposed to a positive case unless they develop symptoms.

With the case rate currently low in our county, we do not plan to contact trace, but notifications of positive cases will be sent to families.

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

ISD 318 recommends that all people eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine get vaccinated. Increased vaccination rates will help limit the spread of the disease and reduce the need for mitigation measures. There is no requirement to obtain a vaccine.

Vaccination clinics will occasionally be offered at 318 schools. Information regarding the clinics will be made available under the COVID-19 tab on our website at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).

### Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers are welcome in our buildings. However, just as with students, we would ask that you stay home if you are exhibiting any symptoms.

## Educational Benefits Forms

Even though meals are free this school year, there are still plenty of reasons to complete the streamlined educational benefits form at [www.isd318.org/edbenefits](http://www.isd318.org/edbenefits).

When you make it part of your school year prep, you can receive benefits like discounts on fees for activities and athletics, college application fees, academic tests like the ACT, and even fees on some Community Education classes.

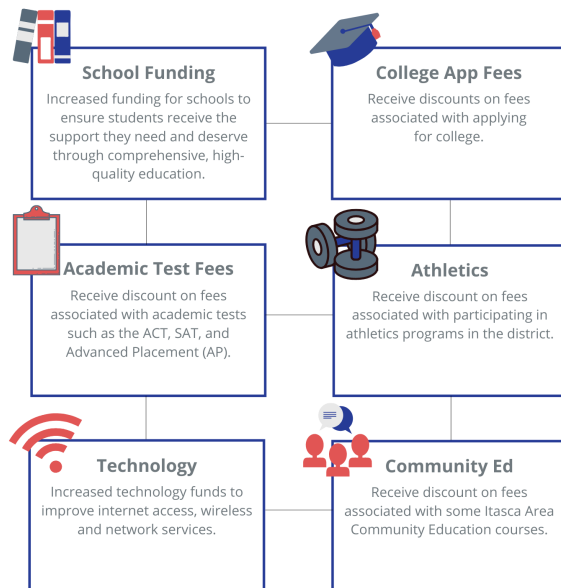
Plus, each successful Educational Benefits form brings an average of \$1,400 to all students in our schools for things like interventions and technology. We can all benefit!

If you have questions or need assistance in filling out the form, please contact the Food and Nutrition Department at 218-327-5771.

### THIS APPLICATION SUPPORTS YOUR SCHOOL!

It's more than a meal application. Your Educational Benefits application helps provide critical funding to ALL District 318 schools.

Complete your application at [www.isd318.org/edbenefits](http://www.isd318.org/edbenefits).



## Bus Drivers Needed

Drivers are needed for the 2021-2022 school year. If you're looking for flexible employment that makes a difference, you're invited to learn more about becoming a 318 driver.

Come join our team and work in a dynamic school district! Successful candidates must be able to work split shift; have skills and aptitude to operate a bus safely; enjoy the presence of children; be reliable and punctual; and pass a criminal background check.

Drivers start at \$18.04 per hour, but can make up to \$20.83/hour after the first 45 days of driving. Great benefits and a safe working environment are also a perk!

Training will be provided to obtain the necessary license and endorsements. The time to start is now. Learn more by calling the Transportation Department at 218-327-5830.

## Guest Staff Needed

The district is in need of guest staff now more than ever before. If you have a willingness to help kids and time in your day, you can make a difference in our school communities.

Staff are needed in the following areas: teachers, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries, food service employees, and education support professionals (ESPs). Each of these positions is vital to keeping a child's school day running smoothly.

We've put together a description of each position on our website. Simply visit [isd318.org](http://isd318.org) and click the *Guest Staff Information* page under the *Staff* tab to learn more and apply today!



## Special Election to Be Held November 2

Last June, School Board Member Sue Zeige resigned from her position. Mark Schroeder was selected as an Interim Board Member and will take his seat at the September 7 School Board Meeting.

A special election will be held on November 2, 2021 to fill the remainder of the term. Polling places and additional information will be provided to district residents as the election date approaches. Because this is a special election no ballots will be mailed to residents unless they request one through the Absentee Voting process.

If you have questions about the election, please contact the County Auditor’s Office at 218-327-2859.

## Board Meetings Streamed Live

We are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed about decisions made in the school district. You can stay up-to-date by watching our School Board Meetings. We provide the meetings live to the public and in a recorded version right from the district website. Just visit [www.isd318.org](http://www.isd318.org) and select *Board of Education* from the *About Us* tab to view Board Meetings live or access our recorded archive.

We still welcome your presence in person at our meetings too. If you wish to participate, a calendar of upcoming meetings is also available on our website.

If you questions about participating, please contact the Superintendent’s Office at 218-327-5704.

## District Releases Annual Report

Following the 2020-2021 School Year, the school district released its first annual report. This report details the work that we completed with the support of our staff and community. This report will be updated each year and provided to the public. You can view the report in its entirety at [www.isd318.org/annualreport](http://www.isd318.org/annualreport).

