



Welcome



Welcome to my home page. I hope you enjoy checking out some of the information about my activities. As you might expect, most of my work revolves around children and education. After all, that's why Governor Jesse Ventura chose me as his running mate. Thanks to the Internet, you can travel along with me on my [school visits](#) and [other adventures](#). You can read my [biography](#), my [speeches and reports](#), and even find out all the [organizations I belong to](#). Thanks for visiting my official web site!



Lt. Gov Mae Schunk	Daily Schedule
7:00 AM	1:00 PM
9:00 AM	2:00 PM
11:00 AM	4:00 PM



School Visits

Schedule

What's New



Croatian Connection

Biography



Boards and Committees



Speeches and Reports



Governor Jesse Ventura with Lt. Governor Mae Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission September 16-23, 2000

One of the highlights of my tenure as Lieutenant Governor was leading a [humanitarian delegation](#) to Croatia. The Minnesota National Guard helped organize the trip, which included delegates from the fields of education, politics, journalism and business. I continue to promote strengthening the connection between Minnesota and Croatia.



Minnesota to Croatia

- [Introduction](#)
- [Diplomatic Visits](#)
- [Education in Croatia](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Minefields](#)
- [Dubrovnik](#)
- [My Visit to Delnice](#)





Lieutenant Governor Schunk led a delegation to Croatia that included Minnesota National Guard members, educators, lawmakers, media professionals and business people

[Back to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Boards & Advisory Groups

Part of the [official duties of the Office](#) of Lieutenant Governor is to sit on various boards and committees. Other organizations recruited me because of my position and background. Even though the list gets pretty long, I feel duty bound to support groups that work to improve the lives and minds of young people.



Lt. Governor Schunk at the National Conference of Lt. Governors

ORGANIZATION	POSITION	INFORMATION
Affirmative Action Council	Chair	Created by executive order to develop a long range plan and recommendations to implement the state's Affirmative Action Program and equal opportunity bidding procedures, and to advise the governor and legislature on equal opportunity.
America's Kids Connect	Chair	Promotes technology in schools by facilitating public-private partnerships
Assessment for Excellence	Chair	Reviews educational services at juvenile facilities within the Department of Corrections
Beginning Teachers Conference	Advisor	Annual event at St. Cloud State University to provide a information, guidance and networking opportunities for first year teachers
Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board CAAPB	Chair	CAAPB is responsible for the architectural integrity, dignity, beauty, land use and zoning within the Capitol area of St. Paul;

Education Commision of the States	Member of Steering Committee	The mission of the Education Commission of the States is to help state leaders identify, develop and implement public policy for education that addresses current and future needs of a learning society
Education Tax Group	Chair	Instruct students on interacting electronically with the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the IRS to file their tax returns.
Executive Council	Member	The Executive Council has several varied powers. It is involved in disaster prevention and relief for our communities and state property, issues mineral leases for state lands, is involved in dam construction and designates financial depositories for the state.
Figure This!	State Ambassador	Provides interesting mathematics brain teasers for middle-school students that they can do at home with their families.
Jobs for America's Graduates JAG	Member	A national program that improves high school graduation rates by getting students involved in the business world.
K-12 Education Reform Study Steering Committee	Co-Chair	Provide administrative oversight in area of Committee education needs and reform.
Kids Against Hunger	Honorary Member	A program for Minnesota youth volunteers to package food for the delivery to hungry families in their community and state, and to starving children throughout the world.
MN Academic Excellence Foundation	Co-Chair	Public-private partnership recognizing student academic excellence. The Governor's Scholars program prepares young people with a potential for leadership and service to analyze and take action on important issues in their communities; The Partners For Quality program assists schools and districts in transforming their learning, management and measurement systems.
MN Alliance With Youth	Co-Chair	Statewide alliance of communities, non-profits, businesses, faith communities, families, and young people. Promotes youth and adults working together. Affiliated with America's Promise .
MN Council on Economic Education	Member	The Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization which seeks to provide Minnesota students with

		the economic understanding they need to function effectively in a complex, global environment.
MN Environmental Education Advisory Board	Member	The Board was created by the 1990 Environmental Education Act to promote environmental literacy for all Minnesota citizens.
MN Historical Society Executive Council	Ex-Officio Member	Responsible for establishing major policies and monitoring the quality of the Society's programs and services.
National Conference of Lieutenant Governors (NCLG) Executive Committee	Member	Represents midwestern region for this national organization for the exchange of ideas, policies and information.
National Board for Gifted & Talented Youth	Member	Advise on goals and education needs for gifted and talented youth.
Peace Site International (World Citizen, Inc.)	Member	Promotes the ideals of peace and to denounce violence at all levels of society; establishes peace sites at schools and other public and private buildings.
STARBASE Minnesota	Member	Develop interests in math, science and technology among at-risk youth using an aerospace curriculum.
Statewide Occupational Skills Program Advisory Board	Member	Develop goals to meet the needs of handi-capped students.
Urban Teacher Education Advisory Committee	Co-Chair	Joint venture of Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis Community College & Inver Hills Community College for teacher training.
William and Jerry's Annual Shrimp Boil Fundraiser	Member	Raises funds to provide shelters for battered women and children.

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Speeches and Reports

I'm frequently invited to talk about education policy and other topics. It's often quite a challenge to talk before a large group of people, but it's part of the job and a good chance to spread the ideas of the Ventura-Schunk Administration.

Each year I summarize what I learned in my school visits in the report entitled, "[Listening and Learning.](#)"



Speeches

- [Speech on Volunteerism to Mrs. Minnesota Competition](#)
[Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud](#)
[March 17, 2002](#)
- [Speech to Minnesota School Superintendents](#)
[Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington](#)
[August 15, 2001](#)
- [Speech to Minnesota Girls State](#)
[Bethel College - St. Paul](#)
[June 12, 2001](#)
- [Speech to TESA graduation](#)

Dakota County Technical College - Rosemount
June 1, 2001

- **Speech to Women Inmates**
Minnesota Correctional Facility - Shakopee
April 13, 2001
- **Charter School Innovation Award Ceremony**
Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul
February 8, 2001
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration**
Concordia College, St. Paul
January 15, 2001

NE Business Forum
October 17, 2000

[Back to Top](#)

- **Minnesota School Superintendents' Conference**
August 10, 2000

Reports

- **Listening and Learning: 2001**
Highlights from the Lieutenant Governor's School Visits
- **Listening and Learning: 2000**
Highlights from the Lieutenant Governor's School Visits
- **Listening and Learning: 1999**
Highlights from the Lieutenant Governor's School Visits and
Listening Posts



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Biography



[Click for
Fun Facts](#)

[Click for
Official Duties](#)

It's a long way from the Wisconsin dairy farm, where I grew up, to the Minnesota State Capitol. In between I spent 37 years as an educator - mostly as an elementary school teacher. These outward changes in my life are held together by a common philosophy of a strong work ethic, common sense values and a belief that education is the key to achieving excellence. It is because [Jesse Ventura](#) shares this philosophy that I agreed to be his running mate in 1998.



I was born in Chicago, Illinois, but my parents moved to a dairy farm in Greenwood, Wisconsin when I was very young. My [father](#) was a refugee from Croatia, and my mother was Croatian-American. They spoke Croatian at home, so I did not learn English until I went to school at a small one-room schoolhouse. I was very impressed that our teacher had so much knowledge to share; I realized right away that I wanted to become a teacher, too.

I earned a degree in education at the University of Wisconsin in

Eau Claire in 1958, and took my first teaching position in Wausau, Wisconsin. That same year I married William Schunk, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He also grew up on a dairy farm, over in Stanley, Wisconsin. Together we have always enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening. In 1970 our son Ben was born. He is now a technology engineer. Ben and his wife Jennifer live in the Twin Cities.



I taught in Wisconsin for 14 years, until my husband's job took us to Minnesota. In St. Paul I worked in several schools for a total of 23 years, as a teacher, assistant principal and curriculum specialist. I turned my focus to learning how to teach gifted and talented students. I received a master's degree in that specialty at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1989. My last position was teaching gifted and talented students at Phalen Lake School in St. Paul. I worked there right up until we were elected. I even went to work the day after the election - even though I had been up all night. I was embarrassed because I was late for the first time ever. To my surprise my colleagues and students had arranged a big party for me. I was heartbroken to leave teaching, but my new duties as Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota have allowed me to visit schools quite often. I even volunteer once a week at a school near the Capitol.

Governor Ventura chose me as his running mate because I was a teacher. He wanted someone by his side who knew about public education at the ground level; he wanted someone from the "trenches." When he became Governor, Jesse Ventura made me his "Ambassador for Education." During the campaign I pledged to visit every school district in the state, a task that has kept me very busy, but also very informed about education issues and concerns. I keep [a cyber-journal of my travels](#) on my Web site.



My philosophy of education is to encourage every student to achieve excellence. Students need to learn to form the commitment to high standards at an early age. That's why parents need to be involved in the education of their children, starting the moment the child is born. For example, I took a five-year leave from teaching when my son was born, and it is one of the best decisions I've ever made. At most

parents can volunteer at their child's school; at least they can set up a good learning environment at home. That includes providing a good study space, but it also means encouraging them to achieve, and helping them whenever possible.

Governor Ventura and I agree that the purpose of education is to enable youngsters to become productive, happy and involved citizens. That's why it is important to stress learning by doing, such as we find in the projects that comprise the Profile of Learning. It's not enough to know what is in books - true knowledge comes with being able to apply what you've learned to the real world. Plus, as the world changes, education must change along with it. When our education system was formed we had an agricultural-based local economy. Now we are in a technological global society. We aren't competing with Wisconsin and Iowa - we are competing with Argentina and Korea. In this sense we must all keep learning throughout our lives, as new situations and challenges present themselves.

Education has been the center of my interests, but my office has allowed me the opportunity to [travel around the world](#) and around the United States. I have met former President Clinton and Former President George Bush, and current president [George W. Bush](#). Secretary of State Colin Powell and I became good friends while working together on the youth organization he directed - [America's Promise](#). These activities along with my other [official duties](#) keep me very busy indeed.



[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Daily Schedule

On this page you can see what I am doing each day. Some things are planned out weeks in advance, but sometimes my itinerary changes in a moment's notice! If you would like [to invite me to an event, click here](#) to find out how to do it.



Lt. Governor Schunk and Governor Ventura visit a charter school

Thursday, August 8, 2002

8:00 a.m.

Visits Workforce Center
7115 Northland Terrace Suite 100, Brooklyn Park



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





What's New

I never imagined how busy I would be as Lieutenant Governor! In the course of my job I participate in many exciting events and activities. They can be major events, like meeting President George W. Bush, or simple things, like visiting a new charter school. This page lets you keep up with the latest happenings.

[Lt. Governor Schunk and State Patrol Chief Beers host gun safety program: Project Homesafe](#)
[August 5, 2002](#)



[Project Homesafe news release and gunlock distribution schedule](#)

[Lt. Governor Schunk meets Croatian Generals](#)
[July 24, 2002](#)



[Lt. Governor Schunk meets public officials from Osaka, Japan](#)
[July 15, 2002](#)

[Lt. Governor Schunk greets Mickey Rooney, Munchkins and Margaret O'Brien for Judy Garland Festival](#)
[June 20, 2002](#)



[Lt. Governor Schunk Convenes Workshops on Declining Enrollment](#)
[March 12, 2002](#)

[Lt. Governor Schunk presents Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award](#)

[Friday, January 11, 2002](#)

[Lt. Governor Schunk attends Education Commission of the States, Santa Fe, New Mexico
December 3-5, 2001](#)



[Lt. Governor Schunk hosts Executive Committee of National
Conference of Lieutenant Governors
October 28-29, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor attends the Minnesota State Fair
August 22-30, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor presents Forest Educators of the Year awards
August 23, 2001](#)



[Lt. Governor Enjoys Performances by Young Artists
August 16, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Visits Camp Ripley
August 8, 2001](#)



[Lt. Governor Signs Declaration of Cooperation with
Colombian Province of Santander
August 6, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Rides the Rails in Osceola, Wisconsin
August 2, 2001](#)



[Education Commission of the States Appoints Lt. Governor
Schunk to Steering Committee](#)

[ECS: Compact for Learning and Citizenship](#)

[ECS: National Forum on Education Policy](#)

[Photo Gallery of Historic Philadelphia](#)

[July 25, 2001](#)

[National Conference of Lieutenant Governors: Health Care](#)

[Photo Essay of NCLG Activities](#)

[Louisville, Kentucky, June 26 - July 1, 2001](#)

[Milken Family Foundation Education Conference](#)
[Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards](#)
[Los Angeles, June 24-26, 2001](#)

[Maine Gov. King to Lt. Gov. Schunk: "Avoid a shutdown"](#)
[June 25, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Visits WomenBuild Habitat for Humanity Site](#)
[June 21, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Hoists U.S. Flag on State Capitol for Boys](#)
[State](#)
[June 15, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor attends Peace Day at Red Wing Juvenile](#)
[Facility](#)
[June 4, 2001](#)



**Return to
Top**

For previous listings, go to 'What's New' Archives



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





School Visits

On May 24, 2002 I fulfilled my pledge to visit every school district in Minnesota. I did it in order to stay in touch with what is really happening in the classrooms across the state. As you can see on the [map below](#), I've been very busy. I have chronicled [my recent school visits](#) with photos and summaries. You can also check out the list of schools I've visited each year.



Plus I publish an annual report of my visits in a booklet called "[Listening and Learning](#)." At each school district I talk with students, staff and community members to learn what issues are important to them. Schools also showcase some of their interesting and unique educational programs.

VISITED EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE!



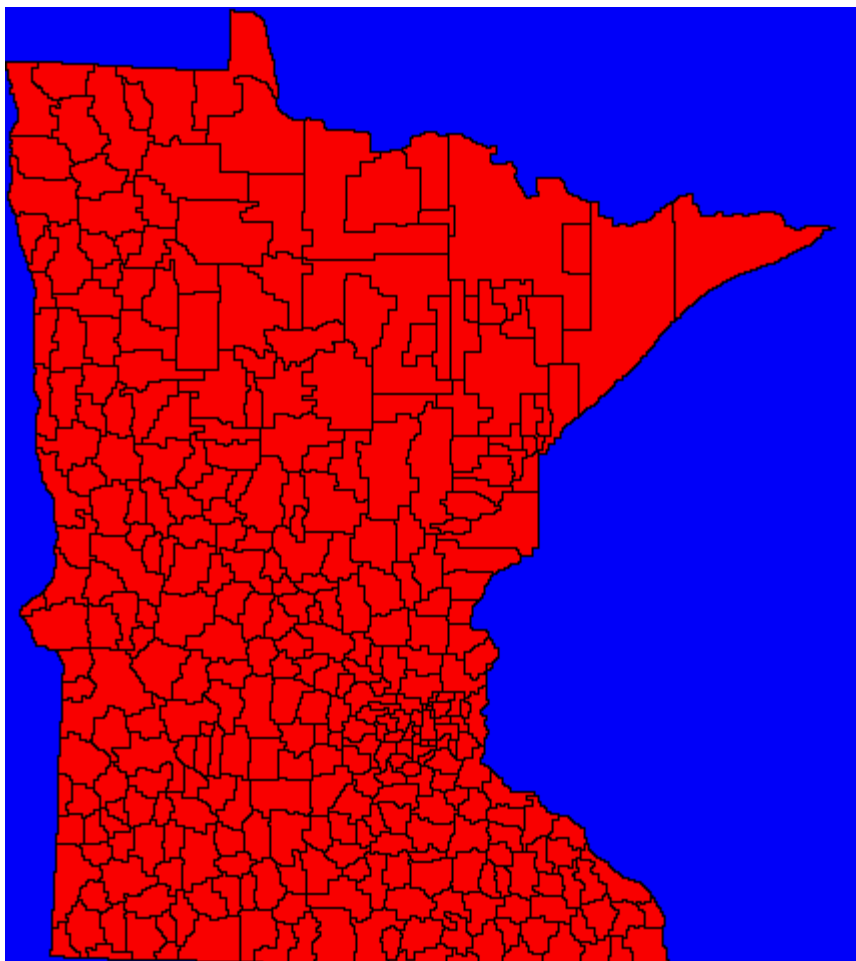
[Summaries of Visits](#)

[List of Visits](#)

[Map of Visits](#)

Map of School Districts Visited

[Return
to top](#)



Lt. Gov. Schunk has fulfilled her pledge to visit every
school district in Minnesota!

Summaries of School Visits

[May 2002](#)

[April 2002](#)

[March 2002](#)

[February 2002](#)

[January 2002](#)

[December 2001](#)

[November 2001](#)

[October 2001](#)

[May 2001](#)

[April 2001](#)

[March 2001](#)

[February 2001](#)

[January 2001](#)

[December 2000](#)

[November 2000](#)

[October 2000](#)

[Click here to go back to top](#)

List of School Visits

[*Schools visited in 2001-02*](#)

[*Schools visited in 2000-01*](#)

[*Schools visited in 1999*](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
Ambassador to the World
Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission
--Introduction



Lt. Governor Schunk with Croatian President Stipe Mesic. He has worked since his election in January 2000 to restore normal relations with western nations.

Minnesota to Croatia
Humanitarian Mission
Led by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
September 16-23, 2000

"Democracy is the key to our strategy throughout southeastern Europe. Democratic governments are more stable internally, more likely to encourage ethnic tolerance and more interested in establishing closer economic and political ties with their neighbors and the West."

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
March 7, 2000



Croatia lies along the western coast of the

Mission Statement

Lt. Governor Mae Schunk

The purpose of this trip is to view the progress of the Minnesota National Guard's State Partnership Program and to explore other sorts of mutually beneficial relationships between Croatia and Minnesota. It is our hope that these

Balkan Peninsula, across the Adriatic Sea from Italy. The city of Dubrovnik is one of the coastline attractions that make tourism Croatia's largest industry.

personal, political and professional contacts and exchanges of ideas and goods will serve to strengthen the promising democratic institutions of Croatia.

Minnesota already has deep ties with Croatia because thousands of people of Croatian descent live in this state, with the greatest concentration in the iron range. I am a first generation Croatian and have always had a strong desire to travel to my father's homeland. Former Governor Rudy Perpich moved to Croatia after he left office, and had great visions for business development when the civil war intervened. The catalyst and host for the humanitarian mission was the Minnesota National Guard, which has had a state partnership program with



Croatia since 1996. The United States Ambassador to Croatia invited Governor Ventura to lead a delegation of Minnesota civic leaders to Croatia *"to see firsthand the progress of the (National Guard State Partnership) program and to explore further avenues of cooperation between Minnesota and Croatia."* The Governor accepted the

invitation, and directed me to lead the delegation.

