SAINT PETER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LEARNING MATTERS

School Highlights

Saint Peter Public Schools

June 2026

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead, where there is no path and leave a trail."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

SPHS bids adieu to the Class of 2026!

Saint Peter High School hosted its annual Graduation Commencement for the graduating class of 2026 on the evening of Friday, May 30, at the SPHS gym before a near-packed house of family and friends. Right around 180 students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas!

Welcoming statements were made by Quinn DeBlieck (senior class president), SPHS Principal Annette Engeldinger, and Saint Peter School Board Chair Charlie Potts. SPHS Dean of Students Shari Karlsrud introduced the three student speakers -- Quinn Rassbach, Sam Szybnski, and Lathe Bly. SPHS Superintendent Dr. Jon Graff, who was the principal at Saint Peter Middle School when this year's seniors attended grades 5-8, was the commencement speaker.

The SPHS Concert Band played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" for the processional and "Fanfare and Recessional" to end the event. Amid the ceremony, the SPHS Concert Choir performed "Landslide" (Fleetwood Mac).



See page 2 for more photos.

Celebrating an Outstanding School Year



Dr. Jon Graff, Superintendent of Saint Peter Public Schools

Graduation, held on June 5th, put the final touches on an incredible school year, my first as superintendent. As I reflect on the past ten months, my overwhelming sentiment is one of profound gratitude. Serving this remarkable school district and community is an honor, and I am deeply thankful for the partnership you have extended throughout the year.

This year's successes are marked by a National Merit Scholar, award-winning fine arts, state athletic champions, a School of Excellence designation, the completion of our 32nd student built Habitat for Humanity House, continued renovations on the Middle School/ Early Childhood Center, new curriculum purchases (to be implemented in 2027), and countless other reasons to celebrate as a community.

These successes belong to all of us. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our exceptional educators and staff, whose dedication and passion inspire our students daily. To our parents and families, thank you for your unwavering support and collaboration. And to our community partners and stakeholders, your investment in our schools strengthens us every day. Most importantly, thank you to our students, whose energy, curiosity, and achievements remind us daily why we do this vital work. To our outstanding senior class: as you enter the next phase of your journey, the future looks brighter than ever!

As we head into the summer months, I hope you all take some well-deserved time to rest, recharge, and enjoy your families and friends. I am incredibly energized by the possibilities ahead and look forward to our continued partnership when we return this fall. Have a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer!

Here are some photo highlights of the memorable evening at the SPHS gym! For even more photo coverage of the SPHS Graduation Commencement, go to the SPPS Facebook page!

