

Happenings from

THE HIVE

Spectrum's Summer Magazine

July 2021

**2021
Graduate
Accolades
p.4-6**

**Spectrum Theatre
Returns to the stage!
p. 11-13**

p.21

**Spectrum Middle School -
beyond reading, writing, & arithmetic**

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***Grade 6 Beginning
Band performs for
the first time***

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Max R. shown running the 100 M.

Photo provided by Rick Peterson

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Beginning Band students showcased during the spring concert virtual performance. L-R: Lola S, Dudley M.

Photo Credit: Skylar M.

Spectrum is in Great Company – 30th Anniversary of Charter Schools

June 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the passage of Minnesota’s charter school law – signed by Governor Arnie Carlson on June 4, 1991, the first-in-the-nation law allowing for the creation of tuition-free public schools, open to all students, autonomous and flexible, coupled with accountability and performance. Ember Reichgott-Junge and her bipartisan colleagues in the legislature wanted to “unleash public education from conventions.” They sparked a movement that has made public education more effective, more diverse, more creative, and more responsive to the needs of students and families.



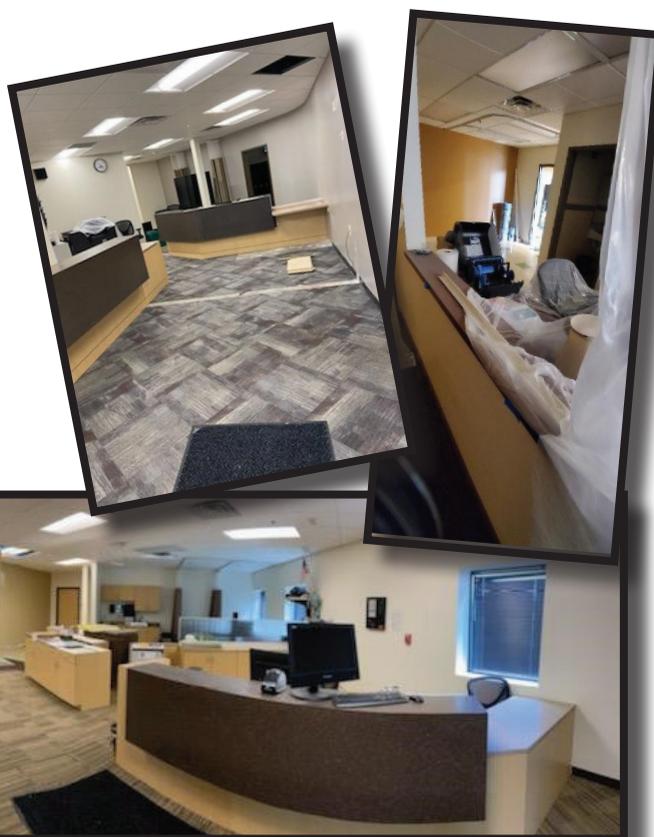
Spectrum is in great company – one of 7,500 charter schools, located in 44 states and Washington, D.C., where 219,000 teachers educate 3.3 million students. *(Statistics from the [National Alliance for Public Charter Schools](#))*

During this milestone anniversary, the Spectrum administration and School Board wish to extend gratitude to state and federal legislators from Minnesota for their ongoing support of chartered public education. Minnesota is unique for many reasons – including the Minnesota charter school law being ranked at the top of the charts for many years. Most importantly, we thank those who have made our success possible – teachers, staff, administration, parents, and students. You are the reason Spectrum continues to grow and thrive.

As Spectrum begins its 16th year, we continue to reflect on where we have been, assess our current status, and plan for even brighter days ahead!

Construction at Spectrum (Health Offices)

It is said that Minnesota has two seasons – winter and road construction. At Spectrum, our seasons are similar – school year and summer construction. Spectrum awarded a bid to Heritage Construction to revamp our health offices in all three buildings this summer. The goals of the remodeling are to create better separation when students are sick and to provide increased privacy for students and their data. The design creates unique spaces for the health clerks that provide glass barriers and separate entrances while maintaining office efficiencies.



CLASS OF 2021

Accomplishments & Recognition

Spectrum's graduating Class of 2021 saved nearly \$964,000 in tuition dollars by taking advantage of the high school's C@SH (College @ Spectrum High) courses!

Spectrum's Class of 2021 had 65 out of 75 seniors (86.7%) who earned at least 1 college credit over the course of their high school career for a total of 2,434. Based on the average cost of tuition at a public college in the United States, this is a possible savings of nearly \$964,000 to students and their families. The following 15 seniors earned **40 or more credits**:

Gavin Anderson
Dominic Bitzan
Tracelyn De Haan
Caleb Gangl
Xavier Groth
Abram Harvey
Joe Kettlhodt
Ella Kring
Peter Larson
Madeline Loewenstein
Katie Olson
Jonah Palm
Zachary Reese
Judah Rogers
Logan Schumacher

The next area of distinction is the completion of the **Minnesota Transfer Curriculum**, which means completing **40 credits** within specific goal areas. Seniors meeting these requirements include:

Leah Burney
Jacob DeMond
Kayla Niedzielski



Bailey B., Salutatorian, welcomed both the in-person and online audiences.



Madeleine L., Valedictorian, addresses the 2021 graduates.

Photos provided by Clint H.

Congratulations to Spectrum's Class of 2021 – we are proud of you!

Spectrum's 2021 Associate Degrees

In addition, Spectrum's Class of 2021 had 11 graduates who earned an **Associate of Arts degree** concurrent with their high school diploma. In order to earn an AA degree, students are required to complete over **60 college credits** within specific goal areas. These seniors are:

Lisa Algaard
Benjamin Bergley
Bailey Brown
Ella Burfeind
Abigail Debes

Emily Dopp
Rachel Johnson
Zachary Knapp
Elizabeth McCoy
Morgan Novotny
Lauren Peckham

Lastly, *Madeleine Loewenstein* was class Valedictorian and **Bailey Brown** was Salutatorian, earning a cumulative GPA of 4.093 and 4.092 respectively through the 1st semester of their senior year.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! Spectrum is extremely proud of each and every graduate, and wishes all the best in their future endeavors. Go Sting!

Graduation Rate Accolades!

Spectrum students continue to graduate at a high rate when compared with local districts and schools across the state. The School Board and administration continue to keep graduation rates as a high priority. Staff and families continue to do an amazing job of supporting students and helping them to reach their goals. Students are committed to hard work and their dedication continues to pay off.

2020 (4-year) Graduation Rate Comparisons	
<i>Information obtained from the Minnesota Department of Education website.</i>	
District	2020 Graduation Rate
Spectrum High School	97.3%
Elk River School District	92.7%
Big Lake School District	90.3%
Saint Francis School District	86.3%
Anoka Hennepin School District	86.2%
Statewide	83.8%

Spectrum High School Celebrates 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Spectrum High School has had the opportunity to work with local businesses and organizations who have donated scholarships for a handful of its graduating seniors. The application process consisted of seniors writing an essay answering open ended questions and having their essays anonymously read and scored. Scholarship award recipients were chosen based on the criteria given by the businesses/organizations.

during fall semester 2020. In January, students presented the outcomes of their community service by either a traditional presentation, a video montage, or a documentary. Judges selected the top presenters who received scholarship awards funded by First Bank Elk River.