The Minnesota National Guard facilitated the mission to Croatia. This Boeing 727 is operated by the Washington D.C. National Guard.

I was honored to head the delegation, which included representatives from education, business, the military, government and communications. Yet, I cannot deny the personal effect that this visit had on me. I have no words to describe the feelings of finding cousins that I had never known about, sitting in my dad's birth home, and standing beneath the tree in the back yard that was planted by my grandparents. I felt strangely at home as I walked to the cemetery to visit the burial site of my grandparents and other relatives, and stopped to say a prayer in the family church. My heritage came alive as I visited my father's school and walked along some of the same footpaths that he used. The emotion continued when I lit a candle at a soldier's memorial to honor those who lost their lives in the war. As I visited with the people of Croatia, I felt a welcome of closeness and warmth to my heritage that I have never felt before. I entered Croatia with anxiety and goose bumps, but left it with a heart full of love and pride in my heritage. This is a most beautiful country with wonderfully generous and warm people.

The Delegation

Lt. Governor Mae Schunk

Mission: Establish diplomatic contacts with government officials.

- ***Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk***
- ***Steve LeBeau, Communication Department, Governor's Office***
- ***Sgt. Melissa Strassburg-Peltz, Minnesota State Patrol***
- ***Sgt. Jim Mayasich, Minnesota State Patrol***
- ***Spc. Anna Lewicki, photographer, Minnesota National Guard***
- ***Sgt. Melanie Nelson, videographer, Minnesota National Guard***

Minnesota National Guard Group

Mission: Observe the progress of the partnership program; encourage understanding of the role of armed forces under civilian rule, including the importance of community service and disaster response.

- ***Major General Eugene Andreotti -- the Adjutant General***
- ***Colonel Denny Lord***
- ***Brigadier General Harry Sieben -- Assistant Adjutant General***
- ***Major Tom Miller***
- ***Sgt. Major Chuck Benda - high school teacher***
- ***Lt. Colonel Denny Shields, Communications Officer***

Business group

Mission: Explore opportunities for economic development - trade, partnerships, contacts, etc.

- ***Commissioner John Swift - IRRRB -(Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board)***
- ***Mark Ludlow - owner, Ludlow's Lodge, Cook, MN***
- ***John Dosen, Executive Vice President, Minnesota Industries, Grand Rapids, MN***
- ***Lyle Bowyer - International Business Development Manager, 3M, St. Paul, MN***
- ***Gene Hugoson - Commissioner of Minnesota Department of Agriculture***
- ***State Representative Tom Rukavina, Virginia, MN - Board Member of IRRRB***
- ***State Senator Roy Terwilliger, Edina, MN***
- ***State Representative William Kuisle, Rochester, MN***
- ***Boris Miksic - Honorary Croatian Consul General in Minnesota - President, Cortec Corporation, White Bear Lake, MN***

Media/Communications Group

Mission: Discuss with Croatian journalists and media regulators the concept of a free press in a private enterprise economy, role as watchdog of

government, importance of the First Amendment.

- *Paul Moore - Communications Department, Governor's Office*
- *Gary Hill - manager of Investigative Unit, KSTP-TV, former president of Minnesota Chapter of Society of Professional Journalist; leader in local Freedom of Information challenges.*
- *Jackie Crosby - Writer for Minneapolis Star Tribune on-line service; Pulitzer prizewinner.*
- *Don Gillmor - Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, author, media law specialist, founding director of the Silha Center for Media Ethics and Law*
- *State Senator Ember Reichgott-Junge*

Education Group

Mission: Explore strengths and weaknesses of Croatian educational systems and policies; explore exchanges of people and ideas.

- *Abraham Dehzad - A native of Afghanistan, Dehzad lived in Croatia for 30 years. He is now the principal of The Abraham Lincoln Alternative High School in Minneapolis that serves immigrants.*
- *Paul Deputy, Dean of Education and Human Service Professions, University of Minnesota at Duluth*
- *Kim Van Wie - Director of StarBase Minnesota - a non-profit educational organization that partners with the National Guard to teach elementary students about applied math and science by focusing on aeronautics.*
- *Delores Henderson - Director of Intervention, St. Paul Public Schools*
- *Julio Almanza - Superintendent, Duluth Public School District*
- *Joe Sertich - President, Northeast Higher Education District, Minnesota State College and University System, Chisholm, MN*



On the first evening in Zagreb, Boris Miksic, Minnesota's Honorary Consul for Croatia, hosted a delightful event with traditional food, music and dancing.

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Diplomatic Visits](#)
- [Education in Croatia](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Minefields](#)
- [Dubrovnik](#)

- [My Visit to Delnice](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
Ambassador to the World
Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission
--Diplomatic Visits



Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission

Led by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

September 16-23, 2000

Diplomatic Visits

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

This was one of the most exciting and strenuous days of my life. In order to follow diplomatic protocol, I attended a series of meetings with top officials in the Croatian government. The U.S. Embassy staff in Zagreb arranged our agenda. The day began in my comfort zone, with a visit to The Economic High School of Zagreb. I talked with teachers and visited a classroom. But then it was time to take off my teacher hat and put on my diplomat hat.

We began at the top by meeting with Croatian President Stipe Mesic. He is a delightful man who has helped to restore better relations with the United States and Western Europe. Like Governor Ventura, President Mesic ran as an underdog reformer in Croatia's opposition party. He rose rapidly in the polls, starting with only 3% support in December 1999, but went on to win the election less than two months later.

President Mesic's first comment at our meeting was, "Croatia has the same size population as Minnesota, now we want to match your GDP(Gross Domestic Production)."



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk is greeted
by Croatian President Stipe Mesic.

His comment brought a laugh, but it is also true. Governor Ventura likes to mention that if Minnesota were a separate nation, its economy would rank us as the 23rd richest nation. Croatia is far behind that. It does not make it onto the list of the top 50 nations for GDP. Croatia's most urgent need is economic development, but this follows 50 years of Communism, 5 years of recent war, and 5 years of political stagnation.

Under President Mesic, Croatia is for the first time admitting that it has some people who may have committed war crimes. This is one reason why Mesic has won greater respect for Croatia in the West. For example, President Clinton welcomed President Mesic and Prime Minister Ivica Racan to the White House last summer, a courtesy not extended to Croatia's previous administration. Also, Croatian Serb refugees are being allowed to return to their homes and farms. Now more than ever, Croatia is being welcomed as a trusted member of the community of nations.

Other courtesy calls included:

- Vice premiers Goran Granic and Zeljka Antunovic at the Government offices of Croatia at Banski Dvor
- Members of Parliament at the Sabor
- Deputy Mayor of Zagreb
- Defense Minister Rados.



Lt. Governor Schunk and Major General Eugene Andreotti visited with Vice Premiers Goran Granic and Zeljka Antunovic in the offices of the Croatian Government at Banski Dvor.

State Senator Ember Reichgott Junge and State Representative Thomas Rukavina met with their counterparts at the Croatian Parliament building, the Sabor in Zagreb.

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Introduction](#)
- [Education in Croatia](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Minefields](#)
- [Dubrovnik](#)
- [My Visit to Delnice](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
Ambassador to the World
Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission
--Education in Croatia



Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission

Led by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

September 16-23, 2000

Education in Croatia

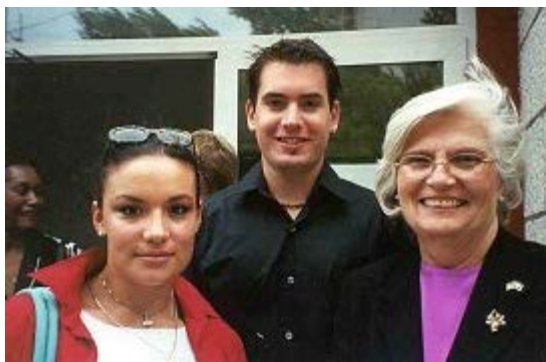
I had the opportunity to visit three schools during my weeklong stay in Croatia - an elementary school in Delnice, a high school in Zagreb and a college in Dubrovnik. These schools made it very clear to me that Croatia is not a third world country. It is part and parcel of Western Europe in the quality and temper of its educational system. Representative Thomas Rukavina observed that the average student in Croatia would probably be in the top five percent in a Minnesota school. For one thing, the curriculum is advanced in certain ways. For example, all students must begin a second language beginning in first grade. Their top two choices for a second language are English and German. I can't tell you how many Croatians I met who spoke perfect English! I could only vow to them that I would get a remedial class in Croatian. Although I only spoke Croatian until first grade, I've lost the ability to speak it, because of disuse. I can still comprehend a lot of the words, enough to encourage me to learn more.

At the Economic High School in Zagreb I watched a videotaped sample of an economics class. In it the students participated in a project on stock markets. It would fit right into the project-oriented Profile of Learning in Minnesota. The students took roles as buyers and sellers at a simulated stock market, and scrambled frenetically around the room trying to make deals, just like we see at the New York Stock Exchange. Teaching economics is important in Croatia, because it desperately needs to transform its economy into a vital and prosperous free enterprise system. This is a challenge to a country which for fifty years lived under Communism, which prescribed that only the government can own and operate all the companies and factories. The process

of shifting from state-owned companies to new owners in the private sector is called privatization. It is a big word and a complex problem in Croatia.



Lieutenant Governor Schunk talks with students at the Zagreb Economic High School.



These students at the American School of Business and Management are looking forward to careers in the hospitality industry. Croatia's largest industry is tourism.

I heard many stories of corruption in the privatization process, in which profiteers would take over companies cheaply, grab what cash they could, and then drive the businesses into bankruptcy. Plus the process of independence from the merged nation of Yugoslavia reduced the market for local producers from 40 million people down to 4.5 million people. Additional market shares were lost during five years of war, in which production was shut down for the duration. Their customers went elsewhere for their supplies, and they remain with their new suppliers. All of these factors contribute to an official unemployment rate of about 20%. Many of the workers at businesses still owned by the state do no work at all. There is gross inefficiency. But the government won't fire these people because it does not want to add to the unemployment problem. Add to this a load of taxes and huge sets of regulations for business owners, and you begin to see the difficulties of growing the Croatian economy.

For an economics teacher the question becomes, how do you teach students to become successful in an incipient free enterprise system? One answer is that you borrow brains from abroad. We saw a stunning example of this at the American School of Business and Management at Dubrovnik. The University of Rochester in New York is a partner in this enterprise, which focuses on the business aspects of Croatia's largest industry - tourism. We met a couple students who positively inspired us as to the value of the school.

Another implication of Croatia's struggling economy is that there is not enough money for schools. The elementary school in Delnice was full of bright and energetic students, but the school is not yet a part of the high tech world. That's why we presented them with two new computers donated from the Well's Fargo bank via the Minnesota Computers for Schools Program. They also sent with us two reconditioned laser printers. At a welcome rally in the school's front foyer, the students



applauded when we opened the boxes of computer equipment.

The principal of the Delnice Elementary School presents Lieutenant Governor Schunk with a traditional girl's dress. The school tripled its technological strength after accepting two computers donated by Minnesota's Computers for Schools Program.

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Introduction](#)
- [Diplomatic Visits](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Minefields](#)
- [Dubrovnik](#)
- [My Visit to Delnice](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
Ambassador to the World
Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission
--Villages in the War Zone



Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission

Led by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
September 16-23, 2000

Villages in the War Zone

The most heartbreaking part of my visit to Croatia was a trip to some small villages in the former war zone, near the regional center of Sisak. I saw bullet holes in houses, roofs destroyed, and homes in piles of rubble. The local economy has been reduced to subsistence farming, because the local industries lost their markets during the war. The people who needed their products during the war had to turn to other suppliers, and stayed with them after the war. This leaves many people, young and old alike, with no jobs apart from growing crops for food.

Among the many remote villages, we visited two that are being repopulated by their original Serbian-Croatian owners. They had been driven away during the war. Unfortunately, a number of homes and farms abandoned by Serbian refugees became the new homes for Croatian refugees from Serbia and Bosnia.



Many buildings destroyed in the war remain in disrepair, but the spirit of the people remains unbroken.



This man spent three years in Germany as a war refugee before returning to his home.



President Misesk has put an end to that policy, and now Serbian-Croatians are being encouraged to return to their rightful homes. They, too, have inherited a local economy that was ruined by the war, and the government is too poor to provide much help.

Many returning war refugees find that they must start their lives over again.

While the new country is trying to get on its feet, American and international organizations are working to revive the infrastructure and micro-economies of the war-torn rural villages of Croatia. The United States International Aid & Development Corporation (USAID) is part of a cooperative effort to reconstruct damaged houses, get villages connected to electricity, and promote economic development. In its way their work also helps to heal the wounds of ethnic division by building a set of healthy communities based on freedom and private enterprise.

We brought some donated colored pencils and drawing tablets for the children, because their parents could not afford art supplies. Sometimes the creative drawings of school children can provide a breath of inspiration in the face of great challenges. The villages that I saw were desolate and poor. They needed clothes as much as anything. It could have been a snapshot of a hundred years ago. Old women drew buckets of water from an outside well; chickens ran freely in the yard, and the proprietor cheerfully presented samples of his latest batch of homemade plum brandy. Plum trees are abundant, just to serve that purpose. Many wells are poisoned, making the water dangerous to drink. In this respect the villagers feel safer drinking wine and whiskey.

Tractors were rare. A lucky few had horses. Most people could only rely on themselves.

Yet there was the same spirit of optimism that I saw in the urban areas of Zagreb, Dubrovnik and Rijeka. These people desperately need help, but they cling to the conviction that the worst is over. For now, they are giving peace a chance. Peacefully they take on the challenge to survive and prosper.

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Introduction](#)
-

Diplomatic Visits

- **Education in Croatia**
- **Minefields**
- **Dubrovnik**
- **My Visit to Delnice**



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
Ambassador to the World
Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission
--Minefields



Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission

Led by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
September 16-23, 2000

Minefields



A Croatian official explained that some of the deadly mines were adorned with toys and pencils to attract children.

War is a terrible thing, and the terror lives on in horrible ways. The most tragic example of this is in the minefields that pervade the country, with a continual threat of injury and death. More than a million mines are still buried in the fields and empty lots of Croatia. That's one for about every four people in the country. Of the 21 counties in Croatia, 14 are infested with minefields.

The problem is exacerbated because the armies that hurriedly planted the mines did not bother to make maps of where the mines were buried. Standard military procedure was forsaken due to haste and a lack of training. The result is that thousands of civilians continued to be killed by accidentally stepping on a mine that nobody knew about. I saw a piece of land about the size of a city block where ten people had been killed by mines within the last year. Often the victims are children or elderly people.

A vast and expensive demining operation has been in effect for several years, but the process could take another thirty years. Government officials insist it could be done in ten years . . .if they could raise a billion dollars for the effort. Right now they have five demining machines, costing as much as five million dollars each.



This Swedish-built demining machine comes with a price tag of five million dollars.



This demining machine digs up an area next to a village where ten people were killed by mines in the last year. More than a million mines remain buried in unknown locations throughout Croatia.

First, suspected minefields are roped off and surveyed. If mines are discovered, the next step is to dig them up. They can be anywhere from 10-14 inches deep, which means that digging them up thoroughly tends to tear up an area thoroughly, destroying whatever plants may be in the way. We saw a heavy-duty demining machine from Sweden easily uproot a tree and spit it out as sawdust. Think of all the fields and pastures and empty lots in Croatia that are haunted by the specter of buried death, waiting for a false step! Our hosts were quite firm in their command: Stay on the paved areas! Do not walk on the grass! It's a matter of life and death.

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Introduction](#)
- [Diplomatic Visits](#)
- [Education in Croatia](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Dubrovnik](#)
- [My Visit to Delnice](#)





Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
Ambassador to the World
Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission
--Dubrovnik



Though much of the city is 800 years old, people continue to live and work in the center of Dubrovnik.

Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission

Led by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk
September 16-23, 2000

Dubrovnik

A damaged historical city, making a comeback

The beauty and horror of Croatia is intermixed in the ancient coastal city of Dubrovnik. This walled trading settlement is so beautiful, it is called the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Many of the stone structures date back 800 years to an age in which Dubrovnik was one of the major business centers of the Mediterranean, rivaling Venice in its glory. The classic charm of Dubrovnik provided the location shooting for the movie, "Amadeus."

For hundreds of years Dubrovnik managed to avoid the destruction of war -- although it has been savaged by two severe earthquakes. Yet even during World War II both sides avoided using Dubrovnik as a battleground. This good luck ended in 1991 when Serbian artillery opened fire from the



The ancient walled city of Dubrovnik is called the "Pearl of the Adriatic." It is the major tourist attraction along Croatia's exquisite

mountainous ridge above the city, and from ships on the Adriatic Sea. Our guides told us that 80% of the ancient buildings were hit, some destroyed forever. Much of the damage has been repaired -- out of economic necessity, for Dubrovnik is the foremost tourist attraction in Croatia.

The other main targets of the Serbian guns were the hotels that serve the thousands of tourists that flock to Dubrovnik every summer. Some 30 hotels remain closed because the damage was so severe. Overall, tourism is down about 50% because of the war. Still, they had twice as many visitors this year than last year.

Aside from the irrepressible beauty of the area, a bright spot of hope for the future was the American College of Business and Technology in Dubrovnik. Partnered with the University of Rochester in New York, this college focuses on tourism and hospitality management skills.

Dalmatian Coast.



Artillery from the adjacent mountainside easily destroyed buildings that had stood for centuries

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Introduction](#)
- [Diplomatic Visits](#)
- [Education in Croatia](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Minefields](#)
- [My Visit to Delnice](#)





Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

Minnesota to Croatia Humanitarian Mission

September 17 to 23, 2000



Lieutenant Governor Schunk and her cousin display an old photograph of her father with his brothers.

A visit to Delnice, my father's hometown

A Refugee Daughter returns

One reason that I sympathize with the plight of refugees in Croatia is that my father, Jack Gasparac, was a refugee. He was born and raised in Delnice, a town high in the mountains, about 30 miles from the seaport of Rijeka. As a soldier during World War I he was captured by the enemy, who pressured him to fight on their side, against his own people. When he refused they tied him to a railroad track, to let the next train finish him off. My father chewed off the ropes with his teeth and escaped. He stowed away on a boat to North America, and never returned to Croatia. By returning to his hometown I am living out his dreams.

