

Royal Roundup

Preparing Students for Their Future

Work Continues on the WM Profile of a Graduate



What do we want our students to know and be able to do when they graduate from Watertown Mayer Public Schools?

What are the biggest changes in our society in the last 20-25 years?

What are 2-3 skills that students need to address these changes in society? Thinking of these skills, how intentional are we at providing the opportunities for students to develop these skills?

Last year we took on the important challenge of defining what our learners need to be successful in school and life. We posed the questions above to our entire staff during their August 2018 workshops. The discussions were so valuable, we decided to take the process a step further and engage our families, community members and students as well.

We created a committee to dig deeper into the academic, personal and interpersonal

skills that learners should have when they graduate high school. After much discussion, research and reflection, our committee decided on six competencies to be defined within the Watertown Mayer Profile of a Graduate:

- Creative Problem Solver
- Effective Communicator
- Resourceful
- Self-Motivated Learner
- Personal Responsibility
- Critical Thinker

GRADUATE continued on page 2



Watertown Mayer
Public Schools

Connections • Opportunities

Got Questions About the Referendum?

Attend a Referendum Meeting

Watertown Mayer Public Schools is holding a referendum on November 5, asking voters to weigh in on two questions:

- ▶ **QUESTION 1** seeks voter approval of an operating levy increase that would provide an extra \$425 per student in revenue.
- ▶ **QUESTION 2** seeks voter approval of a facilities/bond levy to pay for classroom modernization, outdoor education and activities, parking lot safety, and long-term maintenance.

Question 1 must pass for Question 2 to pass. For specific details and a list of where the bond money will be spent, visit www.w-mreferendum2019.org

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In their own words...

"The school district is integral to the quality of life of our community. It is important that we provide opportunities for our kids. If we don't support ourselves, who will? No one is going to do it for us."

– Steve Washburn, Mayor of Watertown

"We need to take care of ourselves locally because we are not getting the equivalent help from the state that we have in the past."

– Tim Thompson, school board member, Mayer resident

We'd like you to join us for one of our upcoming Referendum Community Meetings to learn more.

September 16 | 7 p.m.

Mayer Community Center
413 Bluejay Avenue North, Mayer, MN 55360

October 1 | 7 p.m.

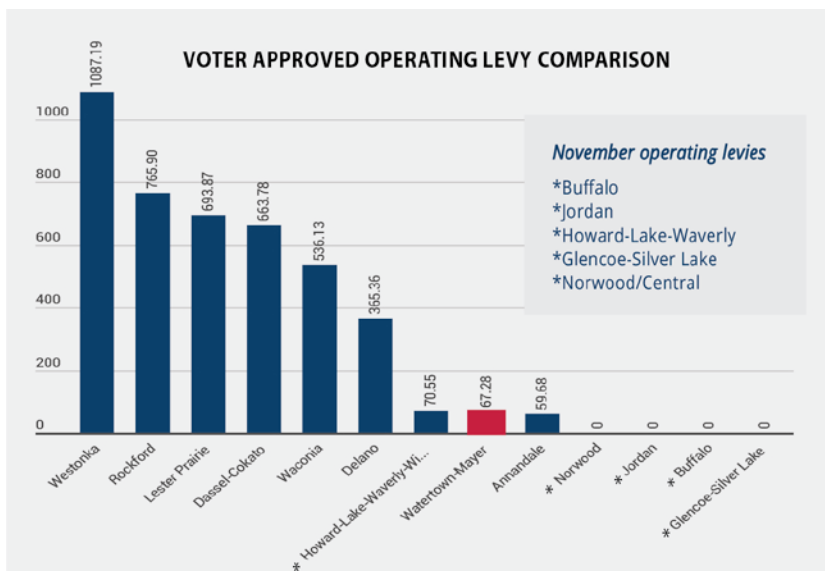
Watertown Mayer High School/Middle School
1001 State Highway 25, Watertown, MN 55388

October 14 | 7 p.m.

Watertown Mayer Elementary School
500 Paul Avenue, Watertown, MN 55388

Competition for Students is Fierce

Watertown Mayer Schools lose a significant number of resident students each year to other school districts. The district prides itself on keeping costs low, but, Watertown Mayer has among the lowest voter approved operating levies in the area. More funding means keeping class sizes low; continuing to offer excellent elective class choices for middle and high school students and robust before and after-school activities; and investing more in innovative programming, curriculum updates, and teacher training.



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As we continue to move forward with our profile, we look forward to engaging our community to define what it means to develop and practice these competencies at the different stages in each learner's educational experience at Watertown Mayer.

Moving into the 2019-2020 school year, we are excited to provide Watertown Mayer learners with the connections and opportunities they need to thrive now and in the future. 🏰

SUPPORT WM ACTIVITIES



Why We Play

The Value of Activities

Studies show that students who participate in cocurricular activities have a much more meaningful education experience. Participation enhances overall student achievement by shaping their core ethical values, creating lifelong learners and establishing a strong sense of community. Students active on our fields, courts and stages have increased confidence and self-esteem which leads to higher GPA, better attendance records, fewer discipline problems and ultimately higher graduation rates.

You can support Royal activities by cheering on our students this fall. To see the full activity schedule, click "Calendar" at www.wm.k12.mn.us. 🏰

Learning is Personal at WMMS

Middle School Students Set to Create Their Own Learning Profiles

Watertown Mayer Middle School staff and families value the importance of building strong connections and providing opportunities that prepare our students for their future. A big part of those values includes encouraging our students to take charge of their learning.

This fall, every student in our middle school will create their own learner profile highlighting their learning styles, interests, strengths and goals. This information will be shared with teachers and set the stage for designing more personalized learning experiences for our students.

Personalized learning leverages student curiosity and passion in an effort to get our students highly engaged in their learning experiences. This approach to designing learning is much more rewarding than a one-size-fits-all approach. It creates a partnership between teachers and students based on an understanding of each student as an individual.

We're excited about the connections and opportunities the learner profiles will foster in our middle school. Look for updates on our progress throughout the year. 🏰



ROYAL CONNECTIONS

Making Connections at WMES

Elementary school families start the school year in a unique and personal way with Royal Connections

Instead of the traditional open house, which can be overwhelming for our young learners, our elementary school families schedule a private Royal Connections conference with their child's new teacher prior to the first day of school.

During the conference, parents, students and teachers work together to create a student learner profile. This profile includes student interests, strengths, needs and questions

for the school year. The conference sparks a personal connection between the teacher and the family that eases the back-to-school transition.

After the conference, students take part in a short academic inventory. The information gathered in this academic inventory combined with the learner profile developed during the conference, give our teachers the opportunity to personalize learning from day one!

Royal Connections also gives parents a chance to connect with special education teachers, the school nurse, bus company staff and food service staff. Students get their school pictures taken, explore the school building and enjoy some quality time on the playground! 🏰

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.

Help Rename the Primary School!

Big changes are underway in our primary school building including the addition of daytime opportunities for adults and the eagerly anticipated infant and toddler child care center.

With these exciting changes, we think the primary school needs a new name! We want a name that truly encompasses our mission of supporting connections and opportunities for our residents, newborns through senior citizens. Some of the names suggested to date are:

- ▶ Royal Connections Center
- ▶ Watertown Mayer Community Learning Center
- ▶ Royal Education Center

The school board hopes to make a final decision on a new name during its meeting in late September, but we would like to hear from you first. If you would like to share your thoughts and ideas on a new name, please contact Rachel Bender at 952-955-0280 or rachel.bender@wm.k12.mn.us. 

