

April 30, 2024

To: Spectrum Community

Re: Important Updates

Please review the following important information and prepare accordingly.

### Communication with the School Board

I ran across an opinion piece in the January Star News that struck a chord. It was titled “[The words we share can inspire or destroy](#)” (Keith Anderson, Director of News, APG). The essence of the piece was that words matter – what we say, when we say it, and our true intentions. He shared some examples of times when poorly chosen words led to destructive consequences. Mr. Anderson eloquently framed what many of us have experienced, either personally or by proximity. He stated, “*The world is flooded with words, thoughts, and ideas, and we certainly don’t want to restrict anyone’s right to express themselves, but we each have a responsibility to make sure dignity is at the forefront and that true intentions are designed, not to harm, but help the greater good. What we say and write can have a lasting impact on someone else, and sometimes damage cannot be adequately undone. If each of us can remember to take a deep breath before we pick up the pen, exercise the keyboard, or leave a voicemail, our thoughtful intentions might ultimately help elevate and inspire rather than devolve or destroy.*”

It is in this vein that the Spectrum School Board recently approved a new [Communication Policy](#). The policy is intended to align with Spectrum’s current policies (e.g., Grievance Policy), while also ensuring timely, respectful, effective, and clear communication across the community. Spectrum is blessed with dedicated, professional, compassionate volunteer board members who sacrificially serve our school. I applaud them for their efforts to promote healthy communication and look forward to working with them to implement this new policy.



Dan DeBruyn  
Executive Director

### Newly Elected School Board Members

Spectrum School Board members are set for the 2024-2025 school year. Please join us in congratulating Nancy Moe (teacher) and Tom Sagstetter (community member) who were both re-elected to three-year terms. The election results were certified at the April 25 meeting. Ms. Moe and Mr. Sagstetter will rejoin their fellow Board members Dave Lucas (community member), Joe Thomas (parent), Joshua Zahowski (parent), Cory Taylor (parent), Jason Ruzek (teacher), and Dan DeBruyn (Executive Director/ex-officio member).



### 2024-2025 School Calendar Approved

The Spectrum School Board approved the 2024-2025 Spectrum School Year Calendar at their April 25 meeting (which can be found on the Spectrum website [here](#)).

## Men's Basketball

Spring is a great time to get in shape and prepare for being outside enjoying the (somewhat brief) warm weather of a Minnesota summer. Men (ages 17 and up) looking to play basketball in the mornings, we would love to have you join us! We play on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:30 a.m. in the high school gym. Play one, two, or three days – or just when you feel like it 😊 If interested in playing and being added to the email list, please contact Dan DeBruyn at [ddebruyn@spectrumhighschool.org](mailto:ddebruyn@spectrumhighschool.org).

## Events Coordinator Position

Spectrum's Events Coordinator, Kirsten Tuckey, will be moving into a new role as Executive Administrative Assistant on July 1. As a result, Spectrum is seeking to fill the Events Coordinator position for the upcoming school year (beginning in August with some potential training in July). If you or someone you know is looking for a part-time job with flexible hours and location and likes to organize big events (e.g., music concerts, conferences, school pictures, Open House, and graduation), this is your dream job! You would have the added benefit of working under Kirsten who has organized and run all of these events. If interested, please contact Dan DeBruyn, Executive Director, at [ddebruyn@spectrumhighschool.org](mailto:ddebruyn@spectrumhighschool.org) or (763) 450-9845.



## Activities Director and Director of Operations (Change of Plans)

Spectrum will not be implementing and hiring a new Director of Operations position for the 2024-2025 school year as previously anticipated. This is due to the growing budgetary needs and increased operational expenses throughout the organization. While Mr. Peterson would have been shifting to the new role, we are happy to announce he will continue in his role as our Activities/Facilities Director supporting and growing our extracurricular programs.

## Spectrum Considering a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Addition

Many people have been reaching out to Spectrum about the possibility of adding 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The School Board considered this opportunity at its April 25 meeting and determined the 2025-2026 school year may be a good time for such an expansion. The interest level appears high and additional classroom space could be added at the time of field house construction (projected to start in the fall of 2024) creating a unique space for 5<sup>th</sup> graders (in a similar manner to 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Bringing in students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade would allow Spectrum to best prepare them for 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Spectrum, in addition to meeting the school's projected enrollment of 1,000 students more quickly (currently around 900 students).



The Board approved proceeding with an application to the school's authorizer, Volunteers of America (VOA), to expand to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. *Note: Spectrum is currently approved by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to offer only grades 6-12.* The approval process could take up to six months. A final decision on expanding to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will depend upon final School Board consideration and approval by both VOA and MDE.

A separate communication will be sent later this week giving parents/guardians the opportunity to sign an interest form for their student to enroll in Spectrum 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2025-2026 school year (if Spectrum is approved to add 5<sup>th</sup> grade). The greater the interest, the greater the likelihood of a timely approval. Spectrum is excited about the possibility of meeting the needs of our community at an even earlier age.