



FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVESTS IN SOLAR ENERGY



With no upfront cost to the school district, Fridley Public Schools has begun the installation of solar energy panels at each of its schools and buildings. Working with iDEAL Energies, a Minneapolis-based green company, the district began installing the solar panels this summer, and the project will continue throughout the rest of the year. iDEAL is a Minneapolis-based company that has worked with several Minnesota school districts, including White Bear Lake, Orono, Richfield, Burnsville, Minneapolis, Bloomington, Osseo and Eden Prairie.

Once completed, iDEAL will operate and maintain the solar arrays for the district. This green initiative will save Fridley Public Schools an average \$36,635 per year, with \$407,572 savings in 10 years and \$1.17 million in 20 years. Through this initiative, the district will be generating its own, free energy after 20 years.

The district's partnership with iDEAL Energies also includes an opportunity for students to learn through science-based modules that engage them and increases their understanding of solar energy; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers; teamwork; design and real world issues in the work of STEM professionals. These learning modules are aligned with future Minnesota State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and the 21st Century Learning Frameworks.



An aerial view of the Fridley Community Center. Installed on each of the district's buildings, the solar panels will save the district \$1.17 million in the next 20 years. Through this initiative, the district will be generating its own free energy after 20 years.

FRIDLEY STUDENTS BEGIN 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Returning Through Relationships - Fridley Public Schools dedicated its first days of school to welcoming back students and families through 1:1 orientations, relationship building activities



Left photo: Stevenson Elementary students on the first day of school, Sept. 9 **Middle photo:** Link Crew leaders Gabe Arika and Amayramy Ruiz Barrios lead classroom activities during the Fridley High School 9th and 10th Grade Orientation Day. **Right photo:** Fridley Middle School students and their families met individually with their teachers at the FMS Open House

To begin the 2021-22 school year, Fridley Public Schools dedicated its first two days of school for orientation activities. Knowing that many students have not been learning at school in a while, the orientation activities and open houses were intended to help students and families acclimate back into school buildings. At Fridley High School, incoming 9th, 10th, and new students participated in two orientation days led by the school's Link Crew leaders on September 7 and 8, 2021. The Fridley High School Link Crew, made up of juniors and seniors, serve as year-long peer mentors who lead and facilitate various events and activities to help their younger peers adjust to high school. The strategic and intentional program supports freshmen as they navigate transition into high school through advice, guidance and peer support.

Across the district, parents and students at Fridley Preschool, Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools, Fridley Middle School, and Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center attended individually-scheduled open house events to pick up Chromebook laptops, meet teachers and staff, and learn more about their school. Fridley High School also held open house events on September 2, 7, and 8. In addition to returning to in-person learning this fall, Fridley Public Schools launched Fridley Online Academy, a full-time online school for students in grades 7-12, which provides a rigorous school experience with the flexibility of learning from home. All students across the school district began their first official day of school on September 9.



Fridley High School Link Crew Leaders welcome 9th grade students into the gymnasium at 9th and 10th Grade Orientation Day on Sept. 7.

DISTRICT RECOGNIZES 2020-21 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: LINDA SNYDER, DISTRICT NURSE AND COVID COORDINATOR



Congratulations to Linda Snyder, Fridley Public Schools' 2020-21 Employee of the Year! Snyder is the District Nurse and served as the COVID Coordinator during the 2020-21 school year. In this role, Snyder maintained the overarching response to the COVID-19 pandemic, working closely with district leadership, Anoka County, and the Minnesota Department of Health. Snyder was integral in tracking, analyzing, and disseminating new and updated public health guidelines across the district, and monitored the district's preparedness activities, protocols, and responses throughout the school year.

According to Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel, Snyder was an incredible and essential asset to the Fridley School District throughout the entire pandemic.

"This past year, Linda kept the district moving. She is knowledgeable, calming, and was instrumental in leading us through the past school year in terms of navigating the

COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Hiel. "Her commitment to the health and well-being of staff and students is unwavering."

Her colleagues are quick to praise Snyder for her work ethic, kindness, trustworthiness, empathy, and compassion. She is also known for handling all situations with calmness and grace and is able to provide emotional stability in a trying time.

