



Chisago Lakes School District Review

May 2006

ISD 2144

**Student
SAFETY**

**Science
Program
Major
Improvements**

**Saving
Costs**

**Clip & Save
CALENDAR**

Spring is a Time for Coming and Going!



With the coming of warm weather, green grass and the return of Minnesota wildlife, so comes the final chapter of the school year. This chapter signifies much hard work along with various celebrations. In this last chapter of the school year, Chisago Lakes staff prepares to meet the needs of the incoming class of kindergarteners, as well as celebrate with and say goodbye to the senior class of 2006!

Staff at Taylors Falls “rounded-up” close to 70 new pre-school students at the April 21st kindergarten round-up. About 209 pre-schoolers attended kindergarten roundup at Primary School on April 19th. The highlight for students in both schools was being treated to their first school bus ride.



As we prepare to say goodbye to another graduation class, we celebrate their success on Monday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center with the Senior Scholarship Award Night. Students will also be recognized during their advisement periods on May 25th with various department awards.

The culminating celebration is the Chisago Lakes High School Commencement Ceremony on Friday, June 2nd at 7:00 pm in the west gymnasium. The public is invited to attend.



District Saves Thousands of Dollars in Transportation Costs

After four years of contracting bussing from Hunt's Transportation Services, the district has met their goal of saving money and providing safe and efficient transportation for students. A number of the bus drivers that drove when the district owned the bus fleet and one of the mechanics are now employees of Hunts. Today, the average age of the bus fleet is 3.4 years with six new buses coming by the end of December. According to the school district audits, the balance in the transportation fund has grown from a negative \$204,967 in 2002 to a balance of \$709,288 in 2005 - an increase of \$914,255. That figure does include the sale of the district's bus fleet to Hunt's on July 1, 2005 for \$489,950. Even if one removes the sale of the buses, the increase in the transportation fund is still \$424,305 - a savings of almost a half a million dollars in three years!

It was a difficult decision for the school board to go to contracted transportation. The district was facing a deficit of over \$200,000 in the transportation fund as of June 2002. Since the transportation fund is part of the general fund which also pays for teacher salaries, instructional supplies, building operations, utilities, etc., the district felt they could not sacrifice classroom expenditures to pay for bussing. The average age of the bus fleet in 2002 was 8 years old. To maintain a safe fleet, the district would have needed to purchase two busses per year at a cost of over \$50,000 each, resulting in an even larger deficit.

At its regular meeting on April 11, 2006, the Board of Education approved another two year contract with Hunt's Transportation Services, LLC. If you would like additional information on the transportation fund or any other information on the school district's financial condition, please contact Heide Miller at (651) 213-2010 or hmillers@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us.

Chisago Lakes Education Minnesota (CLEM)



As the school year wraps up, CLEM would like to send out a huge thank you to OSOR for their support of all the educators within the district. Your kindness is appreciated a great deal. Our Schools Our Responsibility is a parent group within the entire district who volunteer their time and efforts to improve and support all CL students' education. Congratulations to Jessica Damm for receiving the Chisago Lakes Education Minnesota Scholarship this year. Jessica plans on attending the University of Minnesota Duluth majoring in communicative art/literature education. Jessica will be receiving \$1,000 to help defray the high costs of college. This year's applicants were all very deserving. Thank you for all who applied. Visit our website at www.clem.educationminnesota.org.

Superintendent's Review



With the arrival of the nice spring weather, the school district finds itself preparing for the end of a school year that seemed to fly by! The fourth quarter of the school year is well underway as are spring sports and activities. Before long we will be planning for high school graduation and the beginning of summer. Best of luck to our graduating class of 2006. We hope you find happiness and fulfillment in your pursuits after high school.

We also welcomed to the district the class of 2019 this spring at kindergarten round-ups at the Primary School and at Taylors Falls Elementary. It is always an exciting time for parents and students to look to the future to see what the fall will bring.

As some of our alumni start college, vocational school or the world of work, our other students advance a grade and move closer to their goal of obtaining a high school diploma. It is critically important that students understand the value of their high school diploma as the entry level credential to their adult work life, and that the pursuit of that diploma continues to be the main emphasis of a teen's life.

I have also had the opportunity to be involved in several classroom activities these past few months and continue to be greatly impressed with the work that our staff and students are involved in, as well as the parent support that is evident in all of our schools. Thanks again to our dedicated staff that do the important work with our young people every day.