Class of 2021 seniors completed their Senior Capstone Legacy projects and presentations

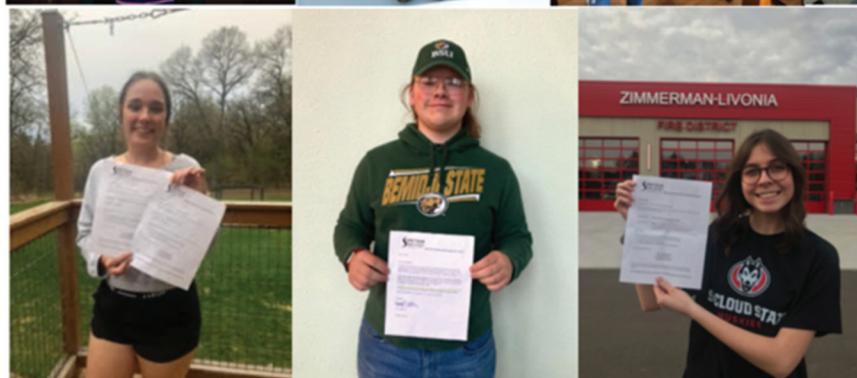
Senior Capstone Awards

Capstone Project (First Bank of Elk River)	Student	Amount
Video Montage/Documentary Capstone	Addison Westermeyer	\$400
Video Montage/Documentary Capstone	Olivia Selley	\$200
Video Montage/Documentary Capstone	Molly Majeres	\$100
Traditional Capstone	Bailey Brown	\$400
Traditional Capstone	Tracelyn De Haan	\$200
Traditional Capstone	Madeleine Loewenstein	\$200

Senior Community Organization Awards

Community Organization	Student	Amount
First Bank Elk River	Bailey Brown	\$500
Officer Besser Award	Leah Burney	\$500
Zimmerman Fire Department	Ella Burfeind	\$1,000
Zimmerman Fire Department	Leah Burney	\$1,000
Lucas Consulting	Tracelyn De Haan	\$500
Three Rivers Community Foundation	Ella Kring	\$1,000
Elk River Rotary	Abigail Debes	\$1,000
Elk River Lions Club	Joe Kettelhodt	\$2,000
Bank of Elk River	Sidney Brenteson	\$1,000
Ramsey Lions Club	Zachary Knapp	\$1,500
Rogers Lions Club	Lisa Algaard	\$1,000

Spectrum High School is grateful for all of the community organizations with whom it partnered and its students!



Top row left to right: Leah Burney, Lisa Algaard, Sidney Brenteson, Abigail Debes, Olivia Selley

Middle row left to right: Bailey Brown, Ella Kring, Addison Westermeyer, Zachary Knapp, Madeleine Loewenstein

Bottom row left to right: Tracelyn De Haan, Joseph Kettelhodt, Ella Burfeind

Not pictured: Molly Majeres

Looking to the Future!

Every 5 years, Spectrum’s School Board collaborates with the staff, students, and families to recap the school’s accomplishments, assess areas for improvement, and re-envision the next five years. This process was just completed in the spring with the assistance of the Minnesota School Boards Association. It is with great enthusiasm that the School Board unveils Spectrum’s updated vision, mission, and belief statements.

Vision Statement

Spectrum’s vision is to be a leading college preparatory school of choice committed to high standards and exceptional programing.

Mission Statement

Spectrum’s mission is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to successfully navigate the college and career of their choice and positively impact the world around them.

Spectrum believes that ...

S	<u>Small schools/class sizes</u> meet individual needs, foster relationships, and provide a safe and supportive learning environment.
	<u>Staff who are trained, caring, and effective</u> are essential to meeting the unique needs of our students.
P	<u>Parents/guardians</u> are the students’ primary educators.
	<u>Participation in co-curricular activities</u> leads to increased leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, and academic achievement.
E	<u>Engagement in learning and challenging coursework</u> lead to increased self-confidence and high academic achievement.
C	<u>College and Career readiness</u> is achieved through rigorous coursework, targeted support, and individual determination.
T	<u>Technological competency</u> is vital to students’ future success.
R	<u>Reaching the community</u> through service creates positive change in oneself and others.
U	<u>Upholding high expectations</u> builds self-discipline, self-respect, and self-reliance.
M	<u>Modeling collaboration and continuous improvement</u> leads to a healthy and sustainable organization.

School Day Schedule **CALENDAR CHANGE**



The 2021-2022 calendar will have a little twist! In order to accommodate necessary professional development for teachers, Monday school days will start an hour late (8:40 a.m.) – with one exception - the first day of school will start at 7:40 a.m.

Spectrum understands the importance of convenience for families – so, buses will run at the regular times on Mondays. This means students riding a bus will arrive at school by 7:40 a.m. and will wait for school to start at 8:40 a.m. in monitored locations at each building.

Car riders should plan to arrive at school prior to the 8:38 a.m. bell. If they arrive prior to that time, they will wait with all other students in the monitored areas.

More information will be coming out in August.

What Will School Look **Like In 2021-2022?**

Staff, students, and families are all looking forward to a more traditional school experience for the 2021-2022 school year. Here are four things we know for next year:

1. Face coverings will not be required.
2. Spectrum will not require students to have a COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend school. *Students 12 years and older are now eligible to get the vaccine.*
3. Spectrum is not planning to implement any restrictions that are not mandated by federal and state law.
4. Hot lunches will once again be offered.
5. The Governor's Executive Order that allowed for distance learning to be provided to all students during the pandemic expired at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Spectrum is hopeful that the Minnesota Department of Education will develop some flexibility within their authority that will allow all districts to continue with some form of distance learning while in the process of completing the application to become a fully approved online provider. Spectrum will be working through this process, but distance learning is currently not an option for Spectrum students in the fall.