Thanks to the great detective work of the American Embassy, I met two cousins I never knew about. My family reunion was sandwiched between official duties -- meeting the mayor, visiting an elementary school, and lighting a candle at a war



memorial.

At the military base in Delnice Lieutenant Governor Schunk lit a candle to honor slain soldiers and other war victims.

I met with my cousins and their families for about an hour to share photos and reminisce. We gathered in my cousin's home, the same house where my father was born. Then we took a short walk to visit the family cemetery and church. It's not easy to have a private event in the midst of official duties, so I am planning to travel to Croatia next year for a personal vacation with my family. I hope to visit many of the areas where our delegation traveled, but my heart is in Delnice. It is a priceless feeling to know that you have family connections in the land of your father and mother. I have been learning in my work about the globalization of the economy, education and society, but my experience in Delnice revealed to me the globalization of family.



Lieutenant Governor Schunk sits with her cousin, and enjoys a photograph her father sent from America to his brother in Croatia. It shows the family farm in Greenwood, Wisconsin, where Mae Schunk grew up.

Links to the other web pages dealing with the Croatia mission

- [Introduction](#)
- [Diplomatic Visits](#)
- [Education in Croatia](#)
- [Villages in the War Zone](#)
- [Minefields](#)

Dubrovnik



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura **Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Official Duties

The duties of the Office of Lieutenant Governor are spelled out by the State Constitution, tradition, and the directives of the governor. I serve as an extension of the governor and assist him in carrying out the functions of the executive branch. I represent the governor and am prepared to act in the governor's place in the event of his absence or disability. The governor may delegate to me any powers, duties, responsibilities or functions as prescribed by law, by filing a written order with the secretary of state.

I am a key member of the governor's cabinet and am involved in major policy and budget decisions. Governor Ventura has named me his "Ambassador to Education." I have pledged to [visit every school district in the state](#) during my term. After more than three years in office, I have visited more than 300 of Minnesota's 347 school districts. As part of my official duties I officially [open the session of the Minnesota Senate](#), serve as a member of the State's Executive Council and chair the [Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board](#). I serve on the [board of more than twenty organizations](#), including the [Minnesota Alliance with Youth](#) and America's Kids Connect. In 2000 I was named to the executive committee of the [National Association of Lieutenant Governors](#).

[Return to Top](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!



130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Listening and Learning 2001:

Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk's Annual Education Report

Introduction:

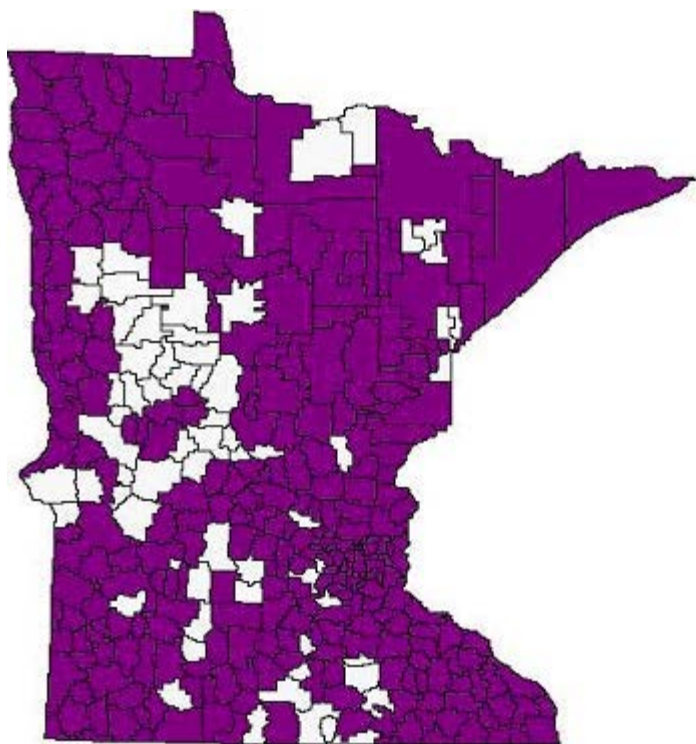
Dear Fellow Minnesotans,

As the third year of the Ventura-Schunk Administration draws to a close, Minnesota and the nation are faced with the challenges of an economic recession and a war against terrorism. Yet even as the September 11 attack has changed our lives forever, we must stay firm in the belief, now more than ever, that education is the key to a stronger Minnesota. This past year I have traveled largely to rural school districts across the state, where it is abundantly clear that schools are the true centers of the community. The challenges these districts face to maintain their schools have dominated my attention. I have also had the opportunity to attend several national educational conferences, where I have shared ideas about the future direction of education reform. I am proud to say that educational leaders and elected officials from other states continue to look toward Minnesota as a leader and a model in public education.

This report shares with you a summary of what I have learned from my visits and discussions. These experiences are the foundation of my advice to Governor Ventura on educational policies and concerns. He recruited me as Lieutenant Governor to keep him informed of what is going on in the schools, and that is what I continue to do.

In my third year of traveling to schools I again found similar themes and issues across many districts. At the same time each school has an individual character, which shines through in the passion of its teachers, the creative achievements of its students and the many remarkable innovations that could be duplicated to benefit other districts.

Mae Schunk
Lieutenant Governor
State of Minnesota



*By the end of 2001
Lieutenant Governor
Schunk had visited about
275 school districts in
Minnesota. Those
districts are colored
purple on this map.*

Voices From Around Minnesota:

Common Themes

A summary of the most common themes shared by education administrators, school teachers, students and parents.

STANDARDS

I am happy to report that the implementation of the new Graduation Standards has largely become a non-issue. That is to say that the topic has not been raised by the administrators and teachers I have visited this year. At several schools students did ask me about the Profile of Learning and what I thought about it. This shows me that the implementation of the Standards into the classroom curricula is well underway, but is not always completely smooth. I have always seen tremendous variations among schools in the degree to which they have embraced the Standards. Some have always been way ahead of others. I believe that all the districts are now on board, but the latecomers continue to struggle with the implementation.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of the M.E.E.P. coordinators from the Department of Children, Families and Learning in helping schools understand how to apply the Standards. (M.E.E.P. stands for Minnesota Educational Effectiveness Program) The M.E.E.P. coordinators are stationed in various regions around the state, and they travel from district to district to assist educators with the Standards and other issues. I know the introduction of the Profile of Learning and its sample packages was met with much confusion and resistance. The M.E.E.P. coordinators help clarify ways to revise or replace the packages with customized formats that make sense for teachers and students. On several of my trips I have been fortunate to be accompanied by some of the M.E.E.P.

coordinators. They are generally former teachers who live near the districts they serve, which means they understand their customers very well.

I know the Graduation Standards are not perfect, and that is why I am happy that we are at the stage of working to make them better. In previous years there have been persistent efforts to repeal the Standards, which would have been a grave setback and a serious mistake. I am firmly convinced that it is in the best interest of Minnesota to have strong statewide Standards with performance-based learning.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #1

The industrial arts students at Minneota High School have the opportunity to work on actual construction projects in their community. I watched them build an addition to a garage.

CLASS SIZE AND SCHOOL SIZE

Because most of the schools I visited this year were in small rural districts, class size was not an issue. On the contrary, declining enrollment was so prevalent that many K-12 classes had fewer than 20 students. Small class size is not a goal in these districts; it is the norm. However, teachers and administrators praised their class size as ideal learning environments. I am convinced it is one reason the reading levels are high in so many schools, and the graduation rates hover near 100%.

A related idea that is gaining national momentum is the importance of small *school* size. Research indicates that small high schools tend to have higher student achievement, better graduation rates and fewer discipline problems than larger schools with similar sorts of students. These smaller schools tend to have a stronger sense of community and better relationships between teachers and students. At many small schools I have asked students what they like about their school. Invariably, one of the top answers is they like the fact that they know everyone, and the teachers know them. To be recognized as an individual is an important factor in developing self-esteem. Many students are more likely to work hard at their studies if they know the teacher understands and cares.

The promotion of small schools has become a major focus of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It has provided substantial grants to St. Paul and other districts to develop smaller high schools. I strongly support this effort, which is facilitated by the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #2

The Nashwauk-Keewatin School District is working with the town of Nashwauk, Itasca Community College and Minnesota Iron and Steel to create a vocational training facility: the Itasca Educational Center.

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Teacher Quality: Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference, Los Angeles

Hundreds of educators, elected officials and policy makers converged at this conference to discuss how to improve teacher quality. The depth of the problem emerged a few years ago in Massachusetts, when the state tested new teachers: 59% failed in basic literacy and communication. If teachers are one of the most important factors in determining the success of students, how can we expect students to do well when their teachers aren't qualified?

In Massachusetts and across the country, a major response to the problem of teacher quality is to change the way teachers are paid in order to reward excellent performance. The challenge of revising the profession of teaching would mean an end to the old salary schedule, which treats all teachers the same, regardless of performance. Special interests and old-fashioned thinking provide obstacles to such reform, but I think it needs to be done.

Many speakers suggested that the way to initiate reforms in teaching is to encourage innovations at the grass-roots level. Top-down solutions can stifle local decision making, or even worse. In Georgia a 65-member panel (which included only three teachers) decided the way to solve the problems in education was to launch a \$3 million ad campaign admonishing "bad" teachers. The result was that teachers left Georgia in droves - they quit the profession or moved to neighboring states. Georgia now has a new education problem to deal with: 1500 vacant teaching positions! As a rural Georgia student put it, "When the plow don't work, we don't shoot the mule."

Another common suggestion was to create elevated teaching posts so educators can have career goals without moving out of the classroom and into administration. Many states are incorporating the idea of master teachers, experienced educators who are rewarded for their wealth of experience and their willingness to share what they have learned with new teachers. Most professions differentiate between those who excel and those who fail to achieve proficiency. In teaching they are all paid the same.

The Milken Family Foundation has developed an intriguing model for changing the profession. It's called the Teacher Advancement Program or "TAP." This approach for changing the institution of teaching follows five principles:

1. Multiple career paths
2. Market-driven compensation
3. Performance-based accountability
4. Ongoing, applied professional development
5. Expanding the supply of high quality educators

A number of states are beginning to explore TAP, and in Minnesota we just passed legislation that shares many of these ideas. Minnesota's Department of Children, Families and Learning has recently issued grants to three school districts to incorporate a new way to pay teachers based on performance. The districts are Marshall, LaCrescent-Hokah and Rushford-Peterson. Each district has designed criteria to determine how to evaluate and reward teachers in new ways. I'll be keeping an eye on these first steps toward reforming teacher compensation in Minnesota. I think we need

to do whatever we can to improve the career of teaching. We must all realize that our future depends on well-educated students, and they depend upon quality teachers.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #3

Armstrong Middle School in St. James is a model of inclusiveness: when 78 students tried out for the school play, they rewrote the script to include all 78.

P-16 and Service Learning: Education Commission of the States, Philadelphia

The historic buildings and streets of Philadelphia served as an appropriate and inspiring backdrop for discussions on the importance of education to democracy. Thomas Jefferson clearly saw that a strong democracy relies on an educated public and engaged citizens. The first stage of the annual ECS summer conference was devoted to the idea of promoting service learning across a seamless educational system that stretches from preschool through a college diploma. The shorthand for this system is "P-16."

Teams of educators and policymakers from ten states discussed these issues for two days. Joining me on the Minnesota team were Mark Langseth, Executive Director of Minnesota Campus Compact, Timothy Collins, Superintendent of Blue Earth Area Schools, Commissioner Christine Jax, of Children, Families and Learning and William Frame, President of Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Our task was to develop a statement of shared responsibility and to figure out how a P-16 service learning initiative could take root in Minnesota.

The rationale for a P-16 system arises as a solution to the *disconnects* that currently plague education. The most publicized gap is the one between high school graduation and college admission. Nationwide, 42% of the students entering college are not academically prepared for college courses. The result is that the fastest growing industry in the post-secondary sector is remedial education. The fastest growing industry at the secondary level is college preparatory courses. We hope our new Graduation Standards will help narrow this gap, but what is really needed is greater communication between K-12 and higher education. Another gap exists between preschool and kindergarten. Too many kids are not ready to learn. One study reveals that if students cannot read by third grade, they are likely to be academic failures by 8th grade. Research on brain development tells us that early childhood education is critical. There are groups in Minnesota and many other states promoting a P-16 dialogue, but the discussion needs to be expanded, and then connected with policymakers.

Service learning is student involvement with a community project for the purpose of learning to be a good citizen. Many young people are disenchanted with politics and government, and shy away from any kind of involvement. But they are not apathetic; they are just skeptical or not aware of how to get involved. We listened to one recent college graduate tell how her service learning project changed her life and helped her focus on a career. She said most students become transformed when they get involved in a project. The challenge is to get them started. I learned of research that says students in service learning tend to find more meaning in school, so they stay in

college longer and get better grades. More importantly, they become better citizens, and improve our nation at the grassroots level.

The Ventura-Schunk Administration is taking the P-16 idea seriously. We have formed a new position that will work with state government and higher education to explore fruitful ways to close the disconnects between the different levels of learning.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #4

Academic excellence shines at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial High School: as the 2001 Class A Champions in the Academic Decathlon, they were the only Minnesota school to compete in the national competition in Alaska.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT

This year I mainly visited school districts in small towns and rural areas. The number one problem most of these schools face is declining enrollment, and the subsequent loss of funding. Parents and board members from many of these small towns asked with great desperation whether the state could help. While there have been various subsidies, such as sparsity funds, to lessen the pain of declining enrollment, it will continue to be a problem as long as state funding for schools is apportioned out on a per-pupil basis. The fewer the students, the lower the state funding to districts.

Schools are caught in a squeeze. As their funding diminishes, many of their overhead costs remain fixed. For example, a bus needs to complete its route even if it carries fewer passengers. Buildings still need to be heated, and teachers still need to be provided. At a certain point, programs have to be cut. The question is: with limited programs, can these schools continue to guarantee a quality education? On the other hand, these small schools tend to produce high achievers and graduation rates close to 100%.

As a product of a one-room schoolhouse, I know it is possible to learn in a small setting with limited resources. Some creative rural schools are making great use of technology, such as interactive television, to augment their curricula. More and more schools are seeking to co-locate with other organizations. Having a public library or a municipal office sharing space cuts down on the burden of overhead, and can create some in-house partnerships for students.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #5

In Comfrey the school rebounded from a devastating tornado with innovations: the rebuilt school uses energy-efficient geo-thermal heating and cooling, plus the school is co-located with the public library.

ALL-DAY, EVERYDAY KINDERGARTEN AND EARLY EDUCATION

Schools across the state are continuing the trend to implement all-day, everyday kindergarten. I can see the difference it makes in kids. At some schools students are already reading by the spring after spending a year in all-day, everyday kindergarten. Perhaps the best part is teachers report that children are ready to learn when they begin

first grade.

Recent research on brain development indicates that it is never too early to expose children to reading. That is why an increased emphasis is being placed on early childhood learning across the nation. At a recent educational conference, a scholar at the University of Texas summarized what current research says about teaching children to read. The problem is alarming: 40% of American students don't read well enough to do their class work, and are therefore likely to dropout of school. Only 10% of lagging first graders will ever catch up and kids still lagging by third grade have almost no chance of catching up. However, the scholar says we have the tools to prevent 98% of the reading problems, if we start early.

The philosophical debate we engage in is, who should be responsible for preschool children, parents or the state government? Unless we are willing to divert substantial funds toward all-day, everyday kindergarten and early childhood education, we must be creative in our efforts to determine how parents, community organizations and schools can work together.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #6

The student entrepreneur program at Westbrook-Walnut Grove has exceeded expectations: the students created a commercially successful product called Prairie Smoke Barbecue Sauce.

TECHNOLOGY

I am amazed at the diversity of technology at the different schools I visit. Sometimes a small, remote school may be on the cutting edge of computer sophistication and training. Then there may be a larger school in a larger community that stills uses obsolete machines. But it is a fact of life that computer literacy is a necessary skill for success in the 21st century.

A number of schools are providing advanced training to students via business collaborations or through the CISCO Academy, which teaches computer networking. Even though we have seen a downturn in many dot-com industries, there is no doubt that students with advanced technology skills will have a competitive edge in the future workforce.

As always, the cost of staying up-to-date in technology is very high. This will present a challenge to schools, especially in the face of the current recession. Prudent planning of technology budgets and partnerships with local businesses and other organizations will be more important than ever in this respect.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #7

Turtle Lake Elementary instituted Parallel Block Scheduling, a strategy to allow classes of 24 students to break into groups of 15 for intensive reading instruction.

PARTNERSHIPS

It strengthens schools, businesses and communities when they form partnerships.

Schools gain learning opportunities, resources and allies; businesses gain expertise, good will and the promise of a capable future workforce; communities become enriched by citizens who understand the value of being involved for the service of others. Following are some exemplary partnerships I witnessed during my visits:

--Fourth graders at Gatewood Elementary school in Hopkins make pottery bowls and raffle them off for charity at the "Empty Bowls Event;" last year they raised \$27,000 for local food shelves.

--The Rockford Middle School formed the Environment and Integrating Context, thanks to support from the Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center and the Blandin Foundation. EIC allows students to study the environment in outdoor laboratories in projects aligned with the Graduation Standards.

--In Maple Lake, the Community Care Program mobilized 1000 parents and volunteers who raised money for a playground and helped build it.

--Seniors at Elgin-Millville Community School complete a major community service project prior to graduation. Last year, in "Trees for Trails," they planted trees and landscaped along a trail they built for the public.

--Red Rock Central High School students in Lamberton operate RRCNET, an Internet provider service that partners with the Meadowland Farmers Co-op.

--In Coleraine, the VanDyke Elementary School reaches into the community to promote literacy. As part of "Project Read" they distribute a reading kit to newborns, including books and a bib.

--In Edgerton, the district worked with Fey Industries to build the "Forever Young Child Care Center" next to the school.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #8

The Stewartville School District used a grant from the Jade Foundation to build a learning center for severely disabled students, including a voice-activated computer.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Throughout Minnesota, charter schools continue to provide innovative alternatives to regular public schools. A small percentage has proved to be poorly managed, but these have been shut down. This shows the system is accountable. I look forward to the development of new charter schools that can implement new approaches to address some of the tough issues in student achievement.

The Minnesota Business Academy in St. Paul has transformed the former Science Museum building into an ideal place for students to learn about the business world. The school's proximity to downtown St. Paul facilitates partnerships and internships with many businesses.

