



## Stevens Point's Story

On behalf of Stevens Point Area Public School District (SPAPSD) and its community, I would like to provide you with our story which exemplifies an “all hands on deck” approach to serving the needs of our students, families and community. Our school board, staff, and community all took part in addressing the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been continually impressed, each day, with the incredible work of our district and community under these unusual and often difficult circumstances.

### **250,000+ Grab-and-Go Meals Served**

When the decision was made to close school buildings for an extended period of time, the SPAPSD food service and educational assistants immediately went into action preparing Grab and Go breakfasts and lunches. These meals were served at local schools and delivered by bus to key areas of our community where children may have been unable to access transportation to their local school to access meals. The approach to provide an accessible, reliable and nutritious meal option has been a source not only of food, but has also provided a much needed structure to the weekday for many of our families. This has generated a sense of community and joyful anticipation throughout the duration of our building closures.

### **Learning Together**

The district recognized the need for staff to collaborate and share best practices. As the COVID-19 crisis erupted, it became quickly apparent that video conferencing would be needed for communication, collaboration, professional development, and instruction. Teachers embraced video conferencing in order to hold team and building meetings, connect with students and teach remotely. New [video conferencing guidelines](#) and procedures were established using existing board policies and careful review of state and federal statutes. These rules allowed teachers to safely meet individually or in groups with students, record and share their lessons and protect the privacy of all students. Each Monday, grade level/course teams meet to design instruction to meet standards and address the challenges of students.

### **Engaging Students in an Online Environment**

The SPAPSD was well positioned to move into a virtual learning environment due to an established 1:1 program which provides every student in grades 7-12 a device to take home during the school year and an established protocol to implement E-Learning during inclement weather days. All instruction for these E-learning days was planned using Schoology, the District's Learning Management Software platform. Having the device however is only a part of the equation, and students in grades 7-12 could also obtain a mobile hotspot if they did not have access to a reliable internet connection at home. As the crisis unfolded, the teachers and students were able to quickly move into an extended remote and online learning environment due established protocols and structures within the District.

We realized early on that a key component of E-Learning success would be the ability to employ video-conferencing, allowing students much needed ‘face-time’ with teachers. While our students in grades 7-12 already had devices at home, our elementary students did not. Even though there was a Chromebook for every student in grades K-6, the devices were stored on carts in classrooms. The District immediately deployed over 2000 chromebooks in a single day to

elementary students in the district. Elementary teachers welcomed immediate professional development to learn new platforms for instruction and means to connect virtually with kids using Schoology, Seesaw, Google and Webex.

Like most districts across the state, equitable internet access was a huge challenge for many teachers, parents and students learning and working from home. The district had about 200 mobile hotspots dedicated to secondary students. An additional 300 hotspots were purchased and all were deployed to elementary families. Outdoor Wi-Fi was also set-up at three school locations to provide additional access for students.

District administrators reviewed usage and engagement data from all major online platforms from mid-march to April 1st. The results were extraordinary and showed the value of the online learning tools. An [infographic](#) was created to explain the results to the school board. The data highlights are listed below.

#### **Webex (Video conferencing)**

- Averaged over 400+ Webex meetings per day
- 30,000+ users participated in Webex meetings
- Staff hosted over 5,000 videoconferences
- 400+ different staff had hosted meetings

#### **Schoology (District learning Management System)**

- Over 4,000 students and 350 teachers were active each school day
- Over 30,000 new course materials were created
- Over 5,400 active sign-ins each school day
- 65,000 student assignments were submitted
- 45,891 tests and quizzes were taken by students
- 41,180 online discussions were held

#### **Google Suite for Education**

- Averaged Over 6,000 email and Google Drive uses per day
- 15,766 Google Meet Video Conferences were held
- 40,3496 Hours of Video Conferencing on Google Meet took place.

#### **Seesaw (K-6 online lessons and engagement)**

- Over 71,000 posts were created
- Over 43,000 teacher comments were added
- Over 10,000 parent visits occurred

Special education teams connected with each family and made individual learning plans to meet the emotional and academic needs of our students. Student Service staff continue to meet with students and families. They have office hours for our community and help navigate these unique times.

#### **Celebrating Our Students**

The district has remained committed to recognizing the outstanding achievements of our seniors by creating a virtual Academic Awards Program, an Athletic Awards Program and working to create a meaningful graduation video.

#### **#InThisTogether**

In Stevens Point, The United Way, Operation Bootstrap, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA along with the district collaborated bi-weekly to ensure that families had access to basic needs. Local businesses and organizations were incredibly generous, donating money to assist in providing services for families including resources for rent, food, and utilities.