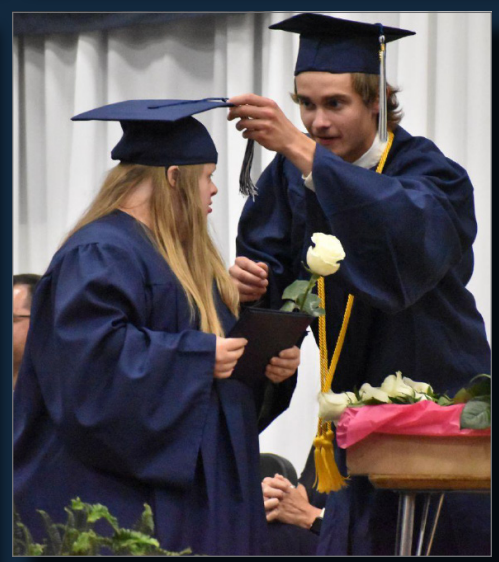






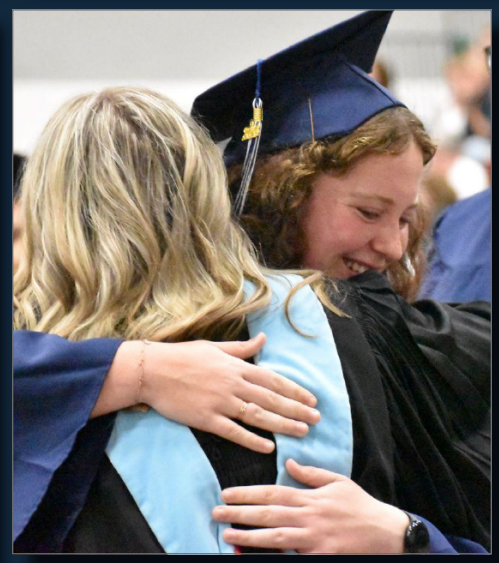


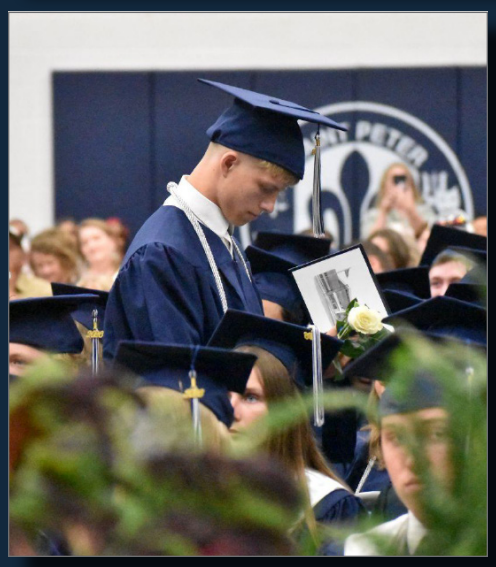






















SPHS animal science students participate in their own Dog Show

Students in Ms. Witty's Animal Science Class at Saint Peter High School hosted their very own dog show during class on Thursday, May 28 and Friday, May 29, in the SPHS Multi-Activity Center.

Each student was tasked with selecting a dog breed from the AKC website and painting it to represent their breed. They also produced an infographic about their dog breed and named it (for fun). Guest judges (Mr. Pehrson, Mrs. Sirianni, Mrs. Karlsrud, and Mrs. Sather) interviewed each student about their dog breed. The champion from each breed group was then entered into the 'Best of Show' round, where they had to answer harder questions.

The aspects of the project that students were judged on were their creativity/thoughtfulness, breed painting accuracy, knowledge of the breed, and presentation skills, according to Witty. The following are the award winners:

Best in Show Winner – Sadie Albrecht with her German Wirehaired Pointer
Reserve Champion – Gandhi Jiminez Menjivar with his Chihuahua
Honorable Mentions – Tyler Krakow & Addi Sanchez
Herding breed champion – Ramiro Alcantara Alvarez (Bearded Collie)
Terrier breed champion – Brock Guth (Parson Russell Terrier)
Sporting breed champion – Sadie Albrecht (German Wirehaired Pointer)
Toy breed champion – Gandhi Jiminez Menjivar (Chihuahua)
Non-Sporting breed champion – Joe Dorow (Finnish Spitz)
Working breed champion – Addi Sanchez (Bernese Mountain Dog)
Hound breed champion – Tyler Krakow (Norwegian Elkhound)

SPHS hosts annual Senior Awards and Recognition program

Saint Peter High School hosted its annual Senior Awards and Recognition program at the SPHS gymnasium on Wednesday (May 20). Seniors were honored for their efforts in three main areas – Achievement Awards, Academic Honors, and Scholarships.

Principal Annette Engeldinger, SPHS School Counselor Regina Sirianni, and Saints Activities Director Shea Roehrkasse presided over the program's academic achievements and honors portion and presented several generous scholarships. SPHS Student Service office assistant Betsy Blume, who helped organize the Senior Awards program, was also recognized for her contribution to this important event.

St. Peter-Kasota Dollars for Scholars representatives Nancy Sizer and Sara Gostomczik continued the local chapter's generous tradition of presenting 87 scholarships to members of the SPHS Class of 2024, valued at more than $88,000. There were also several miscellaneous scholarships presented to several seniors by SPHS staff and community members during the program.





To view a complete list of Senior Awards and Scholarship winners, please click HERE! Shown here are several photo highlights from the Senior Awards program.



SPHS woodworking class builds Gaga Ball pit for student use

Woodworking students in Mr. Pehrson's woodworking class at Saint Peter High School recently built a Gaga Ball pit as part of a campus service project. The students were able to complete the project in time for students to put the pit to good use before the end of the school year.

