

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 319

*Dr. Rae Villebrun, Superintendent/K-6 Principal
Nashwauk-Keewatin Public Schools
300 West Third Avenue/PO Box 250
Keewatin, MN 55753
Telephone (218) 885-1280 ext 51234
Fax (218) 885-2909*



*Max Torgerson, 7-12 Principal
Nashwauk-Keewatin High School
400 Second Street
Nashwauk, MN 55769
Telephone (218) 885-1280 ext. 51101
Fax (218) 885-2910*

Exciting things are happening in the Nashwauk-Keewatin School District! We've had several opportunities to celebrate the greatness that is our district this past month. We were also able to celebrate the accomplishment of Carole McBride who graduated from Nashwauk High School in 1961, but did not receive a diploma because she lacked a physical education credit. Her disability made it difficult to participate in the gym class. It was an honor to be part of the celebration and see the joy it brought to Carole's family.

On the topic of our new school and community wellness center, I have some exciting news to share. Last week the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) approved a \$5.4 million dollar grant to help cover increased costs for the project due to inflation and the demolition of our existing school buildings.

Before this grant, the construction management team had planned several measures to reduce costs and keep the project under budget. These cuts included fewer energy efficient windows, no enclosures for rooftop HVAC units, and reduced square footage for our future technical education space. This grant will allow us to add these features back into the construction plan to provide the best learning environment possible for our students.

I am so grateful to the IRRRB for generously recognizing the importance of our new school to the health of our region. Many thanks also to our school board vice chair, Barb Kalmi, and our construction manager, ICS, who were instrumental in our efforts to win this grant and manage the challenges of rising costs.

I'm happy to report that construction on the project continues to progress quickly. The walls for the gymnasium and technical education areas are already up, and I am told the high school and elementary wings will soon follow. Work on the walls will continue for some time, in addition to ongoing installation of underground utilities, steel support beams, and the frame of the gymnasium ceiling. For more information on the construction progress and the grant from the IRRRB, please visit NKSpartanStrong.org/next-steps.

The district will begin using a program called SAEBRS to help determine which students may be at risk for social, academic, and emotional behaviors. If you want to learn more about SAEBRS, you can click on

<https://www.illuminateed.com/products/fastbridge/social-emotional-behavior-assessment/>.

We are hopeful that this assessment will give us the information to better support our students.

Our Winter break starts Friday, December 22nd. School will be back in session on January 2nd.

I hope that you are able to spend the winter break relaxing and having fun with family and friends. When we return in January, the students will be reviewing the behavioral expectations.

There are a couple of days where school will not be in session in January. Those days are January 15th (Martin Luther King Day) and January 22nd (Teacher Inservice). The end of the 2nd quarter is January 19.

The Reorganizational School Board meeting will be January 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Telepresence Room at the high school. This will also be the Regular School Board meeting for the month of January.