

**"Sun Dog on a chilly morning at HVED"**

We've had a few chilly mornings in the last week or so. Mike Klausman, River Valley Academy ALC Teacher, just happened to catch this visual effect one morning and shared this beautiful photo with staff. Thanks, Mike!

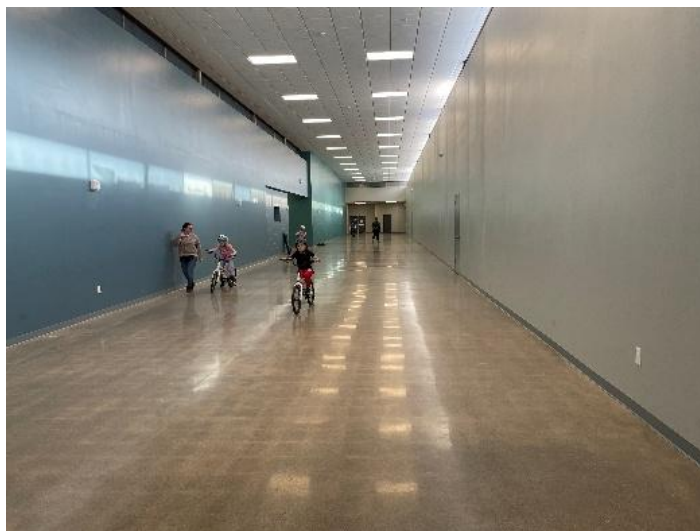
**Strategic Plan Oversight Committee (SPOC) and Strategic Plan Action Committee (SPAC) Spreadsheet to Share**

The SPOC and SPAC Committees have invited member district Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Staff, and charter school leaders and special education staff, together with the HVED Board of Directors and all HVED staff to enter information about the good work being done throughout HVED as we focus on the goals of our Strategic Plan and take action to

make our goals a reality. Feel free to take a look just to review the work being done. And you are welcome to contribute your observations by clicking the link below! Information about the Strategic Plan is the HVED website. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18HjJmGYCVXQN6WzZl6rrACrrNxOYzl3fRiKlJp3yec/edit?gid=1873498658#gid=1873498658>

**Wednesday, January 21 is just one example of an eventful day at 1213 Gilmore Avenue in Winona!**

Vickie Speltz, Food Service Director for Lewiston-Altura Schools (above in red), and contracted to serve HVED, provided the hot lunch service training on Wednesday, January 21, the first day for serving hot lunch in our new setting. Jen Ihrke, Program Director (above far left); Michelle Gruber, Human Resources Administrative Assistant (above second from left) and Ann de Zeeuw, SPECTRUM Administrative Assistant (above at right); were all trained on proper food service techniques. And on January 21, 2026 students enjoyed the first bites of hot lunch (at right)! Other students took advantage of the main hall to ride their bikes! And at the same time, crew members from WH&V were on site finishing up details in various spaces.



**FORWARD TOGETHER Grant Apprenticeship Program potential for a new cohort for the spring semester!**

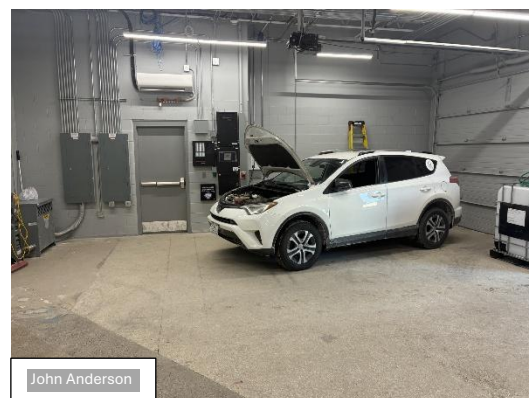
The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million per year (ongoing) for a registered teacher apprenticeship competitive grant program. This program is open to paraprofessionals throughout HVED who would like to work in their current role and earn a bachelor's degree to become a fully licensed special education teacher in EBD, ASD, or ABS through Minnesota State University – Mankato. The cohort for this virtual program begins this fall. If interested or to learn more, contact Deb Marcotte at [dmarcotte@hved.org](mailto:dmarcotte@hved.org) or via text or cell phone at 507-429-1721.