Policy Updates **Fundraising, ...**

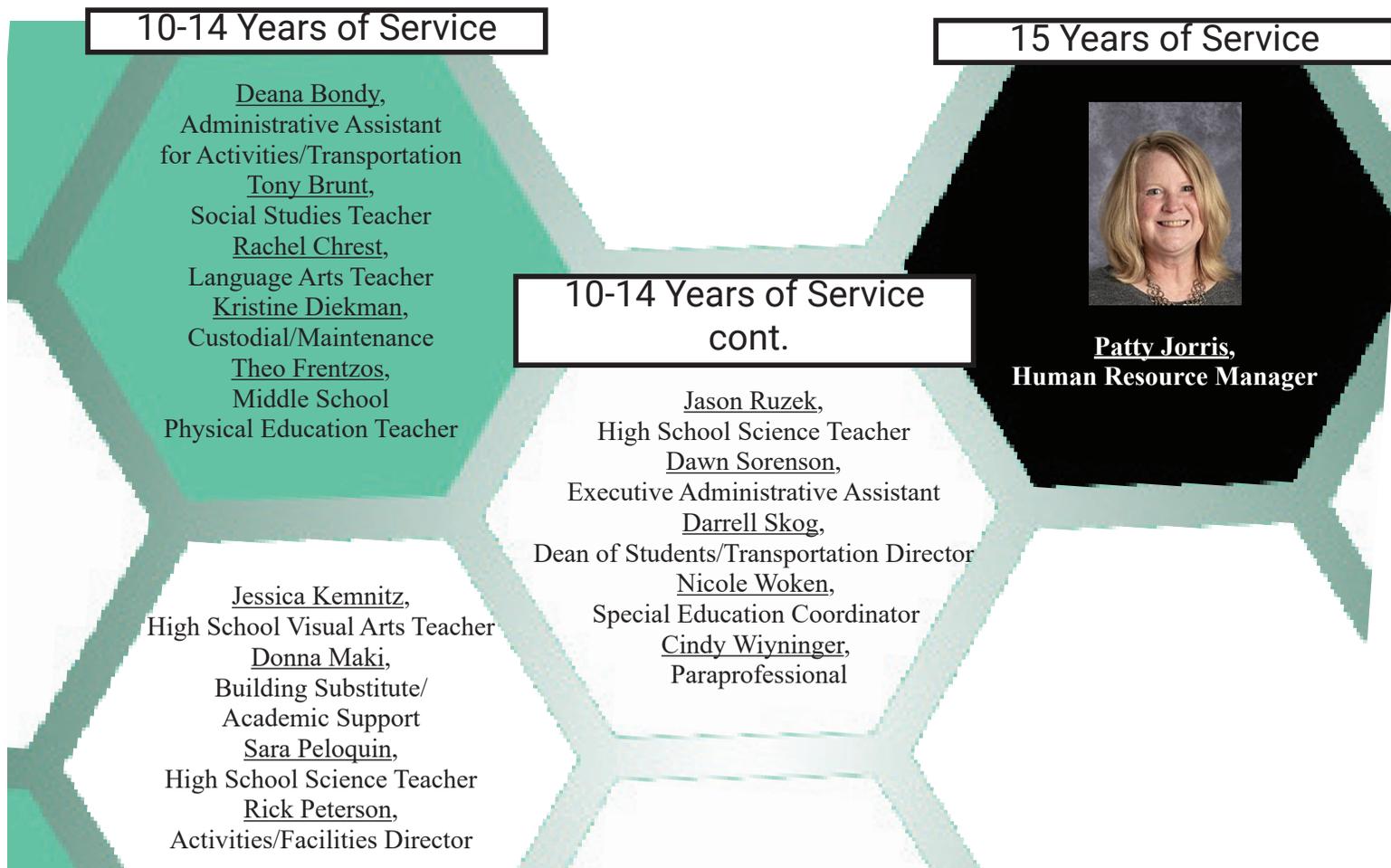
Fundraising provides opportunities for families and the community to invest in Spectrum students! It allows the school to stretch dollars further and continue to offer exceptional programming, facilities, academic excellence, and competitive co-curricular activities. Fundraising is often done by co-curricular activities or by the school as a whole.

As Spectrum grows and state policies continue to change, it is important that Spectrum remain current and compliant with regulations around fundraising activities for public entities. The Spectrum School Board recently approved a Fundraising Policy to help create consistency, and provide oversight, accountability, and transparency of fundraising activities.

In addition, a separate non-profit organization, Friends of Spectrum, Inc. (FoSI) was created in 2019 specifically for the purpose of raising funds to support Spectrum Middle School and Spectrum High School. FoSI is ramping up their work and will be taking more of a role in fundraising in the near future. Spectrum friends and families are encouraged to begin transitioning all donations by choosing Friends of Spectrum, Inc. This can also be done on Amazon Smile.

A Strong Positive Culture Leads to Longevity!

The Spectrum School Board and administration feel strongly that Spectrum's dedicated staff play a significant part in the positive culture prevalent throughout our buildings! According to the 2020 staff climate survey results, of the 72 staff responding, 100% indicated they enjoy working at Spectrum! The Board believes that recognition helps show employees that we value them as part of the team and their contributions to the success of the school. As a result, the Board approved a longevity pay policy in the spring that recognizes all employees with a financial incentive for longevity in 5-year increments. The following employees were recognized for 10-15 years of service. Many employees also reached 5 years and are being recognized on social media.



Staff Leaving Spectrum

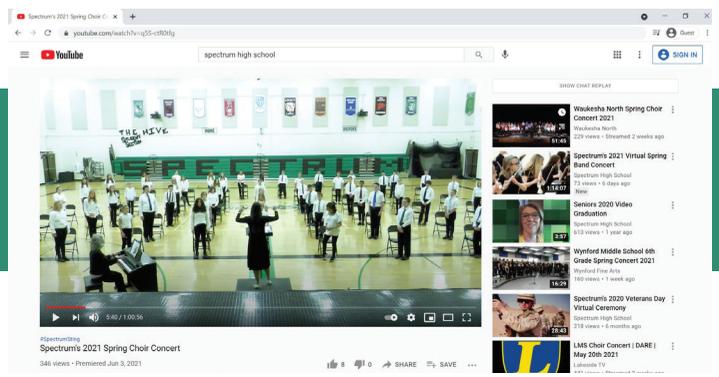
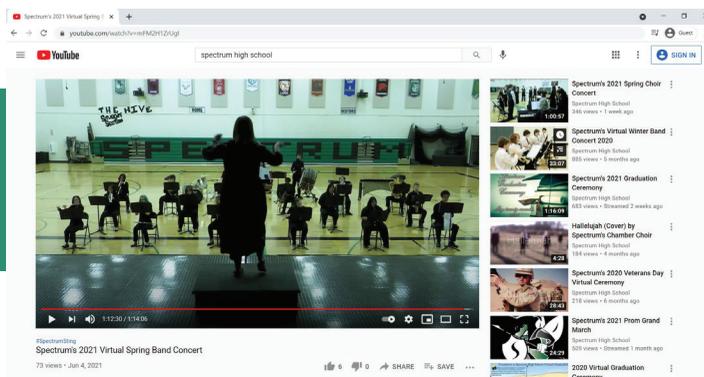
Spectrum is blessed to have amazing dedicated staff! Unfortunately, from time-to-time we part ways. We are so thankful for the positive impact those leaving have brought to our school community. In the words of Garrison Keillor (host of the Minnesota Public Radio show A Prairie Home Companion), "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch."

Staff Leaving Spectrum

- Tyler Belmonte, Technology Specialist
- Angela Scott, High School Counselor
- Rebecca Guimont, Middle School Language Arts Teacher
- Bridget Strand, Middle School Language Arts Teacher
- Jill Murphy, Instructional Coach
- Amy White, Business Assistant
- Harold Roberts, Custodian

Spring Fine Arts Concert Series: Band & Choir in a Virtual Setting

Similar to what was done this past December for the Winter Fine Arts Concert Series, the bands and choirs of Spectrum produced the Spring Fine Arts Concert Series in a virtual setting. The virtual band concert took place the evening of Tuesday, June 1st, and the virtual choir concert took place on Thursday, June 3rd. Although everyone much preferred to perform in person, Spectrum students and staff were extremely grateful for the opportunity to perform, regardless of format, as other schools had made the decision to forgo musical performance in light of the ongoing pandemic. *Mrs. McGorry* (6th grade band director), *Ms. Grace* (7-12 band director), and *Mrs. Bird* (choir director) wanted to ensure that their students had an opportunity to perform as a reward for their hard work and dedication in a most unusual year of teaching and learning.



