

SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW

CHISAGO LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT 2144



March, 2007

**HIGH SCHOOL
STADIUM
Major Repairs and
Updates Needed**

**Reaching
ALL
Learners**

**INCREASED
SECURITY**

**KINDERGARTEN
ROUND-UP**

**CLIP AND SAVE
Calendar**



Chisago Lakes Celebrates "I Love to Read Month"

About twenty years ago, the Minnesota Reading Association began sponsoring the "I Love to Read" program - designating February as "I Love to Read" month - a month devoted to encouraging students to celebrate reading. It is always a month full of energy and laughs as Chisago Lakes teachers challenge themselves to come up with new and exciting ways to help their students to develop a lifelong love of reading.



Activities around the district include: author visits, vocabulary parades, parents and kids sharing books over breakfast, as well as great contests, like "The Amazing I Love to Read Race", which entices kids to read, read, read!

Chisago Lakes Area Schools
ISD#2144
13750 Lake Blvd.,
Lindstrom, MN 55045
Tel. 651-213-2000

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Letter from the Superintendent:



The Minnesota Legislature is currently meeting to prepare legislation that will affect the way schools do business for at least the next two years. The legislature and the Governor have both indicated that education will be a priority for them this session, and we eagerly anticipate what the finished product will look like.

It is interesting to note that lawmakers have seen the research done regarding early childhood education and are

planning proposals that speak to enhancements in pre-school learning, all day-every day kindergarten and other programs that prepare our youngest students for school. If dramatic changes are to be made in the education of our youngest learners, the school district will need to reposition and reprioritize our programs to meet that mandate.

In other news, the Board of Education continues its work to examine facility needs in preparation for a possible decision to hold a bond referendum this coming fall. It is important that the Board and administration not only look to the future needs of the district, but also take care to maintain the current infrastructure, facilities and fields that it already has. As our facilities age, making plans for maintaining and upgrading these assets is critical and should be supported by

our patrons.

This is a great time of year to see the efforts of our students in action. Science fairs, athletic events, concerts and parent conferences are all on the calendar for the next few months, so I encourage you to stop by and see the results of our students' hard work and dedication.

Thanks again to all of our parents who support the work that our great faculty and staff do every day with our students. As we move into the spring season, we encourage our students to stay focused and to do their best. Thanks also to all of our school district residents who support our work with the young people of our community. It is important to remember that good schools are a great community investment.

Mike McLoughlin
Superintendent

Chisago Lakes Education Minnesota News



Chisago Lakes Education Minnesota is offering a \$1000.00 scholarship to any senior or graduate of CLHS pursuing a career in education. The application process includes answering several questions, two letters of recommendation, and a current transcript. This year the forms are due March 9th and are available in the Career Resource Center housed in the high school counseling office. Completed forms should be returned to Ms. Skelly at the high school.

MEETING NOTICE:

For: Chisago Lakes Area Schools, ISD #2144
Topic: Issues relating to a Fall 2007 Facilities Referendum
When: Monday, March 5, 2007
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Where: High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) (*SW side of HS*)

The Board of Education is requesting feedback from the public regarding an upcoming facilities referendum in November of 2007.

- Topics to be addressed:
- Roof replacement
 - Possible pavement projects
 - Athletic fields
 - Football stadium
 - Track

Please come and give your input and assist the Board in their decision making process.

School Board Members Honored

Congratulations to school board members, Lori Berg and Noel Stensrud, who were recognized by the Minnesota School Board Association in January for successfully completing over 100 hours of School Board Association sponsored trainings and activities. Each of them received the 2006-2007 Director's Award at a recognition luncheon on January 11, 2007.