"Linda certainly leads by example," said Director of Special Services Laura Seifert-Hertling. "She worked tireless nights and weekends last year because she knew this was needed to keep the staff and students safe in our school district. There is no one more deserving of this award than Linda."

Snyder has served in the Fridley School District for 13 years as the District Nurse and is dedicated to supporting the health and wellness of students across the district. Congratulations, Linda, on this well-deserved recognition as 2020-21 Fridley Public Schools Employee of the Year!

2020-21 TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to our 2020-21 Teachers of Excellence!

HAYES ELEMENTARY: CHRIS FISCHER

Congratulations to Hayes Elementary School Teacher of Excellence, Chris Fischer! Fischer, a 4th grade teacher, is known



for his caring heart and strong belief in fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students.

According to Principal Gaeli Iverson, Fischer excels in building an amazing classroom community, year after year. "There is a lot of laughter, and learning is exciting and enjoyable," said Iverson. "It is clear that scholars in his classroom space feel welcome and loved each day."

On the final day of the school year, Iverson recalled witnessing a special moment of community in Fischer's classroom. He planned an honorary surprise for one of his students receiving Special Education services. "Mr. Fischer gave a speech in honor of this student, and the entire class erupted in cheering and genuine care for their fellow scholar," said Iverson. "It was a moment of inclusion, commitment to all kids being celebrated, and a wonderful, final representation of his classroom community that was developed throughout the year."

Congratulations, Chris, and thank you for everything that you do for our young scholars.

R.L. STEVENSON: ABBY JENSEN

Congratulations to Abby Jensen, a Stevenson 3rd grade teacher, who has been named the school's Teacher of Excellence!



Jensen is dedicated teacher and a model of service to her Stevenson scholars.

Principal Veronica Mathison calls Jensen a kind, passionate, persistent, and talented team player who cares about her students.

"Abby is a true International Baccalaureate teacher and an equity builder," added Mathison. "She is dedicated to seeing and valuing each of her students, teaching through a whole child approach, and guides students through meaningful learning experiences."

In her classroom, scholars engage in daily circles to build community and problem-solve. Jensen allows time for student voices and agency, fostering strong relational and social-emotional growth. During academic blocks, students talk with their peers, work together, engage in content specific to what they need. Ms. Jensen runs small groups or works one-on-one to help her scholars grow.

Congratulations, Abby, on this recognition of your hard work!

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL: EMILY LATZKA

Emily Latzka, who teaches Spanish as a second language, is Fridley High School's (FHS) Teacher of Excellence! Latzka



is constantly demonstrating her commitment to all students and their families, and is a kind, talented, and thoughtful colleague to all members of Fridley High School.

FHS Principal Patty Hand said Latzka is consistently willing to help wherever needed. "She demonstrates excellence by going above and beyond expectations," said Hand. "Emily will bring solutions, and helps to work toward the solution as well, with tremendous spirit."

Latzka also demonstrates excellence in student engagement. "Emily is always pushing students to do their best and holds them accountable," said Hand. "She forms strong relationships and is a trustworthy individual for all students."

A colleague noted, "Emily is extremely encouraging and puts her all into everything she does. She is inspiring and we are all so proud to work with her."

Congratulations, Emily, on this well-deserved recognition of the Fridley High School Teacher of Excellence!

FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL: JESSICA MULARIE

Fridley Middle School's Teacher of Excellence is Jessica Mularie, a Special Education teacher. According to Principal Amy Cochran, Mularie is an incredibly inspiring teacher and is highly trusted by colleagues, students, and families. "It is in her nature to make sure every one of our students are seen, heard, cared for and treated with dignity and respect," said Cochran.



Mularie cares deeply about all students and has been a champion for inclusivity, which is indicated by her role as the Special Olympics Liaison at the middle school. "She is always reflecting on what we can do differently to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our learners and finding new ways to support our students," said Cochran.

Last year, Mularie took on leadership and mentorship roles to assist fellow staff. "Jessica is the dependable and constant presence that allowed students to learn valuable skills and, most importantly, to end the year feeling loved and cared for," said Cochran.

Congratulations, Jessica, on being named Fridley Middle School's Teacher of Excellence!