Clint Haley, Spectrum's A/V Tech Director, once again took the lead in the recording, editing, compilation, and release of the final video productions, along with the help of Spectrum students, *Skylar MacLennan*, *Aaron Ziebarth*, and *Zach Knapp*. These students attended all of the recording sessions and spent countless hours setting up video and recording gear, and assisting with editing, which eventually became the concert video. Without the dedication and hardwork of these students, under the direction of Mr. Haley, the concert videos would not have been possible.

The first video produced was that of the band concert as each band performed 2-3 pieces to the theme of "A Night at the Movies". All bands participated in the performance, including the Spectrum Beginning Band (directed by Mrs. Jean McGorry), and the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Intermediate Band, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Winds, and Jazz Band (directed by Ms. Samantha Grace). Some of the pieces that were performed included *The Mandalorian*, *The Blues Brothers*, *Star Wars*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *The Incredibles*, *James Bond*, *Harry Potter*, *The Avengers*, *Mary Poppins*, and many more. In addition to the concert, Ms. Grace presented awards to senior band members including the John Philip Sousa Award to *Alia Hitchcock* and the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award to *Samahra Sprague*. All five senior band members, *Alia Hitchcock*, *Samahra Sprague*, *Olivia Larson*, *Jonah Palm*, and *Isabel Dillon*, also received an ornament of their instrument and a handwritten letter from Ms. Grace wishing them well and thanking them for their dedication to the Spectrum band program.



Senior, Alia H., who was awarded the John Philip Sousa Award performing during the Jazz Band video recording.

Photo Credit: C. Haley

Photo Credit: Skylar M.



Jordyn R. (L) and Olivia S. (R) shine with smiles during MeLadies' spring performance.

dedication to Spectrum's choral program, some of whom have been a part of choir since middle school! The senior choir students are *Joe Kettelhodt*, *Peter Larson*, *Daniel Reed*, and *Olivia Selley*. Although they will be dearly missed, Spectrum is excited for their future endeavors and wish them well in all that they pursue.

For the choir program, each of Spectrum's choirs performed 2-3 pieces as a part of their virtual concert. No specific theme was assigned to the performance, but many well-known pieces were chosen, including "You've Got a Friend in Me" from *The Toy Story*, "Go the Distance" from *Hercules*, "Rise Up," originally recorded by Andra Day, "A Million Dreams" from *The Greatest Showman*, and many more, which made for an excellent evening of music. Many pieces featured solo vocalists, small groups, and instrumentalists, that even included a few Spectrum staff members! The song selections were both well-known and challenging, with unique rhythms and vocal lines. Following the performance, Mrs. Bird

honored four senior choir members by thanking them for their

The virtual band and choir concerts remain available for viewing on Spectrum's Facebook page and Youtube channel - make sure to check them out!

Spectrum Theatre: Back on Track with Murder on the 518



The cast and crew of the spring production, *Murder on the 518*.

Article written by: Bailey Brown

Photos provided by: Neighborhood Dave Productions

The lights dimmed as Spectrum actors took the stage for their long-awaited performance of *Murder on the 518*. Along with the feelings of anticipation that are typical of an opening night, the actors were filled with feelings of extreme gratefulness. It was their first performance with a live audience in over a year. In that timeframe, the Spectrum Theatre family went through a lot of waiting and emotional processing.

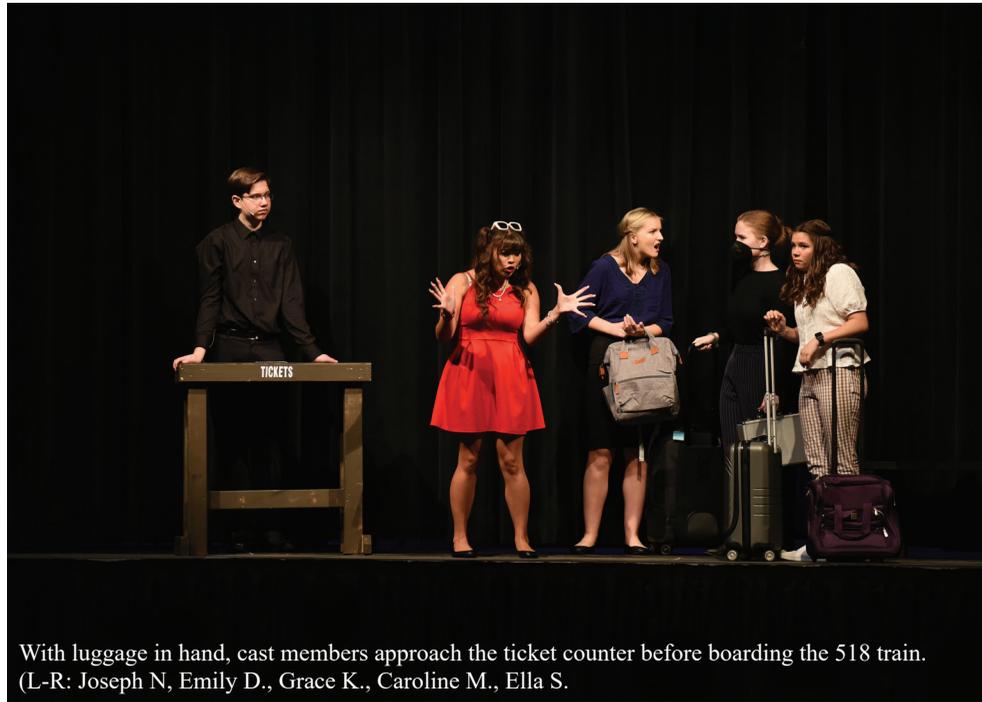
Tears and frustration covered the faces of cast and crew members on March 13, 2020 after being called into director Mrs. Stelten's classroom for an emergency meeting. It was there they were told that they would not be able to perform their opening show of *Seussical* that evening due to announcements made that day on the developing situation with the Coronavirus. All were devastated, but a few held onto hope that it might simply be a postponement. "After *Seussical* got cancelled, I waited so many months just hoping we could reschedule," Ella Sontowski, a sophomore at the time, said. Sontowski played Jojo in *Seussical*, which had been a dream role of hers for years. Mrs. Stelten pushed for her theatre kids to be able to perform the show without an audience and have it recorded. This was permitted, and on the following

day the cast performed *Seussical* in an empty gymnasium for what would be the last time.

As the 2020-21 school year approached, questions brewed about whether there would be a fall production. The first theatre-related news received was not about a show, but instead about their budget. With the purchase of costume and set pieces for *Seussical* and the lack of ticket sales for reimbursement, the Spectrum Theatre program was low on funds. The group rallied together and put on a Heggie's pizza fundraiser in hopes that they would soon be able to get back to doing what they love.

