

**FHS SENIOR NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALIST**

Congratulations to Fridley High School (FHS) senior Akshay Rai, who has been named a 2022 National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Rai is one of 16,000 semifinalists who represent the most academically talented and high achieving students in the nation.



The National Merit Scholarship honors individual students for their exceptional academic ability, demonstrated on the qualifying test used for program entry. Rai earned his semifinalist status based on his qualifying Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score in June 2021.

Upon learning of his semifinalist title, Rai said he was ecstatic. "It was all very exciting," said Rai. "I took the SAT on the final day available, and it was amazing to learn that it all paid off."

A standout and exemplary student, Rai is on track to earn 68 college credits at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities upon high school graduation through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program. He is also actively involved in many FHS activities, serving as captain of the speech team and participating in theater, improv, and art club. In addition, he is working toward founding an Asian American Student Association club at the high school. Rai is advancing to be considered for a National Merit Scholar title, and earn one of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships that will be offered in the spring of 2022.

Following graduation, Rai plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and pursue his interest in health sciences.

Pictured above: Akshay Rai (left) and Fridley High School Principal Patty Hand

HAYES, FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL PBIS PROGRAMS EARN STATEWIDE RECOGNITION FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND MDE**HAYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PBIS RECOGNITION**

Hayes Elementary School earned special recognition from the Minnesota Governor's Office and Department of Education (MDE) for their exemplary work in Minnesota School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) implementation. PBIS is an evidence-based framework for schools to incorporate strategic practices and positive behavioral interventions that enhance academic and social behavior outcomes for all students.

Using data-driven approaches, the Hayes team has created unique strategies and structures that have left positive impacts on students across all grade levels. Hayes has been a part of a regional cohort of PBIS-participating schools for two years, and was nominated for this award by its cohort leaders. The school now serves as a model for other districts in the region to build their own structures around their PBIS approaches.

According to Principal Gaeli Iverson, the most important part of PBIS implementation is to foster the buy-in and ownership of the school community by students. Last school year, the Hayes team began programs to provide active student leadership roles, including Junior Principal and Green Initiative Leaders.

As a Junior Principal, students walk the halls and monitor classrooms with Iverson. In this leadership role, students learn behavioral expectations that benefit themselves as well as others. From this experience, they become empowered and experts in these expectations and serve as model representatives throughout their school. As Green Initiative Leaders, students help keep their school environment clean, teach their peers the benefits of recycling and reuse of products and serve as policymakers and advocates for a sustainable and healthy environment for all.

Hayes has also instituted "Giraffe Spot" awards, a peer-to-peer recognition program where students can recognize their peers with acknowledgement tokens for kind and positive actions. These acknowledgements are often celebrated within classroom communities, as well as during the once-a-month PBIS school-wide assemblies.

These strategies have brought a transformational process for many students, as they build social emotional



Hayes Elementary Principal Gaeli Iverson (center) with members of the school's PBIS team

skills, a strong sense of belonging, and positive student-teacher and student-student relationships. The program is shown to be one of the most effective methods for helping students gain positive skills and behaviors.

As Hayes worked toward building their successful program, it was essential for administration to include parent and family voices. "Utilizing our diverse and multiple perspectives, we partnered with our families to help create a matrix of expectations for students," said Iverson. "Our families also helped to create the core values which students have at the forefront of their minds: 'Be safe, be responsible and be kind.'"

"The collective effort of our PBIS team has been so impressive," Iverson added. "This all contributes to our students' academic success by supporting their social emotional growth and acknowledging academic progress. I am so proud of our entire staff who work together to build these structures that benefit our students in amazing ways."

Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel said she is proud of the entire Hayes staff. "We are so excited to receive this special award and recognition from the Governor's Office and MDE. This showcases our students, staff, and families coming together and working hard to create a positive, inclusive climate which allows Fridley to be the best place to learn and best place to work for all."

Read about Fridley High School on the next page

**FRIDLEY NUTRITIONAL SERVICES INTRODUCES MINNESOTA THURSDAYS**

Fridley Public Schools' Nutritional Services department has introduced local Minnesota Thursday across the district. On the first Thursday of each month, our cooks will serve menu items that were exclusively grown or sourced in the state. On October 7, 2021, the locally-sourced menu featured turkey burgers from Ferndale Market, whole grain bun from Pan-O-Gold Bread, apples from Pine Tree Apple Orchard, vegetables from The Good Acre, and milk from St. Paul Beverage Solutions. The purpose of Minnesota Thursdays is to educate students about where food comes from, how food items are grown and sourced, and how to help local economy.



FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL PBIS RECOGNITION

Fridley High School teachers and staff members

Fridley High School earned an honorary award recognizing the school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program from the State of Minnesota Governor's Office and Department of Education (MDE). PBIS is an evidence-based framework for schools to incorporate strategic practices and positive behavioral interventions that enhance academic and social behavior outcomes for all students.

Over the past two years, Fridley High School has developed its PBIS program using data-driven approaches and standardizing expectations. Leading an exemplary approach toward positive school culture and climate, Fridley High School created its unique iBelong program with a purpose statement that: Fridley High School students are respectful, responsible, and real.

Through iBelong, students model these three traits and follow outlined expectations through classroom and environmentally-appropriate matrices. Students are recognized through various honors including PBIS "Students of the Month," and positive postcards sent to parents. Additionally, positive school culture and climate is fostered through intentional relationship-building and engagement of all students.

"We have so many passionate and dedicated staff members who care deeply for our students. I am so proud of the work that our PBIS team and entire staff have done to support this important work in our school community," said Principal Patty Hand. "The purpose of iBelong is the opportunity to honor, value, and celebrate the unique gifts that each and every student brings to Fridley High School."

"Fridley High School is truly like a big family," said Amy Engler, PBIS team lead and FHS dean. "Our staff has done a tremendous amount of work and it is wonderful to be recognized, especially during a year when we worked through the pandemic. Everything we do is to benefit our students, and we are proud to support and prepare them for success."



Rigorous Academics: International Baccalaureate (IB)

We are Minnesota's first and only district to provide the full IB Continuum from PreK-Grade 12

DID YOU KNOW ?



Fridley Public Schools is Minnesota's first and only school district to offer the full International Baccalaureate Continuum from Prekindergarten to Grade 12.

Fridley Preschool, Hayes Elementary, Stevenson Elementary, Fridley Middle School and Fridley High School are all authorized IB World Schools. Our IB World Schools provide rigorous transdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes inquiry-based learning, creative problem solving, hands-on projects, global focus, and taking action in the community.

By offering the IB programmes across all school levels, our district is equipping students with the skills they need to be successful in a globalized economy. Education through the IB framework has an emphasis on international mindedness, rigorous curriculum and assessment, instruction in a second language, and teaching the whole child. At Fridley, all students have the opportunity to learn Spanish from kindergarten to high school and have the option to add Chinese Mandarin beginning in 5th grade.



FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
International Baccalaureate World Schools

OCTOBER IS COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH!

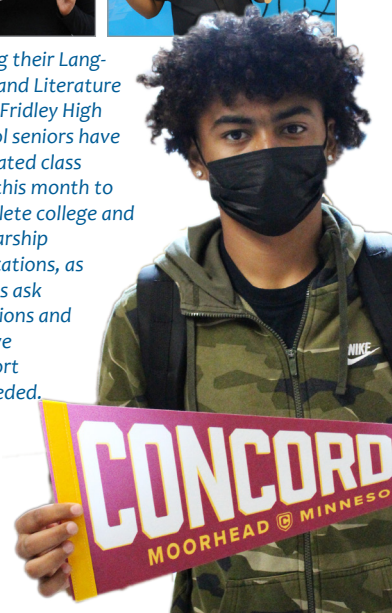


All month long, Fridley High School students are celebrating College Knowledge Month!

The goal of College Knowledge Month is to provide students with the preparation, opportunity, and support needed to apply to college. Throughout the month, students participate in a variety of college exploration and planning opportunities organized by the Get Ready College and Career Readiness program and Student Support Services Office. College-related activities include: Advisory lesson presentations, in-school College Application Day and workshops, FAFSA completion workshops, and College Knowledge games. In addition, representatives from colleges and universities visit during lunch hour - answering questions and sharing information about their collegiate programs.



During their Language and Literature hour, Fridley High School seniors have dedicated class time this month to complete college and scholarship applications, as well as ask questions and receive support as needed.



Fridley Public School District residents to vote on Capital Bond Referendum, School Board Election

This Election Day, Fridley Public School District residents will elect three School Board candidates and vote to approve a capital bond levy referendum that would facilitate a grade span change within the district's two elementary schools and middle school.

The proposed Grade Span Change Capital Bond Referendum would allow the school district to relocate 5th grade from Fridley Middle School to the district's two elementary schools, Hayes and Stevenson Elementary. Currently, the district's middle school is a grades 5-8 school, while the elementary schools are grades K-4.