FRIDLEY PRESCHOOL: LIZ SCHWEITZER



Congratulations to Liz Schweitzer, who has been named the Preschool/ALC Teacher of Excellence! Schweitzer serves as a teacher at Fridley Preschool, the district's International Baccalaureate World School Preschool.

Dr. Jason Bodey, former Principal of Alternative Services, says Schweitzer demonstrates excellence by providing our young scholars and their families with a welcoming and exciting space to learn. "This past school year, she balanced in-person and distance learning groups of preschoolers with great success," said Dr. Bodey. "She is highly skilled at supporting our in-person learners, and successfully implemented an amazing virtual space for our 4-year-old preschoolers to learn online, which is no easy task."

A colleague noted that Schweitzer exemplifies an ideal IB teacher. "She goes the extra mile and always has caring interactions with her students and families. She has worked tirelessly with her classroom assistants to create innovative and engaging activities for both her distance learners and in-person students. Her preschoolers absolutely adore her."

Congratulations, Liz, on being recognized as the Preschool/ALC Teacher of Excellence!

COMMUNITY STRONG

FRIDLEY LIONS CLUB CONTRIBUTES TO ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

The Fridley Lions Club has gifted over \$50,000 to Fridley classroom teachers

In what has become a significant annual tradition, the Fridley Lions Club donated \$150 giftcards to every Fridley elementary classroom teacher in the school district on September 1, 2021. The Lions Club has a rich history of generously supporting the students and staff of Fridley Public Schools, contributing over \$50,000 to Hayes and Stevenson teachers in the past eight years.

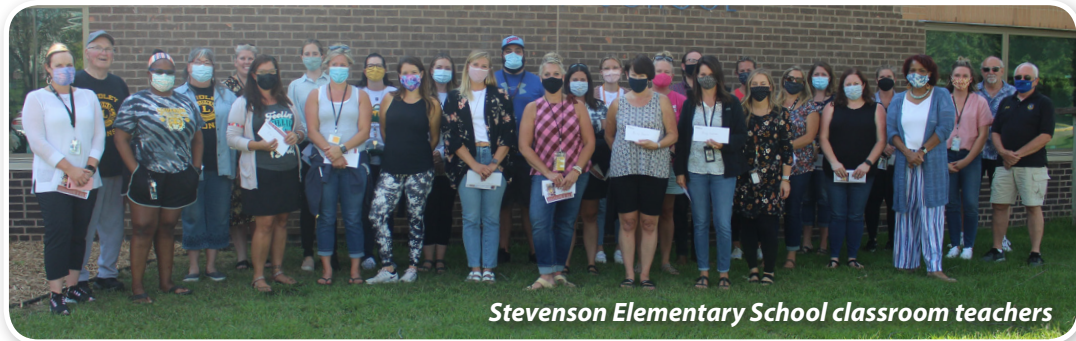
Lions members Jo Young, Don Holum, Greg Gardner, Jeff Hood, and Shannon Melham visited both schools to offer their praise and thanks to Fridley teachers, and to personally deliver each giftcard for the purpose of purchasing classroom supplies.

“We want you to know that your work is incredibly important,” Club President Jo Young told teachers. “Great schools make our community strong. We are thrilled to make this contribution and we hope this small donation will benefit the students in your classrooms.”

This year, the Lions Club partnered with the Fridley Schools Foundation to purchase Amazon giftcards, which helped the Foundation earn Amazon Smile points. Through Amazon Smile, charitable organizations can benefit from a portion of any purchase. The Fridley Schools



Hayes Elementary School classroom teachers



Stevenson Elementary School classroom teachers

Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit that contributes to scholarships for graduating seniors, educator innovation grants, and school and district initiatives in the Fridley school district.

The Lions support the district through donations to its athletics and activities programs, and sponsorships of programs and events such as the Fridley High School Scholastic Achievement Scholarship Banquet and the Foundation’s “Get Your Paws Moving” fundraiser.

“Great schools make our community strong. We are thrilled to make this contribution and we hope this small donation will benefit the students in your classrooms.”

