

# Superintendent Update

August 28, 2025



# At the forefront of educational excellence



## **WHAT WE INTEND TO CREATE**

*Inspire dreams, build integrity and instill hope in our students, our staff, our families and our communities.*

## **OUR PURPOSE**

*Partner with students, staff, families and communities to challenge all students to achieve their greatest potential and become informed and engaged citizens.*

# Viking Spotlight: Blake Lelm

"Our manufacturing workforce is just aging out, and we're not replacing them," Wentz said.

"So we're running at a deficit of manufacturing workforce. That's where our outreaches to high schools and the ACE program comes in. But if we don't have enough people, the people we do have have to be more efficient, and that's where the upskilling comes in."

ST. PAUL » EDUCATION

## 'UPSKILLING' MACHINISTS



PHOTOS: JON KUTY — PROCEEDINGS

As University of St. Thomas sophomore Blake Lelm looks on, graduate student Michael Thinh takes a measurement of a cutting head during a summer boot camp on machining and Computer Numerical Control optimizations at the university in St. Paul on Tuesday. Hosted by St. Thomas' School of Engineering, the "upskilling" event is intended to improve attendees' efficiencies in the manufacturing field.

By Nicholas Nebamas  
New York Times

WASHINGTON — Members of the Department of Government Efficiency uploaded a copy of a crucial Social Security database in June to a vulnerable cloud server, putting the personal information of hundreds of millions of Americans at risk of being leaked or hacked, according to a whistleblower complaint filed by the Social Security Administration's chief data officer.

The database contains records of all Social Security numbers issued by the federal government. It includes individual full names, addresses and birth dates, among other details that could be used to steal their identities, making it one of the nation's most sensitive repositories of personal information.

The account by the whistleblower, Charles Borges, underscores concerns that have led to lawsuits seeking to block young software engineers at the agency built by Elon Musk from having access to confidential government data. In his complaint, Borges said DOGE members exfiltrated the data to an internal agency server that only DOGE could access, forging the type of "independent security monitoring" normally required under agency policy for such sensitive data and creating "enormous vulnerabilities."

Borges did not indicate that the database had been breached or used inappropriately, but his disclosure stated that as of late June, "no verified audit or oversight mechanisms" existed to monitor what DOGE was

DOGE COMPLAINT • PAGE 13

MINNESOTA





# Welcoming new teachers





# Strengthening Special Education Together



Last week we proudly launched another Registered Apprenticeship program, K-12 Special Education dual licensure in Autism and Emotional/Behavior Disorders.

- This is a critical area of need, and we are incredibly fortunate to have three exceptional education assistants stepping up to this opportunity!
- Pictured are our dedicated EAs alongside members of our admin team and journey teachers—working together to build brighter futures for our students.

# A Picture-Perfect Finale

The final North Branch Summer Concert in the Park was bursting with hometown pride!

- Over 45 children took part in the Chalk Drawing Contest
- The evening also featured Supt. Sara Paul, who read “Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses” to a group of eager listeners.
- A fantastic live performance from our very own AJ Spoff!

Special thanks to the NBAEF for sponsoring the evening’s entertainment and for their continued support of events that bring our community together.

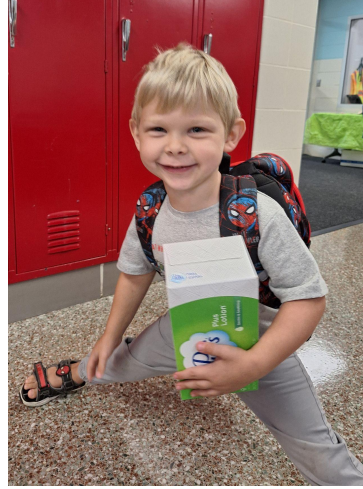




# Welcome Days are here!

Welcome Days are the official “kick-off” to the school year!

Energy and excitement were high across the district.





# Safety Through Shared Responsibility



- Full Time School Resource Officer and strong partnership with North Branch PD
- Clarity of expectations provided through Parent-Student Handbook
- Welcome Days provides a personalized start to the school year
- Standard Response Protocols from the "I Love U Guys" Foundation provide a strong foundation for emergency response
- People noticing and speaking up is essential
  - If something feels off, say something
  - Safety includes physical, emotional, and relational awareness
  - Partnership and communication are our most powerful tools

# Grand champion robot on display at fair



North Branch has a grand champion FTC Robot plus some blue and red ribbon winners.

- Watch these robots in action on Aug 29, 30, 31.
- Demos are at 10 am, noon, and 3 pm in the Education Building.

# Viking JROTC addressing aviation shortages



## Aviation Career Pathways at NBAHS

### Why Aviation?

Major industry shortages:

- **30,000+** aircraft maintenance techs needed in North America in the next decade
- FAA short **~3,000 air traffic controllers** (avg. salary ~\$150K) – 90% of facilities understaffed
- High demand for pilots, avionics techs, engineers, airport operations specialists

### Viking Aviation Opportunities

Exploring Space (Freshmen option)

- Gateway into aviation activities before Ground School

Aviation Honors Ground School (Sophomores+)

- Covers aviation careers beyond flying
- Field trips, control tower visits, guest professionals





# The High School Schedule as a Blueprint for Opportunity



*We believe the schedule is not just about what students do during the day, it's a reflection of who we are and what we believe about them.*

*When we embed tiered supports, open access to college-level coursework, and structures for exploration and personalization, we're saying to students: your future is not left to chance. You get to choose. And we've built the system to support that choice.*



