



CONGRATS GRADS!

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S 60TH COMMENCEMENT



CLASS OF 2018

Congratulations to the 197 seniors who graduated from Fridley High School during the 60th commencement ceremony on May 31, 2018 in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

A total of 197 seniors crossed the stage to receive their diplomas during the Fridley High School 60th commencement ceremony on May 31, 2018. The class of 2018 celebrated their achievement with family, friends and guests in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.

The Fridley High School Concert Band welcomed guests while playing Pomp and Circumstance as the graduating seniors marched into the venue. Student emcees included Miranda Olson and Jasmine Pierce, who gave the opening remarks, and Christen Doe and Pajai Xiong who hosted the remainder of the evening ceremony.

Tenzin Choesang gave the welcome address as the first student speaker. He recounted good-humored stories and fond memories, as well as long nights studying for tests

and survival of Diploma Programme testing, and thanked teachers and parents for their dedicated support.

Nicolas Fite and Jennifer Ollila also gave student addresses. De'Ovion O'Neal closed out the student speeches with a heart-felt reflection, appreciative of the support that she has received over the last four years.

Selected by the class of 2018, Fridley High School Dean Nicole Kaiser gave the faculty address. Kaiser has been working with this cohort of students since they entered high school four years ago. In her address, she urged students to always keep learning, look for ways to grow and improve every day, take care of relationships, be resilient, find their

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passion, and continue to positively impact their community.

Fridley High School Principal Patty Hand's address to students capitalized on the sentiment "be kind to one another."

"I believe that being kind to one another is the most important gift that you can offer to this world," Hand said. "You all have this ability and it is this gift that I hope you share with the world as you graduate from Fridley High School."

Superintendent Dr. Peggy Flathmann, who is retiring at the end of this school year, gave her final commencement address to the graduating class.

"The IB (International Baccalaureate) and district mission says in part that we 'aim to develop internationally minded students who take action to make the world a better place,'" said Flathmann. "This action begins with you. From Fridley to the rest of the world, I hope that you will continue to exemplify the IB mission in your local communities and across the globe. You may not always know the answer, but as lifelong learners, you will be tenacious in finding a way."

Congratulations Class of 2018! We wish you the best and we know that you will accomplish great things!



WATCH ON YOUTUBE

[Click here to view the entire commencement ceremony](#)

PHOTO ALBUM

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Fridley Middle School holds 8th grade recognition ceremony

the future class of 2022

Fridley Middle School honored the future class of 2022 at the annual 8th grade recognition ceremony on June 1, 2018. Parents, family and friends gathered in the Fridley Middle School gym to celebrate this significant milestone with their children.

“As your middle school years conclude and your high school experience begins, I want to encourage you to continue to envision your future,” Fridley Middle School Principal Amy Cochran addressed students. “There is an adventure waiting for you.”

Cochran said high school is not an end point, but rather where the final preparations take place for students to work toward the future that they want.

Recognition was given to students who earned a high school athletic letter, placed in the History Day competition, the St. Cloud Math Contest and those who earned high-achievement in academics. A total of 60 students earned the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence while 80 students earned the Presidential Award for Academic Distinction, both prestigious awards which recognize students who have earned some of the highest educational achievements. The ceremony also recognized students who participated in various activities, including student council, Builder’s Club, choir and theatre. A total of 252 students received a Fridley Middle School recognition certificate for completing 8th grade.

Three 8th grade students, Andrew Stevenson, Devika Ramnarine and Jade Shamp, gave student speeches, all of which reflected on their time at Fridley Middle School, as well as the years ahead. Chosen by the class of 2022, the faculty address was given by Chad Ellingson, Fridley Middle School 8th grade math teacher.

Congratulations Fridley Middle School students! We are very proud of you and we look forward to welcoming you to Fridley High School!



