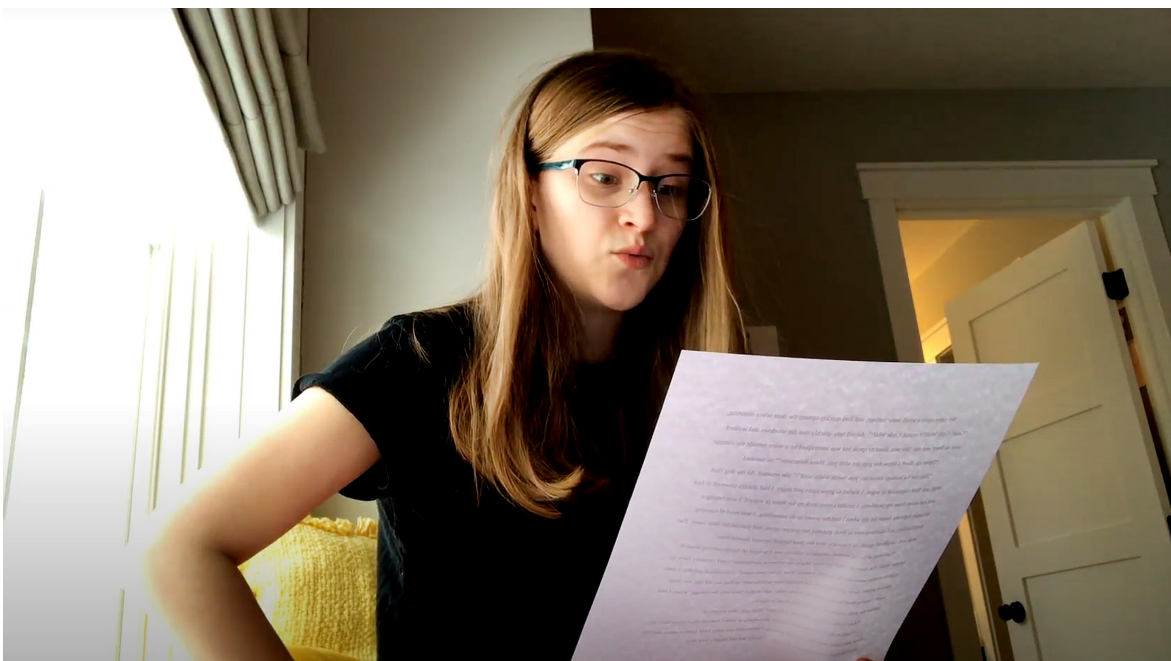




# Experience

Edina Public Schools /Spring 2021

## Students use storytelling, technology to connect with assisted living community



Anna Fiddelke was one of many Valley View eighth graders who shared their fractured fairy tales with residents at The Waters in Edina.

**E**ighth graders at Valley View Middle School found a way to bring the magic of storytelling beyond their classrooms and into the living spaces of the residents of The Waters of Edina senior living apartments through the access of technology.

After reading “The Princess Bride” in class, students were given an assignment to write their own fractured fairy tales. They took a known fairy tale and fractured archetypes and elements from the story, including writing techniques from William Goldman, author of “The Princess Bride.” As the students were in the process of working on their stories, language arts teachers Rhonda Geere and Margaret Smith had the idea to give them an opportunity to share their stories — specifically, with the residents of The Waters of Edina.

“I live near one of The Waters locations so that is why I chose them to contact,” said Geere. “We worked with the activities directors, Karen Staggert and Karissa Poppenhagen. I have thought about the idea on and off for some time.”

With the pandemic still a reality, virtual options were established for the students to connect with the residents. In addition to the regular assignment, forty-five students sent their written stories over, 9 students recorded videos for viewing, and 4 students signed up to FaceTime and read their story personally with someone. Students who were open to sharing their work wrote a short biography so that their readers could know them better as individuals, such as their hobbies, interests, favorite foods, pets or anything they felt comfortable including.

“I was impressed by the teachers coming up with such a great idea,” said Rudy, one of The Waters residents who was the recipient of a fairy tale. “I was also impressed by the children’s imagination in taking fairy tales that they heard as young children and coming up with another story.”

Other residents felt similarly. “They showed great imagination and a clever use of the tales that they had picked,” said Bill and Lu.

**“I think it’s important to give students an authentic audience when possible.”**

“It was great! Thank you so much,” said Rich.

“I think it’s important to give students an authentic audience when possible and I know how older adults generally love being around younger people, so I thought it was a great match,” said Geere. “Given the fact that everyone is so isolated during these times and especially people in nursing homes and assisted living, it seemed like the perfect time. Students did not receive any extra credit for sharing; we simply wanted them to do it because they’d be making someone’s day brighter.”

**Want to make your day brighter?**  
*Listen to Anna Fiddelke’s fractured fairy tale*



## Noteworthy

### Seven EHS Seniors identified as Presidential Scholars candidates

Seven Edina High School seniors are candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. These students were identified by their outstanding performance on the ACT and are now eligible to submit applications to continue on to the semifinalist stage. The candidates are: Nicholas Fu, Evan Jiang, Shreya Konkimalla, Arjun Maheshwari, Chloe E. Swanson, Elise Wallen-Friedman, and Alexis Shuyan Yi.