### 2020-21 Annual Report



#### Our Students

April 30, 2021

**1,549**  
ELEMENTARY  
STUDENTS

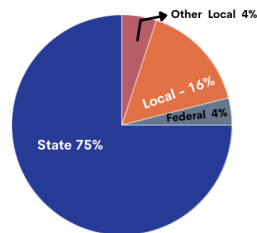
**884**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

**1,350**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

**3,783**  
TOTAL  
STUDENTS

#### Financials

General Fund - FY 2020



Expenditures per student = \$13,363

Per student funding amount = 13,235

Amount raised through local taxes = \$1,596  
Statewide average local tax amount = \$2,180  
(per student)

State participation amount = \$9,885  
Statewide average participation = \$10,393  
(per student)

#### Buildings & Grounds

Our Maintenance & Custodial Staff...

cleaned and maintained over **1 million** square feet of buildings.

plowed, mowed, and maintained almost 160 acres of blacktop and green space.

moved over 14,000 boxes, over 500 pallets, and 100s of tables and desks into the new elementary spaces.



#### Food Service

This year, Food Service Staff served

**90,000** breakfasts

**206,000** lunches

**4,000** after-school snacks



#### Transportation

Our staff of 74 drivers and guest drivers drive 53 bus routes plus activity and field trips.

Each year they drive almost **1 million miles** providing morning, afternoon, and other rides for more than 2,400 students.

## Emergency Preparedness for Families

We have put together a new emergency preparedness guide for our families. Statistics tell us that schools are among the safest places to be due to the strong commitment of educators, families, and our community to our students and schools. But there are still some things you can do to prepare:

- In the event of an emergency it's important that we have accurate contact information including your phone, email, home address, and other emergency contacts.
- Explain to your child that cell phones should not be used during an emergency unless directed by an adult. Your student must pay attention to instructions from trained personnel.
- Let your child know that we all play a role in the school safety. They can be observant and let an adult know if they see or hear something that makes them feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened. Let them know there is a difference between reporting and tattling or gossiping. They may provide important information that could prevent harm either directly or anonymously by telling a trusted adult what they know or hear.

You can also find information on what to expect from the school district in the event of an emergency on our website under the *Families* tab when you select *Emergency Preparedness*. You can also contact your child's school for additional information. However, for security reasons, components of our emergency plans are not publicly available.

### ISD 318 Board of Directors

The members of the ISD 318 Board of Directors are comprised of six members who are charged with the care, management and control of the schools of the District.

Board Chair Dr. Malissa Bahr	218-259-4391 mbahr@isd318.org
Clerk David Marty	218-259-8215 dmarty@isd318.org
Treasurer Ben Hawkins	218-326-1607 bhawkins@isd318.org
Director Pat Medure	218-244-1122 pmedure@isd318.org
Director Mindy Nuhring	218-259-4061 mnuhring@isd318.org
Interim Director Mark Schroeder	218-256-5303 mschroeder@isd318.org

Members of the public are welcome to attend School Board Meetings in person, stream meetings live, or watch recorded meetings. Meeting dates and streaming links are listed on the homepage of the district website at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).

### Important Dates

#### September

- 7 - First Day of School K-9 and 10-12 Bigfork
- 8 - First Day of School 10-12 GRHS

#### October

- 21-22 - Fall Break

#### November

- 2 - Special Election
- 8 - Teacher Workshop, No School
- 15-18 - Conferences
- 18-19 - No School, Teacher Workshop
- 25-26 - Thanksgiving Break

Additional dates, including school specific events and Board Meetings are available by visiting [www.isd318.org](http://www.isd318.org) and selecting the *Calendar* tab.





**School District 318**



ISD 318  
820 NW 1st Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
[www.isd318.org](http://www.isd318.org)



### **District 318 Contact Information**

**Administration**  
218-327-5704  
Superintendent:  
Matt Grose

**Cohasset School**  
218-327-5860  
450 Columbus Avenue  
Cohasset, MN 55721

**East Rapids Elementary**  
218-327-5880  
1195 NE 10th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**West Rapids Elementary**  
218-327-5870  
901 SW 22nd Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**Bigfork School**  
218-743-3444  
100 Huskie Boulevard  
Bigfork, MN 56628

**Robert J. Elkington Middle School**  
218-327-5800  
1000 NE 8th Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**Grand Rapids High School**  
218-327-5760  
800 Conifer Drive  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**Area Learning Center**  
218-327-5750  
409 SE 13th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**Central Enrollment**  
218-327-5707

**Community Education**  
218-327-5730

**Early Childhood Invest Early**  
218-327-5850

**Early Childhood Special Education**  
218-327-5572

**Food and Nutrition**  
218-327-5771

**Itaskin Education Center**  
218-322-4129

**Special Services**  
218-327-5705

**Transportation**  
218-327-5830