

# SPECTRUM

Photo Courtesy of: Sportsline Photography

## *HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:*

- 2023 Graduation Ceremony*
- Spring Concerts*
- Athletic Updates*
- ...and more!*



# THE HIVE MAGAZINE

**Summer Edition**

**2023**

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Photos provided by: Dan D., Kiera A., Katy E., and Clint H.



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## NEW School-wide Events Coordinator



School-wide events are great opportunities for the Spectrum community to come together and celebrate (such as Open House, conferences, the Veterans Day Program, winter and spring music programs, and graduation). Spectrum takes pride in the quality of our school-wide programs. These events are only possible with a lot of behind-the-scenes work done by staff and volunteers and led by our Events Coordinator. In January 2023, Kirsten Tuckey was hired as our new Events Coordinator.

Kirsten is a long-time parent of Spectrum. In addition to her own children attending and graduating from Spectrum, her family has also hosted numerous foreign exchange students who have attended Spectrum. During this time, Kirsten has been very involved, volunteering in many capacities, including for many of the events for which she is now responsible.

## School Board Election Results

The following candidates were elected in April by the school community to serve on the Spectrum School Board for three-year terms (2023-2026):

*Nancy Moe (teacher position)*  
*Joshua Zehoski (parent position)*  
*Cory Taylor (parent position)*

Thank you to all who agreed to have their name included on the ballot. We appreciate your willingness to give of your time and talents to serve the school in this capacity.



## Graduation: A Time of Inspiration



Dominic, 2023 valedictorian, addresses the audience.

Graduation is an inspirational time to celebrate Spectrum's amazing student body and their many accomplishments. The Class of 2023 included 95 graduates. In front of a capacity crowd on Thursday, May 25th, the Class of 2023 was energized by a number of special speakers. Salutatorian, Emily Hattling, warmly welcomed students, families, staff, and guests congratulating her peers on a job well done. Dominic Santa Lucia, valedictorian, inspired each of those present with his real-life examples of overcoming adversity. Spectrum alumni (Lindsay (Bondy) Wiggins (2010), Megan (Bondy) Sahlstrom

(2012), Josiah Bondy (2015), and Travis Bondy (2017) shared words of wisdom based on their life at Spectrum and beyond. While weaving an analogy of plants in a greenhouse, each Bondy sibling spoke about upbringing with a firm foundation, exposure to the elements, and pruning with the ultimate goal of giving life and beauty to the world around you.

Spectrum is well-known for its College @ Spectrum High or (C@SH) program where high school students have the opportunity to earn (up to) their AA degree while remaining entirely on the Spectrum campus. The Class of 2023 had 36 graduates earn 40 college credits each and collectively the class earned 3,017 college credits over the course of their high school career. This is equivalent to a savings of approximately \$1,350,000 in college tuition (based on the average public college per credit tuition). Four seniors completed all of the curriculum requirements (45 credits) within specific goal areas to earn the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum concurrent with their high school diploma. Eighteen seniors earned an Associate of Arts degree (60 plus credits) concurrent with their high school diploma. The Class of 2023 had much to celebrate!



Spectrum's graduating class of 2023 saved over \$1,543,000 by taking advantage of the high school's C@SH courses! Spectrum's graduating class of 2023 had 83 out of 96 seniors (85.4%) earn college credit during their time at Spectrum for a total of 3,445 credits. Based on the average cost of public university credits, this amounts to a savings of just over \$1,543,000 for our students and their families. The following 12 seniors completed more than 40 college credits:

Bauer, Grace  
Cabak, Rayna  
Feist, Giavanna  
Johnson, Ruth  
Kopp, Evan

Matthews, Samuel  
Pan, Shirley  
Pinz, Preston  
Schreifels, Brianna

Thein, Carter  
Wijeratne, Kanishka  
Zehoski, Zachary

Students at Spectrum have the opportunity to earn an Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) concurrent with their high school education. To earn the MnTC, students must complete required course work in 10 goal areas plus earn a total of at least 40 college credits. The following 9 students earned the MnTC earning 40 or more college credits

Chloe Demond  
James Freeby  
Zoe Freeby

Abigail Klingelhofer  
Samantha Neiss  
Noah Raivala

Zakya Siegler  
Sophia Steinle  
Hagan Westermeyer

In addition, students at Spectrum have the opportunity to earn an AA degree concurrent with their high school education. To earn an AA degree, students must also complete required course work in 10 goal areas plus earn a total of at least 60 college credits. The following 24 students earned an AA degree totaling 60 or more college credits:

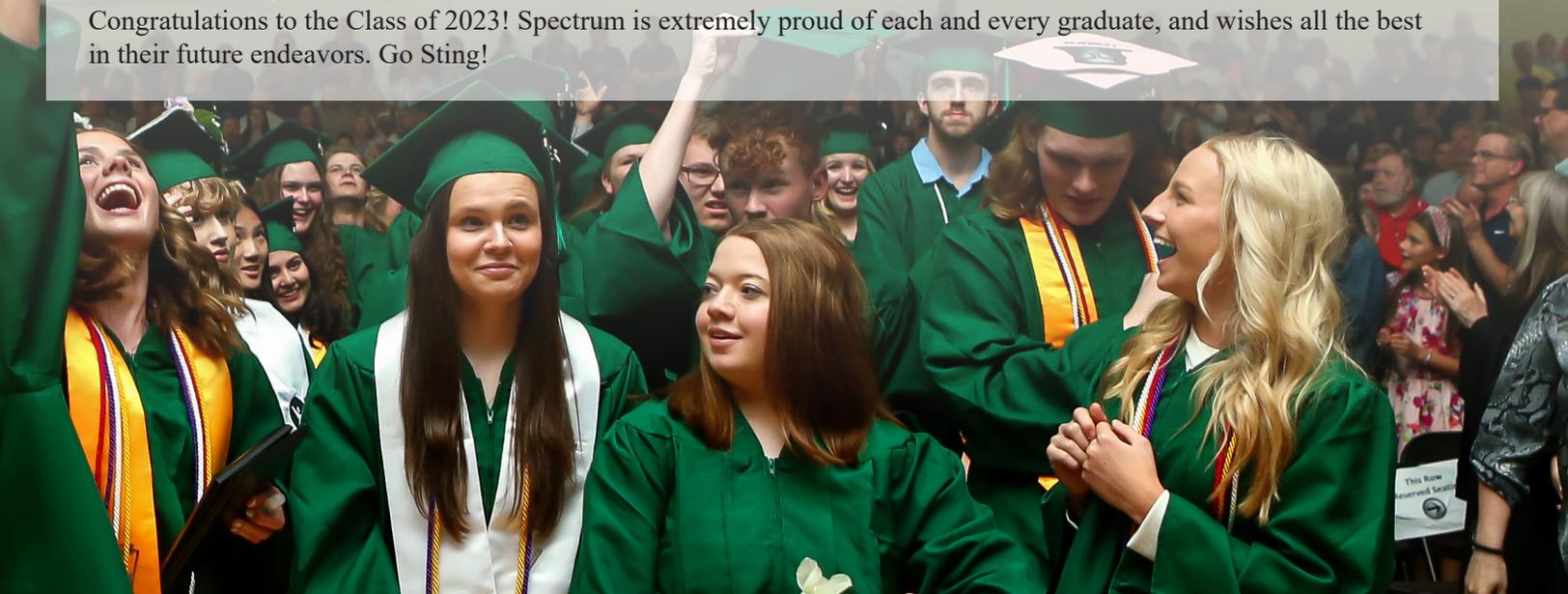
Morgan Alders  
Grace Beck  
Tyler Cerar  
Domanic Dick  
Alaina Dorval  
Natalie Fischer  
Reece Fish  
Emily Hattling

Vanessa Jasso-Hernandez  
Madeline Kleinman  
Grace Knapp  
Katarina Kotek  
Jake Larson  
Skylar MacLennan  
Lillian Marberg  
Mary Moudry

Jaden Nemeth  
Molly Novotny  
Dominic Santa Lucia  
MacKenzie Scholar  
Arona Shaw  
Caiden Tuckey  
Adeline Wells  
William White

Lastly, **Dominic Santa Lucia** was class Valedictorian earning a cumulative GPA of 4.17 through the first semester of his senior year. **Emily Hattling** was Salutatorian, earning a cumulative GPA of 4.14 through the first semester of her senior year.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! Spectrum is extremely proud of each and every graduate, and wishes all the best in their future endeavors. Go Sting!