Long-time school board member, Jerry Vitalis, was also honored at the MSBA Leadership Conference in January for over 30 years of school board service. Jerry was originally elected to the Taylors Falls school board in 1976 and remained a part of the combined board when Taylors Falls merged with Chisago Lakes in 1993. When people ask Jerry how he has been able to last 30 years on the school board he answers this way, *"A supportive family, a strong administrative team, and other dedicated school board members make it possible. In 30 years, I have only worked under four superintendents, and seventeen different school board members. That stability and dedication are the reason I have been on the board for so long."*

Kindergarten Round-up



Kindergarten Round-up will be held Wednesday, April 18 at Chisago Lakes Primary School and Friday, April 20 at Taylors Falls Elementary School. If you have a child old enough to start kindergarten in the fall, you should receive an invitation in the mail toward the end of March. If you do not think your child is on the school district census or you know someone who is new to the area, please call the Primary School at 213-2200 or Taylors Falls Elementary at 213-2100. If your child has not been to Early Childhood Screening, call the Family Center at 213-6865 to set up an appointment.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

All Buildings Have Increased Security

We are pleased to report that we have been able to add new security measures in all of our buildings - especially at our elementary schools. During the last few months, we have had local police test our building security measures. It became apparent that our loading docks at all of the buildings posed a security risk. Our elementary buildings also had an obstructed view of incoming visitors. Those issues have been addressed.

◆ Key Card Access

All buildings have been equipped with a Key Card System which allows buildings to lock all entrances, yet still allow staff to enter using a security card. A computerized system alerts staff when doors are left ajar to prevent access by intruders.

◆ Iphone Systems

Iphone systems, which allow doors to be locked at all times, have been installed at Primary and Lakeside. Visitors and delivery people use a buzzer located near selected entrances to request access to the building. Office staff are then alerted and can view visitors on a monitor. By using the Iphone system, office staff are aware of all visitors to the buildings. Taylors Falls will have a similar system installed later this year.

Student safety is a primary concern for our school district. We will continue to investigate ways to increase building security and welcome your comments and suggestions for improvement.

School Board Members



Chairman
Mark Leigh
257-9551



Director
Gerald Vitalis
257-4496



Director
Noel Stensrud
257-3245



Vice Chairman
Lori Berg
462-6815



Treasurer
Wade Carlson
257-2298



Clerk
Lynn Johnson
257-9758



Reaching

Teachers and administration in Chisago Lakes are working to ensure that all students are learning and progressing. A variety of assessment data is used to monitor progress and adjust their instruction to meet the needs of each and every student. By closely and continuously monitoring student progress, we are able to design effective and highly individualized instruction. Our goal is to adjust instruction to meet student needs, providing a system of interventions to support students who are struggling and extending the learning of those who are doing well.

Problem Solving

In an attempt to meet the needs of struggling students, Chisago Lakes uses a Problem Solving approach called “Response to Intervention” that focuses on the student’s current skills or functioning. When students are experiencing difficulty, we work through a series of steps. First we identify exactly what the problem is, and then work to determine the cause. From there, a planned, systematic set of interventions, or *changes in instruction*, is attempted. Interventions are monitored and evaluated often to determine their effectiveness. If the first intervention does not prove successful, teachers and support staff are trained to try another method.

“Recent research indicates that 85% of students served by problem-solving teams do not need further evaluation for special education!”