"The new pit gives students a great way to burn off some energy during lunch and Commons' study hall," Shari Karlsrud, SPHS dean of students, said. "It's already an incredibly popular addition; within the first week of operation, the heavy foot traffic had completely transformed the grass into hard-packed dirt."







SPMS END-OF-THE-YEAR ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Students and staff at Saint Peter Middle School held the final assembly of the 2025-26 school year at the school's gym during the last week of school. Included in the festivities were a heartfelt farewell to the eighth graders from Principal Jessi Buttell and a staff game of "Cup of Noodles." Students' names were drawn during a raffle for the chance to participate in either a putting contest, ring toss, bean bag toss, or a half-court shot contest.



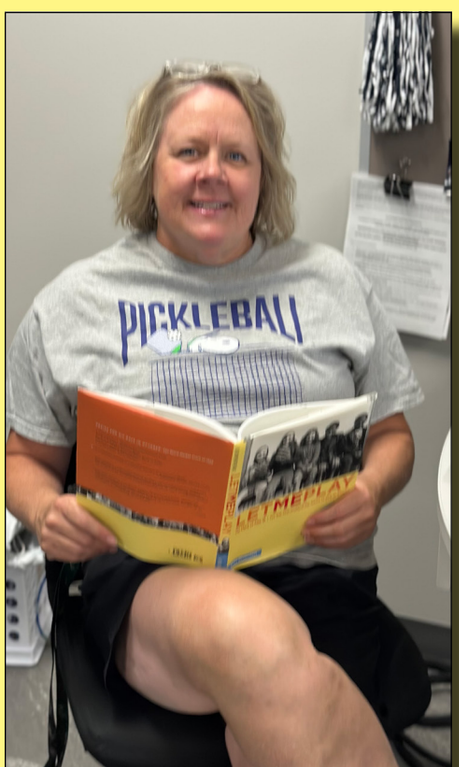
Kurt Hildebrandt,
School Information Coordinator

This month's Get Caught Reading featured guest is long-time Saint Peter High School physical education and health teacher Kris Voeltz, a 1989 graduate of SPHS herself, as well as a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College (BA Athletic Training, Athletic Training) and Minnesota State University (MA Curriculum & Instruction).Voeltz and her husband, Chris, have three daughters who are all SPHS alums (Molly 2022, Callie 2024, and Abby 2026), and a mini schnoodle named Buddy. The following is a Get Caught Reading profile with Kris Voeltz:

What did you read when you were a kid? Little House on the Prairie, Encyclopedia Brown, Nancy Drew, The Outsiders (Mr. Drager read this to us in 6th grade...the BEST!).

What do you like to read now? I have been reading autobiographies lately. Some people have some pretty amazing and inspiring stories!

What do you enjoy most about reading? I love a good story. It's amazing to me that people can be so creative in their storytelling and use of words. We can learn so much from reading!



SPHS physical education/health teacher Kris Voeltz enjoys reading because she loves a good story and is inspired by the storytelling process.



North brings ‘The Legend of the Blue Sapphire’ to school’s stage in mid-May

North Elementary’s spring play production of “The Legend of the Blue Sapphire…A Search Through Time,” hit the North gym stage for two performances – for the student body on May 14 and for the general public on May 15. This year’s North play was directed by Dustin and Morgan Lenhoff and was partially funded through a Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Grant (PLRAC) grant. North play cast & crew members this year included: front row (l to r), Sloan Shoemaker, Eleanora Rame-Bergeman, Sawyer Kutil, Lennox Sather, Aubrey Gregor, Paige Vander Linden, Zander Richer, Cadence Fredrickson, Apollo Goettlicher, Bergen Carter, Ruby Flynn, Mary Juntilla, Ava Christnagel, Bennet Winkler; second row: Hazel Vortherms, Macy Attenberger, Glory Ellingson, Wade Gavin, Jack Wussow, Garrett Howe, Lilllian Hird, Avery Noble, Thomas Marsh, Vander Strey, Beau Weideman; third row: co-director Mr. Lenhoff, Flona Bienfang, Aubrey Bienfang, Hugh Schoper, Nora Stoel, June Wussow, Amelia Atkinson, Uriah Boyd, Zoey Seaquist, Augustus Arroyo, Eivin Roberts, Mirah Kapernick, Allana Humphrey, Forest Carter, Bennett Seitzer, Ryder Sather, and co-director Mrs. Lenhoff. Not pictured is Ruby Elliot.