Connection and organized a supply drive for all. They also worked with the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge by helping to clean up roads and hiking trails. The development of this perspective and the practice of facilitating a service activity prepares students for the Senior Capstone course taken their senior year.

The Senior Capstone Legacy experience is a graduation requirement for all Spectrum students. It serves as the culminating experience of the Citizenship Curriculum. This experience allows students to realize themselves as philanthropists. By establishing a partnership with a community organization within an area of interest and potential career choice, students explore possible service activities that might help meet the needs of the community members that the organization serves. Taking the lead in planning, implementing, and reflecting on the service activity, students are able to gain an understanding of their own capacity for service leadership.



Max V., Will S., and Aiden L. worked together during the 6 Grade Service Project for Ruff Start Rescue.

Citizenship and service at Spectrum go hand in hand. With a commitment to service, community outreach is part of Spectrum's identity. Providing opportunities for Spectrum students to understand their personal capacity as citizens and leaders in the community is highly valued. As the Citizenship Curriculum undergoes further development, Spectrum seeks to partner with additional community organizations and expand opportunities for students to actualize their roles as citizens through service.

Through the completion of the aligned Citizenship Curriculum, students graduate from Spectrum with the competency to become responsible, engaged global citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to positively impact the world around them.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."***

***~ Margaret Mead***

# Spectrum Principal Blogs

Spectrum has bi-weekly communication from both principals that can be found on the Spectrum website!



Mark Leland  
High School Principal



Greg Heinecke  
Middle School Principal

Spectrum continues to improve its communications to ensure students, parents, and staff have access to accurate and timely information regarding all of the exciting events and happenings throughout the school. Spectrum is blessed to have two seasoned communicators at the helm of both the middle and high school programs. In the 2019-2020 school year, the HIVE officially became a quarterly magazine to reach a broader audience. At the same time, both schools implemented bi-weekly Principal Blogs. All Spectrum families receive an email when the blogs have been updated. Information on subscribing to the blog(s) can be found on the Spectrum website at <https://www.spectrumhighschool.org/schools/high-school/blog/subscribe> (high school), and <https://www.spectrumhighschool.org/schools/grades-7-8/blog/subscribe> (middle school).

# Spring Fine Arts Concert Series: Band & Choir delight audiences!

Photo Credits: Carla P. & Grace B.

On Friday, May 5th, the Spectrum Beginning Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Chamber Winds had their 2023 Spring Fine Arts Concert, which was conducted by Mrs. Jean McGorry (Beginning Band) and Mrs. Samantha Pallin (7-12 Bands and Jazz Band).

The Beginning Band kicked off the concert by playing a variety of band music. The first piece they performed, "Embark," was written by a female composer named Carol Brittin Chambers. This piece was significant because it describes beginning a new journey. Students could resonate with this piece because this was their first year playing on an instrument. Mrs. McGorry emphasized that the Beginning Band has had tremendous growth during the school year. They finished off their segment of the concert with "Midnight Suite" by composer Brian Balmages.

Concert Band took the stage and performed a variety of styles, including Celtic folk music, "A Million Dreams" from the movie, *The Greatest Showman*, and music from *The Avengers*.

Mrs. Pallin noted that the eighth grade band was one of the most well-prepared groups at the concert. Symphonic Band started off their segment with a traditional South African song titled, "African Spirit Dance" by John O'Reilly. The next piece titled, "Attack of the Zombie Trombones," featured trombone players and incorporated special percussion and wind effects within the music to give it a more "eerie" substance. The third piece titled, "Circuit Breaker" by Randall D.



Teddy M. performs on the trombone during the Chamber Winds segment of the concert.



Mrs. McGorry conducted each of the Beginning Band selections for the evening.

Standridge was unique because it included a play-along media track. Symphonic Band students had only been working on this piece for a few weeks. The Symphonic Band ended their segment by "Rick Rolling" the audience and performed "Never Gonna Give You Up," originally performed by Rick Astley.

The high school Wind Ensemble took the stage and began their performance with a piece titled, "Chasing Sunlight" written by female Canadian composer Cait Nishimura. The piece featured trumpet soloist, Aaron Daniels. Their second piece was music from the movie *How To Train Your Dragon*, and their concluding piece was titled, "Snake Charmer" by Randall D. Standridge featuring soloists Jayson Morrow on flute, Abbey Kopri on alto saxophone, and Brock Magruder on clarinet.

The Spectrum High School Jazz Band, which is composed of 8-12 grade students, performed three selections. The first selection was a jazz band favorite titled, "Chameleon". Soloists in this piece included Abbey Korpi on alto saxophone, Paul Lemmermann on trumpet, Vanessa Jasso-Hernández on flute, Allyson Barrows on trumpet, and Reece Fish on baritone saxophone. The next piece was titled,



Concert Band student, Musa K., shown playing the tuba to Mrs. Pallin's direction.



The trumpet section of the Jazz Band played it cool during the performance.

“Fly Me to the Moon”, which featured female vocalist, Rayna Cabak. The Jazz Band concluded with a piece titled, “Rockin’ On Top of the World” and included soloists Noah Hertle on electric guitar, Jeremiah Wessling on alto saxophone, Elijah Wessling on trumpet, and Benjamin Russell on drumset.

The final group to take the stage for the night was the Spectrum Chamber Winds. They began their segment of the concert with an old time classic, “Carry on Wayward Son” originally sung and written by the 1970s band Kansas. The second piece they performed was music from the movie, *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Mrs. Pallin took the stage and honored the nine graduating band seniors: Quinttin Berry (percussion), Grady Dahl (tuba), Reece Fish (baritone saxophone), Zoe Holt (tuba), Vanessa Jasso-Hernández (flute), Elle Johnson (trumpet), Abigail Klingelhofer (tenor saxophone), Noah Raivala (alto saxophone and piano), and Michaela Wessling (bass clarinet). Mrs. Pallin also presented three distinguished senior awards. The Patrick S. Gilmore Award went to Michaela Wessling. The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award went to Noah Raivala. The John Phillip Sousa Award went to Vanessa Jasso-Hernández.

Overall, the concert was very successful and it was a great way to end the 2023 school year.

# CHOIR CONCERT

The 6th-12th grade choirs performed at the spring concert on May 12, directed by Ms. Peiffer and accompanied by Mrs. Sundberg. The 6th Grade Choir started off the concert with "Sweet Home Alabama" (arranged by Ms. Peiffer), followed by "Fireflies", "Ubi Caritas", and "Seize The Day!". During their finale, there were solos by Grant Olson, Hank Lorenzen, Piper Johnson, and Nolan Pinz. There were also featured dancers (Makayla Utte, Belle Sims, Jayden Martin, Madelyn David, and Piper Johnson) who amazed the audience with their acrobatic choreography.



Ms. Peiffer shown directing the High School Choir with special features by band students Paul L. and Allyson B.

