

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL, FTLA ROOM #816
38431 LINCOLN TRL
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
5:30 PM**

Remote Participation Notice: One or more School Board members may participate in this meeting remotely pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.02 or § 13D.021, using interactive technology. This provision applies to both regular business meetings and work sessions.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|------|---|----|
| I. | Call to Order | |
| II. | Roll Call | |
| III. | Pledge of Allegiance | |
| IV. | Superintendent's Report | 2 |
| V. | Work Session Topics | |
| | A. Spotlight on High School 2026-27 Goals | 11 |
| | B. Spotlight on Elementary 2026-27 Goals | 24 |
| VI. | Adjournment | |



Superintendent Update September 24, 2026

Vision

What we intend to create

Inspire dreams,

build integrity,

instill hope

*in our students, our staff, our families
and our communities.*

Mission

Purpose of our work

***Partner** with students, families and communities*

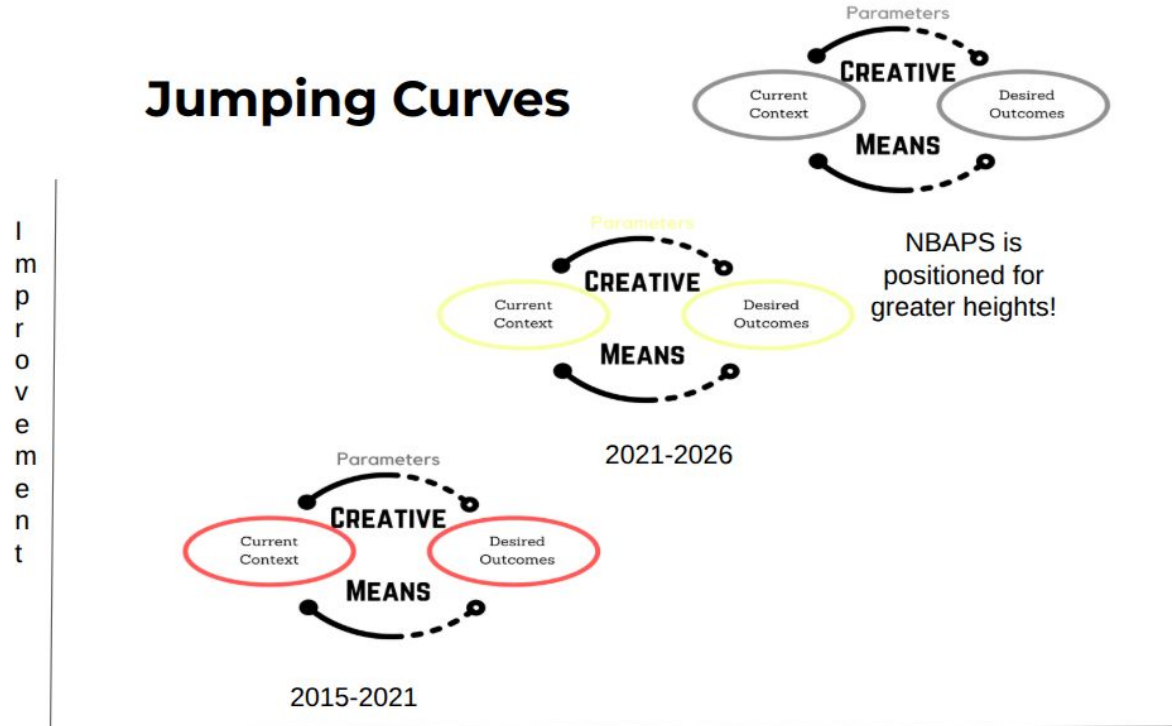
*to challenge all students to achieve their **greatest potential***

and become informed and engaged citizens.

Progress by Design



Jumping Curves



Coming soon...



In This Issue

Superintendent's Message

Around the District

Viking Spotlights

News & Family Resources

Upcoming Events



Homecoming has arrived!