The New Visions Charter School is living up to the charter school promise of creating ideas to be used by other schools. They have developed motor strategies and feedback technology that incorporate the latest in brain research to work wonders with students who have learning disabilities. Their success is now being exported to other schools around the state - and to schools in Tennessee!

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #9

The Crosby-Ironton School is working with its community to develop the Cayuna Range Technology Center, an educational facility for information technology.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Special education funding continues to be a sore point between states and the federal government. While many governors and lieutenant governors are making their voices heard in Washington D.C., there is a reluctance by the Bush Administration to pay states the full 40% of special education funding originally promised by Congress. One objection the Bush Administration has is that the percentage of students classified under special education has increased dramatically since the mandate was enacted in the 1970s. The special education costs are therefore vastly larger than anyone dreamed they would be. Still, it is the school districts that carry this weight, under the federal mandate. Rarely do I encounter a school district that does not complain about special education costs.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #10

Edgerton Public Schools worked with the town's largest business, Fey Industries, to open the "Forever Young Child Care Center" next to the school.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Public education is constantly responding to demographic changes. Especially significant are immigrants from Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. This phenomenon first emerged in the Twin Cities Metro Area more than a decade ago, but now is quite evident all over the state.

Many Metro Area schools have English Language Learner (ELL) teachers, and there are two alternative high schools devoted to immigrants: LEAP English Academy in St. Paul and the Abraham Lincoln High School in Minneapolis. Both use an English-immersion strategy to hasten the linguistic skills of their students.

Many Spanish-speaking families are moving to greater Minnesota towns to work at turkey plants and other industries. In Madelia, as many as 40% of the elementary students and 22% of the high school students are Hispanic. The district has adapted well to the influx, employing translators and ELL teachers in both schools. At Viking Elementary School in Pelican Rapids, at least 30% of the students don't speak English as their first language.

The town of Erskine became a magnet for Russian immigrants, and about 76 Russian-speaking students attend the Win-E-Mac School. The school now provides Russian

language instruction and cultural studies in grades 1-12, and to parents as part of community education.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #11

Nicollet Public School is ahead of the curve: They've had all-day, everyday kindergarten for 25 years, plus a day care program inside the school.

GOVERNANCE REFORM

Listening and learning is the theme of my annual report, but it is also a hallmark of how we do business. Much of our legislative agenda has received popular and political support because it truly does come from Minnesota's grassroots. In school governance, we believe in local decision making combined with flexibility in funding. The focus is on students and school sites that aim to accomplish statewide goals.

The results of our administration's collaborative efforts with the legislature and the education community will soon be measurable. Through data gathered by assessments, reporting and anecdotes, we will be able to compare districts with each other in a meaningful way. This past legislative session, we were also successful in winning a change in the way we measure class sizes, so we will have accurate and pertinent data for policymakers' use as they consider revenue investments in the future.

In response to concerns about fairness in funding, we have proposed, and often won, changes in the formula to provide better equity. These changes include:

- State takeover of general education costs
- Increased funding
- Enhanced debt equalization funding for school construction
- Funding flexibility
- Funding formula simplification
- Adjustments to the education tax credits and deductions
- Charter school funding accountability
- Increased and improved information-reporting to the state and the public

Achieving fairness is an ongoing issue. Every adjustment seems to be a step forward for most districts, but some districts tell me that they seem to be falling through the cracks. This is a perpetual process of adjustment, as our complicated formula responds to the changing social, economic and demographic environment.

We have also responded to concerns about teacher recruitment and retention in a variety of fashions. We have sought financial assistance proposals for students

studying to be teachers. We passed an alternative pay program giving financial support to locally-designed alternatives to steps and lanes. We have also provided alternate ways to obtain a teaching license, to enable capable professionals to more easily enter the classrooms and schools.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #12

The Nett Lake Public School shares expenses in its building by co-locating with the Human Services Agency of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Head Start.

THANK YOU

In Fosston, a sixth-grade student asked me if it is still exciting to see new kids at different schools. Yes, it is. Every student is unique and interesting, and I always appreciate each one's potential, optimism and youthful energy. I am sincerely grateful to the students, teachers, parents and administrators who have welcomed me into their schools. I appreciate your hard work and hospitality, and will continue to share your concerns and successes with Governor Ventura.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Speech

The Importance of Volunteerism Mrs. Minnesota Competition Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud March 19, 2002

(Note: text may vary from actual presentation)

Volunteers!

How many of you have been a volunteer? Let's have a show of hands.

Thank you!

We have among us today, a model Life Volunteer who has brought enthusiasm and excitement to the adventure of volunteerism.

She also is a noted speaker, author and professional vocalist.

This person is Mrs. Minnesota, 2001, Kelly Jahner-Byrne!

Minnesota leads the nation with volunteers. 65% of Minnesotans volunteer an average of 3 hours per week.

We do our nation proud!

In some instances the impact of volunteerism can be assessed quantitatively, such as for the elderly who can live in their homes because of a program called Meals on Wheels or senior companions.

Through their work in schools, volunteers make a difference in the lives of our children.

My neighbor across the street from me, who has MS, is driven by a volunteer, to a school every Thursday, where she volunteers to read to and with students who need help with reading.

At the school where I last was a teacher before becoming Lieutenant Governor a second grade student, Tommy, was absent from school very often.

He came one or two days a week for about a month.

His teacher noted that he for sure came on Wednesdays.

The nurse waited for him one Wednesday.

She asked him why he came every Wednesday but was absent most of the other days.

His reply---"Because this is the day my Reading Buddy comes to read with me."

His reading buddy was a 3M worker who came to read with Tommy every Wed.

The impact of volunteers on the quality of lives of children and others who need help is immeasurable.

My experience of working with volunteers has not only been heartwarming, but heartfelt. Believe me!

I appreciate the sincere effort of individuals who choose to help other people and their communities by giving freely of their time.

Let me tell you about my boss, Jesse Ventura.

When I first met Jesse Ventura I was so impressed that he was a volunteer at his local community high school.

He assisted with coaching the football players. When he became governor, he let nothing come in the way of his volunteer work.

I am a teacher and, well, you all know *his* former background.

Not where you would think a dedicated volunteer would come from.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and all ages.

So, let me ask you, "What is a volunteer?" Oh, I know you know.

It is about caring and giving of your heart.

It is you!

Jesse Ventura's dedication to volunteering was one of the reasons that I was convinced to join him in his campaign. He is a man who cares about people and gives and speaks from his heart.

I want everyone to know that Governor Jesse Ventura and I value those who volunteer.

We know how important it is to those who are served, our children, the elderly, shut-ins and whoever is in the need.

I volunteer in a St. Paul school. I read to and with students, mentor and even get to teach a class now and then.

To me it is like a shot of joy to my mind and heart. I can return to the Capitol revitalized of the reason why I go to work every day.

Once I took office I became involved in education, volunteerism and anything involving kids.

At nearly every school I visit, I meet volunteers who are working to support the children's education by lending their hands, their brains and their hearts.

Senior citizen volunteers become special Grandmas and Grandpas in the school.

Yes, the kids love them and even call them Grandma or Grandpa. They connect with kids in very special ways.

They seem to have that magical touch that helps children improve achievement and they have that magical touch that also helps to improve discipline.

They help the kids to relax and feel appreciated, but they also make them feel like they better not misbehave. As you know Grandma and Grandpa always carry more weight in that category than Mom and Dad.

How wonderful the stories I hear about volunteers when I travel to the schools. I wish everyone could just see one of these experiences with me.

Students are learning how to become volunteers through a curriculum called Service Learning.

It is a formal way of learning how to be a volunteer and how to give time to others.

They learn how mentor younger students, work with senior citizens in the community and even with their peers.

At a high school in Wayzata, I met two junior high school students who set up a English class after school to help immigrant students who were having a difficult time understanding how to do homework because they did not know how to speak or write English.

This is Service Learning. I am so proud of those kids.

Students tell me that working as a volunteer is not only a value for the person receiving the help, but that it is rewarding and self fulfilling for the volunteer, too.

These are the real life experiences that teach citizenship.

This is a win-win situation.

Learning how to volunteer at an early age helps young people to become active, engaged citizens who will help to strengthen the fabric of society.

This is America's Promise.

America's Promise is an outgrowth of the leadership of General Collin Powell, now Secretary of State. In Minnesota we call this group "Minnesota's Alliance for Youth."

It is dedicated to ensuring that children and young adults have access to the fundamental resources they need to become successful adults.

The resources are: **mentor**, for an ongoing education; **protect**, a safe place to be after school and after school activities; **nurture**, to develop a healthy mind and body; **teach**, to have marketable skills through education; **serve**, opportunity to give back to the community.

We have a new idea to recognize student's who participate in volunteer services.

It is called "President's Student Service Challenge."

Again, this idea is supported by Sec. of State, Collin Powell, and Presidents, past and present.

Students who do 100 hours of service will receive a pin signed by the President.

It is important that we recognize good citizenship.

The tragedy of Sept. 11 has brought volunteering to the nation's attention like no other event in history.

We have read, heard and witnessed how people near and far have, young and elderly have volunteered to help in the best possible way they can.

The people of America did step up to the plate and I know they always will.

It is in the heart of volunteers.

This is citizenship and democracy in action.

Kelly has shown us by modeling, many of the pathways to that one can take as a volunteer.

I recommend that everyone read her recently published book, "Volunteer for Life."

This book is truly an education about volunteerism and how you, too, can become involved.

Kelly, thank you for being a model Mrs. Minnesota.

Your dedication and commitment to volunteering has changed the lives of many people. You gave them hope!

"We are truly proud you are our Mrs. Minnesota." As this door closes, I know there will be

another one to open for a new pathway.

I wish you well in your continued adventures in life.

Thank you for being a part of my life.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Speech

Conference of Minnesota School Superintendents Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington August 15, 2001

(Actual presentation may vary from text)

Good afternoon, everyone.

I'm honored to speak with you today.

Each year I recognize more and more faces in the crowd, and I'd like to thank you more than ever for inviting me here.

I've now visited about 240 school districts in Minnesota.

And of course I visit them during the school year.

So how do I spend my summers off?

Like many teachers - I seem to be even busier in the summer.

I've been traveling to education conferences across the country.

In Los Angeles, at the Milken Foundation Conference, I was fortunate to meet a man who has spent a lifetime getting kids to say the "darndest things."

That's right - I met Art Linkletter - who has a natural talent for getting children to express themselves - so they can shine onstage with their innocent charm.

He's quite an inspiration to a lifelong elementary teacher like me - who knows how tough it is to get a six year old to say anything.

It's a strange thing though - -

Whenever I've told anybody I met Art Linkletter, they all have the same response.

They say, I thought he was dead!

Well, no - I talked with him, had my picture taken with him, and heard him give a speech.

No . . . he's very much alive. Just turned 89.

In Philadelphia I met another great inspiration.

At the Education Commission of the States I had a chance to meet their keynote speaker - a man who has been a teacher to many children over the last 35 years.

. . through distance learning, you might say.

I met Fred Rogers, the star of Mister Roger's Neighborhood, the PBS television show.

When my son was a toddler we used to sit down in front of the TV and be charmed by this gentle teacher.

When he spoke to an audience of adults a couple weeks ago, he had the same gentle delivery and soft cadence that he used when speaking with kids.

So I thought, why don't I try that?

Why don't I try doing what I did as an elementary teacher, with a room full of superintendents?

So I brought a book to read to you.

It's called, "Through the Cracks."

It's about bored students who fall through the cracks at school.

Don't worry.

I'm not actually going to read it to you.

But it reminded me of some of the discussions I heard this summer about the cracks in education.

The biggest crack - the most serious disconnection - is the one between high school graduation and entering college.

Nationwide, 42% of those entering college need remedial education.

Minnesota is no exception.

The fastest growing industry in the post-secondary sector, is ***remedial education***.

The fastest growing business in the secondary sector, is *college prep courses*.

We have a lot of students falling through this big crack.

We hope - and we pray - that our basic standards tests and our new graduation standards will help prepare students to enter college at a college level.

But we need more.

The concept that many states are turning to is one they call "P-16" - creating a seamless education system from pre-school through college.

Some even talk of a P-20 system.

At the other end, we know that many children are not entering kindergarten prepared to learn.

Even with preschool, what they learn is not always aligned with what they really need to know.

Much of what goes on in kindergartens is another form of remedial education.

Florida has jumped ahead to a K-20 *governance* system, where one board controls all public education.

But most states are in the stage of promoting discussion among the different sectors - higher ed, K-12, and early childhood education.

We need to talk.

Not only should high school graduates be more ready for college, we should do our best to make sure colleges of education are in constant touch with school districts.

Massachusetts decided to test its new crop of teachers a few years ago.

They discovered that 55% were not proficient in reading.

I wonder how many new teachers in Minnesota understand the graduation standards, and know how to teach to them.

(I also wonder how many veteran teachers truly understand them)

So we discussed topics like improving teacher quality, implementing new payment structures, and rewarding success.

We talked about accountability, creative teaching and best practices.

One thing surprised me at these conferences, though.

As soon as someone heard I was from Minnesota, they wanted to talk with me.

And not about Jesse.

They wanted to talk with me because they consider Minnesota one of the leading education states in the country.

They hold us in high esteem. They want to hear how we are doing it.

Like many of you, I have often thought our reputation was slipping.

I thought that our day in the vanguard was over.

I was wrong.

Our leadership in education is still very much alive.

I look out at you today, and I see leaders.

You know one of the big topics in Philadelphia was promoting service learning . . .

. . . using practical experience in the community to learn citizenship, and how to get involved in society.

John Dewey said, "Democracy must be reborn anew each generation, and education is the midwife."

We cannot have a strong democracy without your leadership in the districts.

I have seen it firsthand.

In Rothsay I saw a student run business called the "Store front."

That small town cannot support a for-profit hardware store or lumberyard, so the school stepped in to run the store - and uses it as a classroom.

What a way to learn math skills, by doing the books, establishing pricing, and estimating new purchases.

And the community appreciates it.

You demonstrate leadership by inspiring your teachers to be leaders.

In Hawley I met a teacher, Loni Anderson, who showcased a marvelous learning project using a tadpole named "Clipper."

Then I was surprised to find out that Clipper was a *lobbyist*.

Loni had taken that tadpole to a legislative hearing, seeking more money of course.

Now that's what I call creativity - (and it didn't cost \$700 thousand dollars.)

I saw Mrs. Wingert's childhood development class in Okabena, at the Southwest Star Concept School.

Every member of the class had to be responsible for a surrogate baby - a doll that was programmed to cry, wet and otherwise need attention over a 24-hour period.

These girls learned a lot about responsibility - and how it can ruin your social life to have a baby at an early age.

Good teachers inspire leadership and creativity in students.

At one kindergarten in Breckenridge I asked if anyone knew who I was.

One young boy said, you're the president!

I said, why do you think so?

He said, because your hair looks like the President.

Oh? Like what President?

George Washington!

I did see a few statues of George out in Philadelphia, and I have to admit there is a slight resemblance - with the hair anyway.

I also saw one of the original prints of the Declaration of Independence.

It struck me that the "right to pursue happiness" is every American's freedom to become whatever he or she wants.

It's the right to do your best, and to develop your potentials to the fullest.

That's what this country is all about, and that's what education is all about.

Governor Ventura and I agree on the purpose of public education - to promote the development of each child - to build citizens, to build productive workers, and to build new leaders.

The Governor is even bringing two students to China with him in November.

They will contribute to an exciting new website called "Making Connections."

The students will prepare online reports about China.

That's right - they will be media jackals of sorts, journalists.

But this has an educational purpose. The content will tie into classroom studies about China - and it will conform to the Standards.

It has come about through a partnership with CFL, the Office of Technology, the Trade Office, MnSCU, and others.

We intend for it to continue even after the China trip, so be sure to check it out - we'll have links to it from my web site and the Governor's.

Now I have to say, I suspect some of you may think that Governor Ventura is not your biggest supporter - especially after the rhetoric last session.

But that's wrong.

I happened to speak to him the other day about my meeting with you.

He gave me this message to give to you.

The Governor said he supports school superintendents and believes strong public schools are the path to a strong and successful Minnesota.

His concern for public education is a priority, it is still very much alive.

I wish each of you a great year! Let us all work together for the best education of our students.

Thank you.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Speech

Minnesota Girls State Bethel College, St. Paul June 12, 2001

Foreword to Speech

I had the distinct honor on June 12 to speak about the executive branch of Minnesota government at this year's *Minnesota Girls State* at Bethel College. *Girls State* is a unique program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary to train our youth about the basic ideals and principles of our system of government. The program began in 1937 with a few hundred delegates and today there are nearly 25,000 annual delegates nationwide. I was delighted to find out that the adult assistants are volunteering their time. Their expertise and guidance ensures a productive and exciting learning experience.

During the weeklong event, the *Girls State* delegates had the opportunity to develop leadership skills, learn about our system of government and gain an understanding of traditional American political values. The delegates took part in campaigning, conducting party rallies, debating and voting to fill city and state positions. To maintain an orderly process, they received instruction in Parliamentary Procedure. Combining knowledge with active involvement in the process of government helps to foster pride as American citizens and nurtures a desire to maintain the integrity of our government. The girls lived up to the motto of *Girls State*: Learn by Doing.

After speaking to the group about Minnesota's government process, I responded to some thoughtful student questions regarding the Governor's budget, tax reform, public education, agriculture and the possibility of a government shutdown. I am certain *Girls State* graduates will return home with a sense of pride in our government and enthusiasm to continue to be engaged and active citizens. I expect them to always be involved in government and live up to the promise of our democracy.

I encourage all girls to seek the challenge of entering leadership positions. If you value working with a vision to build a better life for people, enjoy challenges and like to help

people solve the big problems, you have a strong aptitude for leadership.

GO GIRLS!

Speech

[Return to Top](#)

Good afternoon, everyone.

It's so nice to see so many girls eager to get involved in learning about government.

I'm somewhat new to this business - I've been in office now for about two-and-a-half years.

One big thing I've learned is - It's not like they teach it in the books.

The real world of government - and politics - is very messy and unpredictable.

Let's hope your government functions better than our State Legislature this year.

We are all hoping that lawmakers put the public good before their personal preferences - and that they get their work done before the State Government is forced to shut down.

I'm here to talk with you about the executive branch of government - of which I am a member.

Minnesota's form of government is modeled after the national government - we have three branches to provide checks and balances over the others.

They are the judiciary, the legislature and the executive branch.