Months passed in the odd, ever-changing circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic. There was some hesitation, however, because they didn't want to have a repeat of the devastation that came with *Seussical's* cancellation. "We did not want to get into a show and get cancelled because we were all pretty heartbroken after losing *Seussical* on opening day last year, so that was part of the delay," Stelten said. At the same time, Stelten didn't want to compromise the experience for her theatre kids in order to fit within Covid guidelines. "I had decided fairly early on, from my own opinions and from talking with students, that we did not really want to go the route of having a virtual show. We wanted a live audience," Stelten said. With this desire, several restrictions had to be kept in mind to ensure the safety of cast, crew, and audience members. "As things started to become a little more opened up and the illness rate slowed down, we all felt it was safe to proceed with planning."

Audition, rehearsal, and performance dates were set for a late spring production. The schedule would be packed and condensed due to the short timeline available, and a backup weekend for performances was also set up. Mrs. Stelten chose the play *Murder on the 518*, a comical murder mystery taking place on a train. This choice was made based on the cast size, modern time period, and simple set the play offered which would line up with the participants and limited resources Spectrum Theatre had available. "It's a little simpler than where we've been heading as we've grown the program, so the show itself is probably taking a step back just to simplify things," Stelten admitted. "The emphasis has really been on the experience students are having through the process and a little less on what our end product looks like."



With luggage in hand, cast members approach the ticket counter before boarding the 518 train. (L-R: Joseph N, Emily D., Grace K., Caroline M., Ella S.)



The passengers of the 518 race to check on the fallen Isabella Madison (Emily D.)

The experience of being together and back on the stage again was cherished by cast and crew members. "I always look forward to talking to my friends, and the cast meals are so fun, especially having not seen people very much during Covid. It's been so fun to talk to kids again and catch up," Sontowski, now a junior playing Lucy Blake, said. Spectrum actors were also glad, and slightly nervous, to be performing with an audience for

the first time since November of 2019. “I’m a little nervous, a little rusty I think. It will be so fun to hear people’s feedback again and be able to put on a show and have it be a little more normal,” Sontowski said.

As the theatre kids prepared for their return to stage, they were hit with a spell of *deja vu*. On the final day of dress rehearsal, May 20th, the cast and crew of *Murder on the 518* were called into another emergency meeting. Covid had struck again, and they would have to postpone the show to their backup performance weekend in June. Although they felt the wave of disappointment, they could be more hopeful than in their experience with *Seussical* because of the advance planning that had taken place.



A table conversation full of character and conflict.
L-R: Emma B., Gwen L., Jordyn R., Joe K.

In several ways, the postponement could be seen as a blessing in disguise. By the time the June backup performance dates rolled around, many of the previous Covid guidelines had been either loosened or lifted. This allowed for Spectrum Theatre’s return to stage to be seen by more audience members as there were no longer capacity limits or ticket reservations required. The use of masks also became optional, so actors were able to use their facial expressions and vocal tools more fully to connect with audience members. Audience feedback was more easily read as well, with laughter and shock moving the audience throughout the show.

“As much as the kids have missed being on the stage, audience members have missed being part of that group, sharing the experience, laughing with people, and viewing things together,” Stelten said. The desire to attend live theatre again was evident as opening night of *Murder on the 518* was widely attended, with extra rows of chairs having to be added in the gym.

For several Spectrum Theatre kids, this return would be followed by a difficult goodbye. Spectrum’s Class of 2021 contained twelve graduates with involvement in theatre, a few of which had been a part of the program for all seven years of Stelten’s directorship. Spectrum Theatre got back on track with *Murder on the 518* and is now headed in a new direction.



Concerned passengers brainstorm how to track down the murderer.
Front Row: Jordyn R., Caroline M., Zach K.
Back Row: Gwen L., Emma B., Joe K., Preston P., Katie H.



2021 School Board Election Results

The annual election for Spectrum's Board of Directors (School Board) took place on Monday, April 19th through Tuesday, April 20th 2021. There were four open seats up for election -- one community member, and three parent members. Spectrum is pleased to announce the following results of the 2021 election.

Incumbent candidate, **Mr. Tom Sagstetter**, who first served on the Board as a parent member, was re-elected to the open Community member seat. Mr. Sagstetter had the following to share regarding his candidacy for the position.



EXPERIENCE THAT I BRING TO THE BOARD:

I have been on the Spectrum School Board and Spectrum Building Company for eight years and have helped lead two major expansions of the school. I have been a part of the Elk River Community for over 10 years and am active in community organizations like the Elk River Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority. I am also involved in the Zimmerman and Princeton communities through the Knights of Columbus. I am an analytical person with a bit of creativity that is ideal for problem solving. I am a person with great integrity and have always conducted my School Board duties with the best interest of the students, families, and school in the highest regard.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE I BRING TO THE BOARD:

I am an effective communicator and enjoy giving back to the community. My values allow me to put others first and think of the big picture. My work experience has provided me with skills in budgeting, project management, and community relations. My most significant talent is my ability to work with diverse groups of people and organizations to accomplish a common goal. I will continue to bring a positive and progressive attitude to Spectrum.

OPPORTUNITIES I ENVISION FOR SPECTRUM AND HOW I WILL HELP FACILITATE THIS VISION:

I see great opportunities for Spectrum to grow. For me, "growing" includes more than just increasing the number of students. Growth will also include adding flexibility to meet the needs of the students and families moving forward in this changed world. I will help facilitate the creation of policies and goals that will allow the administration, teachers, and staff to create services and environments that will continue to set Spectrum above. Some of the things that I think will be important to keep Spectrum growing are: maintaining smaller class sizes, college credits, comfortable and safe buildings, expanding extra-curricular activities, the addition of some technical training alternatives, and the option of full-time online learning. In these rapidly changing times, the importance of communication, flexibility, and passion for educating our children cannot be undersold. I am looking forward to continuing to help Spectrum, the students, and the community implement the vision in the next strategic plan.



Incumbent candidate, **Mr. Keve Israelson**, was re-elected to one of the three open parent member seats. Mr. Israelson was first appointed to the Board in the fall of 2020 when the seat he occupied became available due to a resignation. When Mr. Israelson was asked to provide information on why Spectrum's membership should consider him to fill the vacancy, he had the following to say:

THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT I BRING TO THE BOARD:

I work in a large church in Brooklyn Park. I manage many volunteers in our music department. I've learned communication is key. I bring a passion for Spectrum's continued success with integrity, insight, and dedication.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Willingness to support and defend charter schools, communication, problem solver, and thinking outside the box.

OPPORTUNITIES I ENVISION FOR SPECTRUM AND HOW I WILL HELP FACILITATE THIS VISION:

Continue to keep Spectrum on the cutting edge and small school setting.

Expand opportunities for students in the area of extra-curricular activities, either through co-op's or encouraging expansion of the things that are offered.

Continue to keep Spectrum on the cutting edge of technology. As we enter the future, technology continues to evolve. I can help review and install that technology.



Mr. Joe Thomas, parent of a 7th grade student at Spectrum, was elected to the second open parent member seat. Mr. Thomas had the following to share regarding his candidacy for the position.

THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT I BRING TO THE BOARD:

Professionally, I have an extensive background in Finance and Accounting. Within my career I have been employed as a Finance and Accounting Manager for a non-profit for nearly 5 years. I also spent a year operating as a Business Manager, overseeing a team performing the back-office duties for a Minneapolis Charter school. Currently, I work as a Senior Financial Analyst with Land O'Lakes.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- MBA in Finance
- Non-Profit Accounting/Finance experience
- Charter school experience
- Treasurer of a charter school board

OPPORTUNITIES I ENVISION FOR SPECTRUM AND HOW I WILL HELP FACILITATE THIS VISION:

This is my family's first year at Spectrum, and we are very impressed. It may be a unique and challenging year but the organized approach to the school year, the focus on community involvement and athletics in my opinion has set them apart from other Charter schools and K-12 programs in the metro area. As Spectrum continues to grow, it will be a privilege to serve the school as a member of the board.



Ms. Emily Thompson, parent of a 6th and 8th grade students at Spectrum, was elected to the third open parent member seat. Ms. Thompson had the following to share regarding her candidacy for the position.

THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT I BRING TO THE BOARD:

I am an experienced elementary, middle school, and homeschool teacher and hold an elementary and K-12 ESL teaching license. I am also the parent of five children, two of whom attend Spectrum, as well as a child with special needs.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

I have an educational background and am familiar with current educational trends and topics.

OPPORTUNITIES I ENVISION FOR SPECTRUM AND HOW I WILL HELP FACILITATE THIS VISION:

My desire is to have a voice in the selection of curriculum, as well as helping to set policy for the school.

Thank you to all who expressed an interest in serving Spectrum as a member of its Board of Directors. Having a strategic board ensures that the school will continue to grow and thrive into the future.

Social Media Partnership



Julie Johnson
Communications and
Technology Manager



Clint Haley
Communications Specialist
and Technical Director

Especially during these unprecedented times, social media has proven to be an excellent way to remain connected, and is one of the avenues in which Spectrum has chosen to invest as it strives to maintain strong connections with its families and the community. This spring, the school renewed its partnership with #SocialSchool4EDU, a social media company whose focus is to provide full social media management and to personally coach social media teams and individuals. They will continue to manage the school's social media as they guide and assist Spectrum in telling its story through the celebration of student achievement.



Some fun facts about Spectrum's social media platforms to date:

- Average monthly Facebook reach is 7,189 people per month!
- 1,590 people have liked Spectrum's Facebook page.
- Top Facebook posts:
 - 11/11 | Veterans Day Virtual Ceremony
 - 1/21 | Hockey rink open to the public.
- Spectrum's Twitter account has 74 followers
- Spectrum's Instagram account has 458 followers

**Stats from Nov. 2020-Jan. 2021*

Spectrum SOCIAL MEDIA



What: Spectrum High School is growing our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube channels.

Why:

1. Celebrate our students
2. Keep parents, students, community, and alumni in the loop on what is happening at our schools
3. Promote events and share information like concerts, no school, or fundraiser reminders
4. Build an ongoing conversation of the positive impact our school is making in the lives of our students!

What do I need to do?

- If you are on these social media sites – follow us!
- Help promote the pages to your family and friends.
- If you aren't on these sites, please consider joining.

Note: The school will continue to provide communication through traditional channels.

SPECTRUM ATHLETICS

UPDATE

Spectrum Athletics Spring into Summer



Bursting through the shadow of a pandemic, spring athletes at Spectrum displayed remarkable resilience on and off the field. Adjusting to COVID guidance and ever-changing schedules; academic and all-conference awards were plentiful in baseball, golf, softball, and track & field.

A special highlight this spring was hosting a Junior Varsity and 6th grade Track & Field meet. Even though Spectrum is accustomed to hosting meets, it has always had to do so at rented facilities rather than its own for a variety of reasons. However, this event was held at the Spectrum Athletic Complex and was the first-ever meet to be held on its own practice track. Participants from five schools competed in running, throwing, and jumping events, and over twenty 6th grade students from Spectrum got their first taste of competing in a track meet!

The Varsity Track & Field team also made their competitive mark this spring. 25 athletes qualified to participate in the section meet and 12 went on to represent Spectrum at the state meet: 8 individual events and 2 relay teams. Congratulations to the entire team and to those who went onto state competitions!

Over the summer, Spectrum is offering an active slate of camps and practices. Camps include Cross Country, Strength & Conditioning (football and non-football), Volleyball, Basketball, Dance Team, Wrestling, and Baseball.



The FALL SPORTS MEETING will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 9. This meeting is required for all students (and at least one parent) who are interested in Cross Country, Football, Soccer, or Volleyball. The fall season for each sport begins on Monday, August 16.

Lastly, some important new hire information to be shared. First, Melanie Aeshliman has been hired as Activities Coordinator. Melanie has been the dance team coach for the past four years and will have a significant role in leading and supporting non-athletic activities, game workers, and middle school sports.

Joining our coaching team this fall will be our new boys' soccer coach, Austin LeBrun. Coach LeBrun has hit the ground running and already begun to lead informal practices for boys interested in soccer.

Best wishes to all for a fun and safe summer!

Rick Peterson
Activities Director



2021 Spectrum Summer Athletic Camps include:

- *Cross Country,*
- *Strength & Conditioning (football and non-football),*
- *Volleyball,*
- *Basketball,*
- *Dance Team,*
- *Wrestling,*
- *and Baseball.*



SPECTRUM HIGH SCHOOL

C@SH Course Highlights

Spectrum's C@SH (College @ Spectrum High) highlights focus on some of the course offerings within its concurrent enrollment program, Spectrum's highly qualified instructors who teach these courses, and the university affiliates. Check out the information below to learn more about current happenings within this unique program at Spectrum.

C@SH Multicultural Literature

(Offered in partnership with Pine Technical College)

C@SH Multicultural Literature is a Pine Technical College course; It is offered every other year, and is one of Ms. Johnson's favorite classes to teach. Spectrum's course closely mirrors its sister course at Pine Tech, and Ms. Johnson works closely with Professor Stacey Foster to develop curriculum. A variety of text genres are utilized, and the authors and their backgrounds are diverse (August Wilson, Julia Alvarez, etc.)--but all the voices are American voices. Some of the readings are serious in tone, and some are hilarious. All of them help students learn what it is to be an American.



Pine
Technical
College



Mrs. Johnson
Spectrum High School
Language Arts Teacher

This course is mostly discussion based, so students must read various texts and prepare for class conversations. Students also explore their own attitudes and personal biases, while thinking about societal issues from the perspective of marginalized groups in society. Students write one formal essay in this course, and it's a critical analysis of the themes in a piece of published art and a piece of literature they have read.

This past semester, Spectrum offered two sections of this course. Ms. Johnson stated, "I'm extremely proud of the great interactions and learning experiences we've had. The students do learn from our readings, but they also enjoy sharing their own perspectives on controversial societal issues." When asked to describe the course, students reported that their readings were often "shorter", "thought provoking", and "modern" and that even though they were learning a lot, they appreciated the "laid back" structure of the course and the workload.