2021 REFERENDUM



Enhancing the academic growth of our young scholars

OPPORTUNITIES • ACCESS • ADVANCEMENT



WHAT IS THE NEED?

The proposed grade span change to relocate 5th grade from middle school to elementary school would greatly support the academic and social emotional growth and development of our young learners.

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 cost a \$250,000 average priced home \$2.33 per month. The chart on below illustrates the annual and monthly tax impact for a variety of residential home values in Fridley.

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
\$350,000	\$41	\$3.42

CAPITAL BOND REFERENDUM

Approval of the referendum will generate \$11.2 million that will support the elementary schools grade span change as follows:

HAYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Construction of four new classrooms, create an accessible storm shelter per code, additional bathroom capacity, reconfigure playground to accommodate classroom additions, create additional parking lot, expand existing cafeteria space, relocate existing chiller and electrical services/site-work, interior refurbishment/finishes, furniture and equipment, technology, replace existing steam boiler plant.

Estimated project cost: \$5,620,845.

R. L. STEVENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Construction of four new classrooms, create an accessible storm shelter per code, additional bathroom capacity, expand existing cafeteria space, relocation of existing chiller and electrical services/site-work, interior refurbishment/finishes, furniture and equipment, technology, replace existing steam boiler plant.

Estimated project cost: \$5,410,850.

Estimated cost of bond issuance: \$168,305

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Fridley Public School District residents will elect three School Board candidates. All candidates are running uncontested and include one newcomer and two incumbents. Candidates include: Nikki Auna (newcomer), and current Board members Ross Meisner (incumbent), and Avonna Starck (incumbent).



Nikki Auna,
Newcomer



Ross Meisner,
Incumbent



Avonna Starck,
Incumbent

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For how long will the levy be applicable and is it renewable?

This is a non-renewable one-time levy that will be applicable for 17 years.

How is this grade span change different from the one in 1995?

In 1995, the elementary schools were full and 5th grade was moved from the elementary schools to the middle school which had more space. The 2021 grade span change is not due to space issues. It is due to requests from elementary school parents who want their 10-year-old students to benefit from an extra year at the elementary schools before going to middle school.

Why not move students to the Fridley Community Center?

The Fridley Community Center (FCC) does not currently have a full scale kitchen to prepare meals for students, a cafeteria for students to eat in, and adequate bathroom for increased number of students. In addition to construction of eight new classrooms, adding a new fully equipped kitchen, a new cafeteria, and building additional bathrooms would cost more than the proposed referendum.

Why do nonresident families seek to enroll their children in Fridley schools?

As the first and only school district that provides the magnet International Baccalaureate (IB) programs to all students from Preschool to 12th grade, many students seek to enroll in Fridley Public Schools to take advantage of the district's rigorous IB programs. Fridley, and most school districts in Minnesota, participates in open enrollment which is a state statute that allows Minnesota students to take advantage of unique programs and opportunities in schools outside their home school district.

Along with Anoka-Hennepin, Osseo, Rockford, Elk River, Brooklyn Center and Buffalo Hanover Montrose school districts, Fridley is also a member of the Northwest Suburban Integration School District where the seven member schools exchange students through their magnet programs.

Are there other school districts in the City of Fridley?

Yes. Fridley Public Schools is located in the center of the City of Fridley. There are portions of three other school districts within the City of Fridley: Anoka-Hennepin, Columbia Heights and Spring Lake Park school districts. Fridley families enrolled from these three school districts are taxpaying City of Fridley residents but due to school boundaries, are considered open enrolled when they choose to enroll in Fridley schools.

What will the space in the middle school be used for?

The space would be used to expand the district's top rated 4-Star Parent Aware-rated high quality school-aged childcare (before and after school care) for elementary and middle school students.

HOW DO I VOTE?



VOTE ON ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOV. 2, 2021

All Fridley Public School 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 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

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

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.

LEARN MORE *For more information, you can:*



GO ONLINE

www.fridleyschools.org/levy2021



SEND US AN EMAIL

levy2021@fridley.k12.mn.us



GIVE US A CALL

Contact 763-502-5004



TIGER PRIDE

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES HOMECOMING

Fridley High School (FHS) celebrated its homecoming week from September 27-October 1, 2021. FHS Student Council organized spirit-themed dress-up days for students and staff, as well as after-school activities, such as the annual powderpuff football game and homecoming door-decorating contest.