**Donations now accepted for Life Skills Apartment at 1213 Gilmore Avenue**

The space for a studio apartment is ready to fill with donations to make this space as complete as possible for students to practice daily living skills. We need a bed (twin, full, or queen); bedding to fit the bed we receive; a small kitchen/dining room table and chairs; a love seat or small couch and a coffee table. Please call the SPECTRUM Program at 507-452-1200 Ext 3 if you would like to donate.

**HVED General Auto Body Service and Repair**

John Anderson, HVED Facilities Manager, is keen on reducing overhead costs. Inside his new boiler room/garage and workspace, John now has the "ability to do light maintenance and repairs in house" as he took a few minutes to replace a headlight on one of our RAV4s.

**Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS)**

The CTSS program staff is proud to provide spaces appropriate for play therapy (at left), group room (top right), and therapy room (bottom right) for students who receive these services. The CTSS team is operating at full strength with the following staff members: Megan Laskaskie, MSW, LICSW, CTSS Mental Health Professional; Danielle Walther, MSW, LGSW, CTSS Mental Health Practitioner, Clinical Trainee; Austin Heaney, CTSS Mental Health Practitioner; and Bekka Baures, CTSS Skills Worker. Go, CTSS Team, Go!





**The (2<sup>nd</sup>) First Day of School for HVED's SAIL and SPECTRUM Students in 2025-2026**

Monday, January 5, 2026 was the second first day of school for students at 1213 Gilmore Avenue in Winona, MN. The first day in a specially designed, newly renovated, and nearly completed setting. After leaving their school site in Hokah on Friday, December 5, 2025, the long-anticipated and eagerly awaited day was finally here! The whole day was filled with hellos and hugs mixed with high energy and excitement to see their teachers and support staff in their new school at a new site. We'll show off our new spaces here. We will plan a public Open House before school starts next fall.

**SPECTRUM (Specialized Programming, Education, Comprehensive Therapy, and Resources for Unique Minds) Federal Setting IV Autism Program The January Highlights will focus on some of the spaces available**

Students enter SPECTRUM and walk through the Belongings Room (at left) which keeps their coats, boots, backpacks, etc. safe for the school day. Just off the entry is the reception area (at center). When entering this welcoming space, you will be greeted by Ann de Zeeuw, Administrative Assistant. Students use lunch tables repurposed from our Kellogg site in their dedicated lunchroom with lots of space to accommodate all students. This issue is just a glimpse—more to come!



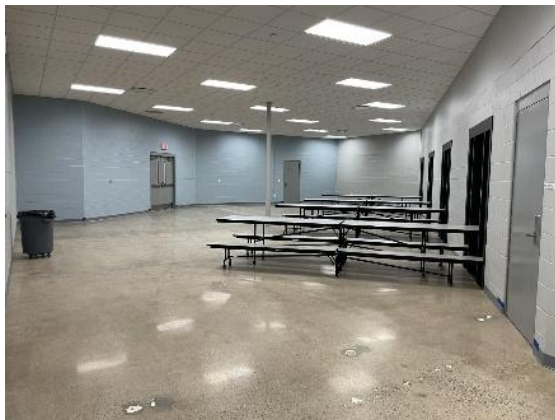
In the SPECTRUM Program, each classroom reaches maximum capacity with six (6) students for every teacher. There are some students that require individualized attention for the entire day which requires additional paraprofessionals. Each of the classrooms has their own bathroom, student sensory room, and staff office attached. The rooms are large enough to accommodate individual and whole group learning spaces, with technology suited to their needs, sensory seating and a swing within the classroom.