C@SH Digital Photography

(Offered in partnership with Anoka Ramsey Community College)



C@SH Digital Photography is an every-other year course providing students the opportunity to learn about camera operations, shooting styles, image adjustments, and correction using image-editing software. During the course of the semester, students also learn how to use photography as a creative tool for self-expression, social exploration, and documentation. Students recently finished researching photographers and their styles as a way to mimic the artist's style and process. Their assignments included using photography as means of inspiring action for a cause and creating self portraits. The semester ended with a final digital portfolio and the printing of their best photographs. Students who are interested in learning about DSLR cameras, photo editing, and developing a personal style of photography as an art form should look into C@SH Photo!



Ms. Kemnitz
Spectrum High School
Digital Arts Teacher

Key Components of Spectrum's C@SH program:

- 25 C@SH courses
- Taught by 10 credentialed teachers
- 3 AP courses
- 4 partner colleges: Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Pine Technical and Community College, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Central Lakes College

College Prep

Spectrum High School College-Level Astronomy Course

A key component of Spectrum's mission is to provide its students with a college preparatory curriculum. To that end, Spectrum offered 25 different college courses for a total of 92 college credits during the 2020-21 school year. Over time, the composition of our college-level classes has changed from being primarily AP courses to concurrent classes, which are taught by our high school teachers on our campus through Spectrum's C@SH (College at Spectrum High) program.

The benefits of this shift are numerous, but one of the primary benefits is that students are able to earn college credit each semester and do not have to receive a certain score on a year-end test to receive credit. One of Spectrum's long-term goals was to become one of a small number of high schools in Minnesota to have enough college credits for students to earn an Associate of Arts degree without ever having to leave their high school campus. To earn an Associate of Arts degree, students must complete at least 60 credits in 10 goal areas. Until this upcoming school year, Spectrum was one class short in Goal area 3 of being able to offer this opportunity to students.

Starting in the 2021-22 school year, Spectrum will be offering a college-level Astronomy class in partnership with Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC). To ensure flexibility in students' schedules, the class will be offered online. In addition, the class will be taught by an Anoka-Ramsey professor, rather than by a Spectrum High School teacher.

This Astronomy class will fulfill the last outstanding goal area so that students can earn their AA Degree or fulfill the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) requirements. The MnTC follows the same goal areas as an Associate of Arts degree, but has fewer credits and is guaranteed to transfer as a student's general elective credits to any school in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The Astronomy class will be open to 11th and 12th grade students who meet the minimum requirements to take a class at ARCC.

Photo by Maarten Verstraete on Unsplash



Middle School students sharing in the sunshine during an end of the year event.

Photo provided by: G. Heinecke

SPECTRUM MIDDLE

SCHOOL Educating Students Beyond Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic

There are few shared societal experiences in the 21st Century, but *attending school* still seems to be one of them. Although, just a mere five years is significant -- that is a student currently in middle school in comparison to a graduating senior -- and that does not even begin to touch on how a pandemic changes everything. While the world seems to be changing at a rapid pace, middle schools continue to be responsive and consistent. Spectrum Middle School aims to do exactly that.

Spectrum Middle School (SMS) educates its students beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. It educates students in general education, students in special education, and students with a 504 Plan. Its students apply their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings and learn to collaborate with their peers, applying this learning to new and different settings. ...but so do all middle-school students that attend other Minnesota public and charter schools. While the curriculum standards (*what* is taught) are the same at all these institutions, Spectrum is unique in how it prepares each learner to be successful.

Spectrum Middle School...

- *fosters collaborative relationships* - SMS is a place where students belong because it is safe, supportive, and inviting. Students have adult advocates, peer partnerships, and both community and family connections.
- *has well-rounded students* - SMS students learn content in an active, exploratory, relevant way that is augmented by technology where and when appropriate. They have a variety of experiences to meet their unique learning needs and experience perspectives of those that are different from their own.
- *students respond to challenges with optimism and open minds* - SMS students are reflective learners that are encouraged to self-advocate. They are empowered to use their voices and to make informed choices, knowing their peers are being taught to do the same so listening and acknowledging perspectives create connections and trust.
- *students are confident in their own identities* - SMS students learn that they have many similarities to their peers but also differences. They learn to control what they can and that conflict is a part of growth; how they respond (above) helps to build the community of learners. Risk-taking and mistakes shape their identities as well because at SMS multiple opportunities and reflective experiences allow students to learn from trial and error while being supported and sharing responsibility in the creation of those identities.
- *students are individually-determined* - SMS prepares its students for high school and college. No one is considered “ahead” or “behind”. Each student is at her or his own unique developmental stage. This is not saying

that rigor is not expected at certain times or levels. In fact, it is the exact opposite: if a Spectrum Middle School student is not prepared for the challenges of college prep coursework, SMS identifies the knowledge and skills still needed and creates action plans to support the student in achieving that level of preparation. As learning is a process and not an event, sometimes these action plans are for a semester or part of a year while other times the plans need more than just a year. By working collaboratively with families, we have found that our students are ready for anything the high school has to offer.

- *students apply what they have learned to positively impact their worlds* - SMS students currently impact the school as well as their communities. They are capable now, and we know they will be even more capable tomorrow. From 6th grade through 8th grade, SMS staff slowly empowers students and a little more each semester, fostering them to become people that help shape the world.

As adults, when remembering back to middle school (junior high) years, content is not typically what comes to mind. So while Spectrum Middle School teaches all the necessary knowledge and skills needed for the future, it also provides opportunities and experiences for trust to be built and memories to be made, well beyond content. Spectrum's aim is to make memories that last a lifetime, so when they are the adults remembering back on middle school, those shared experiences are cherished.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Strike Up The Band!

The Grade 6 Band Debut Virtually at Spring Concert

When students come to Spectrum Middle School as 6th graders they are required to enroll in a music course. The 6th grade beginner band offers up the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Students may choose from flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or percussion. Students in the beginning band start from scratch. They begin the year learning to assemble their instruments and make the initial sounds. However, there is so much more than that. Soon the students are learning to read rhythms and pitches and begin playing simple songs. As the year progresses, the students learn to become more musical by playing in harmony, adding dynamics, and learning various articulation techniques. Pretty soon this all comes together and the students are performing long full-band pieces that culminate in public performances.

(continued on page 24)



Mr. Brunt's History & Technology Club

Photo provided by: T. Brunt

History & Technology Club continue forward!

Spectrum Middle School has offered History and Technology Club for several years now, hosted by Mr. Brunt for one hour per week over a ten-week period. History and Technology Club explores how technology influences foreign policy. Sometimes events drive the need for technology. For example, the failed rescue attempt during the Iranian Hostage Crisis led to the V-22 Osprey, which is an American multi-mission, tiltrotor military aircraft with both vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) and short takeoff and landing (STOL) capabilities. It is designed to combine the functionality of a conventional helicopter with the long-range, high-speed cruise performance of a turboprop aircraft. Additionally, the club examines how new technology presents the United States with opportunities and constraints - including historically, the present, and possible futures. The Club this year started with learning about the United States Marine Corps reforming itself by getting rid of tanks and moving toward more mobile forces more suited for Pacific islands. Most of the content is created upon student request and it explored Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL), strategic bombing from World War Two to present, and the Space Race in the context of the Cold War through the increased privatization of space. History and Technology Club is a great way for students to explore interests not directly found in a course – and, of course, it is a way to make new friends among students who share similar interests.