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 - OCTOBER 3, 2026

25
FRIDAY

8:15AM | Homecoming
Coronation

7:00PM | V Football:
North Branch @ Rock
Ridge

PAJAMA DAY

28
MONDAY

4:30PM | JV Football:
Hinckley-Finlayson vs
North Branch

4:30PM | C Boys
Soccer: St. Francis vs
North Branch

5:00PM | V Girls
Soccer: North Branch
@ Cambridge-Isanti

7:00PM | V Boys
Soccer: North Branch
@ Cambridge-Isanti

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY (NO SCHOOL)**

29
TUESDAY

4:00PM | Cross Country
Running @ Purple Hawk
GC

4:00PM | 7/8 Girls
Volleyball: St. Francis vs
North Branch (A/B)

4:00PM | JV/V Girls
Tennis: St. Francis vs
North Branch

5:00PM | 9A/B
Volleyball: Zimmerman
vs North Branch

5:30PM | B/JV
Volleyball: Zimmerman
vs North Branch

7:00PM | V Volleyball:
Zimmerman vs North
Branch

NEON DAY

30
WEDNESDAY

4:30PM | Pickleball
Palooza

6:00PM | PowderBuff
Volleyball

7:00PM | PowderPuff
Football

**ADAM SANDLER
DAY**

1
THURSDAY

4:30PM | 9 Football:
Hermantown vs North
Branch

5:00PM | V Girls
Soccer: North Branch
@ Chisago Lakes

7:00PM | V Girls
Volleyball: North
Branch @
Cambridge-Isanti

7:00PM | V Boys
Soccer: North Branch
@ Chisago Lakes

TWIN DAY

2
FRIDAY

3:15PM | Homecoming
Parade

4:00PM | Homecoming
Tailgating

6:00PM | V Football:
Duluth East vs North
Branch

8:30PM | Homecoming
Fireworks

9:00PM | Homecoming
Dance

**NB VIKINGS
SPIRIT DAY**

3
SATURDAY

8:30AM | JV Girls Tennis:
Mississippi @ St.
Francis

1:00PM | V Girls Soccer:
Duluth Denfeld vs North
Branch

NORTH BRANCH AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Developing an ecosystem of opportunities

Workforce Development Month

- **Every Viking Story is unique:** Students are discovering different opportunities, interests, and pathways as they shape what comes next.
- **Chamber of Commerce Meeting:** Opportunity to share Tori's Viking Story and highlight how students are connecting learning with their future.
- **Economic Development Authority Meeting:** Three additional Viking Stories will showcase students exploring work-based learning, skilled trades, college courses, and career pathways.
- The City of North Branch recently recognized North Branch Area Public Schools with a proclamation honoring our leadership and partnership in workforce development.
- **National Stage:** September 20–21, I will share North Branch's workforce development ecosystem at the AASA Superintendent Symposium in Washington, D.C.



Please consider attending!



Jewels and JEANS!

THE PERFECT 10 GALA
THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT
ISD-138 NORTH BRANCH AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**SATURDAY
October 10th**
Doors open at 5pm

FEATURING

Invisible Wounds Building
840 Lake St S
Forest Lake, MN 55025, USA

Tickets (\$70) on sale now at
WWW.NBAEF.ORG
Purchase Deadline - September 28th

**THE ULTIMATE EVENING OF
IMPACT AND ELEGANCE.**

IMPERVIOUS WOUNDS PROJECT

A.J. SPOFF

NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Connecting Community: Empowering Education Since 2008

Scan Here for Tickets

NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Connecting Community: Empowering Education Since 2008

Dedicated to enhancing opportunities to achieve excellence
for students of North Branch Area Public Schools ISD-138

OVER \$33,000
AWARDED IN 2026 TOWARDS:

- LED Microscopes for Sunrise River Elementary
- Drone Maker Kits for Sunrise River Elementary
- Building Future Innovators - STEM Toys/Manipulatives
- Engaging Books for Early Literacy Learners
- Middle School - Fitness Initiative
- My First Book Club at Sunrise River Elementary
- DAPE Bicycles for the Physical Education Department
- Translator Devices to Support Elementary English Language Learners
- Outdoor Classroom Improvements for North Branch Preschool students
- NBAHS Aerial Drone Competition
- Community Service Projects at the Norse ALC
- Mentoring and Leadership Programs at NBMS
- Cyber Savvy Microbit Kits
- Attendance and Academic Motivation Project at NBHS
- Outdoor Adventures & Experience at NBHS
- 3D Printers for the NBMS Science Team

**Since 2010, the NBAEF has raised over \$666,623
and the Endowment Fund has raised over
\$317,000 in support of NBAPS ISD-138!**

**For more information
www.nbaef.org**

NBAEF is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) that works independently to support NBAPS ISD-138. All costs for this promotion have been paid for by the sponsoring organization.