### EHS Senior wins Athena Award

EHS senior Haley Reeck has been named the 2021 Athena Award winner. Haley plays varsity soccer and lacrosse and is a captain on both teams. She will be honored by the Minneapolis Athena Banquet committee along with other metro Athena recipients this spring. She has committed to play Division I Lacrosse at Louisville. The Athena Award honors an outstanding female senior athlete for their athletic achievements.

### Correction

The enrollment number in the winter issue of *Experience – Annual Report* was reported incorrectly. The correct enrollment for the 2019-20 school year is 8,238.



3 students qualify for State History Day

EHS ninth graders Kathryn Hagen and Sonja Holtey, and South View eighth grader Lauren Marentette will advance to Minnesota State History Day competition after receiving high scores in the regional contest. This year’s History Day theme is *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*. Kathryn and Sonja, who also competed at the state level last year, created an exhibit focused on Maya Angelou. Lauren entered in the website category with a project on the Stonewall Riot.



South View student is regional spelling champ

Lynn Clara Tun, a South View Middle School seventh grader, outperformed more than 40 of the best spellers in the Twin Cities area to capture the regional spelling championship. She competed virtually in the Metro ECSU Spelling Bee, and will go on to represent the region in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, to be broadcast on ESPN.



**Experience** is mailed periodically to all residents in Edina Public Schools, District 273, to keep you up-to-date on the activities and accomplishments of students, staff and the district. Questions or comments are welcome at [communications@edinaschools.org](mailto:communications@edinaschools.org) or 952.848.3919.

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Matt Fox  
Julie Greene  
Ellen Jones  
Owen Michaelson  
Janie Shaw  
Leny Wallen-Friedman



Sonja Holtey researched, interviewed experts and learned new video editing skills to create an entry for the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

Ninth grader receives Honorable Mention in national C-SPAN competition

Sonja Holtey, EHS ninth grader, earned an Honorable Mention in the 17th annual C-SPAN StudentCam competition. Students from around the nation submitted video documentaries about issues that affect their communities and the country. Holtey’s video, titled “Healthy Food for Thought: Addressing School Lunch Nutrition Standards,” explores the history and evolution of the national school lunch program.

“Using a tool like WeVideo provides students with an additional pathway to express their learning.”

“This was the first year we used the StudentCam competition to meet our civic engagement standards,” said Jason Dockter, AP U.S. Government and Politics teacher at EHS.

Dockter and Erik Anderson, EHS AP U.S. Government teacher, assigned students to create videos for the competition, either individually or in a group, as a part of their classwork. They coordinated with Michael Walker, the district’s secondary-level digital learning specialist, to schedule times for him to teach students how to access and use WeVideo, a tool provided by the district’s media and technology systems (DMTS) department that allows students and staff to edit video online. Through this resource, students like Holtey were able to craft and edit their videos.

“Having a WeVideo subscription is very valuable in making this type of learning available for all of our students,” said Anderson. “Not that long ago, video editing was something that only a few kids with outside experience or access could really use successfully. With this subscription and Mike’s assistance, it is something that every single ninth grade student now can use to further their learning.”

“Using a tool like WeVideo provides students with an additional pathway to express their learning,” said Walker. “It was exciting to see the government teachers provide students such an authentic learning opportunity.”

This year, more than 2,300 students submitted videos to the competition, with 150 receiving prize recognition. The student videos are evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives looking for quality of expression, inclusion of varying views surrounding the topics, effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming, and reflection of the competition theme. With this year’s theme, students were asked to join in national conversations about challenges the country faces: “Explore the issue you most want the president and new Congress to address in 2021.”

Holtey concludes her documentary by asking them to address school lunch nutritional standards and “further support the national school lunch program as a vital investment in America’s future.”

View Sonja Holtey’s StudentCam documentary



Global Scholars win awards at Model G20 Youth Leadership Summit

Two Edina High School seniors, Aashna Kumar and Emma Johnson, won Exceptional Ministerial Delegates awards at the Model G20® Youth Leadership Summit. The theme of the summit was “Addressing Climate Change.” Aashna Kumar won the Best Minister of Energy for representing South Africa, and Emma Johnson won the Best Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development for representing Australia.



Aashna Kumar

Aashna and Emma are among EHS students in the inaugural year of the Edina Rotary Global Scholars program, sponsored by Edina Rotary clubs and the Edina Education Fund. They participated in the Model G20 as members of that program, which promotes leadership, collaboration with students from other countries, and preparation for post-high school studies and careers with a global focus.



Emma Johnson



# Supporting Students – Sustaining Excellence

## 2021 Technology Levy & Bond Issue

**VOTE**  
**MAY 11**

On May 11, 2021, Edina Public Schools will ask district voters for support in two areas of operation that directly and indirectly support the excellent academic opportunities we provide to all Edina students. The **Technology Levy** and the **Bond Issue** support infrastructure built by Edina taxpayers over many years and represent stewardship of community investment in Edina students and schools.