This will be our last School Review before the fall so we wish all in our school community a safe and restful summer vacation. We will be ready to welcome back all of our students on September 5, 2006, the first day of classes for students. Have a great summer!

Michael McLoughlin, Superintendent

If you have comments or questions about the content of this newsletter, contact Brenda Schell at 213-2005 or bschell@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us

Principals Making Open House Plans for Next Year

All elementary buildings - August 30th.

- Lakeside "Meet the Teacher"
 - o 3rd-5th grade students - 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Taylors Falls Open House
 - o 9:00-10:30 AM kindergarten
 - o 11:30-1:00 PM kindergarten
 - o 4:00-6:00 1st-5th grade students
- Primary Open House
 - o 9:00-10:30 AM kindergarten
 - o 11:30-1:00 PM kindergarten
 - o 4:00-6:00 1st-3rd grade students

(continued on page 3)

School Board Update:

It is an exciting time of change and possibility in the Chisago Lakes School District.

Over the last few years the following have occurred:

- Leadership changes at the Primary School, Middle School, High School and in the Superintendent's office
- Major repairs to the swimming pool
- Adoption of a new reading curriculum
- Development of a plan consisting of short and long term goals for the school district
- Demographic study has been done by our Community Education Director
- Plans are being formulated to respond to the potential growth in our area
- Department and grade level chairpersons and content leaders have been identified to help align the curriculum and improve inter-grade level communications
- Curriculum review cycle has been put back into place
- Athletic conference has even changed!

Based on what demographic and globalization trends are telling us, we have known that we need to take a close look at what we are offering our students to prepare them for tomorrow's world.

In response to this:

- High School administration has provided a plan to improve its rigor and programming, including adding to our credit requirements
- Middle School administrative team is adding foreign language opportunities. They have also recently changed the schedule at the Middle School to decrease excessive time in study halls and increase requirements and electives
- Elementary buildings continue to focus on using data and research-based materials to ensure that every child is succeeding in reading

In closing, we would like to thank the many teachers, administrators, and school staff that are working very hard to help bring about these changes. We would also encourage community members to stay involved as we move forward in making Chisago Lakes Schools a leader in educating children. If you haven't felt the exciting things happening in our schools yet, we promise you will.

We welcome your thoughts and comments. Please feel free to contact us.

<i>Chairman—Mark Leigh.....</i>	<i>257-9551</i>	<i>Treasurer—Wade Carlson</i>	<i>257-2298</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman—Lori Berg.....</i>	<i>462-6815</i>	<i>Director—Gerald Vitalis</i>	<i>257-4496</i>
<i>Clerk—Lynn Johnson</i>	<i>257-9758</i>	<i>Director—Noel Stensrud</i>	<i>257-3245</i>

OSOR

- Our Schools

- Our Responsibility

On Friday, April 7th, 190 fifth graders from Lakeside and Taylors Falls Elementary came together for a great evening at the Middle School. This is the fourth year OSOR has teamed with Community Education to plan the get-together which coordinates the 5th Grade Middle School orientation. The students participated in games, crafts, nail painting, photos and relay races. In the spirit of American Idol, the 5th graders participated in karaoke. Pizza and pop were available all evening. Thanks to the over thirty parent volunteers, the evening was well supervised and fun.

OSOR held a theme basket auction at the carnival on April 21st. Groups from all schools chose a theme for their basket such as rainy day activities, pet lovers, movie night, new baby and many more. The students each brought one item to add to their class basket. The parents were incredibly generous and some of the baskets earned over \$100 at the auction. All money raised goes back to the Chisago Lakes Schools for staff appreciation, volunteer appreciation and school enrichment needs.

Please consider joining the OSOR parent group next year. We only meet five times. Our first meeting is September 14th at 6 pm at the Middle School. It is an efficient way to get involved without a large time commitment.

Volunteers make a good school great!!!

(OPEN HOUSE Continued from page 2)

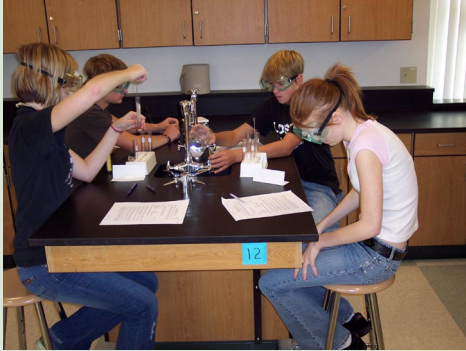
The middle school is offering a new orientation and open house format for fall 2006. Monday, August 28th from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM has been established as orientation day.