The homecoming festivities culminated with a school-wide homecoming pep fest on Friday, October 1, where the homecoming royal court was crowned. Homecoming royalty were – Freshmen: Trenton Woodall Jones and Michelle Garibay-Tejeda; Sophomores: Lex Korti and Soyome Getachew; Juniors: Gabriel Arika and Savannah Yang; and Seniors: Charles Quile, Daniel Pobuda, Greta McCoy, Faisa Yusuf, Mikayla Harmon, and Alvina Camara.



Homecoming royalty juniors Savannah Yang and Gabriel Arika



Homecoming royalty seniors Alvina Camara and Faisa Yusuf



FHS seniors elected two 2021 Homecoming Queens: Greta McCoy and Faisa Yusuf



Fridley High School varsity band members played the "Fridley Fight Song" at the homecoming pep fest.



FHS sophomores wearing their class t-shirts on Sept. 30. Students celebrated through the week with Student Council-organized Spirit Days



Homecoming royalty sophomores Soyome Getachew and Lex Korti



Fridley High School held its annual homecoming pep fest outdoors at FHS Stadium on Oct. 1. Students enjoyed games including tug-of-war and go-kart races.



Homecoming royalty seniors Greta McCoy and Daniel Pobuda



FHS seniors Priya Rana (left) and Devika Ramnarine (right) served as homecoming pep fest emcees

Fridley High School leaders partner with Fridley Preschool

A new partnership opportunity is connecting Fridley High School (FHS) students with the youngest students in the district, Fridley Preschoolers. As part of the high school's Leadership class, grade 9-12 students visit the Preschool weekly to interact and play games with our youngest learners, and gain leadership skills as they build meaningful relationships.

According to FHS health and physical education teacher Anthony Branitski, the purpose of the partnership is to offer opportunities for students to lead in the community. "In my career, I have witnessed the most impactful lessons from equipping my students with leadership opportunities," said Branitski. "The development evolves organically and it's amazing to see students discover themselves through servant leadership."

Branitski added that students ultimately gain confidence and life skills when working with children, and the opportunity to see themselves as positive role models.

Students in the Leadership class also engage in activities with students at Fridley Middle School. Throughout the year, the class focuses on topics that include personal growth, communication, teamwork, leadership styles and contributing to the community.



Fridley Schools Foundation hosts Walk Fundraiser

The Fridley Schools Foundation held its 5th annual "Get Your Paws Moving" Walk Fundraiser on September 22, 2021 at the Fridley Football Stadium. Over \$2,500 was donated to benefit students and staff members at Fridley Public Schools through educator innovation grants, student scholarships, and other school and district initiatives.

This year, the Foundation gave a pair of printed Fridley Schools Foundation socks to each participant who donated. Additionally, each donor contributed to another pair of socks which will be given to a local charity.

"I cannot thank the Fridley community, employees and families enough for supporting the walk, year after year," said Foundation Walk Chair Karin Beckstrand. "Fridley is a special district with a huge heart and that is evident every year through the support we receive."



Springbrook Nature Center visits Fridley Preschool

Springbrook Nature Center visited Fridley Preschool on October 8, 2021. Our youngest learners enjoyed a lesson on life cycles, connected with nature, and gained a deeper understanding of the world around them. During the visit, a Springbrook Naturalist outlined life cycles of several creatures - including mammals, amphibians, and plants.



INSIDE:

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES HOMECOMING

Fridley High School celebrated its homecoming week from September 27-October 1.



STAY CONNECTED:
www.fridleyschools.org



UPCOMING DATES

OCTOBER 28

EL FAMILY NIGHT

Event for English as a Second Language students and families, 5-7 p.m. at Fridley Middle School

NOVEMBER 2

ELECTION DAY

All Fridley School District residents vote at the Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

NOVEMBER 5

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

7 p.m. at District Auditorium, 6000 W Moore Lake Dr.

NOVEMBER 11

FMS VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

2:15 - 3 p.m. at Fridley Middle School

NOVEMBER 12

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Staff Evaluation and Planning Day

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

ELECTION DAY: NOV. 2 5th Grade Span Change

On November 2, 2021, Fridley Public School District residents will vote for a capital bond levy referendum that would facilitate a 5th grade span change. The proposed referendum would allow the school district to construct additional classrooms to relocate 5th grade from Fridley Middle School to the district's two elementary schools, Hayes and Stevenson Elementary.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION



Nikki Auna



Ross Meisner



Avonna Starck

Fridley Public School District residents will elect three School Board candidates this Election Day. All candidates are running uncontested and include one newcomer and two incumbents.

AWARD-WINNING SCHOOLS

Both Hayes Elementary and Fridley High School earned statewide recognition from the Governor's Office and MDE for their innovative PBIS programs.

