



Fridley School Board selects Dr. Kim Hiel as district's new superintendent

Fridley Public Schools is pleased to announce that Dr. Kim Hiel has been selected to be the district's new superintendent. Dr. Hiel, who was unanimously selected by the school board, will replace Dr. Peggy Flathmann who announced her intent to retire at the end of this school year after 13 years in the district.

"The Fridley School Board is extremely excited that Dr. Hiel has accepted the position of Superintendent of Fridley Schools," said Mary Kay Delvo, Fridley School Board Chair. "Dr. Hiel is a highly competent and passionate leader who is a great match for our school community. Every person we spoke to about Dr. Hiel spoke emphatically about her integrity, work ethic, passion for creating success for every student, and her ability to build and sustain positive and meaningful working relationships," said Delvo, adding that Hiel has the personal attributes and leadership skills to solidify and strengthen the district's foundation for educational equity, as well as raise achievement for all students.

Hiel brings a passion for equitable student achievement for every child and nearly 25 years' experience in education to her new role as superintendent of Fridley Public Schools. She currently serves as an Assistant Superintendent for Osseo Area Schools where she co-leads the Division of Leadership, Teaching and Learning, that includes the departments of Educational Equity; Student Support Services; Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Standards; and Research, Assessment and Accountability. Hiel provides supervision and support to 31 sites including three comprehensive high

schools, an area learning center, four middle schools, 17 elementary schools, two early childhood sites, an enrollment center and adult basic education site, two special education sites and the Educational Service Center. Dr. Hiel also co-led the development and implementation of the voluntary pre-kindergarten program at eight elementary schools in Osseo.

"I am deeply honored, thrilled and excited about this opportunity," said Hiel. As she learned more about Fridley Public Schools, she said the district's mission to "create a world class community of learners" strongly resonated with her passion for maximizing opportunities for all students so that they can reach their fullest potential in today's globally connected world. "As a world class community of learners, Fridley's mission is to develop internationally minded students, and the district challenges itself, its students and community to become caring lifelong learners who inquire to take action to create a better world," she said.

"As I met and spoke with staff, parents and community members, I heard great things about the school district, and the opportunities available, and provided to students through the International Baccalaureate programs," said Hiel. "I look forward to joining a district with a very hardworking and dedicated staff, a strong community that supports its schools, and working with a school board that is keenly in tune with the needs of its district," she said.

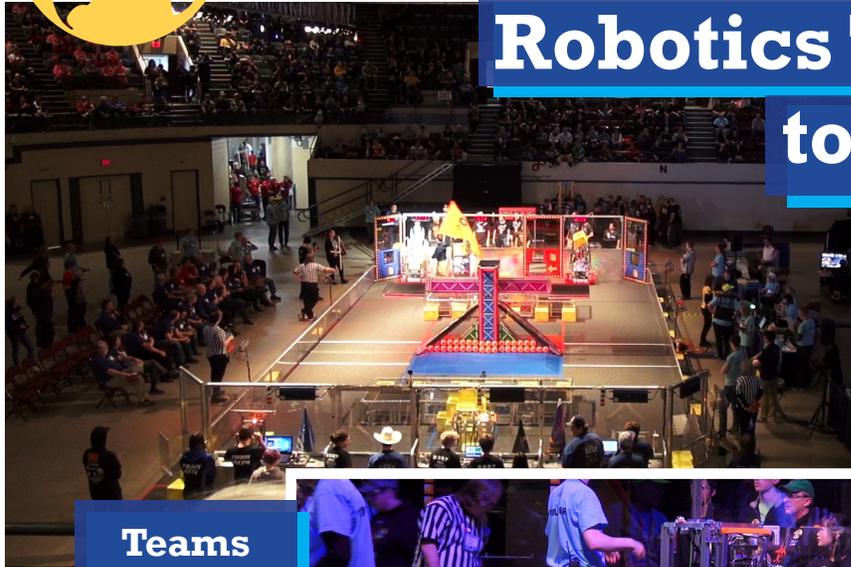


Hiel previously worked as a teacher and principal in the Robbinsdale Area Schools, and served as a principal in Osseo Area Schools before being promoted to assistant superintendent. In 2014, Hiel was named Minnesota Elementary and Middle School Science and Mathematics Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Principal Association and the Science Museum of Minnesota. Hiel earned her Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a Master's degree in educational leadership from Hamline University, and an educational specialist degree from the University of St. Thomas. Hiel holds a Doctorate degree in educational administration from St. Cloud State University.

The School Board will begin negotiating a contract with Dr. Hiel who is expected to begin her new position in Fridley in July 2018.



