

Waseca Public School's Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is seeking members. The purpose of SEAC is to advocate for high-quality educational programs for all learners and assure that the School Board, District Administration, and community members are informed of special education successes, issues, and concerns. We do this by increasing the involvement of and adding the informed perspective of parents, special education staff, general education staff, and district administrators.

The Special Education Advisory Council is mandated by the state of Minnesota to ensure that parents have the opportunity to be involved. Our membership includes parents of children with disabilities (including non-public schools within the District), teachers, school staff, and administrators. This year it is our intention to clarify the purpose and role of our SEAC and develop a goal-oriented process that will help ensure effective use of our time together.

Parents benefit from an effective SEAC in the following ways:

1. Gaining knowledge about District programs and services may benefit their own or another family's child.
2. Contributing to others may give added value and meaning to their own personal experience.
3. Witnessing positive change as a result of their input and influence is rewarding and motivating.
4. Learning new skills that may transfer to other areas of advocacy and leadership.
5. Gaining a big-picture perspective.
6. Finding opportunities to network and build relationships with other families with similar life experiences.
7. Developing positive and helpful relationships with school staff.

Your voice is important to Waseca Public Schools and the children who receive special services! Please consider becoming a member of our District Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). We will become more effective in the delivery of special education services when parents share their unique experiences and perspectives.

Our Fall meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2018, at Central Building, 2nd Floor conference room. We will begin at 5:30 pm. The winter meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2019, at 5:30 pm, also at the Central Building Conference room.

Working together will create better opportunities and outcomes for our kids!

Heather Harms
Director of Special Education

Deanna Gronseth
Assistant Director of Special Education

Greetings Hartley families,

Thanks for a great start to the school year. The time continues to go by very quickly. I appreciate the continued support of driving carefully around the school grounds both in the morning and after school. The safety of our students at this time of day is extremely important. Below is a brief statement of a new curriculum implemented this year at Hartley to help build the social/emotional well being of our student community. This has been a nice addition to our work as teachers to help build these skills for child.

We also started our Second Step Lessons. Second Step focuses on four main areas: skills for learning, empathy, emotion management and problem-solving. Your child will be learning a lot this year and we hope you will help! During the year, your child will be coming home with Home Link worksheets which contain fun activities for you and your child to complete together. We thank you in advance for supporting your child in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life.

Have a great next couple months and please stop in and visit or help out in the classroom if you get a chance!

Sincerely,
Ben O'Brien
Hartley Elementary Principal

"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush."

We have had a lot to whistle about throughout the fall and into winter including our state cross country participants, Ella and Abby Dufault and Anna McCabe, to a beautiful production of Cinderella and our Cinderella football team participating at U.S. Bank Stadium for the first time in history. In combination with an outstanding indoor production, the first choir concert in the Performing Arts Center and the thrills of a first round section tournament win in volleyball since 1983 has made it a thrilling time at Waseca Jr. & Sr. High. As a soccer and tennis fan I must also commend the efforts of these young teams.

Construction coming to an end leaving us with our beautiful facilities and the action of the school board to present our students with one more opportunity to prepare themselves with important life skills with the addition of Family and Consumer Science classes adds to our students' school experience.

We continue to reevaluate safety procedures to prepare students and staff for the emergencies that may take place in our school and school activity settings.

Bluejay Connect has taken the place of Homeroom this school year. Our teachers are spending this time to build relationships with students and to help students by helping them identify how they learn best and adding to their tool chest the coping skills, life skills, study skills, and character traits to help them be successful students ready to become contributing members of society. Connect time is the last 20 minutes of each school day. This is a critical time for teachers to connect with students and for students to connect with each other and our school.

Soon you will experience our school signage with multiple monitors. Students will be able to view announcements, menus, general messages, and departmental messages in a variety of spaces throughout the building.

As always we are so blessed to be supported by our many contributors including the Waseca Area Foundation, PTO, and the Bluejay Debit Card and all the individuals who contribute their time, talents and dollars to our schools along with all of our taxpayers.

We look forward to winter sports seasons, Music in our School month in March, DECA and BPA state conventions, the results of the Law Team, Science Olympiad, Robotics, FFA, Art and Math Team competitions, and a rewarding trip to Costa Rica for Spanish students.

Bring on the slush, we are Waseca Bluejays. Now that is something to whistle about.

Jeanne Swanson, Principal
Waseca Jr. & Sr. High



District News

We have so many good things to share throughout the district. We have had a very successful beginning of the school year, renovations have gone extremely well for each of our buildings, our students are doing wonderful things academically, artistically and athletically, and our PTO fundraiser once again was a community-wide success with results even better than the previous years. We have many things to be grateful for, and our students, staff, families and community are a large part of why we are thankful. Waseca never fails to pull together and support each other whenever it's needed, and these points are good indicators of how much we support is in our community.