The 7th Grade Choir also opened up their segment of the concert with a song arranged by Ms. Peiffer, "Best Day of My Life", which included solos from Naty Ozangar, Jayden Westphall, Livi Loosbrock, and Meghan Michalak. After their first song, the 8th Grade Choir joined them on stage for the classic song "Pure Imagination" from the movie *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*. Soloists for the piece included Daisy Haney and Lydia Peterson. The combined 7/8 Grade choirs then sang "Wade in The Water" with a solo by Gavin Oblinger. After a round of applause, the 7th Grade Choir made their way to their seats while Rayna Cabak, Spectrum senior, took the stage to conduct the 8th Grade Choir in their performance of "Mambo Italiano", which had dance choreography participation from the whole choir!

The High School Choir began their portion of the evening with the legendary "Let It Be" by The Beatles with an opening solo by Lyla Glinsek. The High School Choir also performed the timeless "Hallelujah Chorus" and "Baba Yetu", which featured soloists John Fischer and Eve Compton.

Throughout the evening, the all male choir, Harmenix, performed multiple songs, including "Hark I hear the Harps Eternal", "The Wellerman" (featuring solos by Micah Matthews, Noah Raivala, and Brycen Jones), and "I Get Around" (Soloists Domanic Dick, Emery Deusterman, Brycen Jones, and Ethan Schmidt.)

The ladies vocal group, MeLadies, performed prior to the Chamber Choir. The group began with "Will The Circle Be Unbroken" followed by "Cantar!" that included choreography that involved both Meladies and Harmenix members. They concluded with a powerful performance of "The Runner".



Members of Harmenix joined MeLadies on stage for dance choreography during Meladies' performance.



The MeLadies group is shown focused on the direction of Ms. Peiffer.

When the Chamber Choir took the stage, they combined their 16 voices to performed two powerful pieces, "Salmo 150" and "Lunar Lullaby", before all of the choirs joined together throughout the audience to sing "For Good" with Chamber soloists Micah Matthews, Dominic Dick, Preston Pinz, Sage Behnken, Sammi Neiss, Tyler Cerar, Noah Raivala, Megan Davey, Caroline Miltich, and Rayna Cabak. Immediately following this song, there was a senior tribute video presentation displayed on the big screens of the auditorium, showcasing memories of the seniors that were closing out their time at Spectrum. To conclude the concert, the Chamber Choir returned to the platform to perform the dynamic arrangement of "The Awakening".

Spectrum's winter concerts will take place on December 1st (band) and December 8th (choir).



Increased enrollment brings a need for additional facilities to accommodate growth. The Spectrum School Board is actively pursuing additional facilities, including a new field, a field house to be located on the current middle school field, a performing arts center (which would be a conversion of the current high school gym), and additional maintenance and classroom spaces. Long-term plans also include upgrades to the athletic complex.

In the winter of 2022, after finalizing negotiations, Spectrum was able to receive a donation of approximately 4 ½ acres of land located to the west of the high school facility. This land is vital to the expansion of physical education space (to replace the field that was covered by the student/event parking lot in the fall of 2022). Construction was completed in October of 2023, and will be ready for use in the spring of 2024. This will be phase one of the current construction projects.

The plan for phase two includes the building of a field house on the current middle school field, located centrally between the three academic buildings. The field house is intended to accommodate our growing athletic programs year-round, while also providing space for all physical education classes throughout the school year. Current plans include an expanded weight and training facility, an indoor track, and four full-size courts. Design work is under way. Ideally, construction will begin spring/summer of 2024 with completion in summer/fall 2024.

Phase three of the current construction projects will include a performing arts center, which will include a complete redesign and remodel of the current high school gymnasium. This space will greatly expand performing arts opportunities for our students, providing the needed space for our growing band, choral, and theater programs.

Phase four of the current construction projects will include additional classroom, maintenance, and storage space. This will likely include an addition to the high school building, but may also be incorporated into the other phases of the construction projects.



# SPECTRUM

Spectrum constantly looks for convenient ways to communicate to the Spectrum community. One of the ways the school distributes information is through various social media platforms. This allows the school to celebrate and showcase activities that happen around the school on a daily basis. Beyond assignments and grades, the school's social media accounts are a way to keep parents, students, community members, and alumni in the loop on the exciting events at Spectrum. Whether that is promoting events and concerts, sports recaps, or stories of the success of our students, the school utilizes the platforms of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube each week! Discover more stories on these accounts and follow along as Spectrum posts about the ongoing positive impact in the lives of its students!

## How can you join in?

- If you are on these social media sites – follow us!
- Help promote the pages by sharing posts with 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.*



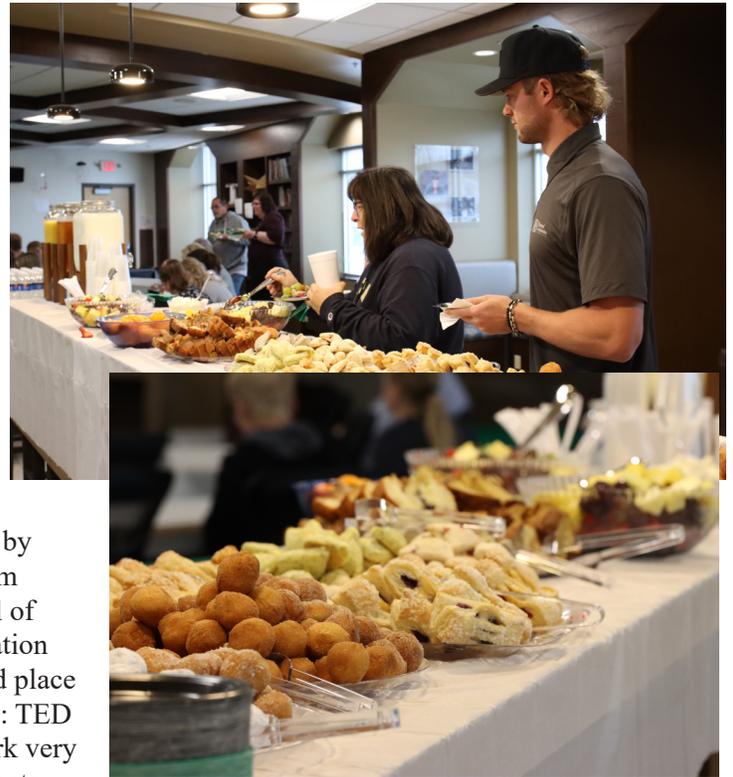


# Spectrum High School Celebrates 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Photo Credits: C. Haley

Spectrum High School continued its partnership with local businesses, organizations, and clubs that offer Spectrum's college-bound graduates with monetary recognition at the annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. The 2023 ceremony, held on May 8th, recognized 19 seniors that received \$13,950 in scholarships! Students, parents, and local community sponsors were invited to celebrate in a uniquely decorated College and Career Center (CCC) to demonstrate the sense of pride as the scholarships were announced, certificates were handed out, and the big check photos were taken. The Spectrum scholarships are awarded through a selection process in which the graduating seniors must complete an application and write an essay describing their personal growth.

The school's Senior Capstone winners are also recognized at this banquet. Senior Capstone is a culminating and exploratory course in which students find their connection to the community by doing a service project with an outside organization. The magnum opus of Senior Capstone is presenting their experience to a panel of representatives from the local community that judge the presentation and aid in the selection of six winners. There is a first and second place from each of the following three types of presentation categories: TED Talk, Traditional Presentation, and Video Montage. Students work very hard throughout their high school careers on their Capstone projects and Spectrum is honored to recognize them.



