

Royal Roundup

WM Profile of a Graduate Applies to Any Learning Model

Consistent Goals Amid a Changing School Year

Superintendent, Darren Schuler



The 2020-2021 school year has presented many challenges. The most recent being the shift in Learning Models for students from Hybrid to Distance. One consistency has been the Watertown-Mayer Profile of a Graduate. With its inception in August 2018 and subsequent school board approval in 2019, Profile of a Graduate has been the guiding framework that is used to identify academic, personal, and interpersonal skills that students should have upon graduation. Skills students need in order to flourish in our ever changing world.

As **Creative Problem Solvers**, students have to be independent learners. Flexibility and patience, as well as thinking outside the box to find answers, are key skills that students use to navigate in the Distance Learning model.

Our mode of communication has changed, thus students have had to learn how to be **Effective Communicators** digitally. The use of

PROFILE continued on page 2



Watertown Mayer
Public Schools

Connections • Opportunities



Royal Booster Bash A Success!

The online “Bash” was a huge success — thank you to all those who supported this endeavor! About \$20,000 was raised to help support many student activities and clubs, including online streaming of sporting events this fall. If you are interested in joining the Booster Club or learning more about what we do, please reach out to wamboosterclub@gmail.com.

The Royal Booster Club is a committed group of volunteer parents and other community members who support the students and programs of Watertown-Mayer school district. 👑

In this Issue:

- Connectivity for WM Students..... 2
- Referendum Project Highlights..... 3
- WM Mental Health Support 3
- Support Staff Awards 4



Verizon Jetpacks Support WM Students

Natasha Monsaas-Daly, Director of Information and Learning Technology

Education during a global pandemic has caused schools to rely on technology more than ever. There is no exception at Watertown-Mayer Schools.

One of the largest challenges to a shift in learning models is the need to ensure all students have equitable internet access. Access to the internet not only allows students to access curricular materials, but also provides opportunities for students to connect with their teachers and their peers. In order to support families throughout the district, WM schools entered into a contract with Verizon to purchase jetpacks for families that do not have reliable or accessible internet. These jetpacks provide students with unlimited data to access the internet for academic purposes. The jetpacks also utilize the same type of content filtering we use within our schools. These jetpacks operate off of Verizon cell phone towers to provide access to even the most rural areas. It is our hope that by providing internet access to students that need them, there is one less stress for them as we continue in a distance or hybrid learning model. Even outside of a global pandemic, education more and more relies on technology to access academic content. As such, these jetpacks will be a valuable resource for families beyond this current reality. We encourage families to continue to seek out internet options that best meet their needs, but in the meantime, WM schools will provide access to students. 🏰

PROFILE continued from page 1

virtual Google Meets video, break-out rooms, and other video conferencing has provided students opportunities to connect with their peers and teachers in ways we never thought possible.

As our learning environment has changed, students have had to be **Resourceful** with managing time, connecting with teachers, navigating digital systems to find assignments and be accountable in completing them on time.

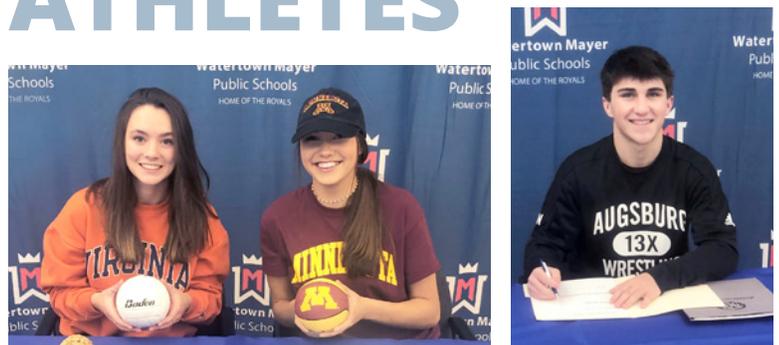
The ability to be a **Self Motivated Learner** is essential in both hybrid and distance learning. Students have taken ownership of their learning, independent of parent and teacher support. They have persevered through changes in the Learning Models and incorporated behaviors indicative of lifelong learning.

In both hybrid and distance learning, **Personal Responsibility** is a key area where on-line etiquette is essential and students are ready to learn, despite home distractions. Self discipline is a key learning component.

