

# Royal Roundup

## An Exciting School Year Ahead for Watertown Mayer

Superintendent, Darren Schuler  
@DarrenSchuler

Minnesota’s Center of Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) in a three-year professional development initiative. This initiative will assist our staff in implementing research-based academic and behavioral interventions that best meet the needs of all PreK-12 students.

In conclusion, we are in the final stages of our 2019 bond referendum projects. We are excited to show off these new spaces. This will be an integral part of continuing to develop our Profile of a Graduate, bringing our students into 21st century learning complete with flexible learning spaces and updated facilities to encourage student collaboration and imagination.

I encourage you to watch for upcoming district communication that outlines the completion of our district construction projects. At this time, you can monitor our progress by visiting our website under ‘Construction Updates’. Open house and viewing opportunities will be available over the next month to see the remodeled and updated spaces. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to visit our new and refurbished learning spaces across the district. We thank you for your continued support of Watertown-Mayer Public Schools! Go Royals! 🏰



We are entering into an exciting school year for the students, staff and families. At the time of writing this article, our district’s 2019 Bond Referendum projects are nearing completion and we are returning to a “post COVID-19” school year. I am not one to reflect on the past school year, but I would be remiss if I

did not thank our WM students, families, staff and community for their continued support throughout the pandemic. Never in the history of American education did students and staff have to adjust to as many learning challenges as we did in this past school year.

Statewide spring student achievement data has shown that learning loss has occurred during the 14-month pandemic. As we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year, our school district, like many others, experienced some of these consequences. As a result of federal and local COVID funding, we have dedicated funds to lower class sizes at the elementary and middle school levels. In addition, we will be partnering with the University of



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## Meet our New Community Education Director, Amy Dimmler!

Amy has worked and been a part of Community Education programming for approximately 15 years. As a teacher, trainer, and former Kids/Company Coordinator, she looks forward to taking on the role of Community Education Director. She currently lives in Montrose with her husband Brian and goldendoodle, Mugsley. When she is not at the Community Learning Center, she loves traveling and spending time up at her cabin.

"I feel so fortunate to have my place here at Watertown-Mayer Community Education for the past eight years. As the previous Kids' Company Coordinator, I have expanded the program, pursued national endorsement and oversaw the expansion of the licensed program, Caring Hands. I have also had the opportunity to support the aquatics program as the coordinator. I look forward to continuing to support Watertown-Mayer Community Education and returning to in-person programming serving the community!"

We welcome Amy to her new position – once a Royal, always a Royal!



# Bond Referendum Project Highlights

Summer is in full swing and so are the hammers inside our buildings! All our projects have progressed from the demolition phase to

the construction phase and are beginning their final stretch before the 2021-2022 School Year! August will bring new ceilings, new paint, new flooring, new rooms, and even new turf!

## 2021 Bond Referendum Projects at a Glance

### Elementary School

Demolition is complete and we are beginning to frame in walls and install new plumbing and electrical fixtures. The pod common areas in grades 1-4 have all received new ceilings to help reduce the amount of echoing and will soon receive new flooring. The Special Education Suite walls are currently being framed in and wrapped in drywall and will soon receive paint.

### Middle School

Since starting construction in June, we have removed and replaced all of the classroom windows, repainted all of the walls, installed new ceilings and lights, and are beginning to install new flooring. We have also begun to rebuild the new media center, innovation lab, and Special Education Suites. Soon our classrooms will begin to receive casework and new clever touch boards which will greatly enhance the teaching/learning environment for our students and staff.

### High School

The Media Center, Cafeteria, and Special Education Suites are beginning to receive their final finishes and will be ready for furniture in just a few short weeks. The remaining areas (Biology, Robotics, and CTE classrooms) where construction began in June are now starting to take shape and will soon begin to receive finishes.

### Athletic Improvements at the High School

Our new stadium has been completely excavated and backfilled and is a few weeks away from being ready for turf! The new scoreboard footings have been installed and JV softball field has been relocated. Outside of the track and field, our new concessions stand has been started as well.

