

Brad Evenson



June 2026

### **Community Education**

Summer programming through LPGE Community Education has been a tremendous success! From exciting sports clinics to creative art workshops, many of our offerings are filled to capacity, highlighting the strong enthusiasm for learning, recreation, and enrichment throughout our community. A special thank you goes to our outstanding summer instructors. Their energy, expertise, and dedication bring every class to life, creating meaningful experiences for participants of all ages. Whether teaching a new skill, encouraging creativity, or inspiring confidence, our instructors foster a welcoming environment where everyone can learn, grow, and have fun. The success of our summer programs is a direct reflection of their commitment, and we are incredibly grateful for the positive impact they make on our students, families, and community. We look forward to building on this momentum and offering even more exciting opportunities in the future!

I am very proud to highlight another highly successful program for our kids. LPGE Youth Soccer Program. This summer, more than 150 students are participating in the program, demonstrating the strong interest and enthusiasm for youth athletics within our community. A special thank you goes to Josiah Tonder, who serves as the program organizer. Josiah has done an outstanding job coordinating registration, scheduling, team formation, equipment distribution, and communication with families and coaches. His leadership has been instrumental in ensuring a positive experience for all participants. Students are organized into teams based on age levels to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and competition. The program is supported by a dedicated group of volunteer coaches who generously give their time to teach soccer fundamentals, sportsmanship, teamwork, and healthy competition. Their commitment plays a critical role in the success of the program and provides a positive experience for our young athletes. Each participant receives a soccer uniform that they are able to keep, helping to build program pride and allowing families to avoid additional equipment expenses. The uniforms also create a sense of belonging and team identity for our students. The program takes place throughout the month of June at our new Thunder Stadium, which has provided an excellent venue for practices and games. The facility has enhanced the overall experience for players, families, and spectators while showcasing another outstanding community resource available to our students.

### **21st Century Grant Funding**

I am pleased to report that Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School District has successfully secured funding through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program. This achievement represents a significant opportunity to expand high-quality academic enrichment, youth development, family engagement, and out-of-school learning opportunities for

our students and community. The successful grant application reflects the collaborative efforts of district staff, community partners, and stakeholders who contributed to the planning process and helped identify the needs and priorities of our students and families. The grant will provide additional resources to support programming designed to enhance student achievement, increase engagement, and provide meaningful learning experiences beyond the traditional school day. As we move into the implementation phase, Superintendent Ludvigson and I will be meeting with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Education on Tuesday, June 16th, to discuss the district's capacity and role in administering the grant. This meeting will focus on the expectations and responsibilities associated with managing the grant, ensuring compliance with program requirements, and carrying out the programming and services outlined in the grant application. This discussion will help establish a clear framework for implementation and ensure that Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School District is well-positioned to successfully deliver the proposed programming while maximizing the impact of these funds for our students and families. We are excited about the opportunities this grant will provide and look forward to working closely with the Minnesota Department of Education and our community partners to create enriching experiences that support student success outside of the school day.

### **Thunder Summer Academy**

The LPGE Thunder Summer Academy is just around the corner, and we're so excited about the amazing response from our community—165 students enrolled from last year's grades 1-7. The Academy will run on June 22–25, July 13–16, and July 27–30. We're thrilled to have enough students to support at least two instructors at each grade level. That means smaller class sizes and more one-on-one support, setting our students up for a fun and successful summer of learning! A huge thank you to all of our staff! A special shout-out to Nichole Cuchna and Vanessa Wielenberg for stepping up to organize this awesome opportunity for our kids.

### **ESSA Federal Funding Application Update**

Strategic work on the federal programs grant application process continues to ensure that Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School District effectively utilizes these important resources to support student achievement, staff development, and continuous school improvement. Through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), federal funding provides critical support for programs and services that help meet the diverse academic and social-emotional needs of our students.

Each year, LPGE conducts comprehensive needs assessments, analyzes student achievement data, gathers input from staff, families, and community stakeholders, and carefully aligns funding priorities with district goals. This planning process helps ensure that federal resources are invested in evidence-based strategies that have the greatest impact on student success.

Title I funding supports targeted academic interventions, supplemental instructional services, and additional learning opportunities designed to help students meet challenging academic standards. Title II funding provides high-quality professional development for teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators, helping staff strengthen instructional practices, improve student engagement, and enhance classroom outcomes. Title III funding supports English Learners through specialized instructional services, language acquisition programs, family engagement efforts, and resources that help students achieve both language proficiency and academic success. Additionally, ESSA-funded activities help support student wellness, family engagement, college and career readiness initiatives, and the implementation of programs designed to create safe and supportive learning environments.

Our commitment to compliance, accountability, and transparency remains strong as we work to maximize the impact of these federal investments. We appreciate the continued support of the School Board as we strive to ensure that these resources create meaningful, measurable, and lasting benefits for our students and staff.

The first submission of the district's federal programs application in the Minnesota Education Grants System (MEGS) is due on June 30, 2026. Following submission, we will continue working with the Minnesota Department of Education to finalize budgets, programming plans, and compliance requirements for the upcoming grant year.