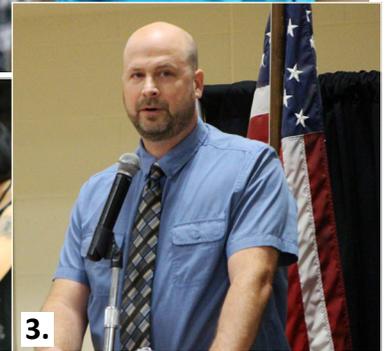
8th grade student King Larmie receives his certificate from FMS Principal Amy Cochran



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2.



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1. 8th grade students stand to be acknowledged for the Presidential Award for Academic Distinction. 2. 8th grade student Salma Hassan receives her recognition certificate. 3. Faculty speaker, 8th grade math teacher Chad Ellingson, 4. Student speaker Andrew Stevenson





CONGRATULATIONS ALC GRADUATES!

The Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC) held its graduation ceremony on May 22, 2018 to honor 21 students who earned their high school diplomas. In attendance to support the students and celebrate their success were their parents, families and friends, Superintendent Dr. Peggy Flathmann, Fridley's incoming superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel who will take over upon Flathmann's retirement at the end of the school year, Fridley School Board vice chair Chris Riddle, and district staff.

"I'm amazed by the great things that happen at our school each and every day," said ALC Principal Dr. Jason Bodey. "I want to say thank you to the parents and family members for your collaboration and support."

He added that without this staff, this would not be possible. "You make each day a great day for our students, and you are a big part of why these students are here today as well," he said.

Bodey said each student brings a unique personality to the ALC and the students are incredibly welcoming and supportive of each other. "Everyone really seems to find their place at the ALC," he said.

The ceremony keynote speaker was Tiffani Little, an ALC alumna and current Fridley Public Schools employee. Little works at the Fridley Community Center as a Tiger Club Infant and Toddler Classroom Manager.

"You all know first-hand how much work you need to put in to earn your credits, and you deserve this diploma as much as anybody else," Little said. "I'm now part of the Fridley Public Schools family as an employee, and I'm thanking the ALC for this job. The teachers at the ALC helped me move forward to find this opportunity and that's how I got where I am today."

Teacher on Special Assignment Josh Thurston and ALC Social Worker Mackenzie Laurion also spoke to the students. Their speech compared a student's journey through life with the process of a coffee bean turning into a delicious beverage.



Graduating senior Antania Goff expressed her gratitude to her family, friends and the ALC staff for helping her along her journey, including her admission into St. Cloud University this fall.



Left photo: Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) Josh Thurston and ALC Social Worker Mackenzie Laurion spoke to the ALC graduates during the commencement ceremony. Right photo: ALC graduate Danielle Hoff thanked the ALC staff for constantly encouraging her to continue to work hard and graduate.



Thurston said that although the process seems simple, many factors play a part in how the final product comes out, comparable to the many steps that develop students into who they are today.

Laurion said there is a constant process of defining and refining what the final product will be, and students will continue to build upon their own stories.

"Lastly, we all go through the 'grind,'" Thurston said. "Your grind is the circumstances, events and adversities that each of you have faced and overcome to get where you are today. We've had the opportunity to see you in some of these moments and witness first-hand how resilient and determined you are when faced with challenges."

"Through that grind, there will be setbacks, missed steps, disappointment and triumph, but ultimately, there will be immense growth," said Laurion. "That growth allows you to continue learning, setting goals and taking the next big step in your lives."

Students then received their diplomas, with the opportunity to speak to the crowd and show their appreciation.

ALC graduate Antania Goff expressed her gratitude. "I want to say thank you to everybody, the ALC most definitely changed my life a lot," Goff said. "Thank you to my best friend's family, boyfriend, my family, especially my sisters and my mom, and very special thank you to my teachers."

Goff credited the ALC teachers and staff for helping her gain admission into Saint Cloud University, where she will be studying this fall to become a social worker.