With so many moving parts, we want to ensure our District and Community members remain informed throughout the entire Bond Referendum process. We encourage all residents to visit our Bond Referendum website regularly, where we will continue to post weekly and monthly updates; [www.wm.k12.mn.us/domain/107](http://www.wm.k12.mn.us/domain/107).

# WMES Innovation Hour Gets a More Permanent Space

New to Watertown-Mayer Elementary School (WMES) during the 2020 school year, Innovation Hour introduces students to the engineering design process, computer science, and creative opportunities.

Students learn concepts through rich literature, real-world problems, and social-emotional learning, which encourages them to develop connections, expand perspective, and take creative risks. Ms. Leah Christensen facilitates and teaches Innovation Hour and all WMES students K-4th grade participate during their specialist rotation.

Formerly a computer lab, the Innovation Lab was included in the district renovation with a focus on creating a student-centered space that better meets the needs of the course. The remodeled learning environment is both bright and inviting. New features, including the pegboard wall and student-friendly storage, will allow students easy access to materials used for building and creating. Innovative furniture, designed for movement, provides the opportunity for



a variety of learning experiences – from keyboarding to design challenges to coding with robots. Students will also have the opportunity to experience new collaborative spaces within the Innovation Lab including the Lego wall, whiteboard wall, and puzzle table. 🏠



## Online Learning Options!

**Watertown-Mayer will have an online learning option for those families who are interested!**

Year-round online learning will be available to students in grades K- 12! Students can pursue full-time academic status through distance learning all while still being a Watertown-Mayer student. We are happy to partner with Southwest Metro Intermediate District to provide this robust learning option in our district. The SEE (SW Metro e-Learning Enterprise) Team is gathering data on student needs in Watertown-Mayer and other districts to expand the current available curriculum.

We are gathering interest in this learning option to better assess the needs and wants of our students and families. Please visit [https://swmetro.formstack.com/forms/elearning\\_enterprise\\_fall\\_2021](https://swmetro.formstack.com/forms/elearning_enterprise_fall_2021). Choose Watertown-Mayer as your resident district. Filling out this survey does not obligate you to participate. HOWEVER, a staff member from Southwest Metro Intermediate School District will be contacting you in follow-up to answer any questions you might have. 🏠



**Watertown-Mayer is always looking for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals!**

Watertown-Mayer Public Schools is proud to partner with Teachers on Call® to provide exceptional Substitute Teachers & Paraprofessionals to our district. They have limitless opportunities for passionate people to inspire, support, and set students up for success. You'll have the option to work in the schools of your choice, to take steady work every day of the school week, or to create a flexible schedule that works around your other life commitments.

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*At Watertown-Mayer Public Schools, we make authentic learning connections with each of our students, providing them with the opportunity to reach the full potential of their passions and strengths.*

## Watertown Mayer Unified Continues to Rise to Raise Awareness

**Congratulations to the Watertown-Mayer Unified Sports team on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!**

Watertown-Mayer's High School Unified Sports Club was started 5 years ago by volunteers Shawn and Joseph Perez with guidance and support from Special Olympics Minnesota (SOMN). Both Shawn and Joseph have been involved with Special Olympics for more than 10 years as coaches and Unified Partners. The club is formed with Athletes (students with disabilities) and Unified Partners (students without intellectual disabilities).

The club offers Bowling, Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer and Track as well as hosting the Anti-Bullying Campaign and the "R" word campaign. This group actively contributes to their school family not only in school spirit, but in raising awareness about inclusion and focusing on abilities rather than disabilities.

This spring, Shawn was asked by Special Olympics Minnesota to consider putting a Unified Basketball team together for a chance to interview and attend the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida.



After screening and interviewing all interested, and with the support of Watertown-Mayer administration, 10 students were selected to represent Watertown-Mayer High School for the next round of interviews by SOMN.

Watertown-Mayer Unified was selected out of 8 other finalists and will be the ONLY high school representing Minnesota at the 2022 USA games with all expenses paid by Special Olympics Minnesota! Training will start in early 2022, and the games will be held at the ESPN World Wide Sports venue in June 2022. 🏆

**#ShineAsOne #LiveUnifiedPlayUnified**