



STRIDE Pride
Newsletter

August 20, 2009

“WE are STRIDE Academy”

Welcome everyone to the beginning of our fifth year at STRIDE Academy, can you believe it? We are making a difference in the educational scene in Central Minnesota. I want to take a minute to say thank you and highlight what we have accomplished. Our enrollment has increased for the fifth straight year with waiting lists in grades kindergarten through fourth grade with only 12 students shy of being at capacity.

We ended 2008-09 with a \$700,000 positive end of the year surplus fund balance even in these tough economic times, and we educated our children more efficiently than all of the surrounding school districts, in other words we got more out of our students in the classroom and we saved the taxpayer dollars doing so. As a result we have been awarded the coveted State of Minnesota Finance Award for the second straight year. We also have been approved for a line of credit to help us through these lean times, which we don't think we will ever have to access.

We were awarded a three year extension by our sponsor, The Friends of Education; to continue being STRIDE Academy and our sponsor supports our Middle School expansion...hint, hint! The norm is to be granted one or two year extensions we received the maximum three year extension by our sponsor. 90% of our students in all grade levels either met their individual RIT scores in math and reading.

We are in the process of developing a middle school and at the time of writing this newsletter are very, very close to sealing a deal for the middle school to break ground by this fall ready for occupancy by the 2010-2011 school year. Move over St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, P.A.S., and other middle schools we are now going to be a force to reckon with at the middle school level.

Our parents put in over 4,000 hours of service to the school last year saving STRIDE Academy approximately \$35,000 in wages with the end product of cleaner floors, whiter walls, and painted walls to make the organization take on the appearance of a welcoming, warm, and friendly school environment. Again P.A.T.H.'s (Parents And Teachers Helping Students) needs any and all of you parents to be a part of their group to create ways to raise funds and provide service opportunities that benefit STRIDE, but also spread the benevolent nature of STRIDE Academy in these Central Minnesota communities. We are defined as an organization that believes in the promotion of the human spirit through service to mankind. To find out more, attend P.A.T.H.'s meetings every month @ 6:30 pm in room 154. C'mon join in and commit to helping with a fundraising activity that supports after school academic and athletic/recreational activities for our students. Luke Lutterman is the coordinator of activities for STRIDE Academy and if you have any questions please contact him at 320.230.5340.

Lastly, I love this school, the staff, the parents, and the children. I hope you know with a certainty that I will do whatever I can do within my power, with the assistance of others-hint,hint,hint, to keep this school flourishing and meeting the goals with the expectation of helping ALL students reach their academic, emotional, and physical potential in a caring and risk-free learning environment.
-Dale Beutel

“To Live, To Love, To Learn, To Leave a Legacy...What will be your legacy?”

PARENT REMINDERS**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:**

All Boys and Girls Clubs will be closed on Friday, August 21st, 2009. Parents will need to arrange transportation on this day from STRIDE Academy. Spanier bus company will not be transporting any of our students to any of the Boys and Girls locations in the afternoon. Please plan accordingly.

For parents who have not paid the yearly school supply fee, you may do so in the front office.

Student drop off is no earlier than 7:45 everyday. When you drop your student, please be sure not to park in the **No Parking Zone**.



All phone messages i.e. student pick up after school should be done before 2:00 to ensure your child gets the message on time.

Students who chose to wear skirts must follow the rule, the skirt must not be shorter than one inch above the knee.

Polos must be a solid color (no stripes) and pants must be the tan khaki color (lighter or darker tan khakis are okay)

If you have received free/reduced lunch in the past, be sure to fill out your new application this year. If you would like to know if you qualify, fill out an application to be processed.

Don't forget to turn in your Silent Auction and Italian Dinner tickets if you plan to attend. If you need another order form, you can find these in the front office.

Students in grades 2-6 will begin the NWEA testing (Language, Math and Reading) next week (8/24/09).

Check out links to STRIDE Academy blogs! Blogs include Mr. U's Corner, as well as blogs for Activities, 2nd Grade, and 6th Grade. Visit strideacademy.org



Parents are the Key

Research has proven time after time that parental involvement is a main ingredient for student success in school. Gone are the days where we send our children to school and just wait for the report card to come home. Parents today need to get involved in their children's education, our kids need to know that education is vital to their future and that we support them. At STRIDE, we have been blessed with excellent parent involvement. If you want to be involved, if you want to actively participate in the relationship between your child and the school, there are some things you can do to make this relationship positive and productive.

Methods for Parents to Get to Know Their Child's School Better (ADPRIMA, 2009)

- ◇ Go to the school; look around, talk to people.
- ◇ Call or write to your child's teachers.
- ◇ Talk to other parents about their experiences.
- ◇ Be sure to read the minutes of the school board and PATHS, which are on the STRIDE website. Take time to read the school newsletter.
- ◇ It may not always be convenient, but try to attend school functions such as open houses and PATHS meetings.
- ◇ Most importantly, let your child see you in school.

How Parents can Help with their Children's Homework

- ◇ There are things you can do that will help your child do assigned homework and that result in learning, which, after all, is the reason for being in school.
- ◇ Communicate with your child about school. This includes talking to him about his friends, activities, teachers, and assignments.
- ◇ Show enthusiasm about school and homework. Set realistic goals for your child, and then focus on one at a time. STRIDE Academy sends home Target Scores for ALL 2nd-6th graders at the beginning of the year. Talk to your child about these targets.
- ◇ Help your child get organized. Break down assignments into smaller, more manageable parts. Set out needed items (clothes, homework, permission slips, etc.) the night before to avoid last-minute rushing around in the morning.
- ◇ Provide a quiet study corner in your home complete with paper, markers, a ruler, pencils and a dictionary.
Never do your child's homework!



- ◇ Check with your child's teacher about correcting homework.
- ◇ Expect, and praise genuine **progress and effort**. Don't praise or otherwise reward your child for doing what you and she know is expected. This practice leads you down a slippery slope, often with really bad consequences for you and your child.
- ◇ Be specific when you do praise something. Focus on your child's strengths in school. Build associations between what is taught and what your child already knows and understands.
- ◇ Incorporate concrete materials and examples whenever possible, especially with younger children. Try to help your child learn about the subject in more than one way, using as many senses as possible.
- ◇ Separate your child's school weaknesses from your child. If your child fails a test, that is all the child fails. He or she is not a failure.

Questions to Ask at a School Conference

- ◇ Is my child performing at grade level in basic skills? Above/Below? Math/Reading?
- ◇ What are the objectives my child is supposed to attain?
- ◇ How do these objectives lead to the overall goal for the course/grade?
- ◇ What achievement, intelligence, or aptitude tests have been given to my child in the past year? What do the scores mean? (Be very specific and be sure you understand completely what the reported scores mean).
- ◇ What are my child's strengths and weaknesses in major subject areas?
- ◇ What subjects do my child enjoy most?
- ◇ Can we together go over some examples of my child's class work?
- ◇ Does my child need special help in any academic subject?
- ◇ Who are my child's friends and how does he or she interact with other children?
- ◇ Has my child regularly completed assigned homework?
- ◇ Has my child attended class regularly?
- ◇ Have you observed any changes in learning progress during the year? Has learning improved or declined during the year?

STRIDE is dependent on parental support. WE need your help in and out of school. Please volunteer at school by calling your teacher or contact Lynn at 230.5340.





