



STRIDE Pride  
Newsletter

Sept. 17, 2009

## [On the Horizon-Middle School Update and Plans](#)

If you have been at STRIDE over the past three years, you know that STRIDE has worked endlessly to find a middle school location and building that meets both our academic and financial needs. This year we are closer than we have ever been. Our goal is to have a middle school up and running by August, 2010. The current plans have been developed and go in front of the city planning within the next couple weeks. Al Keller is our investor and builder. Al developed and built our current location and addition. The middle school site will be in the South Gate area of south St. Cloud (about one mile south of Wal-Mart just past Boulder Ridge Golf Course). This area is the fastest growing section of St. Cloud and the south side schools of St. Cloud are overflowing. The parcel is four acres to begin, the four acres will house the middle school 6th-8th grades and the entire k-8 campus by 2015-2016. The parcel also has potential to expand into a k-12 campus.

The middle school committee has been meeting on a regular basis for the past two years. We meet at 5:30pm before each board meeting. We always welcome the public to join us in these planning meetings. In the meetings, we discuss the building, curriculum, scheduling, course offerings, transportation, activities and everything else that goes into meeting the needs of middle school students.

### BUILDING

The plans are almost complete and available for public view in the school office. The building will be 22,500 square feet to include a gymnasium with bleachers and full court basketball. The five homeroom classrooms will be 805 square feet (much larger than our current classrooms). The science lab is over 1,000 square feet and includes sinks, lab stations, gas and windows on three sides to allow natural light for plant growth. There is a music/art room, boys and girls locker room and lockers in the hallway. The building also allows for future growth of both the elementary and high school.

### HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GROWTH

With the new facility, STRIDE will now be able to grow vertically by offering 7th and 8th grades. The new middle school will host 6th-8th grades. Our current facility will host grades k-5th. The current facility will have two schedules:

1. k-2 (Primary)
2. 3-5 (Intermediate)

With 6th grade moving to the new middle school, we will have room to grow horizontally by adding one section per year, starting in kindergarten. YES, STRIDE WILL NOW HAVE THREE SECTIONS STARTING IN 2010-2011, TELL YOUR FRIENDS THERE IS ROOM IN KINDERGARTEN.



## CURRICULUM AND COURSE OFFERING

Let's be clear, the new middle school will focus on college prep with the vision of ALL students being college ready. What will be offered beyond the basics:

World Language(s)  
Advanced/Honors Math  
Advanced/Honors Literature  
Advanced/Honors Science  
Fitness  
Technology  
Band/Choir  
Media Arts  
Math League  
Student Council

and more depending on student numbers and coop with other schools.

## ACTIVITIES

Research has proven that students involved in extra-curricular activities, perform higher academically. We understand that we need to expand our extra-curricular offerings.

The number of offerings is dependent on the number of participants.

Volleyball  
Soccer  
Basketball  
Baseball  
Softball  
Knowledge Bowl

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be offered to Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud. All transportation is expected to remain the same. However, we are working on one addition. STRIDE is researching a shuttle between the two locations so parents can drop students off at one location and students can be transported to the other location.

## WHAT IS NEEDED FROM PARENTS

1. We need to ensure that we fill the third section starting with kindergarten next year. We have always had a waiting list, thus the need for a third section. Tell all your friends with kindergartners for next year that STRIDE is opening another section.
2. We will need dozens of parents to COMMIT to help prepare the new middle school for the grand opening. May, June and July of next year will be busy and we need your help with moving, painting, cleaning, putting furniture together, installing lockers and much more. Please notify Lynn Imholte at 230.5340 if you can help. Without your help we will need to spend money needed for the students.

Jason Ulbrich, Education Director





### News from the FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

There are many “activities” / upcoming things in the Fine Arts area. October 13 will be the beginning of the extra-curricular choir for STRIDE students in grades 3-6. I have 35 and counting signed up so far!

I am excited to have Piano Lessons for students in grades K-6 that are being offered this year by Denise Bernard. We have 15 students signed up for this exciting opportunity!

The first ever STRIDE Band is forming this year through Schmitt Music’s “Strike Up The Band” program for Students in grades 4-6. Now is a great time to get your child involved in this new and exciting program!

If all numbers hold where they are we will have over 71% of our students participating in an extra-curricular music activity in grades 4-6. That is phenomenal!

PATHS has kindly donated money to a scholarship fund that will be used to assist families who may need help paying for activity fees. While these funds are limited, if you feel that you may need help in paying some of these activity fees please see Mr. Lutterman for a scholarship application.

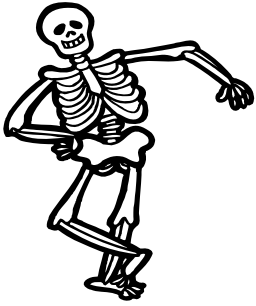
Our first concert of the school year is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15. It will be a winter theme! We hope to have the “New Band” available to play that evening as well.

Charlene Ridlon will again be doing “hands on” art projects with the students this year. She will be in all day on Tuesdays instructing the students on various artistic techniques and projects.

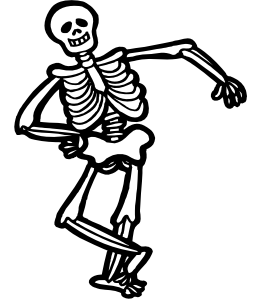
As always, if you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

Mr. Heerts





Hello From Mrs. Larcom's Class!



We have settled in nicely to the new school year and are already flying through September. The students have been working hard at learning all of the rules of our classroom and making new friends. Our Baby basket for the fundraiser is filling fast! In science we have been learning many facts about the human body. The students are enjoying the conversations and activities taking place during our science time. Please remember to check backpacks each evening for homework and to make sure it is sent back the following day. It is also great to see the first graders enjoying the new concept of taking a spelling test. They feel so old!!

Hope you all have a great fall season!

Mrs. Larcom