Jo Young, Fridley Lions Club President

DRIVE-THRU BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR SERVES FRIDLEY FAMILIES

Even through the challenges of a pandemic, the Fridley Public Schools community and staff continue to ensure that all students are prepared for a successful school year. To maximize social distancing, the 8th annual District Back-to-School Resource Fair was held in a drive-thru format on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

On hand, Fridley Public Schools had over 400 backpacks filled with school supplies, which were given to Fridley students who attended the event. In addition, families were able to learn about a variety of resources from local community organizations, including Fridley Parks and Recreation, Voigt’s Transportation, and Anoka County.

According to Equity and Inclusion Specialist Aloda Sims, the event provides an excellent outreach opportunity for the district to connect and engage with families and community members. “I love seeing the faces and smiles on our scholars when they arrive to pick out a backpack - It gives my heart so much joy,” she said. “Supporting our families through community-based events like this helps to build partnerships that students can benefit from throughout their time in the Fridley Public School district.”

Partnerships with local organizations, such as St. Philip’s Church, Redeemer Church, Emmanuel Church, and United Methodist Hospital, have continued to benefit students since the Back-to-School Resource Fair began in 2014. Fridley Public Schools staff volunteered their time to fill the backpacks, organize them and hand them out. Thank you to all our community partners and staff members who volunteered to serve. We appreciate your commitment to student success!



Left photo: Equity and Inclusion Specialist Aloda Sims hands out backpacks at the Drive-thru Back-to-School Resource Fair. **Right photo:** Over 40 Fridley Public Schools staff members volunteered to fill backpacks with supplies to prepare for the Resource Fair.



Fridley Middle School Assistant Principal Jason Carver waves at a student at the drive-thru Back-to-School Resource Fair.



Referendum Fast Facts

SPECIAL ELECTION: NOV. 2, 2021 5th Grade Span Change

To support the academic and social emotional growth of our young learners, Fridley Public Schools is proposing a K-5 grade-span change. Currently, the district's middle school is a grade 5-8 school, while the elementary schools are grades K-4.





The Fridley School Board voted to place a referendum on the November 2, 2021 ballot. The approval of the referendum would allow the school district to construct additional classrooms at each elementary school to support moving 5th grade from Fridley Middle School to the district's two elementary schools, Hayes and R. L. Stevenson Elementary. If voters approve the levy, the district will begin construction in 2022 with anticipation that the 5th grade change will be complete by the 2023-2024 school year.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Enhancing the academic growth of our young scholars

To support the academic and social emotional growth of our young learners, Fridley Public Schools is proposing a grade-span change that will make our elementary schools K-5 and our middle school a grades 6-8 school.

Benefits include:

-  An extra year of social emotional development and growth before middle school.
-  Opportunity to learn and grow with students of similar maturity at an essential time of growth.
-  Opportunity for 5th grade students to develop leadership skills as the 'eldest' in the building.
-  Opportunity to develop mentoring skills while working with younger students.

WHAT IS THE COST?

The proposed grade-span reconfiguration will be at minimal cost to district residents. The monthly cost for an average priced City of Fridley home of \$250,000 is \$2.33 per month. The chart below illustrates the annual and monthly tax impact for a variety of residential home values in Fridley.

\$2.33
/MONTH
for a
\$250,000
average Fridley
home value

TAX IMPACT TO HOMEOWNER

HOME VALUE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY
\$100,000	\$8	\$0.66
\$150,000	\$15	\$1.25
\$200,000	\$21	\$1.75
\$250,000	\$28	\$2.33
\$300,000	\$34	\$2.83

FRIDLEY STUDENTS BENEFIT

Building leaders and supporting social emotional growth

As Fridley Public Schools moves toward a K-5 and 6-8 grade reconfiguration, 5th grade students will benefit by becoming leaders on their elementary campuses. Students would spend an additional and essential year of growth in familiar settings at Hayes or Stevenson Elementary.

The plan is also heavily favored by parents, with more than 80% of Preschool and Elementary parents who indicated they support the grade-span change.



Currently K-4, Hayes and R. L. Stevenson Elementary would become K-5 Elementary Schools



over 80%

of Preschool and Elementary
parents and guardians support
the grade-span reconfiguration

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the district considering this change?