- Multiple informational stations for students and their parents will be made available. Stations include: school pictures, lunch accounts, school supplies and log books, yearbooks, nursing services, schedules and locker information, fall sport information, transportation and family access.
- Meet your CORE teacher sessions will be offered several times throughout the day. Students and their parents can determine times to attend the open house that works in their family's schedule.
- Parents of middle school children will receive detailed information during the month of August.

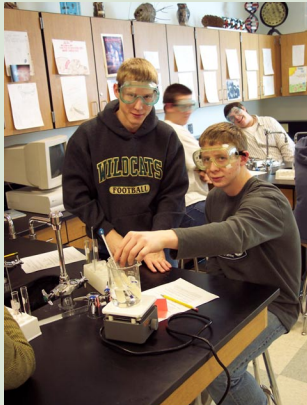
The high school will hold its first event of the 2006-2007 school year with 9th grade and new student orientation on August 24th. The program will begin at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

- Various school personnel will address topics of school procedures and expectations, athletic eligibility, food service and schedule information.
- After the large group presentation, students will meet with their advisors and receive an updated schedule.
- Students will have the opportunity to find their classrooms and locker.
- Current CLHS staff and students will be on hand to answer questions and assist with the evening.
- Please watch for a mid-August mailing for more details.

“Hands-On” Opportunities Abound



Beginning in Physics 9, students at the high school are actively engaged in “hands-on” science activities on a daily basis. Making spaghetti bridges, collecting DNA from cheek cells, determining the number of atoms in a thickness of aluminum foil, performing egg drop experiments, and dissecting fetal pigs in Advanced Placement Biology classes are just a few examples.



Wolf Ridge Environmental Education Center

Each January, sixth grade students have an exceptional three-day learning experience awaiting them. As a part of their science curriculum, they travel to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center near Finland, Minnesota where they foster awareness, curiosity and sensitivity to the natural world.



Major Improvements to

In 2004, the Minnesota legislature established standards in science and developed state tests to monitor student growth toward those standards.

These are some of the requirements of that legislation:

- Science standards must be fully implemented this school year.
- Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, students will be tested at grades 5, 8 and at the high school using the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, II.
- The high school test will assess achievement of the life science standards.
- All students must earn 3 district science credits, at least one in biology, for graduation.

Chisago Lakes’ teachers and administrators have been working to meet these new requirements. Science standards have been adopted in grades K-12. Courses have been aligned and new materials have been ordered.

Curriculum:

The district began the improvement process in its science programs by reviewing the current program and comparing it to the required Minnesota state standards. Teachers representing all grade levels have reviewed the standards for science to insure that those standards are embedded in Chisago Lake’s science curriculum. In order to meet the new standards, earth science will be added to the Science 9 curriculum, textbooks for secondary students will be updated, and a new textbook series will be added to the elementary curriculum.

Textbooks:

All elementary grades 1-5 will be receiving new science textbooks and “hands-on” materials for conducting experiments for next year. The new textbook series focuses on giving students a solid foundation in life, earth, and physical science. It will allow us to meet the new required standards as well as increase the number of minutes we spend teaching reading. The Houghton-Mifflin Science series was chosen because it does such an excellent job of supporting reading using high-interest science content. Daily science lessons are supported by hands-on activities and the integration of the scientific process.

the Science Program

We are in the process of purchasing new textbooks for almost all secondary courses. These new textbooks have on-line and DVD versions which allow students to access their text and assignments through the internet or from any personal computer. Secondary course offerings include:

- Physical Science for all grade 6 students
- Life Science for all grade 7 students
- Earth Science for all grade 8 students
- Physical Science with Earth Science for all grade 9 students
- Biology for all grade 10 students
- Students can then choose from a variety of other Chemistry, Physics, and Agriculture classes, as well as Accelerated Physics and Advanced Placement Biology

Technology:

Technology is included with most of our textbook purchases. Classroom presentations can be delivered in multiple ways including Power Point presentations, digital experiments, and simulations.