NORTH BRANCH AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Spotlight Presentation Fall 2026

The Student Experience: Relationships, Learning, and Growth

RELATIONSHIPS

Every student needs adults who know them, notice them, and help them navigate high school.

- Anchor Time
- Counselor support
- Wide variety of activities
- Student voice

LEARNING

Clear expectations, relevant learning, and support when students need it.

- Priority Skills/Competencies
- Proficiency Scales
- Adult learning aligned with student learning
 - (SHIELD)
 - Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

GROWTH

Students build the skills and experiences needed to graduate with a plan.

- SchoolLinks
- College in the Schools
- Career Technical Education
- Work Based Learning
- 4-Year High School Plan
- Post-secondary planning support

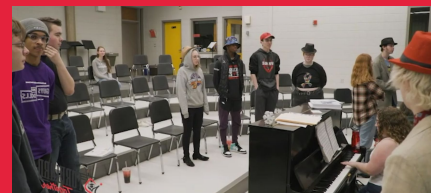
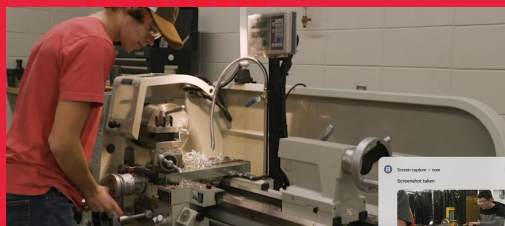
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CHOICE NOT CHANCE

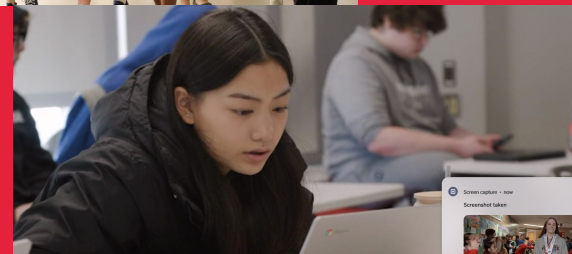
Every Student Graduates. Every Student Has a Plan.



What students experience at NBAHS



Relationships,
Learning and Growth



Building Skills for Life, Work, and Community



Life Skills Goal:

By June 2027, 80% of students will have a full-day attendance rate of 90% or higher.

Why it matters

- Attendance is a life skill: showing up, being dependable, and staying engaged.
- Being in school creates more opportunities for relationships, intervention, learning, and future planning.
- Our focus is proactive support: understanding barriers getting in the way and responding before students disconnect.

Life Skills Highlights



ANCHOR TIME

Weekly time for connection, academic intervention, planning, and targeted support.

4 Year Plan

Four-year planning and postsecondary conversations through SchoolLinks and counseling.

ATTENDANCE

A graduated attendance process designed to engage students and families early.

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SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY

Students have flexibility within their individual plans. During periods 3–5, students remain on campus unless participating in an approved off-campus learning opportunity.

STUDENT AGENCY

Students learn to set goals, ask for help, make choices, and take ownership of their path.

LIFE + WORK SKILLS

Reliability, communication, problem-solving, collaboration, and self-advocacy.

Advisory

Advisory is separate from Viking Time and Study Hall. It is scheduled time focused on college and career readiness, school and community connections, and other advisory activities.

A System of Support



TIER 1 • ALL STUDENTS

Strong classroom instruction • Anchor Time • Relationships • Common expectations (SOP's)

TIER 2 • TARGETED SUPPORT

• Lighthouse interventions • Academic / Behavior supports • Progress monitoring

TIER 3 • INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT

Student Support Team • Special Education Services
• Individual Education Plans • Community Partnerships

Building Core Knowledge, Competencies, and Skills

Academic Goal: By June 2027,
80% of all student grades at
NBAHS will be a C or higher;
students below a C will receive
additional support.