Breakfast was provided for students, families, and community members at the scholarship awards banquet.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients! The school is proud of each of you for doing your part. Your hard work and dedication have already made a profound impact. As you embark on your next adventure continue to be bold, confident, and strong; for when you do your part the impact will be nothing less than profound. Once again, congratulations! A special thank you to all of the clubs, organizations, and businesses that generously support the Spectrum community and students. Spectrum is grateful for your partnership!

# Senior Capstone Scholarships from First Bank of Elk River

Emily Hattling - \$200 scholarship Video Montage (2nd Place)

Rayna Cabak - \$300 scholarship Video Montage (1st Place)

Grace Beck - \$200 scholarship Traditional (2nd Place)

Giavanna Feist - \$300 scholarship Traditional (1st Place)

Samantha Neiss - \$200 scholarship TED Talk (2nd Place)

Dominic Santa Lucia - \$300 scholarship TED Talk (1st Place)

Tyler Bergsten - \$200 scholarship

Emily Hattling - \$1,000 scholarship

# Additional Community Scholarships

Caiden Tuckey - \$1,000 scholarship from First Bank Elk River

Sage Behnken - \$2,000 scholarship from Lions Club Elk River

Natalie Fischer - \$500 scholarship from Lions Club of Rogers

Caroline Miltich - \$500 scholarship from Lions Club of Rogers

Zakya Siegler - \$500 scholarship from Lions Club of Rogers

MacKenzie Scholer - \$750 scholarship from Lucas Consulting

Grace Beck - \$500 scholarship from Rotary Club Elk River

Nathan Cornelius - \$1,000 scholarship from The Bank of Elk River

Preston Pinz - \$1,000 scholarship from The Connexus Energy Foundation

Gabrielle Kappes - \$500 scholarship from Three Rivers Community Foundation (IF Initiative Foundation)

Grace Knapp - \$1,000 scholarship from Three Rivers Community Foundation (IF Initiative Foundation)

Samuel Matthews - \$1,000 scholarship from Three Rivers Community Foundation (IF Initiative Foundation)

Megan Davey - \$1,000 scholarship from Zimmerman Fire Department



Mrs. Mahrer hosted the event and announced the names of each scholarship.



Attendees mingle over breakfast before the start of the award presentations.



The largest scholarship of the day was presented to Sage B. with Mr. Leland presenting in the absence of a Lions Club representative.

# SPECTRUM THEATRE PRESENTS:

## Roger & Hammerstein's Cinderella



Photos courtesy of: Neighbor Dave Productions

Friday, March 24th, was opening night for performances of Cinderella at Spectrum. Students got ready on the second floor while Ms. Tyler, Mr. De Haan, Mr. Haley, and Mrs. Mehrer finished up the last minute preparations before the performance. Cinderella (Caroline Miltich) polished her glass slippers. Marie (Natalie Fisher) prepared her magic. Christopher (Tyler Cerar) resumed his contemplation of his purpose in life. Stepmother Madame (Grace Knapp) prepared her courageous daughter Charlotte (Megan Davey) while Gabrielle (Lyla Glinsek) fawned over Jean-Michel (Isaac Bengston) from afar.



Godmother Marie (Natalie F. on L) encourages Cinderella. (Caroline M. on R)

It had been a long time coming, and the entire cast and crew had put in countless hours of rehearsal to prepare



for the weekend. - dances were learned, lines were memorized, and harmonies were mastered.

Composed of students from 7th to 12th grade, the students worked diligently, January to March, including late night and Saturday rehearsals. Ms. Melanie Aeshliman, Spectrum's Dance Team Coach, came in during various rehearsals and helped choreograph several large ensemble pieces with the team. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of the amazing parents of the cast who helped out in a variety of ways - from making food for meals to helping at the performances.

When lights came up at 7:00 p.m., all of their efforts came to life on stage in a masterful, funny, and emotional performance of Roger and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Followed by



The characters of the cast gather around during the wedding of Cinderella and Prince Christopher.

*"The bonds that had been formed amongst the cast and crew were obvious to all during these final moments together on stage."*



Cinderella dances the night away in disguise at the ball.

three more performances, the cast proudly stamped their names on an incredibly successful weekend full of laughter and comradery.

The final performance was full of emotion as the theater department recognized almost a dozen seniors, taking their Final Bow on the Spectrum Stage, a long standing tradition developed by Ms. Tyler. The bonds that had been formed amongst the cast and crew were obvious to all during these final moments together on stage.



The cast & crew of the 2023 production of Cinderella.

***Mark your calendar:***

***Nov 3-5, 2023***

***Fall Production***

***March 15-17, 2024***

***Spring Production***

# School Board

## OVERVIEW

Spectrum School Board meetings are held (at least) monthly on Thursday evenings and utilize Minnesota Open Meeting Law and Roberts Rules of Order to complete business. The Board is made up of three parents of Spectrum students, two teachers employed at Spectrum, and two community members. The Executive Director serves in an ex-officio capacity. As elected officials serving the school community, it is important to the Board that Spectrum staff and families remain informed about decisions that impact them. This section of the HIVE is dedicated to updating the school community on the work of the Board. More information on these and other items covered by the Board, including agendas and approved minutes, are posted on the school website [here](#).



## JANUARY 2023

The following items were reviewed and/or approved by the Board:

- The Board reviewed and approved the annual gifts and donations report, which included \$7,336.85 from various sources.
- The Board reviewed and approved the 2024 enrollment lottery results, which included 188 new student applications.
- The Board reviewed and accepted the plan to offer C@SH courses as an online option during registration for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The Board was provided a brief update on the land donation finalization (completed in December) consisting of approximately 4½ acres of land to the west of Spectrum High School.
- The Board reviewed and updated the shared rationale for the proposed key calendar dates for the 2023-2024 school year, including the school's efforts to align major breaks with District 728.
- The Board received a report on the need to replace both high school gym projectors.
- The Board reviewed and approved the revised E-Learning Policy.

# FEBRUARY 2023

The following items were reviewed and/or approved by the Board:

- The Board received information that the recently approved Title IX and Harassment Policies are now being fully implemented.
- The Board received and accepted an update on the food service audit completed recently by the Minnesota Department of Education. Jennifer Russell and Mary Chaffin received accolades for their work to ensure Spectrum remains compliant.
- The Board received an update on the Twin Lakes Road intersection. Mr. DeBruyn and Mr. Peterson met with City staff with concerns regarding vehicle and pedestrian safety on Twin Lakes Road. The police just completed a speed analysis at the intersection at the north entrance to Industrial Circle NW.
- The Board received and approved the Board Elections Timeline (April 18th-21st).
- The Board reviewed and approved the mid-year budget adjustments as follows: student projects from 840 to 855 students and a fund balance projection from 25.4% (\$2,703,370) to 24.1% (\$2,695,387).

# MARCH 2023

The following items were reviewed and/or approved by the Board:

- The Board received an update on the Employee Retention Credit application, which was completed on March 22nd. Spectrum anticipates receiving approximately \$778,000 (one-time funds) within the next nine months.
- The Board discussed having an opportunity for student leaders from the HS (Student Voice Collaborative) and MS (Student Advisory Crew) present to the School Board starting in FY24.
- The Board reviewed and approved the slate of candidates for Board elections:  
Nancy Moe – Teacher Position  
Joshua Zehoski (incumbent),  
Cory Taylor (incumbent), and  
Emily Rugar – Parent Positions
- The Board reviewed and approved the Leave Carryover Policy based on the budget projections and rationale provided.
- After a closed meeting where the Board reviewed the Executive Director, the Board voted unanimously to continue its employment agreement with Mr. DeBruyn for the upcoming school year. The Board praised Mr. DeBruyn for a job well done.