~Hartmann & Faye, 1996~

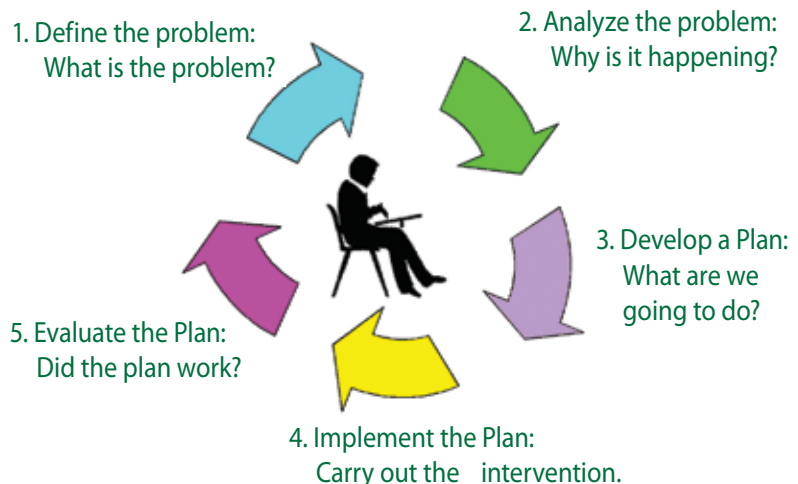
Math

Grade specific math targets have been established in our district. We are working to keep all students in the same core curriculum while changing the way it is delivered to struggling students. Elementary teachers received training this fall on how to modify their math program to reach all learners. Secondary math teachers have attended training sessions designed to help them look at district math data more in depth.

Reading

The Chisago Lakes School District believes that reading is a gateway skill for all other learning. To give our students the best chance at success, extra-support reading classes are offered in all of our buildings from elementary through high school. Reading targets have been established for all grade levels. Students receive extra support in reading when their scores fall below the grade level targets. All teachers and para-professionals have received training in the area of reading. The high school has targeted increasing reading comprehension using its nationally recognized NCA model for the last five years. *Our reading scores continue to remain above the state average.*

Steps of the Problem Solving Process



All Learners

Chisago Lakes Schools also believe that gifted, talented, and high achieving students have unique educational needs and have the right to be challenged throughout their educational experience. These students may show evidence of high performance in any of several areas including; intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership.

Elementary

All of our elementary schools have started “Jr. Great Books”, a reading program based on shared inquiry and discussion around great literature.

We also offer “Enrichment Groups” which are flexible groups created around the content of an activity, interests, or talents of the students in the classroom. The goal of enrichment groups is to offer opportunities for students who are gifted or talented in areas other than reading and math. Enrichment programs rely heavily on community volunteers who come to share their expertise or talents with students. To get involved, call Katie Kimlinger at 213-2014.

Other great programs for high achieving students happening across the district include; Chess Club, Dyna-Math, Math Masters, Tech Club, and Project Seek – a summer gifted program.

Middle School

The Middle School has started “Battle of the Books.” This has been a great hit with middle level students. It is student driven with participants reading books from a list and then making up questions for an end of the year competition! Based on a national program, students develop comprehension and discussion skills, while developing a life-long love for reading.

Another addition this year has been “Tech Club.” Technology savvy students have opportunities to use more technology than the regular school program allows for. To date, students have spent time working with video, photo, and special effects software. They would like to expose these students to outside technology experiences. Future plans include technology related field trips and guest speakers who work in the technology field.

Other enrichment classes and activities and courses for middle school students include; History Day, Accelerated Math Programs, American Studies, Spanish, 20th Century Challenge, Creative Computer Concepts, Elements of Art Design, Advanced Lifetime Fitness, Yearbook, Advanced Industrial Technology, Middle School Play, and Math League.



High School

High school students who would like to take rigorous courses have many options at Chisago Lakes High School. High achieving students have access to advanced placement courses (AP), honors classes, and college level courses in several subject areas. Students enrolled in AP and college courses can earn college credit while still in high school. Those students who take advantage of earning college credit can earn more than a years worth of college credit before they even graduate from high school.

Articulated courses are additional options for students with specific goals in a variety of subjects. These courses include; Auto Mechanics II, Child Development II, Fashion Merchandising, Health Care Courses, Mechanical Drafting, Computer Applications, and Desktop Publishing. Beyond academic courses, the high school offers extra curricular activities such as Knowledge Bowl, One Act Play, and Speech.

High School Stadium Overdue

The high school stadium is in need of some major repairs and updates. While the district has worked hard to maintain this thirty-year-old facility using yearly capital budgets, the age of the facility, poor soil conditions, and dwindling funds from the state have caused a shortfall in what is needed to keep our stadium at a competitive level.

