

# Stephen/Argyle Central State of the School

As we approach the mid point of the 2009-2010 school year it is time to review some of the highlights of the school year and indentify some of the goals that we have for our students and school system. It is critical as we continue to provide a world-class education for our students that we transform our system to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The staff of Stephen/Argyle Central is working diligently to prepare students for the future.

A major initiative in our school system is the integration of technology into the daily curriculum and learning of every student. Staff are working to integrate mobile technology, SMART Boards, NEO2, digital cameras and video, social media, and many other modes of technology in their curriculum areas. As staff gain additional access and knowledge in new technology additional opportunities for technology integration will be come available. Engaging students in learning through technology is critical to preparing them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of opportunities.

As a continued goal of improving school and home communication the school website is a major link for school announcements and activities. The school website is [www.sac.k12.mn.us](http://www.sac.k12.mn.us). The website also provides the e-mail addresses of each staff member in the school district. We continue to encourage parents to communicate with teachers through e-mail to provide timely feedback.

The State of Minnesota is currently going through a very difficult time financially. As the State struggles with the economy there will continue to be additional pressure put on local taxpayers to fund schools. Federal stimulus dollars have provided some support for State budget reductions, but additional State deficits will force more local responsibility for funding schools through operating referendums. Currently, SAC has worked to develop a 35% unreserved fund balance following enrollment trends, making difficult staff and expenditure decisions, and planning for maintenance and equipment purchases. The SAC fund balance is currently at \$2,116,165.

Student enrollment planning is critical to generating local and state revenue. Our current enrollment is 337 students. This is a decline of 15 students from the 2008-2009 school year. We are currently serving 19 students in our pre-school program that are projected to advance to Kindergarten in 2010-2011. The following is our projected enrollments for the next five-years.

2009-2010	337 students (18 pre-school)
2010-2011	334 students (17 pre-school)
2011-2012	332 students (17 pre-school)
2012-2013	316 students (14 pre-school)
2013-2014	300 students (17 pre-school)
2014-2015	279 students (13 pre-school projected 1/1/10)

As we anticipate a slight decline in enrollment for the next three years, the challenge will be to balance fiscal control with continued declining enrollment with the reductions in state funding projected in the near future.

A major project during the last year was the installation of new playground equipment at the SAC Elementary School. The new playground is a visible example of the tremendous collaboration in the communities of Argyle and Stephen. It also serves as a progressive example of our commitment for the growth of Stephen/Argyle Central.

A major highlight of the fall was a return of the State Football Championship to Stephen/Argyle Central. The accomplishments of players and coaches are the result of hard work, dedication, and commitment. The STORM Football team was also recognized as State Academic Championship. In addition, several individual football and volleyball players earned academic and athletic All-State honors.

The SAC staff continues to develop additional challenges in the curriculum for students. Students at SAC earned over 300 college credits during the 2008-2009 school year. Students continue to strive for academic excellence by participating in College in the High School classes during the 2009-2010 school year in speech, sociology, psychology, biology, statistics, calculus, physics, and music. In addition, students are participating in Interactive Television and on-line classes. In the elementary, staff are working with students on academic challenges such as Global Fair, STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math) Fair, Destination Imagination, Creativity Festival, Deep Portage Conservation Center, Climb Theater, and other meaningful opportunities. Setting high expectations and providing challenging learning opportunities for students are a major part of the mission of Stephen/Argyle Central.

We are continuing to develop a school system that is preparing young men and women to be productive members of society. The continued support of our communities is a major asset to the progressive development of our school as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center. The children and staff of Stephen/Argyle Central would like to thank our communities for the support and we look forward to representing our communities in the future.