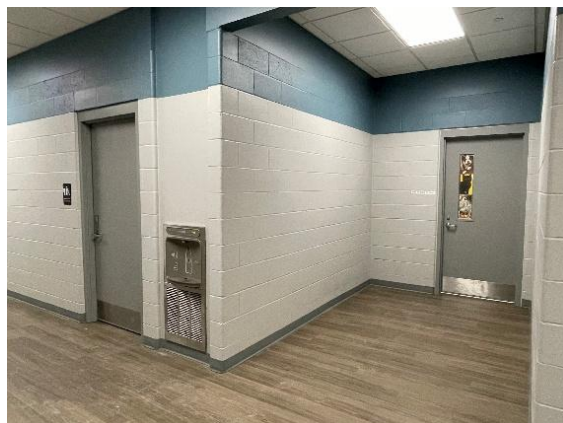


**SAIL (Students Achieving Integrative Learning) Federal Setting IV Behavior Program**

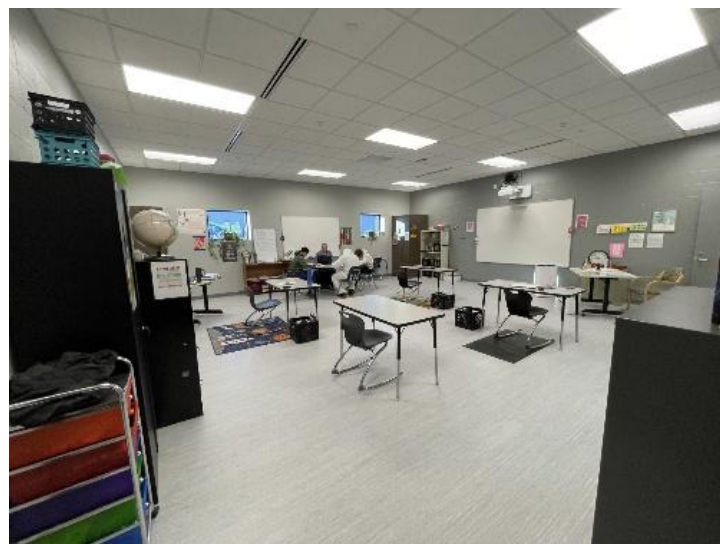
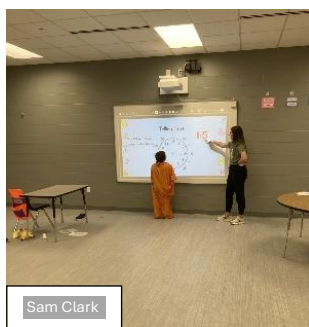
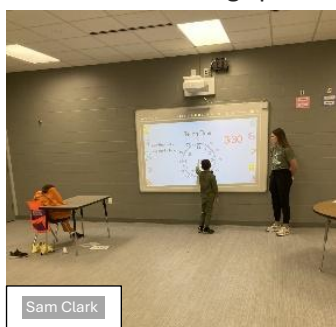
The students attending the SAIL program are also greeted with classrooms designed for their learning needs. The student entrance for the SAIL program is located on the west side of the building. In the reception area (at left) you will be greeted by Breyan Richardson, Administrative Assistant. A convenient feature of our new space is our dedicated lunchrooms (at center) which house the repurposed lunchroom tables from our Kellogg site that fold up into the wall if not needed, and provide a large space for students to use. I was able to peek in on a speech lesson that was in session (at right). The elementary, middle, and high school classrooms are all designed with sufficient space and flexibility.



The SAIL elementary classrooms (bottom left) offer flexible learning spaces for various learning activities including the board you see used by each student. Just outside the SAIL middle school classroom (at center and right) you see the



single unit bathroom and drinking fountain within very close proximity to the middle school classroom. Finally, the SAIL high school classroom provides all of the features described for the elementary and middle school classrooms, with the benefit of even more traditional and enhanced learning spaces to meet their needs.



**All of HVED and especially the staff and students in the SAIL and SPECTRUM programs are very appreciative of the support of our member districts. Your collaborative efforts bring HVED's mission and vision to life in this new space!**

*Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives*