



Community Report

Carver-Chanhassen-Chaska-Victoria, Minnesota

Back-to-School 2010

STUDY OF CHINESE EXPANDING TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN 2010-11

District 112 successfully added Chinese to the high school World Language curriculum last year. This fall, students in middle school will be taking Chinese as well.

"We have high expectations for our students," notes Chinese teacher Shannon Jin, "but I can honestly say I saw very few students complaining. Chinese is challenging. But my students were very impressive. The secret is practice, practice, practice."

Chinese language students attended the Concordia Language Village program in Stillwater last spring as well as China Day at the University of Minnesota. In addition to stressing language development, both experiences offered opportunities to learn about culture and



Eastern Carver County high school students studying Chinese had the opportunity to play the Chinese drum called the gu at the Concordia Language Village in Stillwater last spring.

arts in China. Students practiced the art of drawing, played the Chinese drum call the gu, and even learned Chinese folk dances.

"The students learned that in China, work reflects the character of the artist," Ms. Jin said. "Even the preparation for draw-

ing or dancing is a process to prepare your heart and mind for the work."

Ms. Jin was selected as one of 15 Chinese teachers from around the nation to attend a prestigious 21-day Chinese language seminar at the University of Virginia this summer.

THE PROMISE OF THE YEAR AHEAD

—Dr. Jim Bauck, Superintendent

As you read this, I've been superintendent for only eight weeks, yet in that time, I've learned about some, not all, very distinct qualities regarding the Eastern Carver County Schools.



I've learned this district:

► **Dreams big.** Not many school systems take on the complete redesign of their secondary programs, making sweeping changes based on research and a commitment to preparing all students for post-secondary school success. I believe the new program holds real promise for our students. And now, a new elementary initiative underway will take the grades K-5 program to an even higher level as well.

► **Holds itself accountable.** As the state released the 2010 MCA II scores, staff members immediately began pouring over the results, looking for trends, for strengths, for areas needing improvement. This follow-through reflects a commitment to ensure our curriculum is strong enough to prepare students for proficiency in the state's high standards.

► **Succeeds.** The results of the NWEA tests given to assess individual student progress showed that compared to national results, our students scored at the median achievement level of the NEXT GRADE level. That is the result of strong instruction and involved parents.

► **Possesses a talented staff.** While I am just getting to know this staff, I can tell you my initial impressions are very positive. I have enjoyed hearing about the initiatives underway, the positive approach to the challenges specifically facing our district and those facing public schools in general, and the sincere desire to get it right for kids. I believe we have the team in place with the necessary passion and commitment to truly make the Eastern Carver County Schools great.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to meeting more of you. I'll be listening and learning about your view of our schools and your hopes and expectations for the community's children.

It's time now to roll up our sleeves and prepare learners to achieve their personal best. I look forward to working with you on behalf of our 8900 students



"Oh, the places you'll go!" There were plenty of smiles among the 561 Chaska High School graduates who received their diplomas at the June 10th ceremony. Ninety-one percent of this year's graduating class will continue their education with 79% attending a four-year school and 21% choosing a two-year college or technical school. CHS graduates are heading coast to coast after being accepted by institutions like the University of Minnesota, Carlton College, UCLA, American University, and Boston College. Two percent of graduates chose to enlist in the military while approximately seven percent remained undecided about their post-secondary plans.

DISTRICT WEB PAGES RECEIVE UPDATED TRANSLATIONS THANKS TO CHASKA HIGH SENIORS

Several District 112 web pages are now available in Spanish thanks to the work of four members of the CHS Class of 2010.

As a senior project, new graduates Laura Windmuller, Jon Rice, Katie Fernholz, and Jennie Mallon volunteered to translate 30 web pages in Spanish. The effort took several months and many re-writes as the four students worked with Spanish teachers to ensure accuracy.

"We asked them to take on pages we thought were particularly important to parents," said Community Relations Director Nancy Kracke. "For

example, pages related to transportation, health services and post-secondary education are all available now in Spanish. The students did a great job and we can't thank them enough for their time and effort on behalf of our Spanish-speaking families."