Academic Skills Highlights



PRIORITY COMPETENCIES

Each course identifies the essential learning students need to know and be able to do.

PROFICIENCY SCALES

A transparent roadmap showing what progress and mastery look like.

80 / 20 GRADING

Greater emphasis on summative evidence of learning while preserving formative practice.

TEACHER COLLABORATION

Weekly teams (PLCs) use evidence of learning to plan reteaching, enrichment, and intervention.

GRADING FOR LEARNING

Common expectations for late work, retakes, participation, and grading practices.

Providing Timely Support So Every Student Can Grow



ATTENDANCE

Early outreach and continuum of supports in collaboration with county and community partners

ACADEMICS

Team review of student data, course supports available during Anchor time, credit recovery support

SOCIAL / BEHAVIOR

Structures to holistically understand student needs, staffing to target support: Behavior interventionists, Counselors and Community Partners

SPECIALIZED

504 plans, Individualized Education Plans, Student Support Team Review, Engagement Coach, and Substance Counseling

FUTURE PLANNING

Counselors, Career Navigator, Career & Counseling Center, SchoolLinks

Creating Opportunities to Explore, Stretch, and Go Further



COLLEGE CREDIT

- College in the Schools
- Post Secondary Educational Options

CAREER & TECHNICAL/ CERTIFICATIONS&CLUBS

- Culinary Arts / ServeSafe
- Agriculture / FFA
- Manufacturing/ OSHA 10
- Information Technology/ Viking IT
- Health Care/ EMR
- Auto/ Ford ACE
- Business-Entrepreneurship/ DECA
- Servie and Leadership/ JROTC

LEADERSHIP + SERVICE

- Student leadership
- Activities
- Athletics
- Fine Arts

CAREER EXPLORATION

- Future Forward Day
- Career speakers
- SchoolLinks
- Career exploration

WORK-BASED LEARNING

- Viking Bridge
- Internships
- Pre-apprenticeships

Students should be able to explore, stretch, and discover what comes next.

Strengthening Practice to Improve Student Learning



WEEKLY PLCs

Collaborative teams:

- examine student evidence
- plan interventions
- improve Tier 1 instruction

SHIELD PD

Bi-weekly professional learning focused on building-wide priorities and implementation.

COMMON PRACTICES

- Priority Competencies
- Proficiency Scales
- Grading for Learning and Competency
- Multi-tiered System of Supports

Connecting Learning to Experiences, Interests, and Each student's unique Viking Plan



4-Year Plan

Post-Secondary Plan



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Applied learning makes the 4 year plan real.

Students connect classroom learning to authentic experiences, community partners, and future opportunities.

**Each Student.
Their Viking Story.
Their Future.**

CHOICE NOT CHANCE

**Every Student Graduates.
Every Student Has a Plan.**

Relationships • Learning • Support • Opportunity • Future

FORWARD
Together

Elementary Spotlight Presentation

Building Goals, Strategic Alignment, and Program Highlights

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION • SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 • ISD 138

One Elementary Journey —

North Branch Ed Center (PreK–1)

Early Learning Focus: Dedicated time in foundational literacy, early math, and social-emotional development.

Nurturing Atmosphere: Safe, play-informed, and structured environment where students discover the joy of learning.

Strong Readiness: Systematic kindergarten and first-grade milestones establishing core academics early.

Sunrise River School (Grades 2–5)

Deepening Learning: Students build reading comprehension, writing, and mathematical reasoning as they move through the elementary grades.

Growing Independence: Students develop the academic habits, problem-solving skills, and responsibility that prepare them for middle school.

Support and Challenge: Small-group instruction, targeted interventions, enrichment, and accelerated math respond to students' strengths and needs.

The New Education Center—

Up and Running: Pre-K Through Grade 1

The journey to transform the North Branch Education Center into our dedicated early learning hub is officially underway.