Robotics Team advances to state competition



Teams compete at state May 19



Congratulations to the Fridley Robotics Team who has earned their spot in the robotics state tournament to be held in May. In partnership with the Minnesota State High School League, the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition invites the top 36 teams in Minnesota to compete at the state-level. FIRST is an international organization that operates robotics competitions, as well as a number of additional tech competitions.

The Fridley Robotics Team qualified for the state tournament after competing in the regional tournament in Duluth in early March. In the competition, they ranked 9th out of 60 teams.

FHS teacher Andrea Mulry, an advisor of the Fridley Robotics Team, said she is proud of the team this year, as they have taken on a lot of responsibility to build and develop the robot.

“They are so excited about the planning and strategy of building the robot,” Mulry said. “It’s been great to see them think about how they will get this robot to win these competitions. There is so much strategy, bits and pieces that need

to be figured out, step by step, to program and build this robot into what they need it to be.”

FHS teacher Daren Dressler, another team advisor, said the Robotics Team is a great extracurricular program because students can learn at their own pace while developing skills that they are interested in.

“Some of our students who join barely know how to use a wrench at first, but by the end of the season, they are using power tools and putting the robot together,” he said.

Dressler added that some students are more interested in the coding aspect. FHS alumni and volunteers Andrew Panning and Tom Ruwart help students on coding logistics. While attending FHS, Panning and Ruwart began the Robotics Team in 2006. As both of the alumni are now engineers, Dressler said that they have been a huge help all season, teaching their coding and engineering abilities to the students.

Both Mulry and Dressler agree that participating in Robotics has many benefits. Not only do students learn coding

and engineering skills, they also participate in community outreach to fundraise and contact local businesses for team sponsorship. Students also participate in grant writing, as well as build communication and teamwork skills.

“Not only has being part of this team helped students develop job specific skills, it has helped them develop lifelong leadership skills,” Dressler said. “I have seen students take the initiative to collaborate with other teams and develop strategies.”

The state tournament will be held on May 19, 2018 at the Mariucci Arena on the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus. Congratulations and best wishes to the Robotics Team!





Fridley Middle School students advance to state History Day competition

Congratulations to the Fridley Middle School students who were recognized at the National History Day Metro Junior East regional competition on March 24, 2018 at White Bear Lake High School. In total, four Fridley Middle School projects were honored, with one project advancing to the state competition. The state qualifier team consists of: Savanna Ayers, Helen Riddle, and Anita Vang, with their project "Treaty of Mendota."

The Minnesota History Day competition involves four levels of events: School, Regional, State, and National. The competition allows students to practice their research and presentation skills in the form of a research paper, exhibit, documentary, performance or website. Students choose a topic according to an annual theme, which was Conflict & Compromise In History.

Additionally, three projects received Honorable Mention. Students and projects included:

- Anesa Bihi and Filsan Rufai - "Seneca Falls Convention"
- Vanessa Lor and Davika Ramnarine - "Port Chicago Disaster"
- Crystal Analco Morales - "Elimiano Zapata"

Minnesota State History Day will take place on April 28, 2018 at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Good luck to our advancing students!



Savanna Ayers, Helen Riddle, and Anita Vang are advancing to the state History Day competition



Anesa Bihi and Filsan Rufai

National History Day 2018
Conflict & Compromise In History



Vanessa Lor and Davika Ramnarine



Crystal Analco Morales



Hayes Elementary students sharpen business acumen during Market Day

Students plan, produce, advertise, and budget, as well as learn entrepreneurial skills

Hayes Elementary third grade students participated in the annual Market Day on March 22, 2018. Market Day, a culminating project for the school's third graders, teaches students about entrepreneurship, production and consumption, and the laws of supply and demand.

Students began by learning how to market products effectively through different advertising avenues, including commercials and posters. Hayes third grade teacher Heidi Hall said the timing lined up well with the Super Bowl. Students learned about how advertisements grab the attention of their consumers.

"This year was our first time incorporating technology into the marketing piece, where our students created their own commercials," Hall said. The students used a program called WeVideo to produce the commercials after learning about marketing strategies and writing their own promotional scripts.

Students then formed groups to produce a handmade product to sell on Market Day. As a team, students came up with their own ideas, and created products like homemade slime, bath bombs, hand warmers, calming jars

and more.

During the event, products could be purchased with "market money," which was handed out to all third graders during the course of the unit. This "market money" was earned through good behavior. Students also learned how to manage their money by paying "rent" for their store space or purchasing "supplies" for their products.

On Market Day, the students had the opportunity to work in the store to sell their handmade products, as well as shop around to explore the different products made by their fellow students.

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) challenges students to explore local and global issues, as well as learn from opportunities in real-life contexts. The purpose of Market Day is to bring real world experiences into the classroom in a fun and engaging way, while teaching students about the economy and global markets.

