

State of the School STORM Pride

Stephen/Argyle Central has a rich tradition of excellence in academics, arts, and athletics. The commitment and support of the parents and community members has a great deal to do with the continued success of our school systems and students. This support allows Stephen/Argyle Central to invest in our educational system for the future through educational technology, upgraded facilities, and world-class curriculum that focuses on preparing future opportunities.

Technology is a key component to how Stephen/Argyle Central provides a world-class education. SAC has invested in an updated wireless network that provides access to the Internet anywhere/anytime in the SAC buildings. 100% of teachers have access to the Internet and 95% of teachers have a laptop to have mobile access to educational opportunities and resources. In addition, there are 23 SMART Boards installed in the district to provide interactive learning opportunities for visual and hands-on learners. The ratio of students to computers in the classroom everyday is 3 to 1 vs. the national average of 5.3 to 1. The continued investment into 21st Century learning prepares our students for a future in a technological age.

SAC is involved in many programs that enhance the traditional curriculum such as College in the High School, River Watch, Knowledge Bowl, School Musical, JETS, music competitions and additional programs to broaden the educational experience for all students. Also, SAC is involved in programs to broaden experiences such as robotics, on-line classes, recycling for a Green Environment, Destination Imagination, Creativity Festival, and Envirothon. In addition elementary and secondary students have been very involved in the past year in community service activities and raising funds worthy causes. As we investigate opportunities for students through the use of technology, we will strive to prepare students for the opportunities in educations and the work force.

We continue to prepare for the future at Stephen/Argyle Central, we do so by planning through enrollment projections, strategic planning of goals and objectives, and developing curriculum opportunities for students that prepare and challenge students for the future. Public School District finances are a major challenge for rural schools as the State of Minnesota continues to struggle with major deficits in revenues. Local funding through Operating Referendum are critical to small rural districts being able to continue to survive in today's economic status. SAC has worked diligently to plan for the future by building a general fund balance and monitor enrollment projections. The following are the current projected enrollments of SAC:

2010-2011	– 337 students	Pre-school	22
2011-2012	– 332 students	Pre-school	21
2012-2013	– 330 students	Pre-school	18
2013-2014	– 316 students	Pre-school	17
2014-2015	– 305 students	Pre-school	18
2015-2016	– 291 students	Pre-school	17

Based on enrollment and funding projections, we are working on updating our strategic plan to establish clear goals and priorities for the future in curriculum, facility upgrades, and capital purchasing. The following are the current goals of the SAC Strategic Plan:

- To raise academic student achievement of all students by providing resources, training, setting high expectations for all students, identifying growth for individual students and staff.
- To create an educational system that is fiscally accountable, based on long-term planning and facility management.
- To develop an educational system that focuses on communication between all educational stakeholders as a priority.
- To develop and implement a plan for increased technology utilization by students, staff, and the community.
- To develop a school environment that promotes academic, safety, social, and emotional growth.

Stephen/Argyle Central is working toward the long-term future of the school district by planning for future needs. This includes facility upgrades in the heating systems, roofs, and windows. In addition, the goal of passing of a new Operating Referendum in the Fall of 2011 to continue operations, and upgrade technology tools for students and staff to meet the challenges of the 21st Century learning environment. Planning to meet these challenges will allow for Stephen/Argyle Central to thrive in the future.