

# State of the School

## Stephen/Argyle Central

Stephen/Argyle Central enters the 2014-year with a new level of excitement for the future. There will always be challenges with enrollment and state funding, but with the passing of the recent operating referendum there is a secure sense of what the next 8-10 years will look like for the STORM. A continued commitment to two sites, investment in student programs and opportunities, and a continued development of schools and communities will help draw families to Argyle and Stephen to raise their children. Stephen/Argyle Central is a hidden gem in Northwest Minnesota that provides an incredible educational foundation for the future of our students.

The enrollment picture is always a point of interest for community members. Student numbers drive our funding and programs. We have made significant changes in the past few years to deal with declining enrollments, while maintaining the integrity of providing diverse student learning opportunities. The following is the current and projected enrollments for the foreseeable future:

2013-2014 – 309 K-12 students	20 Pre-School students
2014-2015 – 300 K-12 students	19 Pre-School students
2015-2016 – 289 K-12 students	14 Pre-School students
2016-2017 – 278 K-12 students	16 Pre-School students
2017-2018 – 276 K-12 students	12 Pre-School students

There continues to be a trend of declining enrollment, but based on these projections the decline will be a slower trend than in the last two years. We have worked to establish a strong fiscal approach to our operations, efficient use of resources, and a strategic plan that will meet the needs of students, staff, and communities.

We continue to work on our facilities, equipment, and infrastructure. Currently, we are working on replacing buses, updating the Stephen site playground, and updating technology equipment for students and staff. These are investments to ensure the safety of our students and to provide resources that will ensure their readiness for college and career opportunities.

The “World’s Best Work Force” is a new emphasis for by Minnesota K-12 schools. This legislation is meant to support the career and college readiness of all of our students. The program provides a focus on personalizing education for students to align with their goals and aspirations. This focus will begin in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will be reviewed regularly by students, staff, and parents.

We continue to strive to provide diverse curriculum/learning opportunities, strong athletic/activities programs, and a personal level of service to students and parents that can only be delivered in a small school setting. The results of concentrating on these areas will be well-rounded young people that will be leaders in our communities and a school district that we are proud to advertise as a place where every young person can succeed.

Education is changing, tomorrow's schools and learning opportunities are not like they were when we attended school. The digital classroom, Anytime/Anywhere learning, and student driven /inquiry/critical thinking, and instant mobile/digital access to information are major parts of the learning process and daily lives for all students. We are working to change the way we teach to meet the diverse ways our students learn to prepare them for their future opportunities. As our school system makes these changes, we will continue to strive to meet the needs of all of our students.

The tradition of excellence continues in our academic, arts, and athletic programs. Our students, staff, and community members take great pride in being part of the STORM family. As we look forward to 2014, we will continue to work towards being the School of Excellence that we have come to expect. Thank you for your support, GO STORM!