

School Talk: September

On behalf of all the schools in the community, I would like to thank the Celebrate Caledonia Committee and all who helped put on the Farm to Table event September 10th. The Theme for the event this year was, "Our Kids, Our Town, Our Future!". Proceeds from the event will go to St. John's Lutheran School, St. Mary's Catholic School, Caledonia Elementary School, and Caledonia Middle/High School. It was a fantastic evening of food and fellowship. Students from St. John's, St. Mary's, and the Public School worked the event and did a fine job serving and clearing tables. We are blessed to have such community support for our schools.

It is hard to believe we have a month of school behind us. We are in full swing of our fall athletics and activities. I want to thank all of the coaches and advisors for going above and beyond to serve our students. We are working to try and get students connected in some way shape or form to groups. Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." While we all need to be alone from time to time, we also all need to be connected to something bigger than ourselves. It is our genuine hope that we get each and every student involved in something that allows them to share their talents with others and in turn benefit from the talents of others.

#### **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments:**

Whenever I speak about Standardized Test Scores, I always let people know that students from every school are much more than a test score. These scores do provide a brief temperature check however and the scores of Caledonia Area Public School students have been on an upward trend the past few years. Since 2019, the percentage of students proficient in MCA reading has increased at the Elementary, and High School Levels. During this same time, the state average percent of students proficient has decreased. The Middle School Reading proficiency decreased slightly over that time, but not to the same extent the state average decreased.

Scores at the Elementary Level have increased significantly compared to the state average in the past few years.

**Reading:** In 2019, 65.3% of Caledonia Area Elementary Students scored in the proficient range compared to a state average percent proficient of 59.7%. In 2022, 74.8% of Caledonia Area Elementary Students were proficient compared to the state average of 51.7% proficient.

**Math:** In 2019, 61.2% of Caledonia Area Elementary Students scored in the proficient range compared to a state average percent proficient of 55.5%. In 2022, 71.0% of Caledonia Area Elementary Students were proficient compared to the state average of 45.5% proficient.

We have a little more work to do in the MS/HS for MCA test scores.

**Reading:** Middle school (Grades 6-8) reading scores have gone from just above the state average in 2019, to significantly above (12% higher) the state average in 2022.

**Math:** Middle school (Grades 6-8) went from slightly above state average in 2019 to slightly below the state average in 2022.

In the Senior High, one grade is measured for math (Grade 11) and one grade is measured in Reading (Grade 10). With this being the case, it is a little more difficult to look at school trends, but here we go.

**Reading:** The 10th graders in 2019 scored 8% lower than the state average. The 10th graders in 2022 scored 3% higher than the state average.

**Math:** The 2019 11th graders scored 11% higher than the state average. The 11th graders in 2022 scored 6% lower than the state average in 2022.

**Officials/Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Like every other business on the planet (it seems), we are in dire need of workers. In particular, we need both substitute teachers and paraprofessionals. Schmitz Bus Service is always on the lookout for drivers, and Mr. Sorenson is in need of officials and workers for all kinds of things. If you have availability, we would love to have you get involved.

We are off to a great start to the school year!

Craig Ihrke