The legislature makes the laws, the judiciary interprets the laws, and the executive branch enforces the laws.

The powers of enforcing the laws are divided up among the Constitutional Officers.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Governor- my boss.

It is his job to oversee all the operations of state government through the various departments, such as Transportation, education, Health and Human Services, etc.

There are more than twenty major departments and agencies.

The Governor appoints the commissioners that head these departments - and that gives quite a bit of control over how the state government operates.

I, along with the Commissioners, form the Governor's Cabinet - kind of like his advisors; we meet every month.

The Governor appoints the members of about 150 boards and commissions

The Office of the Governor is a leadership position the state.

The governor creates initiatives for new laws and policies - and proposes the state budget every two years.

The governor sets the tone for the direction of the state, and the legislature responds to his lead.

But as you can see from this year's session, the Governor can sign or veto legislation, but he cannot force the lawmakers to finish their job.

He has the power to call a special session, but the legislators can stay in session as long as they wish.

The Governor is also the Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard.

During disasters such as our recent floods and tornadoes - the Governor has the power to call out the National Guard to help.

Along with the other Constitutional Officers, the Governor sits on the State executive council and the state investment board.

As Lieutenant Governor, my job is basically to fill in for the Governor when he is not around, or to take his place if he leaves the office.

As my title suggests - I am in *lieu* of the Governor.

My job also is to sit on various boards and commissions - and - to do whatever the Governor wants me to do.

He has made me his Ambassador to Education - which I fulfill by visiting school districts across the state - and then report to him what I learn.

The Attorney general is essentially the Lawyer for the Executive Branch, and the chief legal officer for the state.

If we have legal questions about the Governor Office or about an action of the Governor - we may seek a ruling from the attorney general.

The Attorney General also has the power to enforce civil laws - and puts a great effort into protecting consumers.

You may recall, it was the Attorney General Skip Humphrey who sued the tobacco companies for hundreds millions of dollars - and won.

Recently Attorney General Mike Hatch sued a major health care organization for misusing money.

The Secretary of State is in charge of the official state seal - so she is in charge of making state documents official - everything from state laws to the Governor's proclamations.

They are not real until the Secretary of State Stamps them.

She also oversees elections - and posts the results on her official Web site.

You may recall that in the Florida election controversy - it was the Florida secretary of State who was at the center of the storm.

The State Auditor is the watchdog for state spending - to help make sure Minnesota taxpayers have accountability.

The State Treasurer keeps track of the state's money - but apparently this is not a full-time job anymore - so Minnesota has decided to end this position after the current term.

That's a thumbnail sketch of the executive branch of Minnesota Government - so Now I'll take questions.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Speech

TESA Graduation Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount June 1, 2001

Congratulations! Today you are graduating. This is a step into your future. It is the first step. Where does this step take you?

It is amazing where hard work will take you. You can rise above almost any obstacle if you're willing to work hard and believe that you can do it.

I want everybody to remember that ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

Successful people are those who have fallen off the horse a dozen times and gotten back on it a dozen times.

Once you are really challenged you find something in yourself.

You may not know what you are capable of until you are challenged to stretch in your thinking and reach for the stars.

Life can present you with obstacles that seem too great to bear.

I have been forced into challenges. Most people have.

It is comforting to know that we can be inspired by learning about the paths others have taken to achieve a sense of stability and contentment in their lives.

You can do it too. If you fall off the horse, don't stay fallen, GET BACK ON!

Some of you may be completing the formal process of learning and going on into a new job.

Some of you may go on for more formal schooling.

But you will continue to learn. Learning is a life-long process. I learn everyday.

I was the teacher of many, many students for 37 years. But often I found that I was the student and the students were my teacher.

They didn't know it.

Today, I say thank you to, the students because they challenged me and helped me to grow into who I am today.

Teaching was the path I chose to take in life.

It has been a wonderful experience in so many ways.

In schools I taught kids to do their best, to get along and how to count.

And now at the Capitol, as Lt. Governor, I teach people do their best, to get along and how to count.

If you love what you are doing, you are not going to work another day in your life.

I wish you all the best as you take your next step toward your goals for a successful and happy life.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LT. GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK

**Speech at Minnesota Correctional Facility - Shakopee
Friday, April 13, 2001**

Thank you, Commissioner. Good morning, everyone.

This is my first visit to the Shakopee facility and I am very impressed.

I am struck by the upbeat atmosphere and positive attitudes of offenders and staff alike.

You know, I've been a teacher most of my life.

But these last two years - as Lieutenant Governor - I've done more learning than teaching.

There is so much to learn in state government - and one of my favorite teachers is Commissioner Cheryl Ramstad Hvass.

Thanks to her I have learned a great deal about corrections and our state prisons.

The biggest thing I have learned is how seriously she takes the idea of "CORRECTIONS."

She and I are dedicated to the ideal of life-long learning.

That means a person who has made mistakes in life can learn to do better. No matter how old they are.

They can make their own "corrections."

The state can help by creating programs in our correctional facilities that help people to grow and change.

Correctional industries provide work opportunities that will help you find jobs and develop work habits that will serve you well when you return to the community.

Chemical dependency treatment is available to help fight the battle of addiction and move toward recovery.

And you are all involved in education, which is a very important and lasting investment.

It is the foundation upon which to rebuild your life.

All of these opportunities promote self-sufficiency, a very strong value in the Ventura Administration.

Another strong value is promoting healthy and vital communities and that begins with having a healthy and vital family.

That's why I'm pleased to find that you have a parenting and family visiting program.

I encourage each of you to continue to work hard and participate fully in the programs offered here at Shakopee.

The commissioner has shared with me some of the ideas discussed during Minnesota's Woman Offender Symposium last fall.

At the symposium, criminal justice professionals from all over the state looked at the corrections system through the eyes of a child who has a mother in prison.

On average - each inmate here has two children.

According to statistics, children with a parent in prison are more likely become offenders themselves.

We must work together to do everything we can to break this vicious cycle.

Because of the symposium, changes are being made across the state to address the needs of your children.

For example, counties are applying for federal funding to operate programs specifically for women offenders in local jails and their children.

In Dakota County family visitation is now permitted for women incarcerated in the county jail facility.

The Dakota County sheriff is allowing women inmates in smaller counties to transfer into a single facility where they can participate in special programs.

I commend the Commissioner for focusing attention on this important and difficult problem.

I encourage you to continue your commitment to yourself and to your children.

Keep learning, keep achieving, and keep doing the best you can do.

In closing, I want to thank you for making me feel welcome today.

[Back to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LT. GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK
Speech to the Charter School Award Celebration
Capitol Rotunda
Thursday, February 8, 2001



Students from some of the 70 charter schools in Minnesota gathered to watch lawmakers and educators celebrate winning the Ford Foundation Innovation in American Government Award for enacting charter school legislation. Minnesota is the first state to have charter schools. The law, passed in 1991, has become a template for states around the nation.

(Text of written speech may vary from the actual presentation)

Good afternoon, everyone.

I would like to add my congratulations to the lawmakers, educators and parents who worked so hard to make charter schools a reality in Minnesota.

One thing I know from my experience as a teacher, is that students have different styles of learning and some students are best served by charter schools.

What I particularly like about charter schools is the high rate of parental involvement.

This leads to higher student achievement, and that's what it's all about.

We have around 70 charter schools in Minnesota and they keep coming up with some impressive new ideas.

President Clinton even made a special trip to Minnesota last spring to spotlight

charter schools.

Minnesota has become a model for America.

Charter schools serve about 10,000 students about 1-percent but the impact of charter schools is very strong.

At best they produce new ideas that can be adopted by mainstream public schools.

At worst, charter schools that don't function well are shut down

As Governor Ventura says, that's called **accountability**.

That has happened only a few times but it shows that the system works.

It holds charter schools up to a standard.

Recently we've heard that many schools need help to get their financial books in order.

As the Governor pointed out, we are proposing to add staff at CFL to provide technical assistance to charter schools.

Specifically, we'd like three new full time staff members.

I'd like to make another suggestion: We need more accountability initiated by the sponsors of these charter schools.

After all, the word "sponsor" is related to the word "responsibility."

We want more "re-sponsor-ability."

I want to end by re-affirming my commitment to charter schools because we can always use new ideas in education.

And I'm glad that people in government are open to new ideas.

Congratulations!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

Speech at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Concordia College, St. Paul

January 15, 2001



Lt. Governor Mae Schunk participated in the annual march along Marshall Avenue in St. Paul to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Text of Speech

Good Morning Everyone.

On behalf of Governor Jesse Ventura, it is my honor to be with you here today.

He and I share a sense of pride in the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King did great things. He touched the conscience of our nation. He helped to change the way things work. He helped to change our laws. As an elected official, I know how tough that can be.

Perhaps Dr. King's greatest lesson was how individuals could come together to make a difference. In doing this he helped shape our attitudes. Our attitudes in finding value in diversity. . . And our attitudes about having moral courage to stand up for what is right.

But perhaps his greatest message, his greatest lesson was that you don't have to be great to do good. Every single person here has the ability, and the responsibility, to do good. You don't have to be great. What helps is that we can rely on each other.

Unity.

That is today's theme: Serving in Unity, while Building the Dream. Let's make that Dream come true. Everyone needs to do their part.

At the State level we are very happy to have Lester Collins, who heads the Council of Black Minnesotans. They do their best to do good, and I congratulate Lester and his staff for their fine work. I'd also like to acknowledge the great work of Minnesota's other councils, The Chicano-Latino Affairs Council, The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Many of us here today have found ways to perform community service, but if not, it's very easy to get started. Outside of the auditorium there is a place to sign-up for a community service project. You don't have to be great, you just have to get started.

As Robert F. Kennedy once said:

Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Working together, if we all do our part, we can build upon Martin Luther King's Dream.

Thank You.



Lt. Governor Schunk joins civic leaders and others who support the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the annual march from Central High School (background) to Concordia College along Marshall Avenue in St. Paul



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Speech to the NE Business Forum October 17, 2000

Hello, everyone.

I'm glad to be here at the Northeast Business Association.

You are setting a good example for every organization by having this conference -- because it is focused on how businesses are truly connected with all aspects of the community

-- arts, education, neighborhood development and government.

Everything is connected - - and the best way to achieve progress for all of us is to work together as partners.

For me, this kind of integrated approach comes very naturally.

As a child I was taught at an early age the link between education and work.

I lived on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, and that meant we had a lot of chores to do.

When I got old enough to go to school -- (first grade at a one-room schoolhouse) -- my father decided I was also old enough to start help milking cows.

And this was by hand in those days -- no machines for us.

I'll never forget my first cow -- her name was China.

We called her that because she had a big spot on her side that looked like the shape of China on a map.

I was even studying geography milking that cow.

So every day before I went to school, I milked China.

That was my first lesson of the day, before I went to school.

Then, when I went to second grade, I had to milk two cows.

And that's how it went as I grew up. Every year, more responsibility.

Going to school was a responsibility, and it was tied to the responsibility of making a living.

Years later when I first met Jesse Ventura -- we talked about the role of education in society, and how it is tied to a healthy community and a successful economy.

The purpose of school is not to take tests; the purpose of school is to prepare children to be successful in life.

It is this practical vision of education that has guided our approach to education policy.

Let's look at the Graduation Standards.

That includes the notorious "Profile of Learning."

The driving force behind the new Graduation Standards is the drastic changes in the economy we have seen over the last 50 years or so.

We have gone from a farm-based economy to an industrial economy, to a technology oriented economy.

E-commerce is changing the way businesses around the world market their products -- I'm not talking about buying books and stereos.

I'm talking about buying and selling things like taconite on the internet.

This new form of global marketing means that businesses on the other side of the planet are suddenly competing in your local market.

The globalization of the economy -- speeded up by the internet -- is changing the way we do business in every city, town and farm in Minnesota.

We need a workforce with increasingly sophisticated skills -- and already there are some 40-thousand unfilled high technology jobs in Minnesota - -

and yet our schools had been chugging along on a model constructed when agriculture was king.

In the 1930's 60 percent of the jobs in America were for unskilled workers.

It was okay to have an educational system that left 60 percent of the graduates with a minimum of intellectual skills.

It didn't seem to matter.

But now it does matter.

Now, less than 20 percent of the jobs are for unskilled workers -- everyone else needs to have a much higher standard of applied knowledge for the real world.

Implementing Graduation Standards is a way of retooling our educational system to serve the economic and social needs of the 21st century.

This has not been an easy process -- for no major change is easy -- but I have found that our schools are accepting this challenge -- and are doing their best to implement the Graduation Standards.

What is left is to do problem-solving and polishing to make the standards work better -- but we are beyond the question of whether or not to have standards.

The high standards for Minnesota, also known as the Profile of Learning, emphasizes student projects -- so that students learn to think on their feet -- not just their seat.

For many teachers, including me, this is just a new name for an old way of teaching.

I have always appreciated teaching projects that give kids a hands-on experience.

My favorite one was called Green Thumb, Inc.

In it, 5th graders set up their own plant-growing business.

To begin with, a volunteer from Norwest Bank (now Wells Fargo) -- came to the school to conduct job interviews.

The students prepared resumes and got dressed up for their big interviews.

One child even carried his resume in his father's briefcase.

I knew right away the project was off to a good start because of the way the kids got so excited after their interviews -- they gathered in the hallway and shared with each other what happened.

Then they took over different roles in various departments -- production, accounting, quality control, marketing, sales. Some students became soil

scientists, others began the ad campaign, and so forth.

The students learned how to work together and solve problems in a creative and productive way. Team work and connecting with the various departments resulted in successful productivity.

But they also learned math, biology, chemistry, writing -- even art, when they created advertisements.

This is called integrated learning.

Of course, no business plan is complete without a target market -- and so when the tomato plants were ready -- the parents and community came to the big sale.

The money was used to pay for costs, and to pay back the shareholders -- the students.

Some students had learned their lesson so well, that at the end of the summer when they came back to school, they tried to sell to me some of tomatoes they had grown over the summer. Yes, I did buy even though I had a dozen productive plants at home.

I didn't really know how inspirational the project was until I was campaigning at the State Fair back in 1998 --

A couple of young adults came up to our booth to see if I remembered them -- it turns out that they were former students who had taken part in Green Thumb

... and now

had started their own business (for real) and were very successful.

The secret of a project like Green Thumb Inc. is that it gives a meaningful context for learning the basics.

The students get involved in achieving a goal, and learning becomes fun.

There are all kinds of things like this going on in the schools that provide opportunities for business partnerships.

Out in Traverse County the businesses and the school had a problem getting Internet service.

The closest provider was in South Dakota, and that was very expensive.

A small business in Traverse County tried to become a provider, but it didn't work.

Then, the school district bought the company, and now it is run by the students.

TraverseNet soon grew to have more than 200 clients -- and the students have a unique opportunity to learn about technology -- and how to run a business.

I just returned from a weeklong tour of schools in the northwest corner of Minnesota.

The most impressive business partnership I saw was the relationship in Roseau between Polaris Industries and the Roseau Community School.

Polaris does a lot for the school -- including donating the latest in high technology robots.

The school's machines are on a smaller scale than what they use in the Polaris factory -- so the school's automated welding machine does not produce snowmobiles. . .

Instead they create something else that is in very high demand in the area -- collapsible deer stands for hunters.

At the high school in Badger -- not far from Roseau -- there is the same entrepreneurial learning spirit.

The industrial technology class has a small sand-blasting unit that inscribes names on ceramic mugs.

It's a new project with a first year shop teacher, so the kids are part of the process of trial and error in making a quality product.

It just goes to show that creativity and initiative is alive and well throughout our public schools in Minnesota.

We know that the successful implementation of the Graduation Standards will provide a way for all students to learn how to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life situations.

As you probably know, the legislature reached a compromise during the last session.

One small group wanted to throw out the standards altogether, or start from scratch with a new set of standards.

The compromise was to provide some flexibility to the school districts that are having trouble integrating the standards into their curricula.

It is always tough to make changes -- especially a major overhaul of the educational system.

It's tough on teachers and it's tough on students -- but it's worth it.

About a month ago I attended a meeting that featured the head of the Bill Gates Foundation -- you know, the founder of Microsoft.

The focus of this 22-billion dollar foundation is education.

They are very concerned about the future, and they know that the future of our country depends on how well our young people are educated.

One of the main points of emphasis of the Gates Foundation is on stressing the importance of performance-based standards.

The Gate's spokesman pointed out that because of the incredible advance of technology and e-commerce, businesses have had to redesign they way they work twice in the last two decades.

Schools are trying to catch up -- and they need our help.

You can help, too.

Every business can find a way to get involved with our public schools.

It can be as simple as volunteering to read to grade school kids during lunch-time,

... inviting students to be interns -- or to shadow your workers on the job,

...or exploring ways you can be a part of learning projects.

Schools are the centers of every vital and healthy community . . .

... and that makes all of us partners.

Thank You.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

Speech to the Superintendents' Conference

August 10, 2000

Good morning, everyone. It's great to see all of you here today. And I do look forward to visiting more of you in your districts during the school year.

I see some new faces and I know that some of you have moved to a different district from last year.

I am glad to have a few minutes to welcome you and extend greetings from Governor Ventura. Our Governor does support education --- and he listens to me.

The Ventura/Schunk administration is very disappointed and unhappy over the testing mistakes. This is a terrible tragedy for our students.

We are very sorry for what students, parents, educators and you as leaders of your districts are going through at this time.

As Governor Ventura's ambassador to education, with education first in my heart and mind, I assure you that I will recommend and work to put checks and balances in place so this tragedy does not happen again.

There will be accountability, responsibility and responsiveness.

We will not forget the big picture -- that is making our public school system the best in the nation.

You know, this time of the year always gets my adrenaline up -- it's back to school time.

It's the time of year when I would always start gearing up for another season of teaching.

But these days I have to transfer all that emotion and energy toward a different

beginning -- the start of a new legislative session.

Let me tell you -- sometimes I'd rather deal with a classroom full of kids than a room full of politicians.

But, actually it is very interesting and challenging to be a part of the political process. I enjoy being an advocate for your cause -- and my cause.

That puts me in a place to promote change for the better of our education system.

And many, if not most, of the lawmakers I talk with care deeply about improving public education.

We also draw upon your experience and perspectives as we help provide leadership for our state's role in education and in the budget and policy making process.

And now, as I travel all over Minnesota, and to other states, and even to other countries -- it becomes very clear that education needs to keep changing in response to a rapidly changing world. Education does not exist all by itself -- it is connected to everything else.