### \$7M 10-Year Technology Levy

**Replace expiring \$6.5 million levy, increase by \$500,000 for a total \$7 million levy**

Technology is a classroom tool that gives students platforms for collaboration, discovery and creativity. It also supports district infrastructure, safety and security, information and learning systems.

#### **Every day in Edina Public Schools, students use technology to:**

- ▶ **Explore content in interactive, hands-on approaches**
- ▶ **Engage with content through collaboration and participation**
- ▶ **Express their learning creatively**
- ▶ **Communicate with peers and people across the globe**
- ▶ **Participate in real world learning**
- ▶ **Access learning anywhere**



### **Did you know....**

...that the Technology Levy partially funds the salaries of the district's Media Specialists? EPS is one of few districts with a **media specialist in every school**.

...that the Technology Levy funds **safety and security** systems across the district? New video intercoms at every school create controlled access to the building when students are present.

...that Edina Public Schools is **Common Sense Certified** by the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to helping schools and students make smart, responsible choices in their use of technology?

...that district technology helps Edina students **connect beyond the classroom** and around the world? Their learning experience includes meeting with scientists at McMurdo Station in Antarctica, partnering with peers around the world, and learning with French interns.

...that when the COVID pandemic caused schools to close in March 2020, **Edina students continued to learn** thanks to the district's strong technological foundation and the unflagging efforts of tech staffers?

....that EPS Media Specialists are passionate about getting **books into the hands of students**? This year, 40 EHS students have participated in the EHS Book Club, which is going strong after almost 20 years.

...that almost 200 EPS students qualify for **special education transportation**? The Bond Issue will fund an addition to the bus garage to appropriately house our growing bus fleet.

Learn more at [edinaschools.org/DidYouKnow](https://edinaschools.org/DidYouKnow)

### \$7M Bond Issue – Service and Safety Improvements

**Generate funding for specific facility improvements with sale of 20-year bonds**

#### **Transportation Facilities**

To improve service to Edina special education students and families, and create cost-savings over time, the district plans to bring all special education transportation in-district. (Currently 14 special education routes are contracted to other transportation providers.) To protect an investment in additional buses, the district would issue bonds to fund an expansion of the bus garage:

- Addition of 5 enclosed bus bays on south side of building
- Expansion in current facility of heated bus stall area used for special education buses

#### **Creek Valley, Countryside and Valley View Traffic Improvements**

The current traffic layout at these sites mixes buses areas with parent drop-off/pick-up, and staff parking.

- Proposed projects would reconfigure traffic flow to create dedicated zones to alleviate congestion and improve vehicular, pedestrian and bike safety. Parking space would be expanded and lighting improved.

Learn more about levy spending, bond projects, tax impact and voter information at [edinaschools.org/2021Levy-Bond](https://edinaschools.org/2021Levy-Bond)



**Special ed buses are stored in heated stalls to prevent equipment from freezing up.**





# Community Ed expands summer offerings

Learn more and register at [www.edina.eleyo.com](http://www.edina.eleyo.com) or call 952-848-3952

**E**dina Community Ed continues to respond to community needs with expanded and innovative opportunities to engage students all summer and meet the needs of busy families.

The summer catalog offers a full menu of programs that nurture a love of learning, support academic achievement and develop skills in technology, the arts, sports, and more. We offer many youth leadership opportunities that allow older students to gain real-world experience as they explore college, career and life.

■ **KIDS Club/WISE Guys**, the School Age Care program, has expanded to include two new age groups: incoming kindergarten students and outgoing 5th graders. Our three summer locations are organized by grade level to provide personalized, age-appropriate opportunities.

■ There are more than 400 **summer enrichment camps and classes** planned for students in pre-K through high school. We’ve more than doubled the classes available for preschoolers and significantly expanded opportunities for middle school students. New **reading camps** have been added for those who want more time on core academic subjects, and new **unified camps** blend typically-developing students and students with special needs.

■ Edina Community Education and **Edina Give and Go** partner to provide needs-based scholarships so that tuition does not become a barrier. Together, we typically award approximately \$70,000 in financial aid each summer.

Make plans to join Edina Community Ed this summer! To learn more and register, visit [www.edina.eleyo.com](http://www.edina.eleyo.com) or call 952-848-3952.



*Plan a fun summer with hundreds of choices for camps, classes and school-age care programs.*



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**Students qualify for international competition**  
Five members of the EHS DECA team have qualified for the International Career Development Conference – and they have the hardware to prove it! They earned the opportunity by finishing in the top four out of 64 competitors at the State Conference. Pictured, left to right, are Ava Nelson, Ella Zawoyski, Audrey Keeley, Ellie Cooper and Alex Schultze.

Calendar	
May 11	2021 Technology Levy and Bond Issue Vote
June 4	Last Day of School
June 7	EHS Commencement, U of M Mariucci Arena

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Find polling locations and information about early voting at

[edinaschools.org/2021Levy-Bond](http://edinaschools.org/2021Levy-Bond)