Staff and teams rallied together throughout August to tackle countless logistical details, ensuring a well-coordinated launch for our youngest Vikings.



2026-27 Academic Goals

Preschool Academic Goal

Target: By June 1, 2027, at least **85% of preschool students** will be at or above age-level expectations in early literacy and mathematics.

Measurement: Teaching Strategies GOLD (TS GOLD) objectives 15a/b, 16a/b, 18a, 19a/b, 20a/b/c, 21b, and 23 via spring checkpoint assessments.

Individualized Support Plans: Students not yet demonstrating proficiency receive targeted individualized paths.



Preschool Focus Areas

Early Literacy

- Daily Phonological Awareness
- Interactive Repeated Read-Alouds
- Authentic Reading and Writing Every Day



Early Math

- Daily Number Sense Routines
- Hands-On Mathematical Exploration
- Mathematical Language & Reasoning Every Day



2026-27 Academic Goals

K-5 Elementary Academic Goal

Target: By June 1, 2027, **70% of K-5 students** will meet or exceed grade-level expectations in reading and math as measured by semester grades.

Individualized Support Plans: Students below benchmark receive tailored plans addressing identified gaps.

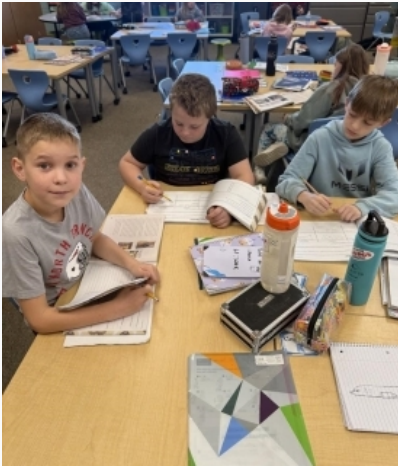
Progress Tracking: Continuous monitoring through Gradebook and periodic FastBridge interim benchmarking.



Elementary K-5 Focus Areas

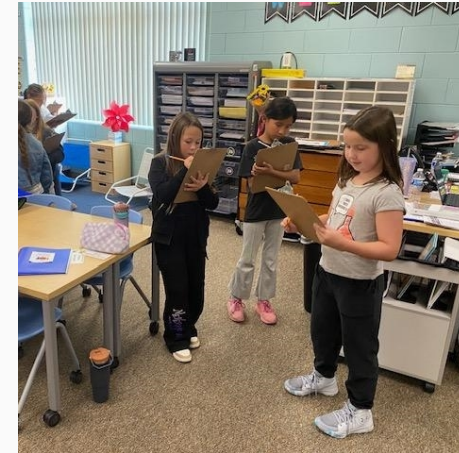
Literacy

- Formative Assessment & Grading
- High-Quality Implementation of Arts & Letters
- Data-Driven Targeted Intervention



Math

- Formative Assessment & Grading
- Standards-Aligned Math Curriculum Exploration
- New Standards, Learning Progressions & Rigor



ELA and Math Curriculum



Arts & Letters Core

Entering Year 2 of our comprehensive ELA curriculum. Teachers are refining pacing, vocabulary routines, and knowledge-building texts.



SPIRE - Special Education

Year 2 of an Intensive, reading intervention providing explicit structured phonics for students with significant foundational skill needs.



Math Pilot Group

During this school year, teachers will try two math curricula, gather student work and feedback, and compare the classroom experiences. After the pilot, teams will review and collaborate to guide the next steps.

Accelerated Math Pathway

NEW FOR 2026-27 | GRADES 4-5

Why We Created This Option

Responding to student readiness

Student performance data and **feedback from teachers and families** showed that our students are ready for more advanced math.

Compacted Curriculum

Dual-Grade Standards

Students who are ready for an additional challenge participate in a **compacted curriculum** covering their current grade level standards and standards from the following grade.

Building on the Acceleration

Pathway Beyond Grade 5

By learning standards from their current grade and the next grade, students build the skills and understanding needed to **continue into advanced math** coursework in middle school.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support —

Flexible support and challenge based on student need

Tier 1: Core Instruction

Universal Foundation

Classroom instruction using evidence-based reading and math curricula, with support for all learners.