As Governor Ventura and I have become engaged with the challenges faced by Minnesota, it has become very clear that every issue is interconnected with everything else.

For example, school finance reform does not exist apart from property tax reform.

Social problems in school are usually related to what's going on in the community.

And most importantly, the true success or failure of our students will show up not in high school -- but when they enter college and the workforce.

In the real world, everything is connected.

To make sense of it all -- and to coordinate the priorities of our government agencies, the Ventura/Schunk administration has formulated the BIG PLAN.

We have been at work on the BIG PLAN for almost a year now. This BIG PLAN is the Ventura/Schunk administration effort to flesh out our beliefs and principles, draw upon the wisdom of Minnesotans, and apply the results to state government and policy making.

The BIG PLAN is not a list of how government will solve every problem. This is a plan for a vision for a better Minnesota that can only be accomplished when

the government becomes partners with individuals, families, communities, businesses and schools.

We all have our part to play in this BIG PLAN which has 4 parts and 29 initiatives. I will share in brief these 4 parts:

1. SELF-SUFFICIENT PEOPLE -- it all boils down to each individual, and a sense of personal responsibility.
2. HEALTHY AND VITAL COMMUNITIES -- our quality of life depends on our environment and the people around us. And at the center of each healthy and vital community is a well-functioning public school.
3. SERVICE, NOT SYSTEMS -- we think government (and every other system) is not about serving itself, it's about serving the people. It is results that matter, not a self-serving bureaucratic system.
4. MINNESOTA, GLOBAL COMPETITOR -- The dawn of the 21st century is an era of rapid globalization. Bill Gates calls this the decade of velocity. That's because the Internet and high technology are transforming the very structures of the world's economy. Minnesota must accelerate its efforts to compete on the global market.

One question we often get is "Where does education fit into the Big Plan?"

It is one of the individual initiatives within healthy, vital communities: The best K-12 public education in the nation.

Education issues also are part of two other initiatives: life-long learning for work and daily living, and developing the workforce for tomorrow.

I recently attended a Lt. Gov. conference in Puerto Rico. All of the experts who spoke on globalization agreed that it comes down to three key elements:

Trade, High technology and Education.

You see, everything is connected.

The future vitality and prosperity of Minnesota depends on a good partnership between state government and the school districts.

We need each other to do well.

Another question that is asked: What progress have you made with the Big Plan?

While the Big Plan is not a budget, it will obviously have impact on the

budget and policy recommendations and decisions we make in the coming months.

One form of our partnership so far has been a set of diverse study groups led by two of your peers : Superintendent Mary Ann Nelson of Fridley who headed the quality education study group and Superintendent Tom Nelson of Buffalo who headed the governance and finance group. Other members of these two groups included principals, teachers, school board members and parents.

We also have had great participation from other superintendents, including Superintendent Julio Almanza from Duluth, Superintendent Darrold Williams of Willmar, and Superintendent Pat Harvey of St. Paul.

Our charge was to:

- * Focus on improving student learning and best practices
- * Get the most bang for the buck
- * Clarify who is accountable at each of the levels of governance and learning

The study groups addressed, discussed and sometimes debated a variety of issues including:

- Basic skills
- Teacher development, recruitment and retention
- Leadership
- Extended school year
- Performance funding
- Accountability
- Site governance
- District governance
- Inter-agency service teams
- Better contract practices
- Referendum revenues
- Facilities levy revenues
- Special education funding

This leads us to the third often heard question:

What Big Plan ideas for education are going to appear in the Governor's legislative recommendations?

We are not quite at the stage of making recommendations. A report will be published and we would like to hear your reactions to it before we formulate new legislation.

The big questions will be:

What can we do now that will help improve student learning while getting the most return for the tax dollar?

What can we set in place now to help the education system continue down the path of improvement several years down the road?

In addition to these questions, we will be piecing together the different elements that intersect with the Big Plan:

For example:

Teacher shortages in certain areas and also in the workforce development group.

Although we have a separate parenting initiative, it was one of the specific areas we looked at within our K-12 study group because of the importance of parental involvement in education.

Any discussion of education finance will affect, or be affected by, the work and recommendations of the tax reform study group.

And of course, there are the much bigger issues of statewide standards and local decision-making and control, and where does one end and the other begin.

In the end, I expect that we will build upon what we have that works, while incorporating new ideas and information that holds the promise for measurable improvement.

Last month the Education Commission of the States held its annual conference in Minnesota.

. . . and I'm glad to report that many Minnesota models were showcased -- showing that we are still considered an innovator and an example for the entire nation.

I know how good you are.

When President Clinton visited our State this spring, he congratulated the great leadership you have demonstrated in leading Minnesota to the best education plan. I too, congratulate you.

Please feel free to share your ideas and concerns with me, whether I am in your district or at my Capitol office, because I do value your experience and your efforts to help us fashion the best K-12 public education in the nation.

Finally, I want to tell you that I am looking forward to continuing my visits to

the school districts.

Thank you.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Listening and Learning 2000: Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk's Annual Education Report

Introduction:

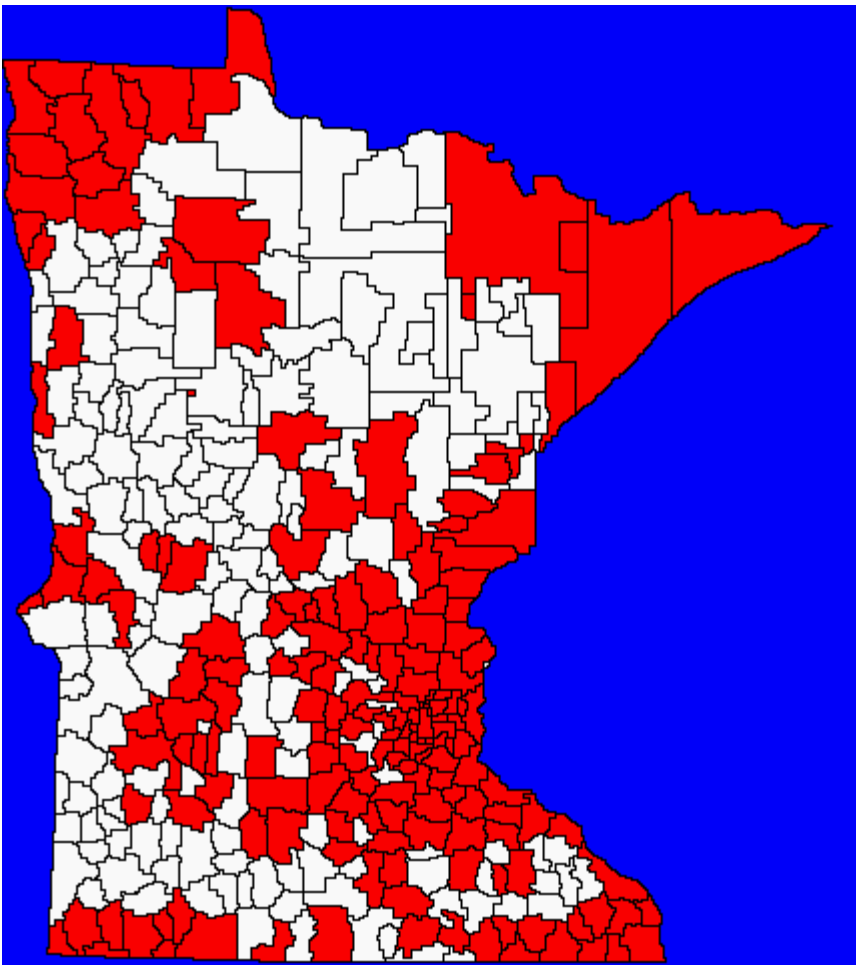
Dear Fellow Minnesotans,

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and that Governor Ventura and I are at the midpoint of our four-year term. Once again I have spent a significant amount of my time visiting schools, talking with students, teachers and parents, and working with several study groups on ways to improve education. Besides visiting school districts throughout Minnesota, I have also had the opportunity to see firsthand the educational systems in Taiwan and Croatia. I am proud to say that I am seeing progress in Minnesota, but many challenges face us as we continue our reforms to make our schools the best in the world.

The purpose of this report is to convey what I have learned from my visits and my discussions. It is an important principle in the Ventura-Schunk Administration to base our policies on what we experience during our visits to Minnesota's communities. Common sense requires that we approach education from a perspective of what best serves the students, rather than seeing things through a politicized filter.

In my second year of traveling to schools I again found recurrent themes that seemed to surface regardless of the size and geographic location of the districts. I will stress these common themes in this report. While each district has its unique character and its particular strengths and weaknesses, it is the commonalities that provide the foundation for policy discussions. At the same time many districts display remarkable innovations that provide excellent examples for others to follow.

Sincerely,
Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk



*By the end of 2000
Lieutenant Governor
Schunk had visited
about 180 school
districts in
Minnesota. Those
districts are colored
red on this map.*

STANDARDS

Most of the schools that I have visited continue to make progress implementing the Graduation Standards. This dramatic educational reform is designed to improve student achievement and accountability, but it has been hampered by political challenges. Fortunately, during the 2000 legislative session, policy makers reached a compromise that gave school districts increased clarity and flexibility of implementation of the Graduation Standards. In the fall, an independent assessment of Minnesota's Standards indicated that the state is moving in the right direction, but that certain changes would be helpful. The next step is for our educators and administrators to deliberate on what improvements can be made, and how they can be set into place. It is my hope that the issue of improving the Standards stays within the domain of education, and out of the reach of politics. It is promising that so many districts chose to go with all 24 Standards (151 out of 320 districts).

According to many students I've talked with, the biggest issue concerning the Standards is that the obligation to complete their Profile of Learning projects conflicts with their desire to take elective classes. Teachers and students alike question the grading system of the Graduation Standards, and why it needs to be separate from the subject grading system. School districts can address these concerns by embedding Standards in multiple courses, including electives, and by integrating grading systems.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #1

ClassCycle, a hands-on project at Houston High School, grew to become an active downtown business. Teachers, students and community members have become partners in the operation to sell, repair and rent bicycles.

CLASS SIZE

In virtually every elementary school I visited this year, teachers, principals and superintendents praised our effort to lower class size. Many of the elementary schools I visited made progress in lowering class size in grades K-3, even if they did not reach the state's goal of a 17:1 student-classroom teacher ratio. Teachers expressed their joy in having a manageable number of students to work with. They also see results in terms of better social behavior, improved achievement, better discipline, improved attendance and more parental contact.

Principals discussed their hope that class size reduction efforts could reach the higher grades. Superintendents expressed concern that class size reduction could be thwarted by rising teachers' salaries. The problem is that new teachers can be hired at a lower salary, but subsequent salary increases puts a crunch in the budget. This means that the investment in small class sizes may require additional resources to maintain current gains.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #2

In Faribault, senior citizens spend a lot of time doing projects with fourth graders. The seniors tell stories about their lives, and the students are creating a video documentary of their history.

TEACHERS

One of the single most important factors in a quality education is to have quality teachers. That's why we must address the important problem of teacher shortages. Researchers tell us that in the next ten years Minnesota will need to replace 20-30% of its teachers, either due to retirement or to teachers leaving the profession. With an economy that is growing at a record pace, the private sector often can offer teachers higher compensation than school districts can afford.

In order to prevent a crisis in education, we must work to encourage more students to enter teaching, and we must find ways to retain those who are tempted to leave teaching for a different career.

We are currently finding shortages of teachers for special education, math, business and technology. A number of superintendents and principals have suggested rethinking our licensing requirements. They tell me that they sometimes find highly qualified individuals who have much experience in science, business or industrial arts, and who would make excellent teachers. Yet,

they cannot always hire these people because they lack state certification. Although such bureaucratic restrictions may be well intentioned, superintendents who are facing critical teaching shortages are asking for greater flexibility in the certification process.

Another partial solution that is hampered by state regulations is hiring retired teachers. Many retired teachers are capable of filling in as temporary or substitute teachers, but it is not always easy for them to do so because of current laws.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #3

Robin Grothe's art students at Park Elementary in the LeSueur-Henderson District joined with community members to create public art in a project called HAVE, Humanities Are Vital for Education. They painted a large mural of tropical fish around the community swimming pool.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS

Taiwan

While in Taiwan for the inauguration of President Chen Shui-bian, I had the opportunity to visit the Ten Hua Elementary School in the heart of Taipei. The level of student excellence and parental involvement was admirable. A string orchestra of 4th and 5th graders gave us a breathtaking performance of classical and popular music. In a computer class I saw 4th grade students learning html, the computer language used to create Web sites. I have not seen elementary schools in Minnesota teach such an advanced topic. It struck me that technological education is a virtual necessity for this small island whose economy depends upon its technology industry. Taiwan is the world's largest producer of computers. Therefore, it becomes important to teach a strong technology curriculum. Taiwanese educators also recognize the importance of a comprehensive global education: all students are required to take a second language.

Croatia

In Croatia our delegation visited government education officials, an elementary school in Delnice, a high school in Zagreb and a college in Dubrovnik. These schools made it very clear to me that Croatia is making every effort to provide a world class education to its youngsters. One member of our delegation surmised that because of that country's high academic standards, the average student in Croatia would probably be in the top five percent in a Minnesota school. For example, all students are required to begin a second language in the first grade. The top two choices for a second language are English and German.

At the Economic High School in Zagreb I learned that teaching economics is important in all Croatian schools because the country desperately needs to transform its economy into a vital and prosperous free enterprise system.

Schools also focus on teaching civics, a monumental task in a country that has much to learn about democracy as it transitions from communism. It is important to teach democratic values and principles to the young people, for they are the future leaders.

For an economics teacher the question becomes, how do you teach students to become successful in an incipient free enterprise system? One answer is that you borrow brains from abroad. We saw a stunning example of this at the American School of Business and Management at Dubrovnik. The University of Rochester in New York is a partner in this enterprise, which focuses on the business aspects of Croatia's largest industry - tourism. After talking with some of the students we were positively inspired by the school's vision and goals.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #4

At Olson Middle School in Bloomington, two students, Jackie Sias and Hushi Vang, created profound poetry for the dedication of the school as a Peace Site. Their words were so moving that they repeated their poem when the Governor's Residence was dedicated as a Peace Site.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT

This year I visited numerous school districts in small towns and rural areas, and I found that many face serious challenges. The number one goal in many places is survival. Since the dollars flow to schools based on the number of students, when enrollment declines the schools' revenues decline. Many districts have already consolidated or formed partnerships, but small towns want to keep their schools because it helps to attract new residents and new businesses. I've always maintained that schools are the center of every healthy and vital community, so what does this mean to towns with no school? All of the small towns are proud of their schools and want to keep them. But we must consider how students can be best educationally served.

Declining enrollment is often connected to changing patterns in the local economy. Farm families move away when their farms are absorbed into corporate farms. They move where jobs are more readily available. Families that remain typically have fewer children than previous generations.

The bright side of small schools is that there are smaller class sizes and a strong sense of community. Kids don't become anonymous or ignored, as is sometimes the case in larger metropolitan schools. The new wisdom is that smaller schools are better than big ones. Many larger schools attempt to achieve a sense of

community by partitioning the school into smaller sectors, and this works to a certain extent.

One concept that may help small schools survive is to co-locate: to augment their budgets by partnering with different organizations in their area to share a building, and thereby share the costs of upkeep.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #5

The Montgomery-Lonsdale District solved two problems at once. They sold their burdensome school buses and used the money to upgrade technology. Now the district uses a bus service, while each teacher has his or her own computer to use.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The number one concern of teachers, principals and superintendents is finding the time and money to allow teachers to attend staff development and training sessions. There are many things that teachers must learn in order to do their jobs well in the 21st century: how to integrate the Graduation Standards into their curricula, how to learn the latest computer software and hardware for educational purposes, and how to keep their knowledge of course material up-to-date. The problem is that it is counterproductive to take teachers out of the classroom for training sessions because most schools have difficulty finding enough substitute teachers to cover for them.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #6

Peer group pressure gives way to peer group leaders in a student conflict resolution program at Highlands Elementary in Edina. Fifth graders monitor the younger kids on the playground, and help to resolve disputes in a peaceful manner.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

I continue to hear from superintendents and principals that contract negotiations consume an inordinate amount of their time, and that this takes away energy and resources that could be devoted to the kids. A two-year contract cycle seems too frequent for many superintendents and board members. This is not a plea for the state to come in and have a single set of contracts. There is a big fear of loss of local control if the state did come in to manage all teacher negotiations. Some, however, have proposed putting negotiations on a regional basis.

Many superintendents told me that a large chunk of increases in teachers' salaries actually went to pay for increasing health care costs. A regional or statewide approach to keeping these costs down would generally be appreciated.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #7

A group of fourth graders at Beaver Creek Elementary got into the spirit of the national election by participating in a theatrical presentation of a key question: What does it take to be President? The students dressed up as Abraham Lincoln and cited the desired qualifications in the form of a poem.

ALL-DAY, EVERYDAY KINDERGARTEN

Nearly every district I visited last year is either implementing all-day, everyday kindergarten, or would like to have it. There is no doubt that student achievement goes up when kindergartners spend a full day in school. While many students enter first grade ready to learn at a first-grade level, there are too many others who are way behind. All-day, everyday kindergarten helps to bridge this learning gap. However, the current state funding formula does not recognize fulltime kindergarten as a requirement, so many schools need more money to make this a reality. I have seen a number of schools that use creative ways to finance fulltime kindergarten. The most common way is to ask parents to pay for it at a rate that is usually more affordable than day care.

Opponents to all-day, everyday kindergarten argue that it is too exhausting for such young children to spend a day in school, especially in rural areas where this means a lengthy bus ride in addition to the school day. They argue that all-day kindergarten becomes a form of day care for parents who work. But I have witnessed whole classes of kindergarten students reading by April.

TRANSPORTATION

Busing has become a big financial concern because it costs more money each year, especially when fuel prices are on the rise. Both urban and rural districts share a concern about the cost of transportation. In the large metropolitan areas, some buses travel an extraordinary distance because many children attend schools outside of their neighborhoods. This desire for choice outweighs fiscal considerations because each parent has the right to pursue the best possible education for their children. But the result is a large expense for buses and fuel.