- Age and maturity of 9-year old 4th grade students before they enter secondary school
- Social emotional development of our 4th grade students
- Giving our 9-year old 4th grade students an extra year in elementary school to learn and grow with peers of similar maturity before joining middle school
- Parents/guardians of our elementary school students have asked for this change and overwhelmingly support its implementation

What is needed to accomplish this grade-span change?

In order to have the 5th grade at the elementary schools, the district will need to add a total of eight classrooms (four classrooms at each elementary school), expand cafeteria space and add student bathrooms at each elementary school.

How much will this new levy generate for the school district?

If passed, the levy will generate \$11 million to support the addition of classrooms at each elementary school.

Will this levy pay for staff salaries or fund programs?

No. This is a capital bond referendum and will be used to build classrooms at the elementary schools for our 5th grade class, add bathrooms for students, and expanding the communal spaces such as the cafeteria.

When will 5th grade be officially at the elementary schools?

If approved, construction of classrooms will begin in the spring/summer of 2022. Our 5th grade students will be officially housed at the elementary schools in the fall of 2023.



IF THE LEVY IS APPROVED:

Approval of the referendum will generate \$11.2 million. To provide an environment that students will excel in, the levy will fund the following:

- ☐ Build four additional classrooms each at Hayes and Stevenson for a total of eight 5th grade classrooms
- ☐ Hayes parking lot will be expanded
- ☐ Expansion of communal spaces such as the cafeteria
- ☐ Add additional bathrooms

Construction would begin in August 2022 and continue to Spring 2023. Fifth grade would begin at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools in September 2023.

LEARN MORE

For more information, you can:



GO ONLINE

Visit the district website at:
www.fridleyschools.org/levy2021



SEND US AN EMAIL

Email us at: levy2021@fridley.k12.mn.us



GIVE US A CALL

Contact our Director of Business & Finance at 763-502-5004

ATTEND THE COMMUNITY FORUM

The district is hosting an in-person Referendum Community Forum on Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Fridley Community Center, 6085 Seventh Street NE, Fridley. District officials will be available to address any questions that you may have. If you have questions about the forum, please email us at levy2021@fridley.k12.mn.us.



save the date:

OCT. 7
at the
FCC



Currently 5-8, Fridley Middle School would become a 6-8 middle school



HOW DO I VOTE?



EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Voters who wish to cast an absentee ballot must apply by filling out a paper application. The online absentee ballot application is not available for 2021 local elections. For additional information, visit the Anoka County website at: www.anokacounty.us/224/Vote-Early

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY - TUESDAY, NOV. 2

All district residents will be voting at the Fridley Community Center, 6085 Seventh Street NE, Fridley. The polling location will be open from 7 AM - 8 PM.

EARLY VOTING IN-PERSON

Voters may cast an absentee ballot in-person at the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave, Suite W130, Anoka. Hours include: 8 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; 10 AM to 3 PM on the Saturday before Election Day; 8 AM until 5 PM on the Monday before Election Day.

SAMPLE BALLOT

School District Q1 Special Election

Shall the school board of Independent School District No. 14 (Fridley Public Schools) be authorized to issue its general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$11,200,000 to provide funds for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including the construction and equipping of fifth grade classroom additions at the Hayes and Stevenson Elementary School sites; the expansion and modernization of learning spaces at school sites and facilities, and the completion of various deferred maintenance projects at school sites and facilities?

☐ YES

☐ NO

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS
BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE
VOTING FOR A PROPERTY
TAX INCREASE.

ALSO ON THE BALLOT

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Three Board seats up for re-election on Nov. 2 ballot

There are three Fridley School Board seats up for re-election on the Nov. 2 ballot. School Board candidates on the 2021 ballot include one newcomer and two incumbents. Board candidates are running uncontested. Candidates include:

- ☐ Nikki Auna
- ☐ Ross Meisner, incumbent
- ☐ Avonna Starck, incumbent

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HONORING A FRIDLEY LEGEND

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SALUTES BOB BARNETTE

Longtime Fridley teacher, counselor Bob Barnette leaves honorary legacy in the Fridley Schools community

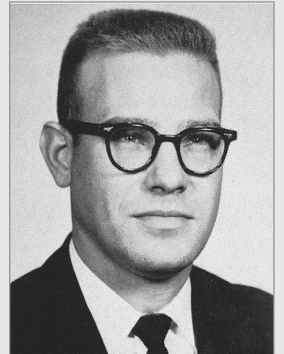
Remembered as a husband, father, grandfather, friend, educator and city council member among many other titles, the Fridley Public School District remembers Robert "Bob" Barnette as a passionate, caring and well-respected advocate for its students. One of Fridley High School's first teachers, Barnette passed away on July 15, 2021. He was 89-years old.