Bluejay Blast

On behalf of the Bluejay Blast Planning Team the results from Saturday, November 17, 2018 are: \$52,000 net profit, the highest amount raised and beat last year by \$5,000!

THANK YOU to all of your classrooms, clubs, teams that donated! Thank you to all staff that donated, worked and/or came to the event! It was a "Blast"! We hope you see the positive impact of these funds in the schools. The funds will be disbursed to the building PTO's and granted out during the normal PTO granting rounds. Thank you all for your continued help and dedication to making every day better for our students!

Waseca Cheers

Our Bluejays football team had a wonderful season, reaching heights not yet achieved in the history of the school. The Jays played at US Bank Stadium and had an amazing game for the State Semi Finals against SMB. They played a great game and the "sea of blue" Was.ca supporters were in full effect, with students, staff, families and many community members cheering as loud and proud as possible. The players and the fans alike were grateful for each other in this record breaking season for the Jays. Coach Brad Wendland was congratulated on his 100th career win as a head coach at St. James and Waseca! Coach Wendland is in his 13th season with the Bluejays and has compiled a 100-64 record overall. Our own Activities Director Joe Hedervare was recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) as a Certified Athletic Administrator, for demonstrating the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration.

Our students continue to be gifted with extremely generous donors of books and other helpful learning material in the classroom, from anonymous donors, our PTO, and we are very fortunate to have teachers sharing their classes' lessons and highlights on social media so we can see just how wonderful their day to day school experiences are.

The Lady Jays Volleyball players had a great season, with All-Big South Conference East players, seniors Amia Broughten, Madison Gehloff and Brianna Highum, and junior Rachel Breck, who received Honorable Mention. Lady Jays soccer continues to grow with talented players and went to section quarterfinals this fall, after collecting some great wins throughout their season. Both Girls and Boys Jays tennis took some big wins through their season with solid winning streaks, and both boys and girls cross country had great runs each meet, such as first place in an invite in Zumbrota Mazeppa. Girls Cross Country finished in 3rd place in Section 1AA, and students Abbe Dufault, Ana McCabe, and Ella Dufault ran in the 2018 State Class AA Cross Country meet. Ella, Ana and Abbe were congratulated for their Big South All-Conference cross country team awards and given honorable mentions to runners Cole Halla, Will Stahl, Eli Johannsen, Matthew Feldkamp, Emily DeMorett and Alayna Akers.

The Waseca Marching Jays had yet another incredible season, such as winning 1st Place in Parade and 2nd Place Field in the Festival of Bands Preliminaries, and finishing their season with their popular indoor concerts that were well attended and extremely well received. The Marching Jays never cease to put on a terrific show and fans and followers enjoy every single performance. They also included shows for the community's younger students in Sacred Heart School, Hartley Elementary, and Waseca Intermediate School, and those young spectators became fans as well. The Marching Jays were congratulated on yet another spectacular Marching Classic, named 2018 MN State Fair Class B Championship Band, and also named runner-up in the 106.9 KROC vote for Best SE Minnesota Band!

Our Bluejay Connect received Section Champion, and AVID classes have been taking trips touring college campuses and prospective employer locations, like Target Field and job opportunities with the Minnesota Twins! Our PLTW Principles of Engineering students continue to amaze with their creative machinery designs, such as compound machines using VEX components and impressive architectural models.

Student Breanna Stoesz was named a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program! A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented by Principal Jeanne Swanson to this scholastically talented senior. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

Our new Performing Arts Center has had some truly wonderful performances already this year, opening with a Blackhawks concert and a comedy performance by comedienne Diane Ford in late August. Since then, several events have successfully been performed and attended at the new center, and more are being added to the calendar. The Waseca High School Drama Department most recently performed Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella" to large crowds, and during elections the Coffee Break Debates were well attended and recorded on the PAC stage. The State Street Singers performed a very impressive concert enjoyed by a wonderful crowd of Waseca families and community who enjoy the artistic talents consistently displayed on our stages!

The Waseca High School pool finished renovation as well as the tennis courts, to add to the list of improvements made for our schools' use. Thanks to much dedicated work and patience for everyone involved, all of our renovations are nearly complete and we are enjoying so many benefits from all of the construction.

As we get ready for a winter and spring season of more academics, athletics, arts and community education programs, we wish to thank the community for the continued strong support of our schools and our students. Without you, many things we are thankful for wouldn't be possible and it's always a joy to share the news of them all with you!





Performing Arts Center Presents



JESTERS

comedy improv



Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Tickets will be sold at the door \$10

THINK BLUE



ACHIEVE GOLD!

Waseca Public Schools

Waseca Public Schools
ISD #829
District Newsletter
WINTER 2019

Postal Customer

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Waseca, MN

Waseca Community Education
501 East Elm Avenue
Waseca, MN 56093