The Track: Our high school track was installed in 1977. According to the manufacturers, a normal track has a twenty year life expectancy. The track has been resurfaced twice, once in the early 1990's and again in the late 1990's, but its rubberized surface is deteriorating and causing some safety concerns. Our maintenance team has been trying to patch the surface for the last couple of years, but unfortunately, that leads to uneven surfaces for runners. We are unable to resurface the track again, as the base of the track is also deteriorating and the rubberized surface will not adhere to it anymore. The soil condition beneath the track is poor – the soil drains poorly, causing heaving and buckling



of the track surface. We will be unable to host a conference or section event until this situation is addressed, according to Ken Orwoll, high school track coach.

"Years ago the Chisago Lakes High School Track was one of the best in the region, a facility we were very proud of. At that time we were able to host conference, sections and true team meets. Each year the track facility has provided over 150 high school and middle school track athletes a place to train. Besides middle school and high school track practice and meets, it is used by elementary students for field day and physical education classes as well as community groups such as Special Olympics and Relay for Life. Since the track was built, we have had over 60 state participants, 3 individual state champs and one state championship relay team. Today we can not host these large meets and our athletes, parents and community are losing out."

Ken Orwoll, Track Coach

The Football Field: The high school football field was also completed back in 1977. It was built at a time when there were only two groups using the field – junior varsity and varsity football teams. In recent years, two additional football teams have joined in using the field – a freshman team and a sophomore team. Boys and girls soccer was also added to the field's game schedule a few years ago. That means that in any given week, up to six

games could be played on this one field. Typically, the grass starts to disappear after about two games.

Back in 2001, the school district and numerous volunteers worked to add an irrigation system for watering in an effort to keep the field playable. Due to the heavy use, John Hopko, a turf specialist with Professional Turf and Renovation, was hired back in 2002 to help us maintain the turf. He comes 2-3 times every summer to reseed, aerate, and fertilize. It has definitely helped, but heavy clay soils beneath the football field result in poor drainage. Maintaining the grass can be an almost impossible task during very rainy seasons. Football teams, soccer teams, and marching band are already unable to practice on this field.

Stadium Bleachers &

Fencing: Stop by the high school stadium any day to see the effects of poor soil conditions. The fencing surrounding the field has heaved due to poor drainage and freezing soil. There are some spots where the fence posts rise up more than a foot.

The home team bleachers were also installed 30 years ago. In recent years, we have been replacing the wooden planks on a continual basis as needed. One area of concern is the lack of handicapped accessibility. Another concern is the lack of

For Renovation

stairway railings. The biggest problem with these bleachers is that there just are not enough seats as we have simply out-grown the current capacity. Parents and other sporting fans often find it difficult to find a seat at all. A group of citizens has been working for the last three years to raise money for additional bleachers. They have raised about \$45,000 to help defray the cost.

Annual Meeting of the Chisago Lakes Athletic Stadium Renovation Fund

Tuesday, March 20, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Chisago Lakes High School
Cafeteria

Visitor bleachers: We have never had a permanent set of bleachers installed for the visiting team. Our current visitor's bleachers were installed six years ago as a short-term solution. This set of bleachers was brought in to increase seating, but were not elevated at the time. They were set on the ground with the football team bench directly in front, making it very difficult to see the game from anywhere other than the top rows. We also bring in additional temporary bleachers for the fall season. An elevated set of bleachers is needed. The

newer existing set could then be moved to the football end zone for band seating or moved to the soccer field for additional spectator seating.



Press Box: Our press box was built in 1992 by the high school business trades classes. It is simply too small to accommodate everyone involved - announcers, scorekeepers, timers, spotters, visitor and home team assistant coaches, and camera crews.

