

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Aitkin Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year! We are a school community that provides for the needs of our students Pre-K through grade 12. Our district has 2 main buildings, Rippleside Elementary which houses grades Pre-K through grade 6, and the Aitkin High School which houses grades 7 through 12. We also offer an Alternative School programing for those students who need a different instructional delivery system.

The start of the 2020-2021 school year will look different from other years. We have been working hard to prepare for the opening of the school year. Our #1 priority is to keep everyone safe. We have put into place practices and protocols to help us do that. Just like every other year, the success of the 2020-2021 will rely the whole school community working together and doing what we can to protect our own children and all the families of ISD #1.

As we start the 2020-2021 school year we have revamped our Distance Learning plan from last spring. We will roll it out as our Remote Learning plan. This is an educational option for students who are not able to attend in person due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We will work hard to keep students who need to be enrolled as remote learners connected with the instruction and the learning that is taking place every day in every class. We will have teachers who will be our Remote Learning support team. They will be working with the classroom/subject teachers and helping keep our remote learners connected to our school and our activities.

Our elementary provides many educational opportunities, including art, music, and a science specialist for our students. We also provide educational opportunities through the use of our school forest. We have created an outstanding program using our school garden that successfully brings fresh fruits and vegetables to our school lunch rooms, creating our farm to school chain of produce.

We provide a wide range of opportunities for our students to continue exploring and learning at the high school level as well. Students have the opportunity to earn over 40 college credits before they graduate from high school. In cooperation with Central Lakes College we offer students the opportunity to be a part of Bridges Career Academies and Workplace Connections program. Students can earn Bridges Career Academies honors in Mass Communication/Graphic Design and in Restaurant Culinary Skills. These credits and honors can be earned without ever leaving our High School building. Our high school still maintains an active Agriculture program, with an Industrial Technology program that helps students build additional skill sets needed to be successful in a wide variety of trades. Our high school is on the cutting edge of technology in the classrooms with all students being issued a MacBook computer grades 6-12 or an iPad grades K-5. We will continue to expand our learning opportunities with the innovative use of technology in our building.

Learning also happens outside the regular classrooms. We offer over 18 different activities and clubs, over 15 athletic teams for students to be a part of during their high school careers. The Aitkin Gobblers have a long and proud history of building and supporting our students in the many activities they choose to be a part of while they are a part of programs.

We are proud of the great things that happen on a daily basis within the Aitkin Public Schools community. We are excited to have you a part of it and we look forward to working with you and your

family as you move along the path of lifelong learning. “We believe that everyone can learn and experience success”!

I hope you have a great experience as a member of the Aitkin Gobbler community!

Daniel J. Stifter
Superintendent

We Are ISD #1!