ALC graduate Danielle Hoff thanked her teachers for encouraging her to keep going. "If it wasn't for Phil [ALC social studies teacher], I wouldn't be here today. Every time I wanted to stop, he encouraged me to keep going," Hoff said. She added special 'thank you's' to all the ALC teachers for helping her continue on her journey.



Hayes World Culture Week

Hayes Elementary School celebrated the diversity of its students with World Culture Week from May 21 to 25, 2018. The annual event allows students to learn about different countries and cultures around the world, as well as celebrate their own cultural backgrounds.

“The most important part of World Culture Week was the pride students felt at having their cultures validated and affirmed,” said Laura Charles, Hayes art teacher who helped organize the week’s activities. “It was a tangible, fun way to show their cultural pride in a safe place full of love and respect.”

Students learned greetings in various languages, listened to cultural music and played games. Students also enjoyed an “art walk around the world” activity, where they viewed and studied various forms of art displayed in the hallways around Hayes. Students stamped their “passports” as they saw art from each continent.

The week culminated with a world culture fashion show and assembly. The clothing in the show came from students’ families and teachers -- featuring traditional Hmong dresses, star quilts from the Lakota tribe, East African and West African attire, among many others. Hayes staff also performed their own rendition of the song, “We are the world.”

Charles said the students enjoy a valuable learning experience by participating in World Culture Week.

“They learn through these experiences that we need to see and appreciate our differences, but also see that we all smile the same, enjoy many colorful clothes, beautiful music, and fun games, no matter where we are born or where we grow up,” she said.



“They learn through these experiences that we need to **see and appreciate our differences**, but also see that we *all smile the same, enjoy many colorful clothes, beautiful music, and fun games*, **no matter where we are born or where we grow up,**”

LAURA CHARLES
HAYES ART TEACHER



1. Olya Douhe wears a Nigerian Dress in the World Culture Fashion Show. 2. Maddox Mealey models a Boys Korean Hanbok, 3. Hayes staff performing “We are the world.”



Aneliz Rios Pineda (left) and Maya Martinez-Perez (right) model traditional dresses from Mexico.



Arianna Ungemach (left) wearing a Phillipino Dress for Celebrations and Dance and Karina Her (right) in a traditional dress from Hmong Culture.



Hayes students who modeled cultural clothing and attire in the World Culture Fashion Show on May 24.



Graduating FHS seniors visit past elementary schools

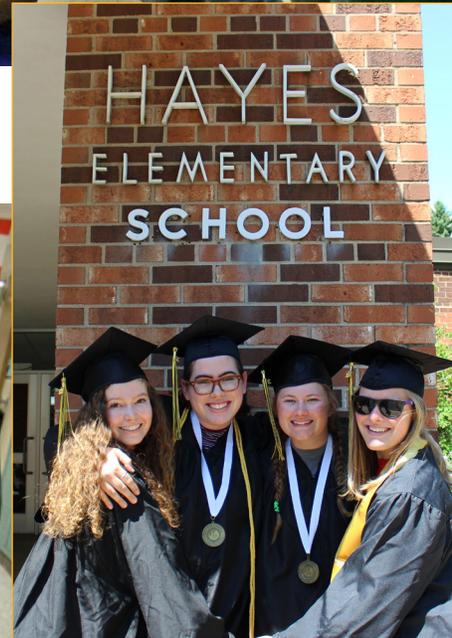
As the class of 2018 prepared to walk the stage, they walked through their former elementary school hallways first, providing inspiration for the next generation. A long-standing tradition in the district, Fridley High School seniors paid a visit to Hayes and R.L. Stevenson Elementary Schools on May 25, 2018.

Excited Hayes and Stevenson Elementary students lined the hallways and gave the seniors a hero's welcome, holding signs, giving high-fives and cheering on the soon-to-be FHS alumni.

Congratulations class of 2018! Seniors celebrated their commencement on May 31, 2018.