In rural districts, consolidation, open enrollment and alternative programs have led to longer bus rides. It is not uncommon for children to spend an hour or more on the bus. This inconvenience becomes worrisome in districts that can only afford older buses; we have heard many stories of breakdowns, frequent repairs and unreliable bus heating systems.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #8

Lancaster High School has an amazing technology center. Students are the webmasters of the school's Web site, and even the vocational textile class uses a computerized embroidery system.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is a hot topic at every school I visit. Educators uniformly emphasize the importance of technology as an integral part of a 21st century education. A number of schools throughout the state are well equipped with sophisticated computers and software, and have staff members who are well trained on the equipment. Advanced technology has in many areas replaced the traditional shop class; digital devices play a key role in maximizing the potential of special education students. Interactive television and distance learning are adding to the quality and variety of courses offered in many schools. Staying current with state-of-the-art technology is an expensive, on-going process. Many superintendents tell me they need more state money to stay afloat.

A related issue to high technology in the schools is the state of high-speed connections available to them. Urban schools have a distinct advantage in this respect. But schools in rural areas and small towns often have unreliable or slow connections, and yet they are quite expensive. The goal of having computers in every classroom must be considered in conjunction with widespread desire for broadband Internet access in every classroom.

PARTNERSHIPS

More than ever before, schools are realizing that building partnerships with businesses, community organizations and individual volunteers can enhance academic achievement and build public support. Schools are at the center of every healthy and vital community, and partnerships are a natural extension of this fact. A few examples of these exemplary partnerships are:

- In Waseca, the local Rotary International Club has a mentorship program that works with high-school seniors whose grades are in the lower third of the class.
- In Roseau, the school serves as a community center complete with a public library and a swimming pool, and the major business in town, Polaris, collaborates with the school in industrial technology programs and other projects.
- In Pine County, the county government partnered with the East Central School District to construct a building that houses both a school and all of the social services offices.
- In Pine City, the school, city and community collaborated to build an ice arena without any state aid.
- In Worthington, the high school houses the local cable access television studios so that community people can come to the school during the week to produce programs and the students get credit for learning professional skills, such as interviewing, videotaping and editing.
- At the Sartell Middle School a local business, the Champion Paper Mill, does what it can to fund staff development, with a special emphasis on technology training.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Open enrollment is generally seen as another positive way to provide freedom of choice for parents and students, plus serve as a stimulus to competition. But many superintendents and principals in rural Minnesota see open enrollment as a divisive process that creates winners and losers. Schools that have a positive balance of open enrollees receive more money for their budgets, but even some winners have reservations about the system. Schools in small towns find that even a loss of 25 students to another district can have devastating effects in terms of revenues and the subsequent impact on class size, course offerings and staffing.

Another form of choice comes through the flourishing charter school movement. Minnesota's national leadership in charter schools was recognized by a visit from President Clinton and by the state's receipt of the Ford Foundation's "Innovations in American Government Award." Charter schools provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together to create new and exciting learning environments that serve students who may benefit from the alternative setting. At their best, charter schools yield high student achievement. When these schools fail, they can be shut down as we saw in St. Paul this past year. Charter schools must live up to their charter contracts and meet the same high standards expected of all schools.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #9

The fifth graders at Mabel-Canton are learning geography in a way Dennis Green would endorse. In a project called "Gridiron Graphing," students use the Internet to learn about the cities of the Minnesota Vikings opponents.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Special education is an important part of our school system, but it is also a mandated service that has yet to receive its appropriate level of federal funding. What this means is that our school districts must subsidize special education with money from their general funds. This cross-subsidy takes away from regular education because the federal government has not lived up to its promise. Governor Ventura has used every opportunity to advance this issue in Minnesota and across the country. President Clinton and Congress worked together to pass increased special education funding in December 2000, and we hope this is the first step towards the federal government assuming its fair share of special education costs.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN EDUCATION #10

Students at Luverne Middle School learn about values and virtues in a program called "Building Character." They learn songs, skits and stories that emphasize respect,

perseverance, friendship, kindness, responsibility and honesty.

GOVERNANCE REFORM

The idea behind our administration's interest in governance reform is to improve efficiencies and foster natural partnerships; we are not interested in forcing districts to consolidate. Minnesota has a tangle of irregular boundaries for school districts, county lines and legislative districts, which sometimes thwarts a logical alignment of educational and non-educational services. We have openly wondered whether aligning boundaries may result in a better coordination of services. With the goal of improved student learning, we want to explore innovative ways for schools and other local units of government to team up, either through new partnerships, new service delivery units, or new district boundaries. Possible benefits include cutting overhead expenses, sharing programs or staff and providing more service to students.

Often in my travels I find districts that are already working out of the box to achieve better services for their students. Reducing barriers and encouraging innovation are valuable, cost-effective and long-lasting ways to improve the educational conditions for our students.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

Fun Facts

How does it feel to be Lieutenant Governor? I feel like a clock all wound up and ready to make each minute of the day count.

Who is your hero? My mother. She taught me to be myself and always do my best and someday my ship would sail in.

Favorite Movies: "Sound of Music" and "Old Yeller."

Hobbies: Flower and vegetable gardening, stained glass and water color painting.

What would you like to be remembered for? I would hope that my students would remember the projects I did with them in the classroom and after school.

Where would you like to go on vacation? "My favorite thing to do on vacation is to go fishing up north with my family. "

What did you want to be when you were growing up? A teacher, a wife and a mother.

What is your normal day like? Rise and shine. Go to the Capitol; meet with many people during the day. Travel to many schools and visit with kids and teachers. Give speeches to groups of people. Work with the Governor. Meet with my staff.

Favorite Food: Pizza and pickles.

Do you have any pets? Dog, American Water Spaniel named "Keno." Cat with tiger stripes named "Brandy."



Lieutenant Governor at home with Keno and Brandy, July 2000.

What was your favorite subject in



Lieutenant Governor and her son Ben "Summer fun vacationing at Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion. We caught our limit of walleye each day!"

school? I liked learning all subjects. I was a bookworm.

Favorite Books: I like biographies about great achievers.

Is there anything else that you would like the students of the State of Minnesota to know about you? "Yes, that I am the most happy when I can be around and with kids or doing things for kids and the elderly."



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

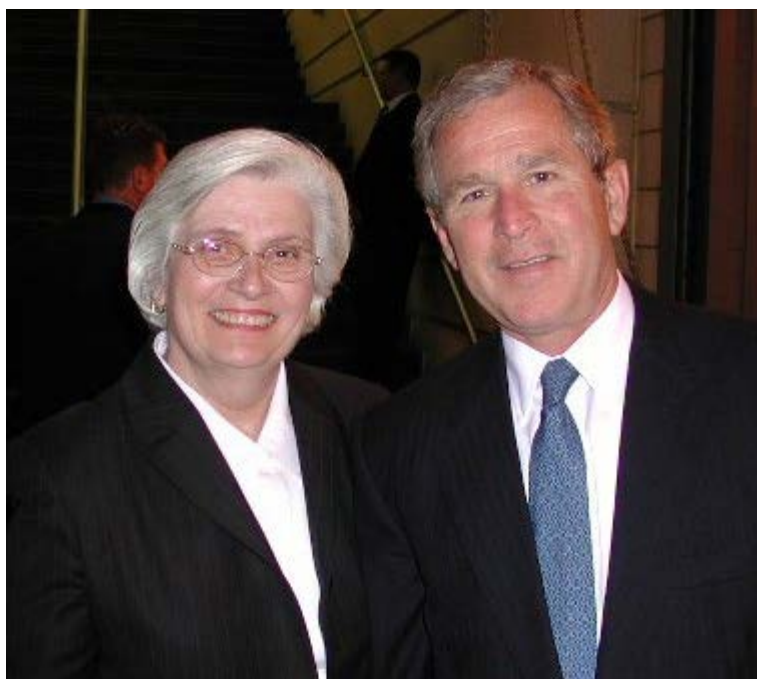
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK MEETS PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH MAY 17, 2001



It was very exciting to meet President George W. Bush during his visit to St. Paul to unveil his new energy policy. I was impressed with his comprehensive approach to the problem, but I couldn't help but give him a little extra information. When he greeted me after his speech, I took a few moments of his time to tell him of some of the smart energy-saving measures I saw during my visits to Minnesota schools. Recently I visited two schools that use geo-thermal heating to heat and cool their schools, and another district I visited burns beet seeds and sunflowers to heat their school. I was fortunate to be in a position to share some of the positive energy lessons from Minnesota schools with the President of the United States.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer



[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Invite the Lt. Governor to an Event



If you'd like to invite me to attend or to speak at an event, you need to send a request in writing to James Garlough, my assistant. Either send him a fax at 651-296-2089 or an email at james.garlough@state.mn.us

Be sure to include your name, organization, date of the event, and how we can reach you. I always do my best to honor requests.

[Return to Schedule](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





August 5, 2002

Lt. Governor Schunk and State Patrol Chief Host 'Project HomeSafe'

Remarks from Lt. Governor Schunk

Good morning everyone; thank you for coming to our Minnesota kickoff of Project Homesafe.

Starting today, and continuing through the month of August, this van you see will travel to 24 Minnesota cities, giving away 30,000 gunlocks.

Along with that lock comes information about gun safety--and that is very important.

Everyone knows that during my four years in office I've had two priorities: Education and Children.

Today's message is that all adults who own guns need to be well educated in firearm safety in order to protect their children.

Every time I read in the newspaper about children accidentally shooting themselves or each other-- I feel sick.

Especially when I learn they found a loaded gun at home and started playing with it.

I'm a hunter and I have a child, so I've always known that gun ownership requires extra responsibilities.

That why I agreed to support Project HomeSafe.

But I am not alone.

The entire National Conference of Lieutenant Governors agreed to support Project HomeSafe.

It's been exciting to hear about the great experiences of my colleagues, as Project HomeSafe has toured their states.

I plan to go to several distribution points around the state, and I am looking forward to it.

(It's the next best thing to visiting a school!)

Like most great things, this project requires partnerships--and I'd like to thank all the law enforcement agencies who have come here today in support of gun safety.

I'd especially like to thank our next speaker, State Patrol Chief, Colonel Anne Beers.

Thanks to her leadership, a State Trooper will be present at the start of each distribution of these gunlocks.

May I present Colonel Beers.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





MEDIA ADVISORY

August 2, 2002

[DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE](#)

LT. GOVERNOR & STATE PATROL CHIEF HOST PROJECT HOMESAFE

Gun Safety Project to Distribute 30,000 Free Gunlocks to 23 Minnesota Cities

Who: Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk, Minnesota State Patrol Chief Colonel Anne Beers, DNR Commissioner Al Garber, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, Minneapolis Police Chief Robert Olson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association Bill Gillespie, Dee Dee Dockins of Project HomeSafe, Steele County Sheriff Gary Ringhofu, Brainerd Police Chief John Bolduc, Virginia Police Chief Dana Waldron, Captain John Sanner of the Stearns County Sheriff's Office and representatives from various police departments

When: Monday, August 5, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: In front of the State Capitol, St. Paul (or Capitol Rotunda in case of rain)

What: A news conference to kick-off Project HomeSafe, a national gun safety program that distributes free gunlocks. The organization plans to distribute 30,000 free gunlocks in 23 Minnesota cities in August. A Minnesota State Trooper will welcome Project HomeSafe to each distribution site and Lt. Governor Schunk will appear at several sites. The gunlocks will be given away free, along with information about gun safety. Project HomeSafe has won the support of the National Lieutenant Governors Conference, and lieutenant governors have been the state hosts for the project across the U.S. More information about Project HomeSafe can be found at their Web site at <http://www.projecthomesafe.org>

[PROJECT HOMESAFE TOUR SCHEDULE](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155



Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





July 24, 2002

Lt. Governor Schunk Welcomes Croatian Military Delegation



Photo by John Wodele

(left to right) Colonel Mate Paden, Brigadier General Josip Stojkovic, Lt. Governor Mae Schunk, Brigadier General Mirko Sundov, Sergeant Major Predrag Toplak and Major Goran Gombar

Five Croatian military officers visited Minnesota to examine the structure and function of our Minnesota National Guard. The Croatian military is exploring the possibility of altering its structure to better fit the current era of peacetime with limited budgets. They are trying to determine whether the National Guard might provide a model to learn from. Minnesota and Croatia are linked by the federal Partnership For Peace Program that has encouraged interaction between the Croitian military and the Minnesota National Guard. I led a [humanitarian delegation to Croatia in 2000](#) on a trip facilitated by the Minnesota National Guard. Incidentally, Sergeant Major Toplak happens to be my cousin!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Visit from Osaka Delegation July 15, 2002

Whenever a foreign delegation comes through our state, I like to make sure they receive a hearty Minnesota welcome. A group from Osaka, Japan was in town to learn about regional government. They met with the Metropolitan Council and were kind enough to visit us in the Governor's Office. We exchanged gifts and talked a little about our respective homes. I told them to come back and visit anytime-- Minnesotans are always ready to entertain guests!



Joining Lt. Governor Schunk, from left to right: Kazuya Tada, senior staff, Department of Public Works, Takumi Harai, researcher, Institute for Advanced Industry Development, Shinji Yoshida, senior planner, Hisayoshi Yamashita, assistant director, general affairs division, Irene Brons, international trade representative, Minnesota Office of Trade



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)



For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



June 20, 2002

Lt. Governor Schunk Welcomes Mickey Rooney, Munchkins and Margaret O'Brien to Minnesota for Judy Garland Festival



(St. Paul) Lt. Governor Mae Schunk helped kick off the [27th Annual Judy Garland Festival](#) by welcoming some of Judy's friends and co-workers to Minnesota. Mickey Rooney (above left) starred with Judy in a series of musicals, Margaret O'Brien (above center) starred with Judy in "Meet Me In St. Louis" and three of the Munchkins (above right) appeared in "The Wizard of Oz." Judy Garland, who would have been 80 years old this year, was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The Lollipop Guild's Jerry Maren presented Lt. Governor Schunk with a key to Munchkinland. She reciprocated by giving him a key to Minnesota.



This carriage has an amazing history. It was originally used by President Abraham Lincoln, but it was sold to Hollywood, where it was used in many movies, including The Wizard of Oz. It now belongs to the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





March 12, 2002

Lt. Governor Schunk Initiates Workshops: Out-of-the-Box Thinking on Declining Enrollment

The widespread problem of declining student enrollment in school districts is being addressed at three regional workshops presented by Lt. Governor Mae Schunk. Schunk has invited school superintendents and school board members to attend the brainstorming sessions, which are entitled "Out-of-the Box Thinking on Declining Enrollment."

"In my visits to more than 300 school districts I have seen many schools that have serious problems because the decline in enrollment translates to a loss in funding," said Lt. Governor Schunk. "But I have also seen districts that have innovative ideas that need to be shared. We hope these workshops will stimulate new solutions to the problem."

The meetings will include a presentation by State Demographer Tom Gillaspy, a panel discussion including Doug Thomas of EdVisions Cooperative and local area superintendents, and small group discussions on the question: *How can your community provide the best educational opportunities for your grandchildren 20 years from now?*

Those who collaborated with Lt. Governor Schunk to organize the workshops include Vernae Hasbargen of the Minnesota Rural Education Association and Doug Thomas of EdVisions Cooperative.

These are the dates and locations of the workshops:

March 26 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Minnesota New Country School, Henderson

April 9 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Discovery Middle School, Alexandria

May 3, 10:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Northeast Area Cooperative, Mountain Iron

May 8 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Blackduck Public School

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award

Friday, January 11, 2002



It was my honor to present Athena Aitken of Cass Lake with the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award for 2001. Athena was named the Minnesota award-winner by the National Association for Gifted Children.

Not surprisingly, Athena loves to read, but she also is involved with a lot of other things. She is in her school's Ecology Club, Science Club, Drama Club and Poetry/Writers Club. She plays trumpet in the school band and is teaching herself violin at home!

I asked Athena how she does it, and she said she just takes advantage of every opportunity for learning, whether it's extra credit or joining a new club.

Athena will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond along with the certificate I presented her from the National Association of Gifted Children.

And she and her family were nice enough to present me with something: some Minnesota wild rice and maple syrup!



Athena is joined by her family and her teacher for a picture with Lt. Governor Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

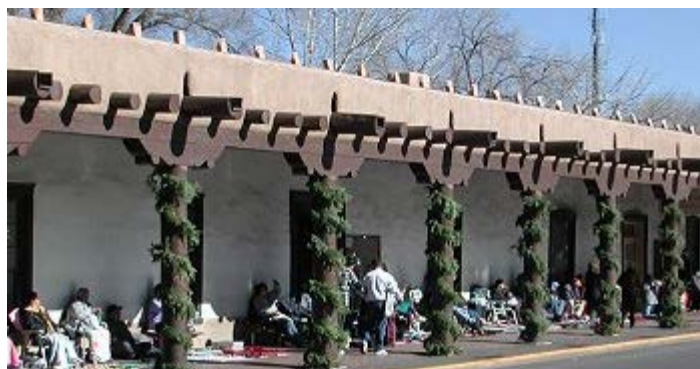


For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk attends Steering Committee Meeting of Education Commission of the States Santa Fe, New Mexico December 3-5, 2001

The art and culture of Santa Fe provided a creative environment for the meeting of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), a national organization that focuses on improving educational policies at the state level. Aside from some business meetings, the Steering Committee of ECS met in several small groups to discuss such issues as teacher quality, literacy and gaps between preschool, K-12 and higher education. These small groups allowed informal discussion of the issues, leading to a more thorough understanding of the complexities involved.



An Indian market operates daily along the walkway in front of the historic Palace of the Governors in downtown Santa Fe

A Case Study of P-16



Members of the ECS Steering Committee discuss the latest issues in the debate over teacher quality

"P-16" is a comprehensive approach to education from preschool through college, with an emphasis on seamless transitions from one stage of education to the next. Georgia has become one of the national leaders in this movement.

Stephen Ports, the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, explained that higher education made the big push for a P-16 effort in that state. Higher education officials wanted to know how to increase the number of students attending college. Georgia



Lt. Governor Schunk holds a Native American dream catcher with New Mexico Lt. Governor Walter Bradley

ranked 48th in the nation. Research indicated that the best place to intervene was by setting up a preschool system. Data shows that children who are behind in first grade are unlikely to go to college. If children are better prepared when they enter kindergarten, they are more likely to attend a higher education institution. Portsch emphasized the importance of good leadership and a sound structure for making sure that a P-16 system is implemented and sustained. He said the process required a coalition of schools, businesses and government.

Literacy and Early Childhood

Patricia Mathes, a scholar at the University of Texas at Houston, gave an excellent lecture on what current research says about teaching children to read. The problem is alarming - 40% of American students don't read well enough to do their classwork, and they are therefore likely to dropout of school. Only 10% of lagging first graders will ever catch up. Kids still lagging by third grade have almost no chance of catching up. However, Mathes says we have the tools to prevent 98% of the reading problems, *if* we start early.