"I think participating in Market Day helps the students to see how much work, planning, production, budgeting, spending, saving and so forth goes into making goods and services for consumers," said Hall.



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- HEIDI HALL
HAYES 3RD GRADE TEACHER





FHS Young Women's Group raising money to support clean water efforts in Puerto Rico



H2O FOR LIFE

The Fridley High School (FHS) Young Women's Group is helping to raise money for clean water efforts in Puerto Rico through organization H2O For Life.

The Young Women's Group (YWG) is a group of female FHS GEAR UP seniors. GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a college readiness program provided to Fridley students in a partnership with Hennepin Technical College. The program initiated in 2012 when the current seniors of the Young Women's Group were in 7th grade.

Interim Director Rebecca Walker said that the purpose of the YWG is to foster an encouraging environment for female leadership, community involvement and academic excellence.

Walker said the YWG chose to raise money to support clean water efforts in Puerto Rico because many citizens continue to struggle since Hurricane Maria devastated the country in fall 2017. The hurricane is regarded as one of the worst natural disasters to strike the country in history, leaving thousands without homes and basic living necessities. Much of Puerto Rico's water supply has been contaminated and people across the island face daily challenges to secure clean drinking water.

The Fridley YWG has partnered with nonprofit H2O For Life, an organization that provides service-learning opportunities for schools in the United States. The



The FHS Young Women's Group is a group of female students formed through college readiness program GEAR UP. Participation in the group encourages female leadership, community involvement and academic excellence.



projects are designed to engage, educate, and inspire youth to become global citizens. Through H2O For Life, the students are raising money to purchase Waves For Water filtration systems for residents in Puerto Rico.

The group is working toward their fundraising goals to help Puerto Rican families in need. In March, they raised \$300 bagging groceries at Cub Foods in Fridley. On April 9, the students began selling H2O For Life t-shirts during their lunch hour. They

have also organized a Chipotle fundraiser on April 24, where 50% of all proceeds from 4-8 p.m. will be donated to H2O For Life if the Young Women's Group is mentioned.

If you would like to contribute to this cause, please visit www.h2oforliveschools.org/sponsors/436 to make a donation.



CAUSE AN EFFECT



YWG Chipotle Fundraiser! April 24 from 4-8 p.m.

In an effort to raise donations for H2O For Life, the FHS Young Women's Group has organized a fundraiser at Chipotle (5200 Central Avenue NE). Grab dinner at Chipotle on Tuesday, April 24 and mention the Young Women's Group

50% of your proceeds will be donated to H2O For Life!



FHS band students play at Section 5AA Solo & Ensemble Festival



Fridley High School senior Grace Lepsch, who played the marimba, earned a Superior rating with a perfect score.

Senior Jennie Ollila, who played alto saxophone, earned a Superior rating, a perfect score, and the "Best in Site" award!

Several Fridley High School band students played at the Minnesota State High School League Section 5AA Solo & Ensemble Festival on April 7, 2018.

Students in band, orchestra, and choir compete in the annual competition by preparing solos or songs in small groups to play for a judge. This year's competition was held at Centennial High School with four schools competing, totaling over 200 students.

FHS freshmen flute quartet of Grace Brant, Ellen Delp, Liz

LeTourneau, and Michael Ude earned a Superior rating, the highest possible rating. Senior Grace Lepsch, who played the marimba, earned a Superior rating with a perfect score, a total of 40 out of 40! Senior Jennie Ollila, who played alto saxophone, earned a Superior rating, a perfect score, and the "Best in Site" award! "Best in Site" means that the judge at the site decided that Ollila's entry was the best of the day at their site.

Don't miss I REMEMBER MAMA this weekend!

The Fridley High School Drama Department is proud to present their spring production I Remember Mama on April 12-14, 2018.

I Remember Mama is centered around a first-generation, immigrant, Norwegian family living in a financially struggling household at the turn of the century in San Francisco. Through financial crises, illnesses and the small triumphs of everyday life, Mama maintains her optimism and sense of humor, traits she passes on to her aspiring-author daughter, Katrin.

A total of 21 students are cast in the production with 10 technical support members.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children. Fridley students with their ID are charged only \$2. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door on the nights of the production beginning at 6 p.m. There are no pre-sale tickets.

Also, Fridley staff members are entitled to two free tickets to any one performance. Just show your staff ID at the ticket booth to get your free tickets. Don't miss this outstanding show!





Triple 'A' Award Winners



Academics • Athletics • Fine Arts

Fridley High School seniors Olivia Fredrickson and Tristan Herder were named the 2018 Triple 'A' award winners. The award is given to one male and one female senior who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the fine arts.