# APRIL 2023

The following items were reviewed and/or approved by the Board:

- The Board reviewed and approved the Special Education Director contract with Indigo for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The Board received an update from Jill Johnson, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, regarding the implementation of a comprehensive plan to ensure all Spectrum students receive life skills training (knowledge, skills, and attributes) prior to graduation.
- The Board reviewed and approved the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar.
- The Board received information about future bonding with Piper Jaffrey (up to \$7.4 million) based on conservative enrollment projections.
- Mr. DeBruyn shared the requirements from the Minnesota Department of Education related to the newly passed free meals program through the state legislature. Since Spectrum utilizes the federal free and reduced program, the school will be required to provide free breakfast and free lunch to all students. Concerns range from loss of revenue due to ordered and not taken meals, to cost for equipping our kitchens (equipment for cold, warm, and dry storage capacity), to lack of funds from the state to cover those expenses, to capacity of catering companies, to staffing.
- The Board reviewed the Northstar FY24 contract, which includes more than a 50% increase for FY24. A decision will be made in May.
- The Board reviewed the proposal and rationale to increase Senior Capstone credit requirements from ½ to 1 credit starting in FY25 (with an elective option offered to students in FY24).

# MAY 2023

The following items were reviewed and/or approved by the Board:

- Mr. DeBruyn shared legislative updates, including the passing of a 4% increase for FY24.
- The Board was reminded by Mr. DeBruyn the potential timeline for construction and bonding. He laid out the priority order of construction and potential timeline: west play field on newly donated property (summer/fall 2023), field house on MS field (spring/summer 2024), performing arts center in current HS gym (fall/winter 2024). Other pieces to the project (dependent upon construction costs and approved bond numbers) may include a track at the athletic complex, additional classroom space, and maintenance space.
- The Board reviewed the feedback provided by reviewers and approved multiple high school textbooks for AP Biology, American Government, Modern World Civilizations, Microeconomics, and AP Human Geography. Mr. DeBruyn shared financial concerns with digital resources costing up to three times as much over the course of 10 years. In most cases, the Board agreed that hard copy resources would be purchased.

# MAY (Cont.) 2023

The following items were reviewed and/or approved by the Board:

- The Board discussed the budgetary impact and determined to move forward with the FY24 Northstar Contract, which includes close to a 50% increase.
- The Board reviewed the audit service proposals for FY23 and chose to proceed with the bid from Schlenner Wenner based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.
- Mr. DeBruyn expressed appreciation to the Board for their ongoing approval of the Longevity Pay Policy. The total payout for FY23 will be around \$11,500. Mr. DeBruyn acknowledged the following employees and expressed appreciation for their service to Spectrum.
- Celebrating **5 Years** of Service
  - Nicole Beehler (Teacher)
  - Corey Brooks (Teacher)
  - Bret Brown (Custodian)
  - Sara Burfeind (Health/Attendance Clerk)
  - Melissa Guse (Paraprofessional)
  - Nancy Houghtelin (Custodian)
  - Erika Kelly (Coach)
  - Susan Ingham (Paraprofessional)
  - Jill Johnson (Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction)
  - Abby Lerom (Teacher)
  - Billi Jo Mehrer (College and Career Coordinator)
  - Kim Pooley (Paraprofessional)
  - Dan Roddin (Teacher)
  - Christy Siegel (Registrar/Office Manager)
  - Nicole Waggoner (Coach)
- Celebrating **10 Years** of Service
  - Cathy Durkot (Office Manager/State Report Coordinator)
  - Clint Haley (Media Technician)
  - Julie Johnson (Technology Integration Specialist)
  - Kathy Tyler (Teacher)

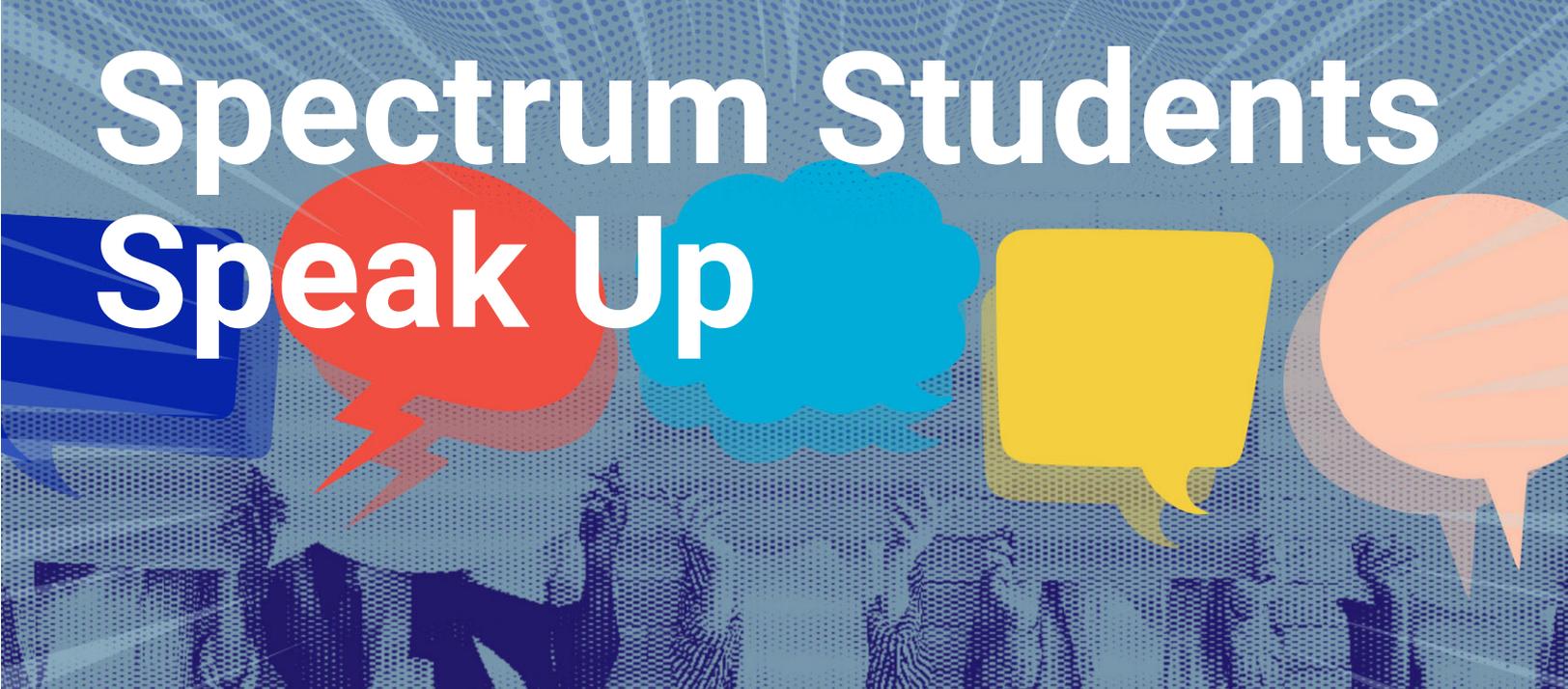
# 2023 Survey RESULTS ARE IN!



Each year, Spectrum surveys students, parents, and staff to gather feedback on different areas throughout the school. A summary of the results helps administrative staff and the School Board to set goals for ongoing focus in the upcoming school year.