Critical Thinking is essential for success beyond the classroom and high school experience. Students' ability to identify and ask clarifying questions is an executive functioning skill which helps students better manage their time, discerning how and when to complete assignments or tasks.

The Watertown-Mayer Profile of a Graduate is our commitment to your student and you to continue offering a challenging learning environment despite what Learning Model we find ourselves in. We will build on skills that will strengthen our resolve to be strong learners as we persevere through the pandemic. We will be Royal Strong! 🏰

CELEBRATING WM ATHLETES



For years we have watched these Royal athletes compete. We will be able to continue cheering and supporting them as we follow their careers at the collegiate level. Three of our Royal Class of '21 Grads have committed to continue their athletic/academic careers at the following institutions: Paige Thibault, University of Virginia–Volleyball, Maggie Czinano, University of Minnesota–Women's Basketball & Austin Gabbert, Augsburg University–Wrestling. Congratulations and good luck to them! 🏰

Bond Referendum Project Highlights

The winter of 2020 may forever be known as the season of transitions. The way we shop, celebrate birthdays and holidays, and even communicate with each other, has transitioned into the virtual world; we have experienced transitions in our teaching and learning models; and a number of our 2019 Bond Referendum projects are transitioning from design into construction. The following are a few highlights of the goings-on at Watertown-Mayer Elementary School, Middle School and High School.



2021 Bond Referendum Projects at a Glance

Elementary School

- Bids for construction were received and awarded in November 2020.
- Renovations and improvements to the Emotional Behavior Disorder/Setting III Special Education spaces, the Innovation Lab, and the Pod Commons spaces is set to begin in May 2021 and will complete in August 2021.

Middle School and High School

- Bids for construction were received and awarded in November 2020.
- Renovations and upgrades to the Cafeteria and High School Media Center is set to begin in February 2021.
- Renovations and improvements to the Special Education Resource and Behavior spaces will begin in March 2021.
- Renovations and improvements to Middle School classrooms and Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces will begin in May 2021.

Athletic Improvements at the High School

- The competition gym has received a new wood floor, with new game and practice lines, and updated baseline and sideline logos.
- New bleachers have been installed, with improved seating and ADA access.
- Design of the new track, turf field, stadium lighting, scoreboard, home bleachers and press box is nearly complete and will be let out to bid at the end of January 2021.
- Design of concessions and ticketing renovations is underway and will be let out to bid in February 2021.
- Design of campus traffic improvements is nearing the final phases and will be let out to bid in March 2021.
- Construction for all exterior projects will begin in Spring 2021 and complete in Fall 2021.

With so many transitions taking place, 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, www.w-mreferendum2019.org, where we will continue to post weekly and monthly updates. 🏰

MENTAL HEALTH



Mental Health Resources for WM Students and Families

The Watertown-Mayer mental health team is here to support the needs of our students and families during this time of uncertainty. Our team has staff members available and ready to help in all buildings throughout the district.

Families can find specific contact information for each building by visiting the district website under mental health services. A link to our virtual calming room can also be found on that page. School mental health staff are available, during school hours, to all students and families with social, emotional, family/home concerns as well as mental health needs. The support staff is well-versed in connecting families to outside community resources and programs as needed. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Stay healthy and take care of yourself!

Dated Material. Deliver Promptly

ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRONS
in School District 111

Find Watertown-Mayer
on Social Media



#GoRoyals

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.

2020-21 Educational Support Staff Award Winners



Resource Training & Solutions has paired with Watertown-Mayer Public Schools to name support staff members as 2020-21 Educational Support Staff Award winners!

Schools and districts across Resource’s central Minnesota region nominate award recipients based on suggested criteria that includes being a positive role model for students, staff, and the community, is an exemplary staff member who recognizes students, peers and colleagues as individuals and who shows genuine respect and concern for others, seeks to improve personally and professionally, and is making a difference every day in the lives of students, staff, and community. Congratulations to our deserving staff members:

- **Michell Hess - CLC Kid’s Company Inclusion Specialist**
- **Ashley DeNomme - WMES Paraprofessional**
- **Kelly Maas - WMMS School Nurse**
- **Steve Venske - WMHS Custodian**

