



Independent School District No. 51
FOLEY HIGH SCHOOL

"Developing the Full Potential of the Individual"

Eric Inglis, Activities Director

Foley Public Schools Activities Department Update
December 16 , 2024 School Board Meeting

Greetings from the Foley Public Schools Activities Department,

ExCEL and Triple 'A' Award Winners Selected

The ExCEL Award – Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership – is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, leaders in their schools, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to community service. Each MSHSL Membered School is allowed to select one male and one female representative. All juniors at Foley High School who met the criteria were encouraged to apply. A committee of administrators, teachers, and counselors was used to select the Foley winners. From there, the ExCEL Award recipients will be selected by an independent panel of judges from schools throughout Minnesota. Award recipients will be announced via the League website on February 4, 2025. The Foley ExCEL Award Winners are:

- Ava Krajsa
- Noah Brunn

The Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, commonly known as the Triple 'A' Award, honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher-grade point average and who participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities. Similar to the ExCEL Award, each school is able to nominate one senior male and one senior female for the award. The same process for the selection was followed for the Triple 'A' Award. After local selection, Triple 'A' Award recipients are selected through a multi-level process involving member schools of the League, the League's administrative regions, and a special committee of educators, business leaders, and members from the fine arts and athletic communities. Two award finalists from each region (one boy and one girl) will be invited to a recognition banquet in March and League officials will announce the four statewide Triple 'A' Award winners at that time. All 32 finalists will also participate in an on-court ceremony during the Class AA championship game of the Girls Basketball State Tournament. The statewide award winners—a girl and a boy from Class A and Class AA schools—will also receive a four-year \$1,000 scholarship. The Foley Triple 'A' Recipients are:

- Helen Lachinski
- Aaron Vanderweyst



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Weight Room Fundraiser Update

The weight room fundraiser has really started to take shape. A committee has been formed in order to devise a plan to raise the \$250,000.00 needed for the project. The group met and generated a list of companies, local businesses, and individuals to approach regarding donations. We are also in the process of creating a unified approach to help deliver a consistent message when seeking donations. In addition to donations, several grant opportunities have been explored and applied for. The largest of these grants is for \$40,000.00 through the Bernick Family Foundation Grant. This Grant is awarded to local communities that fit the following criteria:

- Youth and Education: Support of activities that help prepare students for future success in education and the workplace
- Youth Health and Fitness: Support of youth activities that address active lifestyles

The weight room remodel project definitely checks these boxes. The decisions for Grant Funding will be made by mid January.

Granite Ridge Conference Coaching Summit

The Granite Ridge Conference held its second Coaching Summit in two years with all Coaches and Advisors from each member school to discuss all MSHSL offered activities. The goal of the Summit is to network with other coaches/advisors and review the Granite Ridge Conference Handbook for each respective activity. Coaches/Advisors make suggestions and changes to the handbook which are ultimately reviewed by the Activities Directors. These suggestions will be reviewed at the monthly Granite Ridge Conference Activities Director Meetings in January, February, and March.

Granite Ridge Conference - C-Squad Girls Basketball

The decision was made by the Granite Ridge Conference to not hold any C-Squad Girls Basketball games for the entire Conference prior to Winter Break. The decision is a reflection of a statewide trend of declining participation in girls basketball. Each school will re-evaluate their participation numbers after Winter break and determine if supplementing with 8th grade players will allow for reinstating C-Squad Games. The Foley Coaching Staff along with the Activities Director will make this determination for Foley and will consider the best interest and long term success of the program when making this decision.

Thank You,
Eric Inglis