2022-2023 Spectrum Climate Survey Results		
	90-100% Agreed or Strongly Agreed	Areas for Continued Focus
Parents/Guardians	<p>The top five reasons parents/guardians continue to choose Spectrum: small school population; small class sizes; high academic standards; high behavioral standards; and college courses offered on campus.</p> <p>Spectrum parents/guardians highlighted the following areas as strengths (90-100%): Spectrum provides opportunities that support college readiness; Spectrum offers learning opportunities through technology, Spectrum maintains a safe learning environment; and students receive a quality education at Spectrum.</p>	<p>Areas for continued emphasis in the 2023-2024 school year may include the following: seeking ways to continue meeting the personal needs of students and staff availability for parent feedback.</p>
Staff	<p>Spectrum staff highlighted the following areas as strengths (90-100%): They enjoy working at Spectrum; Spectrum provides the technology needed to integrate technology into the classroom; Spectrum maintains a positive reputation in the community; Spectrum provides a quality education, Spectrum staff and teachers are respectful to students; and Spectrum meets their expectations regarding facilities that contribute to a safe learning environment.</p>	<p>Areas for continued emphasis in the 2023-2024 school year may include the following: continuing to seek opportunities for gathering feedback; continuing to seek effective ways to communicate work-related information; and continuing to seek effective ways to gather information on job/resource needs throughout the school.</p>
Middle School Students	<p>Spectrum Middle School students highlighted the following areas as strengths (90-100%): teachers explain expectations for their classes; students treat adults with respect; Spectrum is a safe place to learn; students respect school property; and teachers use current technology to help them learn.</p>	<p>Areas for continued emphasis in the 2023-2024 school year may include the following: finding additional ways to encourage students to stay organized; continuing to make connections with students and responding to student needs; and continuing to consider student feedback through Student Advisory Crew.</p>
High School Students	<p>Spectrum High School students highlighted the following areas as strengths (90-100%): teachers use a variety of teaching methods and learning activities; Spectrum provides challenging curriculum and learning experiences; teachers clearly explain expectations; teachers are willing and available to help when needed; Spectrum is a safe place to learn; and Spectrum provides them with access to counseling and college and career planning.</p>	<p>Areas for continued emphasis in the 2023-2024 school year may include the following: continue to encourage students to treat each other with respect; increasing extracurricular opportunities; and seeking student feedback through Student Voice Collaborative (SVC).</p>

# Spectrum Students Speak Up



Research has shown that students who are provided leadership opportunities are more engaged in their learning communities, in learning, and in sharing leadership opportunities with others. They will develop confidence, advocacy and leadership skills, engage more deeply in their learning, and achieve at higher levels. Throughout the school year, Spectrum students are given many opportunities to speak on ways to improve the culture around the school. From 6th grade all the way through the senior year of high school, Spectrum students have pathways to help partner with Administration on maintaining a positive culture.

## High School: Student Voice Collaborative

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The SVC (Student Voice Collaborative) is made up of 12 student members, 3 from each grade level; and 6 staff members including 2 teachers, 2 school counselors, and 2 administrators.

The purpose of SVC is to give Spectrum High School students representation in decision making and to provide an opportunity to directly impact the development and improvement of Spectrum High School. One of our long term goals with the students who are involved is to build their capacity in the areas of leadership, citizenship, teamwork, respect, professionalism, communication, collaboration, and representation. Each of our student members were specifically selected based upon recommendations from staff, which was followed with an inquiry session about their individual interest level in joining the group.

## Middle School: The Crew

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When adults take the time to listen, they find students' aspirations and perspectives that can drive schools toward exciting new goals and strategies. And when students know they're being heard, they develop self-worth, engage meaningfully in their own academic success, and become purposeful in their education. This is what is happening at Spectrum Middle School (SMS). During the 2018-19 school year, Mr. Heinecke began a student advisory group, affectionately called "SAC" or "The Crew."

These student-leaders not only grow themselves, but help all students to be heard and feel that Spectrum is a place they belong. Students have shared that they want to make an impact at their school. They want to help make their school better. They want their peers to have a voice through them while sharing their own.

The Crew is 15 members strong, five from each grade, meeting twice a month during Sting Time to discuss how to positively impact the school. They are charged with creating action steps to transform the school. They collaborate with Mr. Heinecke, along with feedback received from teacher-leadership, to decide on topics, on which they ask their peers for feedback. This feedback is brought to the next meeting where action plans are created. The plan's result could be as simple as validating students being heard, students needing more information for greater understanding, or ideas on how to make changes. Examples include how the school supports students in their social-emotional development (topics like bullying or anxiety) or in their academic development (topics like homework or studying).

# SPECTRUM **Extra** **CURRICULARS**



Mr. Heinecke, Middle School Principal, shown congratulating Joseph A .

## ***National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony***

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

At this year's induction ceremony, the focus was on the character trait of leadership. The topic of leadership was addressed by the keynote speaker of the evening, Makayla Harmer, a 2022 Spectrum graduate and former Spectrum NHS Vice President.

Once Ms. Harmer had completed her address to the audience, three current Spectrum NHS members approached the podium to share personal impact statements on how being involved with NHS has changed their lives and others. The students that presented were Marin Burg, Vanessa Jasso-Hernandez, and Sophia Brentson.

# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The following 15 individuals were inducted into Spectrum's NHS:

Henry Boese, 9th  
Lillie Danis, 9th  
Emily Ecklund, 9th  
John Fischer, 9th  
Lyla Glinsek, 9th  
Danica Orth, 9th  
Makayla Taylor, 9th  
Edward Truwe, 9th  
Addison Wallschlaeger, 9th  
Saeran Whitney, 9th  
Arey Craft, 10th  
Sylvia Navratil, 10th  
Jacob Tanner, 10th  
Connor Bakken, 11th  
Abbey Korpi, 11th



Dominic Dick, senior, shown lighting one of the candles that represents a pillar of the NHS.

In addition to the NHS inductees, Mr. Heinecke presented on behalf of Ms. Katie Paxson for the induction of the following National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members at the ceremony:

Jacob Edgar, 6th  
Arianna Hymes, 6th  
Livia Oblinger, 6th  
Mackenzie Wilson, 6th

Joseph Ambrose, 7th  
Micah Philstrom, 7th

Rebecca Anderson, 8th  
Andrea Lingbeek, 8th

Ava Meyer, 8th  
Mirani Muor, 8th

Payton Sando, 8th



*2023-2024 (non-athletic) Extra Curricular Activities include:*

- *Art Club*
- *Chess Club*
- *Quiz Bowl*
- *Robotics*
- *Prom Committee*
- *Speech Team*
- *Theatre*
- *Student Council*
- *National Junior Honor Society*
- *National Honor Society*
- *AND MORE!*

# SPECTRUM ATHLETICS

## UPDATE *Summer Camp Excitement!*

Spectrum offers a wide range of athletic camps throughout the summer. There were 13 different camps in 2023. Spectrum had some new faces at camp this summer. Dave Hamlin is the new high school football coach. Dave led both of the high school football practices and middle school football practices with the help of his coaching staff. Faith Faatz, the new head coach for boys soccer, led the Boys Soccer Technical Training camp. Scott Baldwin supervised Spectrum's Speed and Strength summer camp. In addition, for the first time ever, Spectrum offered a Track and Field Speed and Jump camp led by Seton Foster.



Volleyball players practiced drills and team-building exercises.



Sting athletes shown on the baseball field.

*"It's not about the number of hours you practice, it's about the number of hours your mind is present during the practice."*

**Kobe Bryant,  
NBA Basketball  
Player**



A rotation of shooting is shown by the boys' basketball team.



Soccer camps prepared students for the fall season!



The summer sun didn't stop the Sting athletes from getting on the track.

Photos provided by R. Peterson & K. Erdmann

# Spectrum ATHLETICS



Let's

Let's

Athletics at Spectrum has been busy on multiple fronts including top team finishes in the MCAA conference this spring, an active summer of camps, the exciting addition of new coaches, and the preliminary planning for athletic and facility expansion.

Let's go



## STING SPORTS UPDATE



Photos provided by R. Peterson and K. Erdmann

The girls and boys track & field teams each earned their 7th consecutive MCAA title in a meet hosted by Spectrum and held at The International School in Eden Prairie on Thursday, May 18.