Tristan Herder

During his high school career, Tristan, an International Baccalaureate candidate, has participated in performing arts, speech team, and swimming, as well as excelling in academics. According to Tristan, he is thankful for the theater program at Fridley High School, which has helped to develop him as a person by becoming more confident and well-rounded.

"It taught me to not be afraid of who I am but rather to embrace it and be proud. The stage is where I learned how to be the best version of me," Tristan said.

He added that swimming has also been incredibly impactful to his life. Tristan said his coach helped to push him into becoming a stronger person and helped him understand that a little bit of effort goes a mile.

Tristan plans on attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth and major in Business Management. He plans to pursue his love for the fine arts in the theater department.



Olivia Fredrickson

Olivia has always taken challenging and engaging courses throughout her educational journey. She is enrolled in multiple International Baccalaureate programme courses to help prepare for college, and is on track to receive an IB Scholar Award upon graduation.

Olivia is also very involved in extracurriculars. She has participated in all the bands that are offered at Fridley High School: marching band, jazz band, and pit orchestra.

Olivia is also a member of many athletic teams at Fridley, including tennis, hockey, and softball, all of which she is team captain. She lettered in golf in 7th grade, playing a total of four varsity sports. She also volunteers to coach in all three of her specialty sports, teaching tennis, hockey and softball clinics to younger students.

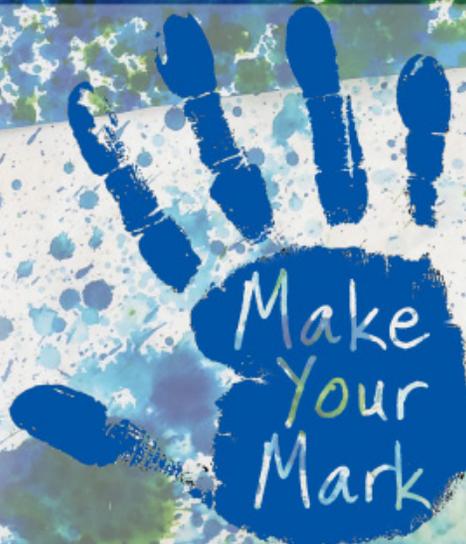
Olivia plans on attending St. Cloud University to major in Film Studies and Mass Communications. She plans on participating in the fine arts, as well as play Division II tennis.



**FRIDLEY
FINE
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY
MAY 5**

**6:00-8:00PM
FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL**



**FREE ADMISSION, FOOD PROVIDED,
DONATIONS APRECIATED**

The annual Fridley Fine Arts Festival is back! Join us in celebrating the artistic talents of our students and community. This year's theme is "Make Your Mark." Exhibits and performances will express how the arts have made a significant impact in the lives of those in our school and community.

The event is FREE, but donations are appreciated. All proceeds will benefit Fridley Public Schools fine arts programs through supplies, field trips and expanded opportunities.



MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Daryl Gehlbach Hayes Paraprofessional

Congratulations to Daryl Gehlbach, Hayes Paraprofessional, who was named the March Employee of the Month!

Daryl, known as Mr. G among the students, is a positive presence at Hayes Elementary School.

According to Hayes Principal John Piotraschke, Daryl is open-minded, always willing to try new things, and is always willing to help a co-worker.

“Daryl is an amazing staff member and is very helpful with students in the lunchroom,” Piotraschke said. “He knows all the students by name and works very well with the kids. He is a great role model for our students.”

Students enjoy his sense of humor and happy-go-lucky demeanor. As a paraprofessional, Daryl has a calm and caring presence as he works with students in the classroom.

“He embodies the traits of the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile in so many ways,” Piotraschke said. “He is a tremendous asset to our team at Hayes.”

Congratulations, Daryl, and thank you for all that you do!



Hayes Principal John Piotraschke and Paraprofessional Daryl Gehlbach

Tim Leistikow advances to top 12 Minnesota Teacher of the Year finalists



Congratulations to Tim Leistikow, Language and Literature teacher at Fridley High School, who has advanced to the top 12 Minnesota Teacher of the Year finalists! Leistikow has worked at Fridley High School for 13 years. In addition to teaching Lang & Lit, he also teaches the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge class. Leistikow is a teacher who works hard to ensure that Fridley is a positive and inclusive environment, inspires fellow teachers to excel, and students to push themselves to the next level.

For 54 years, the Minnesota Teacher of the Year program has selected one teacher to represent the state's thousands of excellent educators. An independent panel of education, business, government and non-profit leaders select the finalists. The selection panel will interview the 12 finalists on May 5 and cast votes for the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year represents the profession as an advocate for education and spokesperson for teachers. He or she will make presentations, meet with policymakers and attend frequent meetings. The 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced May 6.