Science at the Primary Level

Students in the early grades focus on changes in their environment, from weather to plant and animal classifications. Children at this level participate in activities like planting seeds, making predictions, and recording observations about plant growth. They also spend time studying animal behavior and habitat with a culminating second-grade trip to the Minnesota Zoo.



Warner Nature Center

Third grade students from across the district visit the Warner Nature Center where they participate in a number of “hands-on” learning activities focusing on science and the environment.



Water Festival



Chisago 5th graders participate in the “Water Festival” currently held at Camp Ojiketa. Students study water, the environment, and the various factors which affect it.

Science Fair



All Chisago Lakes 4th grade students participate in creating a science project and display based on the “scientific inquiry method.” Students learn to research a topic, make a hypothesis, and then set up an experiment around a variable. Their findings are then show-cased at the annual science fair in each building.

District Safety

District Acting Proactively to Ensure Student Safety

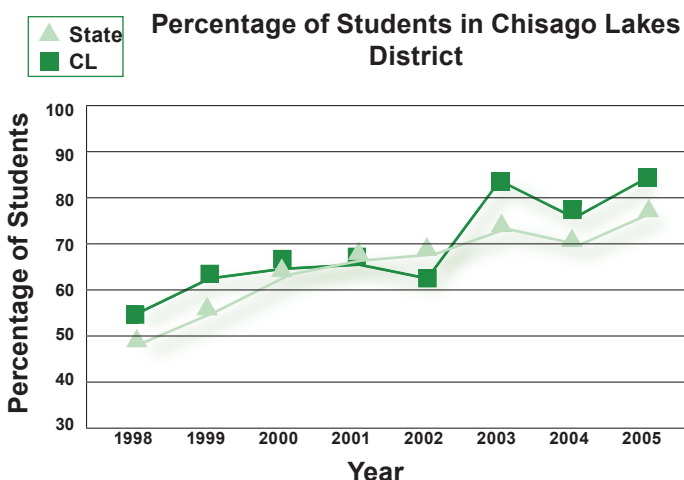
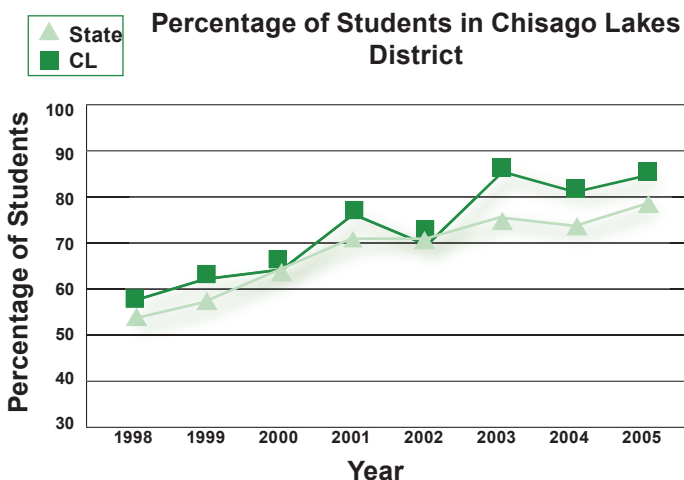
Emergency Preparedness:

On April 6, Chisago Lakes district administration, school nurse, and Chief Stenson of the Lakes Area Police Department, met with James Halstrom, Director of Emergency Management for Chisago County to discuss emergency preparedness. The purpose of this meeting was to investigate ways to ensure that district staff are prepared for various emergencies, increase communication between buildings and departments during emergencies, and plan for future “mock” emergency trainings.

Mr. Halstrom will lead district administration through a mock emergency situation on June 12th. This emergency situation will be any type of emergency that could happen in a school district. Using the emergency preparedness manual that the district has in place, administrators will be asked to react to this emergency with various “road blocks” like “downed phone lines” being thrown into the scenario along the way. District administrators will have a chance to look for and discuss problems or holes in our policies and procedures in this way.

Chisago Lakes Test Scores

There was a misprint in the last district newsletter. The graphs depicted were mis-labeled and the color coding was incorrect. Rest assured, Chisago Lakes students are performing above the state average in both reading and math. Corrected graphs are shown below.



High School “Mock Crash”:

Students Against Destructive Decisions teamed up with the Lakes Area Police, Lindstrom Fire, Lakes Region EMS, North Memorial Air Care, Grandstrand Funeral Home, and Tom’s Towing to put on a mock crash at the high school on April 27th.