The softball team finished runner-up to West Lutheran after a hard-fought nail biter of a season that came down to the final game.

The Spectrum summer camp program continues to be strong and growing. Eighteen camps were represented with total participation numbers this summer at 488, up from 370 a year ago. The newest camps include both girls' and boys' soccer.

Also new to Spectrum this Fall are several head coaches. Dave Hamlin took over the reins of the football program. With 30 years of coaching at the high school and college levels, he brings a wealth of experience to the Sting program. His college coaching stints included stops at Macalester College and St. Cloud State University (SCSU) where he coached numerous All-American athletes.



Let's go Spectrum

Girls and boys' soccer also have new head coaches this Fall. Nate Kemper oversees the girls' soccer coach position. Coach Kemper assisted as a volunteer last season and his coaching experience includes seven years at the college level. Faith Faatz leads the boys' soccer program. Coach Faatz also teaches physical education and health and, with ten years of coaching experience, is a student of the game and is excited to bring her organizational skills to the soccer field at Spectrum.



Let's go Spectrum Sting!

Spectrum has begun to conduct some preliminary planning that may include projects such as a fieldhouse, fine arts center, additional classroom space, physical education field, and maintenance garage. "With the continued growth of the school, we are carefully looking at options that will strongly support academics, athletics, and other activities", said Rick Peterson, Director of Activities and Facilities.

Let's go Spectrum Sting!

# SPECTRUM **Extra** CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



## Quiz Bowl Team went to Nationals!

The high school quiz bowl team shown above at the tournament in Chicago.

## TWO COACHES, TWO SUCCESSFUL TEAMS!

The Spectrum Quiz Bowl team looked a little different this past year with two brand new coaches, Mr. Bob Jones and his assistant, Peter Jones. These coaches learned Quiz Bowl on the fly this season as they had little experience with the activity, but that did not stop them from making two appearances at the national level.



Spectrum's Middle School Quiz Bowl team pose in front of a poster at this year's national championship in Chicago.

Spectrum's High School Quiz Bowl team attended the national championship April 28-30 and finished with a 6-7 record. They did very well for a 10th grade and younger team. There is fantastic competition at the National Quiz Bowl Tournament. Spectrum can be proud that this team absolutely held their own.

Spectrum's Middle Quiz Bowl team had their national championship May 12-14 and finished with a record of 4-4 in tournament play. At Nationals, there were four Minnesota teams that qualified for Nationals and all attended as part of the 160 team field. Spectrum finished ahead of all the Minnesota teams in the final rankings based on games won and total points earned.

## FORMATION OF ROBOTICS & SPEECH TEAMS

Spectrum is excited to announce the formation of a Robotics team and Speech team. Both of these activities will align with the Minnesota State High School League, which gives our student body more opportunities to explore different types of extracurricular activities in an organized and studied way. The Robotics team will be led by Mr. Jamie Linn who has ample knowledge with engineering, lasers, and robots. The Speech team will be led by Mr. Terry Warnke. Terry is not new to the speech community as he has received plenty of awards and accomplishments through MSHSL Speech.

# 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 Wellness for Life

*(Offered in partnership with Anoka Ramsey Community College)*



Wellness for Life provides a student with the tools to live healthy throughout their lifetime. They will know how to assess their own health and fitness and learn about ways in which to improve it. Students apply the results of their fitness training to their final project. The Wellness for Life course allows students to earn their Health credits while earning their PE credits in a self-paced manner.



Ms. Faith Faatz  
Spectrum High School  
Phy-Ed & Health Teacher



**Pine Technical College**

### C@SH Multicultural Literature

*(Offered in partnership with Anoka Ramsey Community 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 background 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.



Ms. Laura 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.

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.

### Key Components of Spectrum’s C@SH program:

- All courses necessary to earn an AA degree while remaining on the Spectrum High School campus.
- 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 Celebrates National Decision Day 2023