NORTH CELEBRATES THIS YEAR’S FOURTH GRADERS!

North Elementary’s fourth-grade class received a rousing send-off today during an early-morning assembly held in the school’s main hallway and gym during the last week of school. This year’s fourth graders will move up to Saint Peter Middle School this coming fall! Included in the event was the introduction of North Elementary’s new mascot, Bernie the St. Bernard, which the Student Council recently purchased!





FIELD DAY AT NORTH IS A BIG HIT!

North Elementary (gr. 2-4) hosted its annual Field Day for students today, followed by the Battle of the Grades Games and the always-fun Staff Showdown. Among the Field Day games, students in grades 2-4 had a variety of activities to participate in this year, including the Dunk Tank, Tug of War, Golf Swing, TicTac Toe Bean Bags, Cup Fill Relay, Dizzy Bat Race, Lightning Basketball, 3-Legged Race, and the Rubber Chicken Race. Battle of the Grade Games included Hula Hoop Relay and the Elbow Chicken Relay, while the Staff Showdown game was Flip the Hoop.









SOUTH PLAYGROUND PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

South Elementary's Parent Council hosted its annual end of the year Playground Party, with a large group of kids and their families turning out for the fun event, which included llamas! (Special thanks to the Parent Council for sharing these photos!)

SOUTH FIELD DAY HIGHLIGHTS

South Elementary students enjoyed the traditional end-of-the-year Field Day activities at the school's playground area and in the gym. Here are some photo highlights of the big day!











St. Peter Read and Feed Program
FREE BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND LEARNING

St. Peter School District is sponsoring FREE BREAKFAST, LUNCH and Books for children this summer!!!!







ONE LOCATION Summer 2026: North Elementary
Breakfast being served from 7:30-9:00
Lunch being served from 11:00-12:30

Who: All children ages 1-18

What: **Free Breakfast and Lunch** for **all** children who attend. There are no income guidelines required. Adults may choose to purchase breakfast for $3.25, lunch for $5.65 OR bring their own food.

Activities: All children are invited to participate in FREE reading activities scheduled during the lunch program.

When: Monday-Friday June 10-August 14, 2026 (NO READ AND FEED JUNE 19)
Breakfast served 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. (cafeteria will be closed from 9-10:45)
Lunch served 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Where: North Elementary School Cafeteria 815 North 9th St., St. Peter
Playground Entrance-Door 4

Free Transit: Be at the bus stop no later than the times listed:

10:30 Marway Trailer park (Laundromat)
10:50 Fairview Apartments (Playground)
10:55 Green Valley (North Entrance)
11:00 Maplewood Apts. (Parking Lot)
11:05 Drop off first group at North
11:10 Traverse Green (in the middle, at the end where pet fence is)
11:15 Sunrise Meadows (2nd Building Parking Lot)
11:20 Solace (outside front door)
11:25 Vista View (Mailboxes)
11:30 Summit Park (Mail Room)
11:35 Drop off at North

Return routes will begin at 12:00- North Elementary Playground Pick up
12:10 Traverse Green
12:15 Sunrise
12:20 Solace
12:25 Vista View
12:30 Summit
12:35 Maplewood
12:40 Green Valley
12:45 Fairview
12:55 Marway

How: No registration required-just come—everyone is welcome!!
Children ages 7 and under need to be accompanied by a responsible caregiver.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
All meals must be eaten on site. Thank you!









ECFE VEHICLE FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

Saint Peter Early Childhood Family Education's annual Vehicle Fair was a big hit for local families as a large crowd turned out for the event in the Saint Peter Early Childhood Center parking lot, just off Broadway Avenue. Here are some photo highlights from the fun time!

