



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

# Hastings Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200  
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## March 25, 2026 Student Representative Reports

Jen Behnke

### Hastings Middle School

- **Level Up Awards**

As per usual, just at the end of last month, many students and staff were awarded Level Up Awards. These recognitions highlight students and staff who have shown growth while living out the Raider Way—being safe, respectful, and responsible each day.



- **Maud Hart Lovelace Award Participation**

This year, students have the opportunity to participate in the Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award program. An engaging reading experience that puts students in the role of readers and voters! To be eligible to vote, students must read or listen to at least three nominated books.

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- **Minnesota Youth Art Month Exhibition**

Each year, our state celebrates student artists by hosting the Minnesota Youth Art Month Exhibition. 3 students from Hastings placed in the top 5! This is the first time HMS has had multiple students at State, and teachers are so incredibly proud of them!

- **MCA Testing**

Spring brings the season of state testing! Students have been preparing for MCA tests that will take place later in the school year.

- **7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert**
- **5th & 6th Grade Dance**
- **Spring Sports**



Shyla Henson

## Kennedy Elementary

- Kennedy Cougar PTA Steam Night!
  - Thursday, March 26th, 5:30-7:30 PM

KENNEDY COUGAR PTA  
**STEAM NIGHT**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26  
5:30-7:30 PM

FREE PIZZA  
STARTING @  
6:15 WHILE  
SUPPLIES LAST

Mark your calendars  
and join us for a fun night of  
**Science Technology  
Engineering Art & Math**  
Sponsored by the Kennedy Cougar PTA &  
AAUW Hastings Branch

**Volunteers**  
In order to make this fun night  
happen, we need volunteers!  
Please use this link or scan the QR  
code to sign up:  
<https://tinyurl.com/btej8e5m>

**Makers Space Donations**  
We are looking for household material donations! Please do not purchase  
supplies, but if you have any of the following items around the house,  
please consider contributing these for our family STEAM night. Please make  
sure any items you donate have been rinsed out.  
Here are some items we could use:

- Toilet paper tubes
- Paper towel tubes
- Cardboard boxes  
(cereal, packages, facial tissue, etc.)
- Plastic bottles and caps
- Scrap paper
- Egg cartons
- Plastic containers  
(milk, ice cream, yogurt, etc.)
- Paper plates and cups
- Coffee filters
- fabric squares
- ribbon
- yarn

\*Please bring items to the school office starting **Monday, March 23rd**.\*

- Featured Artists for March
  - 3rd and 4th graders created beautiful art work currently hung up in the Main Office



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- Science Museum visit!
    - 2nd graders learned about fossils and the work of paleontologists during the Dinosaur Assembly - hosted by The Science Museum
  - “I Love to Read” month special guests
    - In February, “Secret Readers” came to classrooms and read with students!



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## Tilden

- At the start of March, Hastings High School College Child Development & Psychology students visited the preschoolers!
  - Connected students across generations and brought learning to life
- The high schoolers prepared for their preschool visit by learning with a children's librarian
  - Shared tips and tricks for reading with the preschool students
  - Applied the learned knowledge during their visit to Tilden



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**Avery Durfee**

## **McAuliffe Elementary**

- March 6th: Kindergarten Classes were visited by Megan from the Pleasant Hill Library
- March 9th: McAuliffe Eagle Choir performed at the Orchestra Children's Concert at HHS
- March 10th: STEM Night was held at McAuliffe featuring The Works Museum and sponsored by AAUW
- March 11 - 12th: Exploradome from the Bell Museum visited McAuliffe K - 4th grade
- March 13th: 1st Grade Field Trip to SeaLife
- March 26th: Kindergarten Pioneer Visit, (Gwen Bailey from LeDuc Mansion/Historical Society doing a presentation about life as a pioneer)

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## Pinecrest Elementary

- **March 2** - MN author Stephen Shaskan visited Pinecrest. Students had the opportunity to pre-order books, and the author signed them.
- **March 4** - Pinecrest PTA hosted STEAM Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)



- **March 13** - Pinecrest Tropical Day, where students and staff wore tropical gear
- **March 13** - Reading classroom mix-up, where Pinecrest classrooms traveled to a different teacher for read-aloud time
- **March 30** - CLIMB Theatre will be joining Pinecrest for whole group plays
- **March 31** - CLIMB Theatre will be joining Pinecrest for individual class plays
- **March 31** - Pinecrest PTA will host Culver's night, a fundraiser to raise money for family events throughout the year (conference and teacher appreciation meals, purchase of 4th-grade t-shirts, etc.)

Aidan Suarez Garcia

## Hastings High School

This month, the High School has more going on than I thought it would, thanks to an amazing spring break! To jump right in, the High School hosted the Polar Plunge. If you do not know, the Polar Plunge is a fundraiser to support Special Olympic athletes. Students, teachers, and other staff participated in jumping into frigid waters for this cause. To “hype up” the students for the Polar Plunge, there was a pepfest where everyone got to hear Mr. Fairbanks’s fabulous singing as he performed “Let It Go” from Frozen as punishment for losing a bet with Mrs. Jonas. This bet was for whoever raised less money had to sing. Overall, this was a great day, fundraising for an even better cause.

Winter sports have all come to an end, but with every closing door, a new one opens. Next Monday marks the day that all spring sports are underway. With sports such as track, tennis, baseball, softball, golf, and lacrosse. Also, the 4th annual Raiders Sports Awards is coming up on Monday, May 4, where teams, coaches, alumni, and over 100 individual student-athletes will be recognized, and Adam Gerlach ('99) is the alumni guest speaker.



Relating to sports, FCA or Fellowship of Christian Athletes had their annual night at Feed My Starving Children. This was a great opportunity where students were able to pack meals for children all across the world to help the cause of ending world hunger. As a group, students packed a total of 141 boxes of food or 30,456 meals, which will be able to feed 83 kids every day for a year. Honestly, this was a great opportunity that FCA will continue to do.

Music, as always, was very busy. There were a multitude of concerts throughout the entire music department. The orchestra had their concert on March 9th, where they had the High Schools Orchestra along with the Spiral Singers and the McAuliffe 4th-grade singers. Where the Orchestra and Choirs sang and played together, creating wonderful music. Also, the orchestra played background music while a narrator read a superhero book, and community members and even some board members played important acting roles. Then, next Tuesday night, the High School has a choir concert where all levels will sing.





The Show Choir had an amazing season and ended up getting 2nd place at Heart of America on our trip down to Nashville, staying at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. This trip was the height of the season, and being able to go on a trip like this with friends and family was a great experience. With activities such as walking downtown Nashville, performing, visiting the Ryman Theater, visiting the Opry and standing on its stage, and visiting many museums, where my favorite was the Museum of African American Music. In all, Riverside and Dynamic had wonderful seasons, and I hope for many more.



## ALP

Quarter 3 is wrapping up with a variety of engaging learning experiences. In Ms. Butler's FACS class, students practiced reading recipes, measuring ingredients, and cutting vegetables, with hands-on cooking to finish the course. Mr. Waage's Space Science class explored planets by modeling the solar system. Students also heard from a Minnesota North College representative about diverse career paths, with more guest speakers planned for April and May. Meanwhile, Hastings Online Academy continues to expand, now serving over 125 students, including full-time and part-time/dual-enrolled learners.