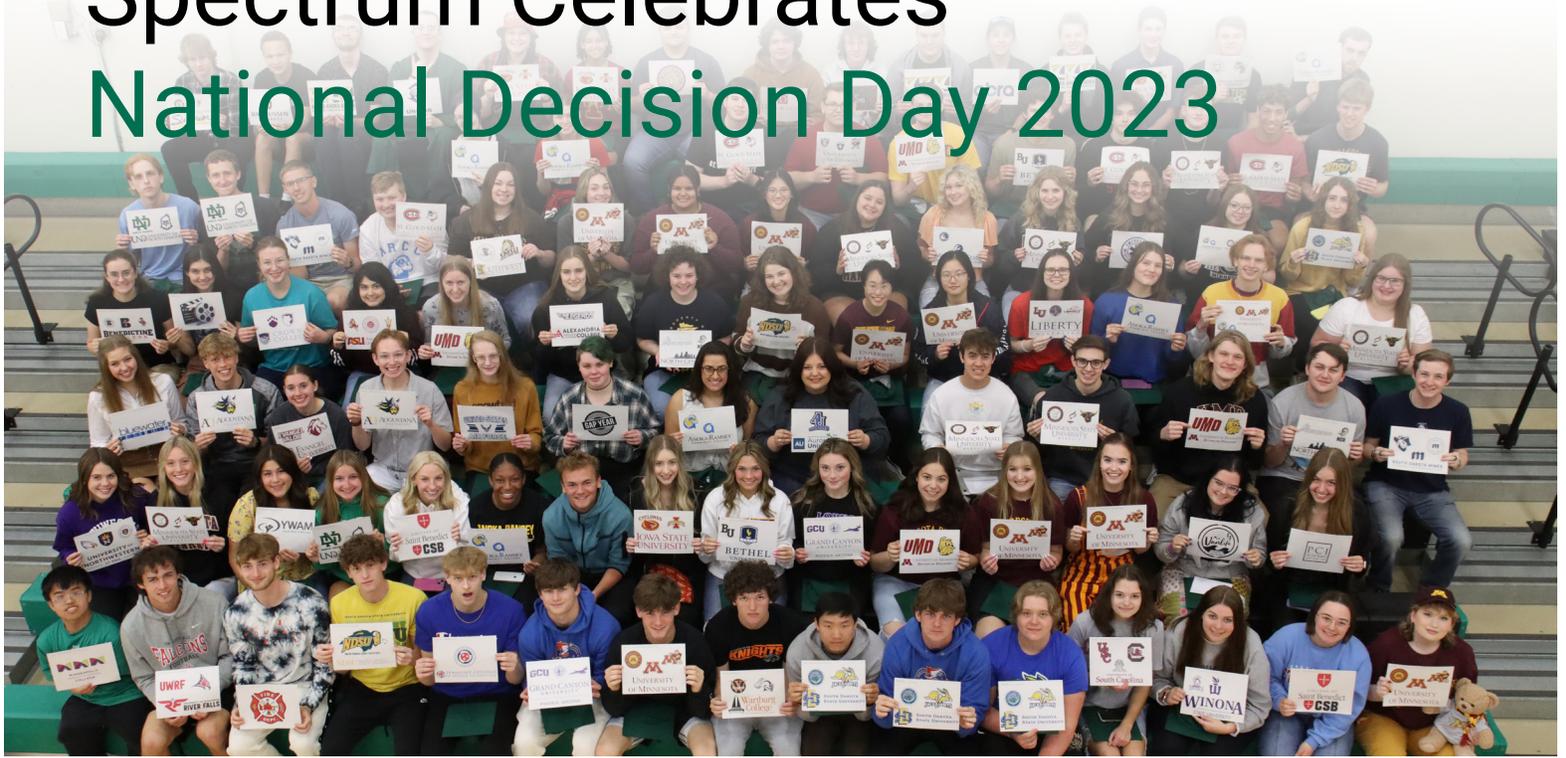


Photo credits: C. Haley

National College Decision Day is May 1, a day when most high school seniors indicate their commitment to attend a specific four-year college or university. In 2023, Spectrum held its own celebration to recognize this milestone on Tuesday, May 9. Seniors proudly wore gear that best represented their decisions – college or university, trade school, workforce, gap year, United States military enlistment, etc. Seniors began the celebration in the high school gymnasium where they were encouraged to take selfies in various photo booths, write thank you cards to staff, sign a class banner, have their professional formal graduation photos taken, and gather one last time for a large group photo. After this portion of the event, they dispersed throughout the high school to present mini-speeches to the 9th-11th grade underclassmen. The presentations summarized each senior's high school experiences along with their future hopes and dreams, including details from the number of years they attended Spectrum; the activities, clubs, events, or sports in which they participated all the way up to their future goals, along with the specifics on how they plan to attain them, what degree they are going into and which institution they plan to attend. The underclassmen were prompted to ask questions, to gain a better understanding of Spectrum's culture of college and career readiness and how to best prepare themselves for success post high school. The success of the event was found in the attentiveness of the underclassmen as they



Groups of students took time to write thank you cards to teachers and staff who impacted them.



Students wait in line to take formal photos in their cap and gowns for graduation.

absorbed all the possibilities that lie before them, and the excitement of the staff to learn of the future plans of their former students. There was nearly 100% participation from our seniors as they enjoyed one final afternoon interacting and mingling with their peers as the page turned to end one chapter and begin the next chapter of their lives!



Students gather around Spectrum's decision table.



# SPECTRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL



Photo Credits: C. Haley

## Orientation Equals Preparation

Every year hundreds of students and their families tour the two Spectrum Middle School (SMS) campuses. SMS sixth grade is one of only three schools in the state of Minnesota that houses just sixth-grade students while the 7th and 8th grade campus configuration is also unique. These configurations allow for many wonderful opportunities in events and programs, creating an interest for the surrounding community members to come see what Spectrum is all about.



All smiles on the middle school phy-ed field during recess, complete with a warm October day!



A group of WIN (What I Need) leaders develop plans to help with incoming 6 Grade students.

Sixth Grade Orientation is an event held in August a few weeks before the beginning of the school year. It welcomes all new learners to the district and gets them excited to start their middle school experience. Eighth grade student leaders give them a tour of the campus, guide them through their bell schedule, show them their locker, get them logged into Schoology with their Chromebook, and connect them with fellow peers so that the first day of school is exciting and a little less scary. This event has become the traditional way in which Spectrum families first become a part of the middle school learning community.

Sixth Grade Orientation had been so successful in making connections and easing anxieties that when the 7th and 8th grade campus opened, it was clear that there should be something similar for when students transitioned to their new building. So the Seventh Grade Information and Tour Event was created. Modeled a bit after Sixth Grade Orientation, this event focuses on the next two years of the middle school experience, helping students be prepared to take on more independence and rigor, yet again being set up for success: *What's different about the 7/8 campus from the 6th grade campus? Who are the 7th*



Students during Sting Time are shown studying for their author's point of view and purpose assessment that will be due in literature.

*grade teachers? How are tests, projects, and homework different? How are classes the same? Which ones are different? What is expected of a 7th grader that is different from a 6th grader? These and many other questions and any personal concerns are addressed in the spring of the 6th graders' year so they are ready to be 7th graders in the fall.*

Besides the Questions & Answers session, the event includes watching videos of the 7th/8th grade teachers and support staff so the 6th graders are able to recognize faces and roles the following year. They have a guided tour of the building, seeing the main office, cafeteria, lockers, gymnasium, and classrooms, all led this time by current 7th graders who have recently been identified as student leaders for next year. They will now Sixth Grade Orientation the upcoming summer and throughout the school year. This model repeats itself as student leaders nurture and guide the incoming grades who in turn will do the same a year later. Friendships grow stronger with their peers and are formed with younger students, creating what we consider is a great community both now and most times when they are all at the high school years later.

Middle school grades have somewhere between 130 and 150 students at each level, and everyone attends Orientation and Tour Event. These two tours are informative and fun, they prepare the students for the upcoming year, and they create an experience that defines Spectrum Middle School as a great place to learn!



## Middle School Spring Athletics



During the spring sports season, Spectrum's 7th and 8th graders are able to participate in the high school baseball, softball, clay targets, and track and field programs. However, the track and field program hosted its annual middle school track meet that allowed students in grades 6th-8th to come partake in the meet. The events that students participated in included the 100 meter dash, 4x200 meter relay, 1600-meter run, 4x100 meter relay, 400 meter run, 200 meter dash, 4x400 meter relay, long jump and shot put. Other local schools attended this track meet, and it gives all of the students an opportunity to test out track and field.

# SPECTRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Middle School Way

The world seems to be changing at an even more rapid pace than ever before. While once a shared experience for everyone, *attending middle school* has grown into something unique to different parts of the country, different parts of a state. As a middle school in the 21st century, Spectrum strives to be consistent yet also responsive to each learner's unique needs, and that is what makes our learning community unique.

Spectrum Middle School (SMS) educates its students beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. It educates general education learners, special education learners, and learners with a 504 Plan. Its learners apply their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings, collaborating with their peers...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, what makes Spectrum unique is in how it prepares each learner to be successful. This can be seen in our middle school belief that:



- *Spectrum 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.



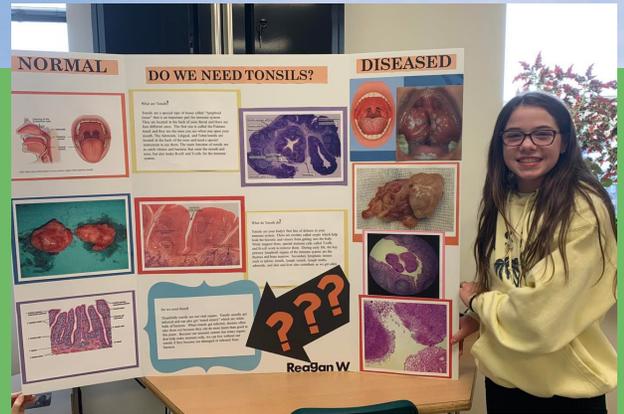
- *Spectrum has well-rounded students* - SMS students learn content in an active, exploratory, relevant way that is augmented by technology where and when appropriate. They have a variety of experiences to not only meet their unique learning needs but also to experience perspectives of those that are different from their own.

- *Spectrum 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.





● *Spectrum 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.



● *Spectrum develops students who are individually-determined* - SMS prepares its students for high school and college. While all collaborate around the same Learning Goals as a whole group, each student is partnering with her or his teacher to personalize a unique learning experience, challenging those who are ready to take that on that next level. Yet at the same time, if a Spectrum Middle School student is not prepared for the challenges of the high school's high levels, 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 at 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 at the high school.



● *Spectrum 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 a little more and a little more each semester, fostering them to become people that help shape the world.

As adults, when remembering back to middle school 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, we also provide learning opportunities and experiences for trust to be built and memories to be made, well beyond the content. Our aim is to make memories that do last a lifetime, so when as adults and remembering middle school, these memories come from shared experiences that are cherished.

# 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.*

Contact us:  
Spectrum High School/District Office  
17796 Industrial Circle NW  
Elk River, MN 55330  
763-241-8703  
[www.spectrumhighschool.org](http://www.spectrumhighschool.org)

**Visit us at:**  
[www.spectrumhighschool.org](http://www.spectrumhighschool.org)