Barnette was hired by Independent School District #14 in 1958 to teach social studies at the newly built Fridley High School. In addition, he was an assistant coach for the football and basketball teams. Over the next 40 years, Barnette would become a counselor at the school, guiding young people on their post-secondary paths.

Don Holum, a long-time colleague in the district, said Barnette was more than an educator and coach; he was devoted to helping students who were struggling outside of school.

"He had an incredible impact on all students, from helping them with careers to typical teenage issues," Holum said. "He also had an agreement with [longtime community member] Bill Beery at the bank to provide financial support for kids who were in need."

"Bob was a trustworthy, honest person," Holum added. "He was a continual teacher, helping people build skills and overcome challenges."



Bob Barnette, 1959



Bob Barnette was the 2020 recipient of the Fridley Schools Foundation Golden Apple Award. Pictured is Barnette accepting the award from Renee Van Gorp, former Fridley High School Principal and Foundation President

known as the Fridley Schools Foundation. Since its inception, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for graduating seniors. In recognition of his advocacy for student success, Barnette was honored with the Foundation's Golden Apple Award in 2020. In his remarks, he reflected on his joy in being a part of the district.

"My wife said to me once, 'You're the only one I know who likes to go to work in the morning,'" Barnette said as he accepted his award. "I did. I enjoyed our staff, and the tremendous relationships we had with our students."

Alongside his career in education, Barnette also served the City of Fridley as a council member for 32 years.

Fridley Public Schools extends its appreciation and sympathy to Bob's wife, Jane, their children, and their extended family.

Former Fridley High School Principal, Renee Van Gorp, also recalled the legacy Barnette created within the district.

"Bob Barnette was a class act and one of a kind," said Van Gorp. "It was seeing Bob work with students that made me want to be a school counselor. He was student-focused, a great listener, and there was no better cheerleader for our kids."

A statement to his ongoing legacy at Fridley Public Schools, Barnette, along with Tom Myhra, created the scholarship program, FridFans, which is now

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH JUSTIN REESE NAMED MINNESOTA COACH OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Fridley High School Head Football Coach Justin Reese, who has been named Minnesota High School Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association (MFCA). The honorary award was presented during the Association's 55th Annual Football Hall of Fame Banquet held on August 13, 2021 in St. Louis Park. Reese is the first African American coach to win this award in Minnesota, and the fifth Class 4A coach to receive the honor.



Fridley High School Principal Patty Hand said this high honor recognizes Reese's hard work, dedication to his players and their families, and passion for football.

"We are so proud of Justin's work and the well-earned recognition from the Minnesota Football Coaches Association. He has an incredible ability to work with others, collaborate in effective ways when problem solving, and has a positive energy that he gives to students, staff, and families," said Hand.

As he accepted the Minnesota High School Coach of the Year award, Reese acknowledged and thanked Dan Roff, Fridley Public Schools Director of Activities and Athletics, John Swanson, a veteran Fridley coach, and the entire Fridley Tigers coaching team for their dedication to the team and the students they serve. Reese added that he was especially most importantly grateful to the Fridley community for all their support over the years. "Fridley is a small community. Every Friday night, our players look forward to seeing their community of families, friends, and neighbors in the stands, on their feet, cheering them on through the highs and supporting them through the lows. Their presence and support is our adrenaline," he said.

Reese and his staff have been together under his leadership since 2015, when he was named the Head Football Coach of the Fridley Tigers. Since then, he has led the program to five state tournament appearances, one Twin City District Football Championship and the Fridley Tigers Associated Press Class 4A State Championship title during the 2020 season. The Tigers finished the 2020 season with an undefeated record of 7-0. Prior to Reese taking the helm of the Fridley Football program in 2015, the Tigers had not been to a state championship since 1990, when they won the state champion title.