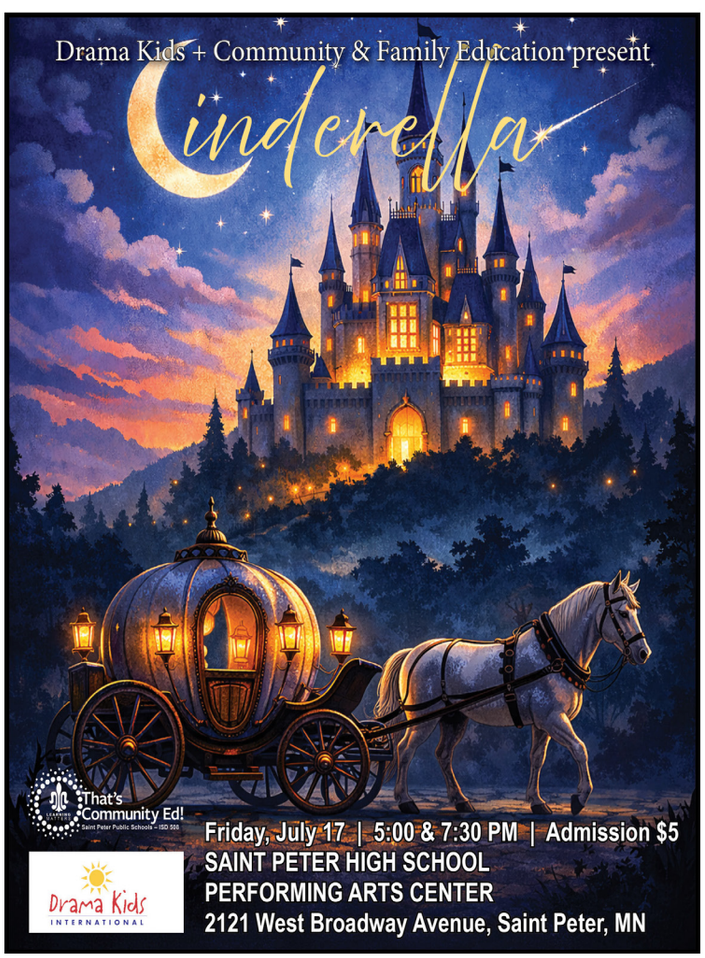
That's Community Ed! Saint Peter Public Schools – ISD 508

Saint Peter Community & Family Education

600 South Fifth Street, Suite 207
(507)934-3048 ext. 7002 | stpeterschools.reg.eleyo.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES

Activity — *Completed grades:*	Gr. K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7 & up	Date of activity	Day(s)
Fruitopia *Kids' cooking with Jackie M.*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Jun 24	W
Sun-Catching Fun: Window Clings *Kids' crafting with Laura Maki*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Jul 1	W
COR Robotics: RC Wars				X	X	X	X	X (7-9)	Jul 6-8 AM	M-W
COR Robotics: Merch Lab			X	X	X	X	X	X (7-8)	Jul 6-8 PM	M-W
Summer Beginning Band Lessons *Days / Times depend upon instrument played*	***Completed grades:***					X	X		starting Jul 6	M, Tu
COR Robotics: YouTube Creator				X	X	X	X	X (7-9)	Aug 3-5 AM	
COR Robotics: Minecraft Olympics			X	X	X	X	X	X (7-8)	Aug 3-5 PM	





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High School Dean of Students
Shari Karlsrud

Activities Director
Shea Roehrkasse

Alternative Schools & Programs Administrator
South Elementary Principal
Jana Sykora

Middle School Principal
Jessica Buttell

Middle School Dean of Students
Steve Alger

North Elementary Principal
Darin Doherty

Special Programs Administrator
Ytive Prafke

Community & Family Education Director
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Technology Director
Gus Sorbo

Operations & Maintenance Supervisor
Seth Putz

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stpeterschools.org

The school district newsletter, *Highlights*, is distributed monthly through the office of Community & Family Education. Any questions or suggestions regarding *Highlights* should be directed to:

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Is your family on the school census?

The Saint Peter School District keeps a record of all families in our school district. Being on the school census ensures:

- You will automatically receive ECFE mailings.
- You will be notified of Early Childhood Screening.
- The elementary school will be expecting your child when it is time for kindergarten.
- That maximum funding is received by our district from state/local government.

Please call 934-3048 ext. 2018 if you are new to the district or your family has grown with additional births or adoptions!