Senior Goamar Pal places his hat on hopeful Hayes Elementary Kindergarten student Bilal Ahmed. In addition to the nostalgic moments for the FHS seniors, this tradition provides inspiration for the district's earliest learners.





TOMATOSPHERE™

Stevenson 1st graders help grow future space food

Stevenson 1st graders are helping NASA astronauts maintain a healthy diet for their future space travels. The students are collecting data as part of the Tomatosphere project, a program that offers students the opportunity to learn from “space” tomato seeds right here on Earth. Through the project, students use scientific processes to learn about plants in space, reinforcing their inquiry and exploration skills.

The project’s purpose is to gather information about the effect that spaceflight has on seeds. To better understand how plant seeds react to microgravity, tomato seeds were sent on a 37-day round-trip to the International Space Station (ISS). These seeds were then distributed to classrooms across the U.S. and Canada for a blind-study where students compare “space” tomato seeds to seeds that never left the Earth.

Stevenson 1st grade teacher Breana Kalal said the project fits perfectly into the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) unit “How the World Works,” which focuses on how plants and animals grow and change in predictable ways through life cycles.

“The Tomatosphere project provides us a fantastic opportunity to talk about how environment can impact life cycles,” said Kalal. “It raises the question: can exposure to space and lack of gravity cause the predictability of the plant life cycle to change? And if it does, how so? We can accurately predict how things here on Earth work but do they work the same in space?”

Kalal added that the students enjoy the project because of the “hands on” experience.

“I believe that any time you give students hands on learning where they get to touch, explore, investigate and inquire, the learning really



takes hold,” she said. “We try to incorporate student-led inquiry into all subject areas to create rich learning environments that students are passionate about.”

Prior to the Tomatosphere project, first grade students learned about space exploration. Kalal said students enjoyed learning about how astronauts eat in space and how many foods are dehydrated and rehydrated before eaten. Topics students

learned included: the cost of sending food and supplies up in space; the length of time that fresh food items last; how long astronauts are on missions; and how being in space affects human health.

The Tomatosphere project started in Stevenson 1st grade classrooms in early May. The 1st graders are now observing, comparing, and recording information about the rate of growth of the tomato plants. The study will continue through the 6-week Outdoor Adventures summer school class that is open to all district elementary school students.



Stevenson 1st grade students are currently observing, and recording data, comparing the rate of growth between the normal tomato plants and “space” tomato plants. The project will continue through the 6-week Outdoor Adventures summer school class that is open to all Fridley Public Schools elementary school students.

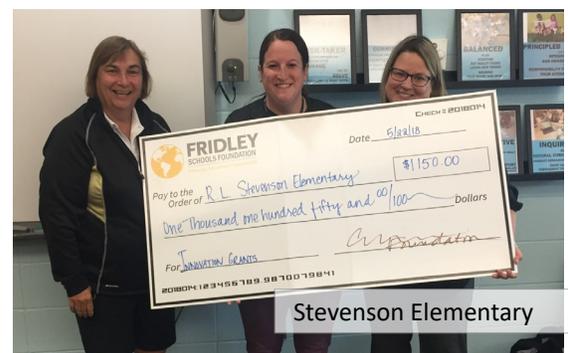
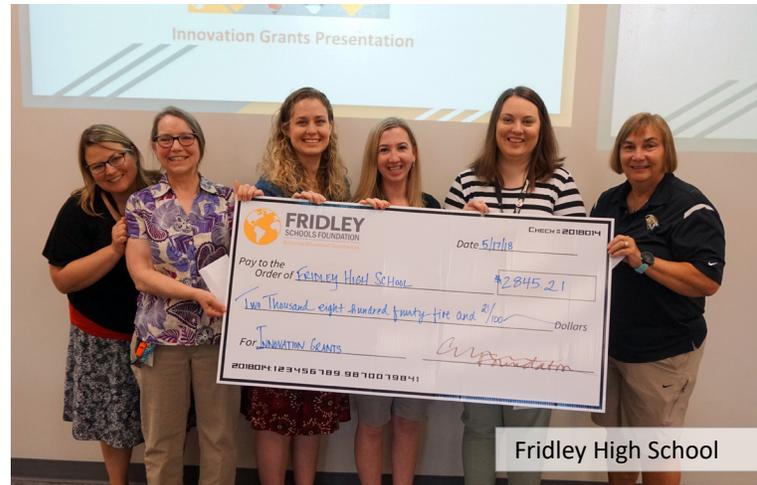