The senior projects were new for the Class of 2010; approximately 175 students volunteered to take on a project that applied or stretched their skills to improve the community or explore career options. This Capstone Project will become a graduation requirement for the Class of 2013, this year's sophomores.

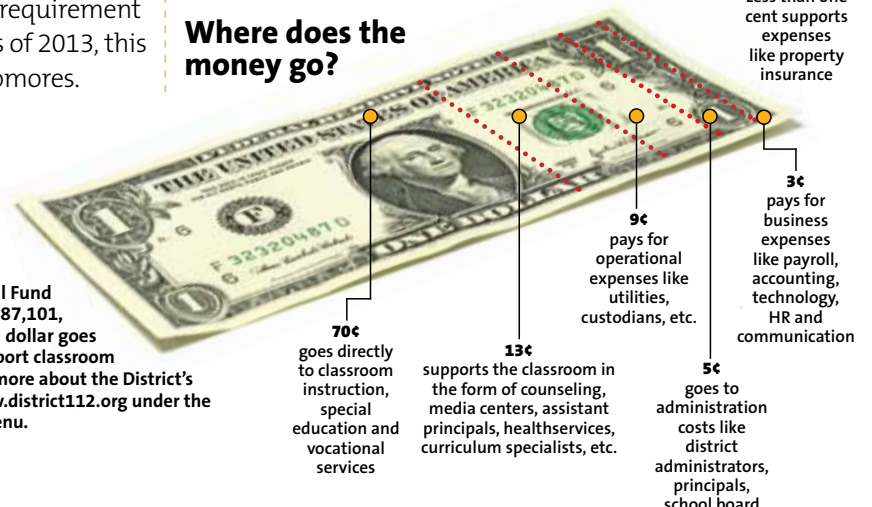
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Where does the money go?

Out of the total 2010-11 General Fund Budget of \$79,487,101, 83 cents of each dollar goes to fund and support classroom learning. Learn more about the District's finances at www.district112.org under the School Board menu.



2010-11 School CALENDAR

September 7
First Day of School

September 29
Late Start Morning

October 21-22
Education Minnesota

October 29
Workshop Day (No School)

November 10
Late Start Morning

November 24-26
Thanksgiving Break

December 3
Workshop Day (No School)

Dec. 23-31
Mid-Year Break

January 17
Martin Luther King Day

January 28
Workshop Day (No School)

February 16
Late Start Morning

March 11
Workshop Day (No School)

March 25-April 1
Winter Break

April 22
Spring Break

May 11
Late Start Morning

May 30
Memorial Day

June 9
Last Day of School

Watch for the Eastern Carver County Schools Annual Report, online October 1 with complete test results and an academic review of the 2009-10 school year.

Community Report

is published by the Eastern Carver County Schools' Community Relations Office. Any questions or comments should be directed to: Nancy Kracke, Director of Community Relations, 952.556.6121 kracken@district112.org

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2010 District 112 School Board

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SCIENCE TEACHERS 'GO TO SCHOOL' ON SUMMER VACATION TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

A change in the science curriculum at both Eastern Carver County high schools led to extended professional development time for science teachers this summer. Within the redesigned high school program, changes in the sequence of classes now requires all 9th graders to take physics, followed by chemistry as 10th graders and biology as juniors.



"We require three science classes now for a diploma," said curriculum coordinator Cathy Gallagher. "And, before they receive a grade and credit for the class, we are requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in each of the basic core concepts deemed critical for future understanding."

"As we move to the new science sequence, this year we'll have many more sections of chemistry than last year and, for one year, no sections of biology. Science teachers are brushing up on physics and chemistry skills this summer in expectation of that change," she said.

AP Program earns Chaska High a spot on Newsweek's 2010 Top High Schools list

Chaska High School made the list of 1600 top American high schools in 2010 as ranked by *Newsweek* magazine. Only six percent of all of the U.S. public schools made the list. The magazine picks the schools "based on how hard school staffs work to challenge students with advanced placement college-level courses and tests."

The selection marks the first time Chaska High has been selected for the yearly honor. Thirty-one Minnesota high schools made the list in 2010; Chaska High ranked 28th in the state list.