Tier 2: Targeted Support

Personalized Interventions

FLEX time provides personalized small-group interventions and extensions. Students may also receive academic pull-out interventions, ADSIS academic services, or ADSIS behavior support based on their needs.

Tier 3: Individualized

Intensive Services

Special education instruction and services guided by each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

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Teams review student progress in weekly team collaboration meetings (PLCs) and adjust instruction and supports as needs change.

2026-27 Life Skills Goals

♥ Ed Center / Sunrise Life Skills Goal

Core Metric: Throughout the 2026-27 school year, **85% students** will display respectful, responsible, ready to learn, and safe behaviors (0–2 referrals).

100% Intervention: All students with three or more behavioral referrals will have an active, personalized plan to foster desired behaviors.

Proactive Foundation: Classroom calming corners, affirmative attention routines, and early regulation strategies.

Culture of Recognition: Student assemblies, SKOL/BEE Slip rewards, and schoolwide positive behavioral reinforcement.



Preschool Life Skills Focus Areas

Building the Foundation

- Preventative Classroom Reminders
- Explicit Teaching of Expectations
- Consistent Adult Responses
- Very Limited Use of Screens



Elementary K-5 Life Skills Focus Areas

Proactive Supports and Consistent Expectations

- Proactive Movement & Regulation, with limited screen time usage
- Proactive Academic Support & Task De-escalation
- Unstructured in Non-Classroom Settings



BEE Expectations

North Branch Education Center



rocket_launch

LAUNCH & TIMELINE

A Fresh Buzz for 26-27

This years brings a refreshing new look. Students will continue learning our BEE expectations, but enjoy new incentives and recognitions.

September Launch

Building-wide launch activities:

- Grade Level Assemblies
- Classroom Teaching Slides

school

TIER ONE FOUNDATION

Life Skills Core

"The Foundation of our Life Skills work on the tier one level!"

Daily Integration

Teaching positive behaviors, respect, and responsibility as a core standard.



The Sunrise Way

SUNRISE RIVER SCHOOL



rocket_launch

LAUNCH & TIMELINE

Year 5 Milestone

We are officially in Year 5 of our implementation journey!

September Launch

Building-wide launch activities:

- Grade Level Assemblies
- Classroom Teaching Slides

school

TIER ONE FOUNDATION

Life Skills Core

The Foundation of our Life Skills work on the tier one level!

Daily Integration

Teaching positive behaviors, respect, and responsibility as a core standard.

We follow the Sunrise Way in our CLASSROOM!

Respectful Be polite and kind to others	
Voice level 0-2	
Take turns patiently	
Raise your hand	
Be honest	
Responsible Keep our school clean and safe	
Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself	
Keep the classroom clean	
Ready to Learn Handle your business and show your best effort	
Listen carefully and follow directions	
Be prepared, stay on task, and complete your work	
Ask for help when you need it and be helpful when you can	

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Be Good People

K-5 Life Skills CURRICULUM



All K–5 classrooms implement the Be Good People curriculum throughout the school year. **One common curriculum. One consistent message. K–5.**

schedule

IMPLEMENTATION & TIMING

- **Weekly Lessons:** Taught once each week as part of our regular classroom rotation.
- **Consistent K–5 Approach:** Ensures students hear and practice the same core messages across classrooms and grade levels.

favorite_border

BENEFITS & STAFF SUPPORT

- **Social-Emotional Growth:** Designed to help students build critical skills, strengthen relationships, and develop positive habits.
- **Comprehensive Resources:** Lesson materials and training support are actively provided throughout the week for staff.

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K-5 Behavioral Alignment

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Standard Behavior Process

Same routines (Regulate → Reflect → Skill → Repair) shared across both schools for predictable behavior processing.



Universal Calming Corners

Every K–5 classroom features dedicated regulation areas to support students without requiring room removal.



Common Language

Respectful, Responsible, Ready to Learn, (and) Safe behaviors taught explicitly with same definitions from Pre-K to Grade 5.

Questions & Discussion

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

ISD 138 | Education Center (Pre-K–1) & Sunrise River School (2–5)