Head Football Coach Justin Reese with (l-r): Assistant Coach Eric Anderson; Assistant Coach John Swanson; Activities and Athletics Director Dan Roff; Assistant Coach Blake Cook; Assistant Coach Dan Nalepka; and Assistant Coach Bryce Richter.



Fridley High School Football Coach Justin Reese with (l-r) Dan Roff, Activities and Athletics Director; Patty Hand, FHS Principal; Kelly McConville, ALC Principal

"[Justin] has a unique ability to build relationships and trust, which prepared Fridley football to compete at a higher level. This sense of confidence, combined with skillful athletes and player buy-in, created a culture of high expectations and commitment to excellence which has been integral to program success."

- Dan Roff, Fridley Activities and Athletics Director

Activities and Athletics Director Dan Roff said Justin was a great addition to the district community, and Fridley High School is incredibly proud of him and what he has accomplished. "He brought with him a group of committed educators to be part of his coaching staff and has rebuilt a strong football foundation. "He has a unique ability to build relationships and trust, which prepared Fridley football to compete at a higher level. This sense of confidence, combined with skillful athletes and player buy-in, created a culture of high expectations and commitment to excellence which has been integral to program success."

Reflecting on the award, Reese said there is a lot of time and dedication put into the football program, both on and off the field, directly or indirectly related to football. "There are only a handful of coaches in our division who have won this statewide award, so I am beyond grateful to be acknowledged by the MFCA," he said, adding that when you have passion, strength and determination, you can find success for your program and students. "This award is a direct reflection of one of my core values of helping our student athletes build character that will stay with them beyond the playing field," he said. "And I am deeply honored to have been selected to receive it."

About the Minnesota Football Coaches Association

The MFCA Coach of the Year Award was established in 1965, and Justin Reese is the 54th winner of the Coach of the Year Award. The Fridley Tigers had a 7-0 record in the 2020 season. During the MCFA Hall of Fame Banquet, along with Coach Reese, six other coaches from across the state were honored as Coach of the Year in their school's respective football class divisions. Reese was selected as the statewide winner among these Coach of the Year candidates.

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVES MN DEPT OF ED 2021 SCHOOL FINANCE AWARD

Fridley Public Schools has earned the 2021 Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) School Finance Award for the fifth consecutive year. The award recognizes accurate financial reporting for the 2020 fiscal year.

The School Finance Award is awarded annually by the MDE, Division of School Finance, and recognizes districts for meeting statutory deadlines for submission of audited financial data and reporting criteria. This criteria includes: timely submission of financial data and compliance with Minnesota Statutes, district fiscal health and accuracy in financial reporting. Congratulations to the Fridley Public Schools Business and Finance department for their diligent stewardship of district funds.



All Fridley Public Schools students returned to school on Sept. 9!



STAY CONNECTED:
www.fridleyschools.org



UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER 21

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Work Session 5:30 p.m. | Business Session 7 p.m.
Meetings are held at the Fridley Community Center

SEPTEMBER 22

FOUNDATION "GET YOUR PAWS MOVING" WALK

Fundraiser for Fridley Schools Foundation, 4:30 p.m.
at Fridley High School Football Stadium

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 1

HOMECOMING WEEK

OCTOBER 1

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

6:00 p.m. at Fridley High School Football Stadium

OCTOBER 7

REFERENDUM COMMUNITY FORUM

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Fridley Community Center

STAY UP-TO-DATE!

Check out the District's Online Calendar for up-to-date events and information. Visit www.fridleyschools.org > navigate to: STUDENTS & FAMILIES > CALENDAR

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL ELECTION: NOV. 2 5th Grade Span Change



**VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 2**

To support the academic and social emotional growth of our young learners, Fridley Public Schools is proposing a K-5 grade-span change. Currently, the district's middle school is a grade 5-8 school, while the elementary schools are grades K-4.

The approval of the referendum would allow the school district to construct additional classrooms at each elementary school to support moving 5th grade from Fridley Middle School to the district's two elementary schools, Hayes and R. L. Stevenson Elementary. If voters approve the levy, the district will begin construction in 2022 with anticipation that the 5th grade change will be complete by the 2023-2024 school year.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