One of the School Board's continuing goals has been to increase the number of high school students enrolling in Advanced Placement classes and taking the year-end exams. Advanced Placement classes are college-level courses taught by teachers trained to present the challenging coursework. Students may choose to take exams in

the spring and, if successful, can earn college credit.

In 2005, 261 tests were taken by Chaska High students. In 2010, that number rose to 890 exams. In the last year, the number of AP exams District 112 students passed increased by 28 percent and by 120% over the past three years.

"The increase in the number of CHS students enrolling in Advanced Placement classes coupled with the rising number of students taking the year-end exams relates directly to the recognition the *Newsweek* list brings to our school," said Principal David Brecht. "One of the primary goals of the redesign of our secondary program was to increase rigor in our classroom and better prepare our students for post-secondary programs. Increased enrollment in AP classes and more students earning passing scores are indications that we are on the right track."



Three schools begin year with new leadership

Nancy Wittman has stepped into the principal's position at Chaska Elementary, following the retirement of Roger Hunt. Ms. Wittman, who served as principal at Victoria Elementary for five years, was replaced as principal by Jill VeLure. Ms. VeLure most recently served as the District's Student Assessment/Testing Manager and taught at Bluff Creek Elementary. Chanhassen High School also welcomes a new principal, Tim Dorway. Mr. Dorway was principal at Rochester Mayo High School and, prior to that, was an assistant principal in Owatonna.

District 112 administration filled two vacant positions over the summer months: Andrew Kothenbeutel is the new Coordinator for Instructional Technology/Secondary Level, and Jan Kellner joined the Academic Services staff as Student Assessment/Testing Manager. Mr. Kothenbeutel comes to Eastern Carver County Schools from Florissant, Missouri, where he was a middle school teacher and computer specialist. Ms. Kellner most recently spent three years in a similar assessment position for the Centennial Schools.

13 Eastern Carver County residents file to run for School Board

Thirteen residents filed affidavits of candidacy for the School Board election on November 2, 2010. Four 4-year terms will be included in the General Election. Those terms are currently held by Rod Franks, Sally Stuckey, Diane Koban and Ken Hiller. Those who filed to run for a 4-year seat on the Eastern Carver County School Board include: **William Ahern; Lisa Anderson; Carole Baab; Fred Berg; Lawrence Doran; Jeff Foster; Tim Klein, Diane Koban; Bryan Litsey; Amy Logue; and Sally Stuckey.**

A special election also is scheduled to complete the remaining two years on the term of Carlos Gallego, who resigned last year. The seat is currently held by appointee Lisa Anderson.

Those who filed for the two year term are: **Ken Hiller and Heather D. Nelson.**

2010-2011
PRESCHOOL
FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD

The Community Education Preschool program follows a curriculum that is closely aligned with the elementary curriculum in our schools. This intentional alignment allows your child a seamless transition to Kindergarten and better prepares children for school success.

Enroll today!

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952-556-6224 WWW.CE4ALL.ORG

CHANHASSEN HIGH NAMED 'TOP PROJECT' BY FINANCE & COMMERCE

Chanhassen High has been selected by *Finance & Commerce* as one of its 2009 "Top Projects." The award celebrates the best new construction in Minnesota and focuses on four areas: degree of difficulty; creativity in design; innovative construction techniques; and cooperation among contractors and construction management. Construction managers from Bossardt Corporation and architects from Perkins+Will accepted the award along with School Board Chair Rod Franks and Superintendent Jim Bauck. Chanhassen High was the only new high school of four that opened around the area in 2009 to receive this recognition.

Important Update that contact info!

Have you moved? Do you have a new cell phone number? Changed your e-mail address? District 112 needs that up-dated information if we are to be able to communicate with you during the year.

All parents can review their contact information in our system all year long through the Parent Portal. Parents can update e-mail address changes themselves; changes to addresses or phone numbers should be made by calling the school office.

Look for the opportunity to update information included in back-to-school packets and/or at open houses.

Updated information is particularly important in an emergency situation. We need your help to be able to get to you in multiple ways as needed.



Keep up with school issues.

112Online is your weekly e-mail update on what's happening in District 112 from the view of the Superintendent's Office.

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