6th Grade Students Tour Next Year's Building

In a year where almost everything seemed a little “off,” Spectrum Middle School was able to make sure that at least one event was “back on”: The Sixth Grade Information & Tour Event.

With two campuses for its middle school years -- one of only a few in the state of Minnesota -- Spectrum created an event a couple of years ago for current 6th graders to learn about the 7th/8th grade campus. *What's different about it from the 6th grade campus? Who are the 7th grade teachers? What is expected of a 7th grader at Spectrum?* These and many other questions and personal concerns are addressed to help prepare students for success in the fall.

This year it truly became an opportunity for students' voices and choices to be heard, a pillar of Spectrum Middle School beliefs. This year the Student Advisory Crew (SAC) helped design the event, and students also helped facilitate the event as it also included a first opportunity to be student leaders by next year's What I Need (WIN) Leaders as they helped run portions of the event. From SAC's feedback, the day was designed to ensure that all 6th graders learned what they needed to be prepared and confident as 7th graders.

The event started with half of a 6th grade advisory meeting with half of a 7th grade advisory and getting to know their fellow middle school students. They did this through low-risk, team-building, mental-challenges and activities that transitioned to explanations about a typical 7th grade day. Questions from the 6th graders with answers from the 7th grade were addressed so all have an idea about what is expected in the fall.

The event continued with students watching videos of every 7th grade teacher and support staff, so they would recognize faces and roles, which was then followed-up by WIN Leaders providing a guided tour of the building, seeing the main office, cafeteria, lockers, gymnasium, and classrooms. Finally, the event concluded with more collaboration as a team of new friendships with a physical-challenge of playing Capture the Cone.

It was informative and fun, and it provided just enough continuity once again to solidify what is often shared: *Spectrum Middle School is a great place to learn!*



Beginning band end their *Popcorn Prelude* performance by all standing together for the last note.

Photo Credit: C. Haley

(Continued from page 23)

Besides learning to read their music and play their instrument, students become a part of something larger than themselves. They are part of a team where each musician plays an integral role in the music. They learn to listen to one another, blend together, and express their emotions making something greater than each individual. They also learn to appreciate one another's talents.

This past year in the beginner band, there were many obstacles to overcome. Learning to play an instrument during a pandemic had many challenges. In hybrid learning, the musicians played with only part of the class making it hard to learn about blend and balance. During distance learning they had to learn on mute in Zoom meetings. But through it all, the students rolled with it, put forth their best efforts, and came together as an ensemble finishing the year with a fantastic virtual performance that premiered on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, and is still available for viewing on Spectrum's Youtube channel.



Photo Credit: Skylar M.

6th Grade trumpets blast out during the Star Wars performance

L-R: Lola S, Dudley M.

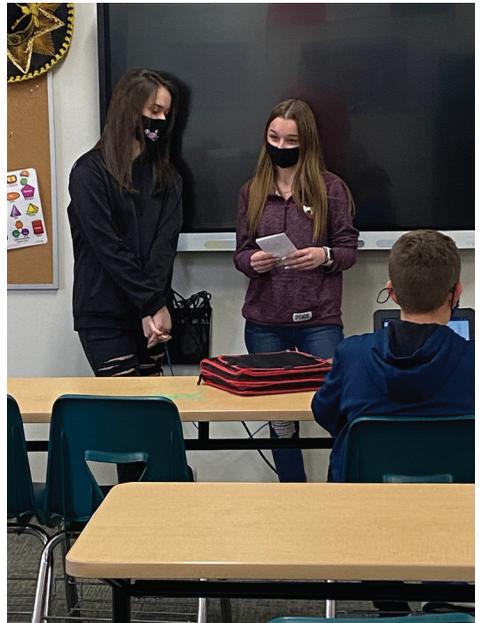
MIDDLE SCHOOL: WIN (What I Need) Leaders

Photos provided by Bridget Strand

A huge thank you and shoutout goes to the 2020-2021 WIN Leaders. Our leaders for the 2020-2021 year were: Chloe Allard, Marin Burg, Lilian Carlson, Leah Carter, Sophia Dan, Holden Dvorak, Elliot Hustvet, Ava Johnson, Brycen Jones, Ashley Kollie, Addie Lazarz, Teddy Mau, Gabby Melgar, Luke Moudry, Meisha Person, Daniel Rasmus, Sophie Schmidt, Sarah Smith, Jacob Tanner, Aislin Tuckey, and Natalie White.

WIN Leaders gained functional professional skills as they started and facilitated online meetings for their 6th grade groups. Leaders also managed and improvised as they worked through technical difficulties with ease and grace. We are proud of both the WIN Leaders and 6th graders for rising to the occasion during this past year and for making the most of it. Our WIN Leaders' dedication and commitment is obvious, along with their resilience and perseverance. Nothing stopped our 8th grade leaders from connecting with their 6th graders throughout the year. Both groups were continually flexible, changing from in person to online and back to in person meeting formats throughout the school year. Despite challenges and change, they were able to build relationships and do some great mentoring with our Class of 2027 6th graders.

It is known that having someone believe in you and support you can make the world of a difference, which is what our leaders aimed to do for our Class of 2027 6th graders. Lessons encouraged functional life skills, social emotional development, and creating a positive school culture. The lesson topics they covered this year were: time management, conflict resolution and communication, circle of control, bucket filling, looking for the "treasure" in others, and the power of words. We are excited to see how the 6th graders build on this knowledge and these skills and continue to make Spectrum Middle School a great place to learn and grow.



WIN Leaders Ava J. and Chloe A. are shown presenting to 7 Grade students while on a WIN Leader Recruitment Day.



WIN Leaders Ava J. and Chloe A. are shown presenting to 7 Grade students while on a WIN Leader Recruitment Day.

An awesome group of soon-to-be 8th graders recently found out that they will be taking on the fun and rewarding job of being WIN Leaders for the 2021-2022 school year. WIN is a program at Spectrum Middle School to help 6th grade students make the sometimes challenging adjustment from elementary student to middle school student. WIN Leaders begin the year by working with 6th graders at the 6th Grade Orientation, which will take place from 9:00-11:30 on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The goal of the 6th Grade Orientation is to help incoming 6th graders feel comfortable and prepared for their first day of middle school. They will be working on some practical skills such as setting up their binders, logging into their Chromebooks, becoming familiar with the learning management systems of Schoology and Infinite Campus, as well as meeting some fellow newbies and building some Class of 2028 spirit. Being able to walk into the first day of

school knowing some classmates and some of the people you can eat lunch with makes for a much less stressful first day. Throughout the remainder of the school year, WIN Leaders will meet with their small groups of 6th graders on a monthly basis during Sting Time. This mentorship has proved very beneficial to the 6th graders and provided a great opportunity for the 8th graders to grow in leadership skills.

LOOKING TO DISCOVER MORE?



Vision Statement

Spectrum's vision is to be a leading college preparatory school of choice committed to high standards and exceptional programming.

Mission Statement

Spectrum's mission is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to successfully navigate the college and career of their choice and positively impact the world around them.

Authorized By Volunteers of America-Minnesota. *Stephanie Olsen, Senior Manager.*

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