With spring being a time for prom and graduation parties, the SADD group decided to put a program together to show high school juniors and seniors how their dreams and those of their families could be shattered as a result of underage drinking and driving. After viewing a short video clip, students walked outside where a mock crash was staged. Emergency personnel then responded to the injuries of six student actors at the mock accident scene. Students were able to see how their poor decisions can have life changing consequences.

Elementary Bike Safety Rodeo:

The Lakes Area Police in conjunction with Fairview Lakes Medical Center held their annual “Bike Safety Rodeo” for Taylor’s Falls elementary students and their families on May 11th. Police officers were on hand to inspect student’s bikes for safety hazards. An obstacle course was set up so that students could learn safe riding tips. Prizes, including a brand-new bike, were given away. Helmets were available for a cost of five dollars. The bike safety rodeo will be held at Lakeside Elementary on May 25th at 3:45. Families from the area are invited to attend this free event.



Chisago Lakes Area Schools 2006-2007 School Calendar

July, 2006

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				

August, 2006

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	

September, 2006

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

October, 2006

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			

November, 2006

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	

December, 2006

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

January, 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		

February, 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		

March, 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

April, 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				

May, 2007

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	

June, 2007

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

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

- Aug. 28-31 Staff Development
- Sept. 4 Labor Day
- Sept. 5 First Day of School
- Sept. 20 Early Dismissal Dist-wide, no K
- Oct. 9 HS Parent-Teacher Conference
- Oct. 13 No School Kindergarten only
- Oct. 16-18 K-5 Parent-Teacher Conference
- Oct. 18 No School Elementary only
- Oct. 19-20 MEA
- Oct. 30 MS Parent-Teacher Conference
- Nov. 2 MS Parent-Teacher Conference
- Nov. 3 End of First Quarter (42 days)
- Nov. 6 Staff Development
- Nov. 22-24 Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 1 End MS 1st Trimester (58 days)
- Dec. 7 HS Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Dec. 25-Jan. 2 Winter Holiday
- Jan. 18 End 2nd Quarter (43 days)
- Jan. 19 Staff Development
- Jan. 30-Feb. 2 K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Jan. 31 No School Kindergarten only
- Feb. 1 Early Dismissal Elementary only
- Feb. 2 No School Elementary only
- Feb. 16 Early Dismissal Dist-wide, no K
- Feb. 19 President's Day
- Feb. 22 HS Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 2 End MS 2nd Trimester (56 days)
- Mar. 12-16 Spring Break
- Mar. 27, 29 MS Parent-Teacher Conference
- Mar. 30 End 3rd Quarter (44 days)
- Apr 2 Staff Development
- Apr. 6 Good Friday
- Apr. 9 Easter Monday
- May 3 HS Parent-Teacher Conferences
- May 25 Early Dismissal Elementary only
- May 28 Memorial Day
- June 7 End 4th Quarter (45 days)
- End MS 3rd Trimester (60 days)
- Last Day of School
- June 8 Staff Development

Local Art Teacher Jeff Audette Designs New Sign For Primary

Jeff Audette, the art teacher at Primary School, has been working with students and staff to create a new sign for the front of the building which is designed around the theme, "Building Blocks for Tomorrow." Mr. Audette has been doing much of the design and layout work while students are in class in an effort to teach the process to students. Each class will be assigned one of the blocks to customize. Each student will be asked to sign their class block using a paint pen. The new sign will be unveiled at Super Sticker Day on May 25th. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Chisago Lakes High School Agriculture Department Opens Annual Greenhouse Sale



Chisago Lakes High School students enrolled in the agriculture program have been working hard this spring to gear up for the annual greenhouse sale. Through hands-on/minds-on, authentic learning, students learn how to grow and manage plants from seed, cuttings, bare-root, and rooted cuttings. They plant, fertilize, pinch, pot, fertilize by a dosematic, granular fertilize and regulate plant growth by temperature, sunlight, and humidity. From there, students learn how to market and sell their product. Every dollar from the greenhouse sale goes back into the greenhouse project and the AgriScience department.

The greenhouse will be open to the public on May 13th and May 20th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Leftover items will be sold at a reduced price on June 7th. For more information please call (213-2582) or email (JLindeman@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us) Jeff Lindeman.

Chisago Lakes Area Schools

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