Sound System: Our sound system was originally installed in 1977. A couple of roof speakers were installed two years ago to replace those which had failed, and the amplifiers were rebuilt to buy us a few more years of use. Replacement rather than repair will be more cost effective soon. A new sound system would allow for speakers to be installed on the visitor's side. Better directional speakers will allow sporting event fans to hear the announcements while keeping the neighborhood disturbance to a minimum.

Save the Date:

- Mar. 1 Lakeside Elementary
4th Grade Program
1:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Taylors Falls Elementary
4th-5th Grade Music Program
7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 12-16 **Schools Closed -
Spring Break**
- Mar. 30 Middle School Talent Show
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 2 **Schools Closed
Staff Development Day**
- Apr. 6-9 **Schools Closed -
Easter Break**
- Apr. 12 Lakeside Elementary
4th Grade Science Fair
All Day
- Apr. 18 Primary School
Kindergarten Round-Up
- Apr. 20 Taylors Falls -
Kindergarten Round-Up
Chisago Lakes Parent
Teacher Carnival @ M.S.
- Apr. 22-24 High School Variety Show
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 26 Primary School -
2nd Grade Music Program
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- May 1 Taylors Falls Elementary -
3rd Grade Music
Program - 7:00 p.m.
- May 3 Taylors Falls Elementary -
1st - 2nd Grade Music Program
7:00 p.m.
Lakeside Elementary
5th Grade Choir Concert
1:30 & 7:00 p.m.
- May 7 High School - Senior
Scholarship / Awards Night
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- May 10 High School
Spring Band Concert
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- May 17 High School
Spring Choir Concert
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- May 21 Middle School Choir Concert
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- May 24 Middle School Band Concert
PAC - 7:00 p.m.
- May 25 Taylors Falls Elementary
Talent Show
9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- May 28 **Schools Closed -
Memorial Day**
- June 1 High School Graduation
PAC - 7:00 p.m.



Clip & Save

Chisago Lakes Area Schools 2007-2008 School Calendar

July, 2007

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

August, 2007

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

September, 2007

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

October, 2007

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

November, 2007

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

December, 2007

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

January, 2008

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

February, 2008

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

March, 2008

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April, 2008

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May, 2008

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June, 2008

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

- No School
- No School for Some Students
- Staff Development/No School

- Aug. 27-30 Staff Development
- Sep. 3 Labor Day
- Sep. 4 First Day of School
- Sep. 19 Early Dismissal Dist-wide, no K
- Oct. 8 HS P/T Conferences
- Oct. 12 No School Kindergarten only
- Oct. 15-17 K-5 P/T Conferences
- Oct. 17 No School Elem only
- Oct. 18 & 19 MEA
- Oct. 29 MS P/T Conferences
- Nov. 1 MS P/T Conferences
- Nov. 2 End 1st quarter (42 days)
- Nov. 5 Staff Development/No School
- Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30 End MS 1st Trimester (58 days)
- Dec. 10 HS P/T Conferences
- Dec. 21-Jan. 1 Winter Holiday
- Jan. 18 End of 2nd quarter (44 days)
- Jan. 21 Staff Development/No School
- Jan. 29 & 31 K-5 P/T Conferences
- Jan. 30 No School Kindergarten only
- Jan. 31 Early Dismissal Elem only
- Feb. 1 No School Elem only
- K-5 P/T Conferences
- Feb. 15 Early dismissal Dist-wide, no K
- Feb. 18 President's Day
- Feb. 21 HS P/T Conferences
- Feb. 29 End MS 2nd Trimester (56 days)
- Mar. 17-21 Spring Break
- Mar. 21 Good Friday
- Mar. 28 End of 3rd quarter (42 days)
- Mar. 31 Staff Development/No School
- Apr. 1 & 3 MS P/T Conferences
- May 1 HS P/T Conferences
- May 23 Early Dismissal Elem only
- May 26 Memorial Day
- May 30 High School Graduation
- June 4 End 4th quarter (46 days)
- End MS 3rd Trimester (60 days)
- Last day of school
- June 5 Staff Development