Fridley Schools Foundation awards teacher innovation grants

The Fridley Schools Foundation awarded nearly \$8,000 in teacher innovation grants around the district throughout the month of May. These grants were to enrich educational opportunities for students. Due to the generosity of the community, the Foundation surpassed its \$20,000 goal at the inaugural 2018 Black & Gold Gala. With this success, the Foundation was able to bring back the tradition of awarding these grants.

FHS was awarded the following grants:

- Livescribe pens to use in Special Education classes
Teachers can use livescribe pens during lectures to record main points and concepts. These notes will then be uploaded into an audio file. Students can use these notes to review lecture, follow along, and work at their own pace.
- One height adjustment desk in the Technology Education Department
With a new height adjustment desk, students can use this station as an alternative to simply sitting at their workstation for the duration of class time.
- \$400 toward GRIT store items
TIGER GRIT is a new Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program which began at the start of the 2017-2018 school year. The goal is to reward positive behavior of high school students so as to improve the culture and climate of the building. Students earn GRIT tickets which they can redeem at the GRIT store. The funding will go toward various items to reward students, including headphones, phone chargers, TIGER gear and more.
- “9 Square in the Air”
“9 Square in the Air” is a new game, similar to a combination of volleyball and four square. Students can enjoy this group game in health and physical education classes.

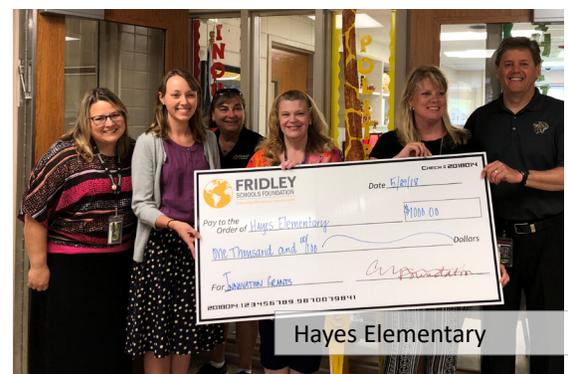


R.L. Stevenson was awarded the following innovation grants:

- \$1,000 to the Kindergarten team for Chromebooks Flips
- \$150 for a Breakout EDU kit
An immersive learning games platform. Students use teamwork and critical thinking skills to solve a series of challenging puzzles to open a locked box. The activity addresses multiple learning styles and topics.

Hayes Elementary was awarded the following innovation grant:

- \$1,000 to Hayes 1st grade team and math intervention program for Chromebooks Flips





MINNESOTA READING CORPS AND MINNESOTA MATH CORPS TUTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in helping children grow their reading or math skills this summer? Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps are currently hiring tutors at Stevenson and Hayes Elementary Schools.

Tutors come from many backgrounds and include recent high school and college grads, career changers, stay-at-home parents, and retirees. With extensive training, support from onsite coaches, and evidence-based strategies, Reading Corps and Math Corps tutors are well-equipped to change lives. Additionally, Reading Corps and Math Corps tutors may earn a living allowance, education award, and federal student loan forbearance for their service.

Last year, Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps provided direct services to more than 30,000 children in more than 700 sites across the state. To learn how you, too, can make a difference as a Reading Corps or Math Corps tutor in 2018-19 at Stevenson or Hayes Elementary, visit www.readingandmath.net.

Questions? Contact Hannah Balder at hannah.balder@servetogrow.org or 612-206-3047.



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