She says it is a myth that the problems all belong to the students; she thinks that teachers must learn better techniques to teach reading. This goes for colleges of education as well. Schools must also stop wasting money on reading programs that don't work. Mathes says teachers need more staff development, and districts should select only **research-proven** reading programs.



This needlepoint screen is part of an art exhibit at the Governor's Office at the New Mexico Capitol Building

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





**Lt. Governor Schunk hosts
Executive Committee Meeting of
National Conference of Lieutenant Governors
October 28-29, 2001**



Governor Ventura welcomed NCLG members to the Governor's Residence (left to right) Lt. Governor John C. Carney (Delaware), Lt. Governor Mary Fallin (Oklahoma), Lt. Governor John Hager (Virginia), Lt. Governor Kathleen Blanco (Louisiana), Lt. Governor Gary Sherrer (Kansas), Judy Sherrer, Lt. Governor Jack Riggs, M.D. (Idaho), Lt. Governor Schunk, Governor Ventura, Lisa Ann James, Lt. Governor Gerard Luz James II (U.S. Virgin Islands), Lt. Governor Karl Ohs (Montana) and Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty (Rhode Island)

The Executive Committee of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors (NCLG) met in Minneapolis and St. Paul on Sunday, October 28 and Monday, October 29, 2001. The NCLG fall meeting was originally scheduled to be in Anchorage, Alaska, in September, but it was cancelled in the wake of the terrorist attack. The Committee then accepted Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk's offer to host the meeting in Minnesota.

The two-day conference included discussions of homeland defense preparedness and

"Project HomeSafe," a national effort to distribute gun locks. In response to the devastation caused by the terrorist attack, the NCLG is making cash donations to the Arlington County (Virginia) Chapter of the Red Cross and to the New York State World Trade Center Relief Fund.

Every state is seeing increased security due to the terrorist attack. Some states, like Montana, never previously assigned security officers to the governor and lieutenant governor; that has changed. Along with increased security, every state is dealing with the economic setback caused by September 11th. The most positive note is that several states are seeing a rise in regional tourism, because fewer people are choosing to travel great distances on their vacations.

The NCLG has seen significant change in its membership recently, because in the last 12 months, six lieutenant governors have become governors. Twelve lieutenant governors gathered in Minnesota: Joe Rogers (Colorado), John. C. Carney (Delaware), Jack Riggs, M.D. (Idaho), Gary Sherrer (Kansas), Kathleen B. Blanco (Louisiana), Mae Schunk (Minnesota), Karl Ohs (Montana), Mary Fallin (Oklahoma), Charles Fogarty (Rhode Island), Gerard Luz A. James II (U.S. Virgin Islands), Olene Walker (Utah) and John Hager (Virginia).

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





The Minnesota State Fair August 22-30, 2001



At the State Fair Lt. Governor Schunk sits in for Governor Ventura on his weekly radio show, Lunch with the Governor. She is joined by producer David Ruth (left) and Communications Director John Wodele (center).

Lt. Governor Schunk chats with a family at the State Fair

I have to admit that I love go to the State Fair, Minnesota's "Great Get-Together." It's a chance to talk with children, parents and all kinds of people throughout the state. Plus, the fried cheese curds always seem to hit the spot. My State fair traditions also include participating in activities sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance with Youth and the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF). Each year MAEF congratulates hundreds of students for showing excellent achievement in school. This year Snoopy showed up to help hand out the awards.



Aside from all the fun there are some serious moments at well. I was honored to participate in a ceremony to honor firefighters who had



died in the line of duty.



Snoopy assists in honoring students who have achieved academic excellence



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Forest Educators of the Year awards

Thursday, August 23, 2001



Award-winner Marcia Miller (with plaque) poses with her family and Lt. Governor Schunk

Ed is a nature studies and physics instructor at Triton High School. He won his award for his emphasis on the role forests play in wildlife conservation, soil conservation, recreation and water quality. Ed uses the Triton High School Forest as an outdoor classroom, and you won't find a better example of hands-on learning!

Marcia teaches 4th grade at Merritt Elementary School. She had her students adopt trees on nature walks, and she taught them to make paper, among other hands-on activities.

Congratulations to both Ed and Marcia. Each received a \$1,000 cash award, courtesy the Minnesota Forest Industries, which developed the Minnesota Forest Educators of the Year program to recognize creativity and commitment in teaching about the states' forests.

As a long-time educator, I also appreciate teachers who use innovative methods to help their students learn. So it was with great pleasure that I presented the Minnesota Forest Educators of the Year awards to two outstanding teachers.

Ed Pitzenberger of Claremont and Marcia Miller of Hibbing use their creative approaches to teach kids about one of Minnesota's great resources, its forests.



Award-winner Ed Pitzenberger introduces his parents to Lt. Governor Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor takes in a "snappy" performance

Thursday, August 16, 2001



I had the pleasure of attending the final performance of The Children's Theatre Company's Summer Neighborhood Arts Program (SNAP). Twenty-five kids between the ages of nine and twelve put on quite a show! They performed acting exercises they had been practicing all summer, including Tug of War, No Motion Museum, Circle of Sound and the SNAP Rap! The exercises help build the children's confidence and promote teamwork.

I think my favorite was the Tug of War exercise. These young actors really had me believing they were tugging on a rope, but it was all make-believe. They battled it out, until one team "won" and the other team all fell down. I got tired just watching them!

SNAP is a free summer program instructing young people in St. Paul's Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. SNAP offers the kids experiences in a variety of disciplines, including music, movement, acting and writing. The program also provides breakfast, lunch and transportation to participating youth. It is a very impressive program that is making a difference for a lot of children.





Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





A Visit to Camp Ripley August 8, 2001

On a warm August day I had the opportunity to visit Camp Ripley, near Little Falls in central Minnesota. The experience gave me more reasons to appreciate the [Minnesota National Guard](#), which operates the camp. We all know that the Governor calls out the National Guard when disasters strike, such as tornadoes and floods. And we should know that the President calls upon the National Guard to assist wherever troops are needed around the world. But at Camp Ripley I discovered even more about the Guard.

Camp Ripley is a major training facility for the National Guard, which traces its roots back to the citizen-soldiers of Revolutionary America. Like the Minutemen, our citizens who belong to the Guard can be called upon to jump into their uniforms at a moment's notice if duty calls.

But Camp Ripley also serves as a training ground and educational resource center for civilians, youth and State Agencies, such as the Department of Natural Resources and the State Patrol. The 53,000 acres of the camp includes a protected habitat for four pairs of bald eagles.

On the day of my visit some Guard members from Sauk Centre were practicing on a firing range using tanks. I have never seen (or heard) anything like it.



Colonel Terry Dorenbush, commander of Camp Ripley, officially welcomes Lt. Governor Schunk



Youth camps are conducted during the



summer, providing some unique hands-on experiences that kids will never find in school. I joined them in facing the challenges of an obstacle course. The participants are children of members of the Minnesota National Guard, making it a real family affair.

I am very grateful to Major General Eugene Andreotti, who commands the Minnesota National Guard, for his eagerness to teach me about our multifaceted force of citizen-soldiers. The General told me that he encourages every soldier to volunteer at least four hours of community service every month, and some put in many more hours than that. For example, in one small town near Camp Ripley the Guard put in a new playground at the school, complete with equipment. I believe that everyone should get involved in their communities and their government, and I am glad that many choose the Minnesota National Guard as their mode of service.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





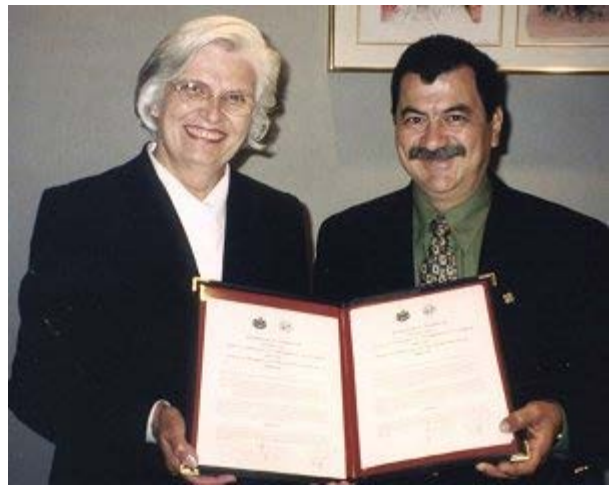
Lieutenant Governor Schunk Signs Declaration of Cooperation with the Colombian Province of Santander August 6, 2001



(left to right) Trade and Economic Development Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch, Lt. Governor Schunk, Trade Representative Rachel Olsen, Governor Jorge Gomez of the Colombian Province of Santander, Mayor Ivan Moreno of Bucaramanga, Colombia (seated behind, translator)

It was my honor to sign an agreement with a state in Colombia to promote economic development. The Minnesota - Santander agreement lent an official stamp of approval to a business project that will benefit both parties. A Minnesota company, Lemna International, builds environmental infrastructure systems, such as water treatment plants and storm sewers, in developing nations around the world. They are working with the city of Bucaramanga in the Province of Santander, Colombia to build environmental systems.

Why should the state government get involved? It may seem strange to us, but the United States is one of the few countries in the world in which government is not a partner in business development. In many countries, business developments don't happen unless they receive government approval. Although we do not require such approval in Minnesota, our official cooperation speeds along business deals, like the one between the Lemna Corporation and the city of Bucaramanga. We are pleased to do what we can



Lt. Governor Schunk and Governor Jorge Gomez of the Province of Satander, Colombia hold up the Declaration of Cooperation

to promote a stronger economy in Minnesota. It is my hope that our Declaration of Cooperation will spur even more business deals between various Minnesota companies and the Province of Satander. We have the kind of technological expertise that is in demand all over the world.

It is exciting to me that Minnesota businesses have projects going on all over the world, and not just with our major trading partners. Lemna International currently has projects taking place in Nigeria, Slovenia and South Korea. We are truly in a global economy and a global society.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Riding the Rails for Tourism In Osceola, Wisconsin August 2, 2001



Meeting Wisconsin's Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow

I am proud to have strong ties to both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

I grew up in Wisconsin on a farm and I graduated from UW-Eau Claire.

My husband, William, graduated from UW-Madison.

We were married in Wisconsin and on our honeymoon, we stopped in the St. Croix Valley. I spent 14 years teaching in Wisconsin before coming to Minnesota.

I taught here for 23 years before becoming lieutenant governor.



Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow of Wisconsin and I attended the St. Croix Valley Tourism Alliance's "Governor's Annual Signing Cruise." Riding the historic Osceola and St. Croix Valley Railway to commemorate the forming of the Alliance was part of the fun. The Alliance formed in 1993 to benefit the tourism and hospitality industry in both states. I am proud to promote tourism in Minnesota and beyond.



We were entertained by The NewRichmond Middle School Jazz Band



My tourism partners, Senator Sheila Harsdorf(R-WI),

Rep. Mark Pettis, (R-WI), Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Farrow



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



 OFFICIAL SITE OF MINNESOTA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK	 MAE SCHUNK			
Home Page Governor Ventura's Site	School Visits Speeches & Reports	What's New Boards & Advisory Groups	Schedule Mission to Croatia	Biography

Education Commission of the States Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 17-21, 2001



[COMPACT FOR
LEARNING AND
CITIZENSHIP
JULY 17-18](#)

[NATIONAL
FORUM ON
EDUCATION
POLICY JULY
19-21](#)

NEWS:
LT.GOVERNOR
SCHUNK
NAMED TO
STEERING
COMMITTEE

[PHOTO
GALLERY OF
HISTORIC
PHILADELPHIA](#)



NEWS RELEASE JULY 25, 2001:

Lt. Governor Schunk Named to Steering Committee of ECS

(St. Paul) Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk has been named to the governing body of a national organization that researches education policy.

[The Education Commission of the States](#) (ECS) in its annual meeting in Philadelphia on July 20, 2001 voted to have Lt. Governor Schunk represent Minnesota on its steering committee. ECS, a Denver-based organization, researches education policy and conducts annual conferences on behalf of the fifty states and two U.S. territories. Dewayne Matthews of ECS said Lt. Governor Schunk was chosen because of her proven leadership in education and her active involvement in ECS.

"I am very honored by this appointment," said Lt. Governor Schunk. "It is a great opportunity to explore new ideas in education and to see how they might work in Minnesota."

Lt. Governor Schunk is one of seven Minnesota members of ECS. One person from each state serves on the steering committee.

The new Chairman of ECS is Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, who will focus on how states can tackle the issue of literacy.

[Return toTop](#)

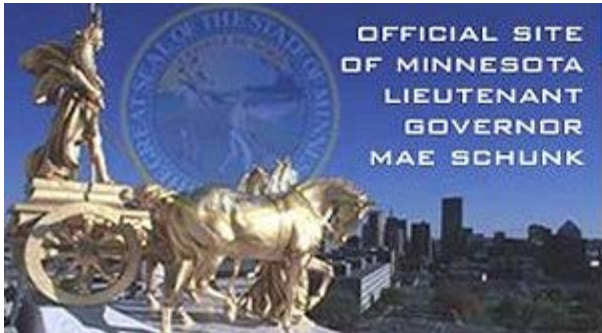
Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not



Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



 OFFICIAL SITE OF MINNESOTA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK	 MAE SCHUNK		
Home Page Governor Ventura's Site	School Visits Speeches & Reports	What's New Boards & Advisory Groups	Schedule Biography Mission to Croatia

Education Commission of the States Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 17-21, 2001



**COMPACT FOR
LEARNING AND
CITIZENSHIP
JULY 17-18**

[NATIONAL
FORUM ON
EDUCATION
POLICY JULY
19-21](#)

[NEWS:
LT.GOVERNOR
SCHUNK
NAMED TO
STEERING
COMMITTEE](#)

[PHOTO
GALLERY OF
HISTORIC
PHILADELPHIA](#)



COMPACT FOR LEARNING AND CITIZENSHIP

July 17-18

The historic buildings and streets of Philadelphia served as an appropriate and inspiring backdrop for discussions on the importance of education to democracy. Thomas Jefferson clearly saw that a strong democracy relies on an educated public, so that each person becomes an informed, active and engaged citizen. The first stage of the annual ECS summer conference was devoted to the idea of promoting service learning across a seamless educational system that stretches from preschool through a college diploma. The shorthand for this system is "P-16."

Teams of educators and policymakers from ten states discussed these issues for two days to find ways to turn these ideas into reality. Joining me on the Minnesota teams were (left to right) Mark Langseth, Executive Director of Minnesota Campus Compact, Timothy Collins, Superintendent of Blue Earth Area Schools, Commissioner Christine Jax, of Children, Families and Learning and William Frame, President of Augsburg College in Minneapolis.





It was enlightening to discuss these ideas from such different perspectives. Our task was to develop a statement of shared responsibility and to figure out if a P-16 service learning initiative could take root in Minnesota.

The rationale for a P-16 system arises as a solution to the *disconnects* that currently plague education. The most publicized gap is the one between high school graduation and college admission. Nationwide 42% of these students are not academically prepared for college courses. The result is that the fastest growing industry in post-secondary sector is remedial education. The fastest growing industry at the secondary level is college preparatory courses. We hope that our new graduation standards will help to narrow this gap, but what is really needed is to have greater communication between K-12 and higher education. Another gap exists between preschool and kindergarten. Too many kids are not ready to learn. One study reveals that if students cannot read by third grade, then they are likely to be academic failures by 8th grade. Research on brain development tells us that early childhood education is critical. There are groups in Minnesota and many other states promoting a P-16 dialogue, but the discussion needs to be expanded, and then connected with policymakers.



These are the policymakers and educators from ten states that participated in the discussions on how to implement P-16 service learning movements in their home states

Service learning is not to be confused with community service. Service learning is getting involved with a community project for the purpose of learning to be a good citizen. Many young people are disenchanted with politics and government, and shy away from any kind of involvement. But they are not apathetic; they are just skeptical or not aware of how to get involved. We listened to one recent college graduate who told how her service learning project changed her life, and helped her focus on a career. She said most students become transformed when they get involved in a project. The challenge is to get them started in a project. I learned of research that says that students in service learning tend to find more meaning in school, so they stay in college longer and get better grades. More importantly, they become better citizens, and improve our nation at the grassroots level.

Return toTop



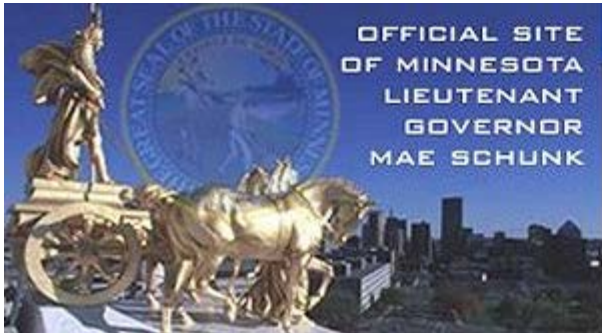
Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



 OFFICIAL SITE OF MINNESOTA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK	 MAE SCHUNK			
Home Page Governor Ventura's Site	School Visits Speeches & Reports	What's New Boards & Advisory Groups	Schedule Mission to Croatia	Biography

Education Commission of the States Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 17-21, 2001



[COMPACT FOR
LEARNING AND
CITIZENSHIP
JULY 17-18](#)

[NATIONAL
FORUM ON
EDUCATION
POLICY JULY
19-21](#)

[NEWS:
LT.GOVERNOR
SCHUNK
NAMED TO
STEERING
COMMITTEE](#)

[PHOTO
GALLERY OF
HISTORIC
PHILADELPHIA](#)



NATIONAL FORUM ON EDUCATION POLICY

July 19-21, 2001

The Education Commission of the States was formed in the 1960's in response to the Federal Government's entry into public education. Public schools are primarily a state responsibility, and state leaders wanted to ensure that education policies were state-driven. The mission of ECS is to help states identify, develop and implement public policy concerning education.

The national conferences are wonderful places to hear about new ideas and to compare notes with education policymakers from other states. One of the key topics in several meetings was accountability. Minnesota is not the only state seeking greater accountability from its K-12 and higher education systems. It is a process going on everywhere. One of the difficulties is that accountability is built upon standards, and standards are themselves not fully implemented. The Superintendent from Seattle, Joseph Olchefske, discussed the difficulty of abandoning the old-style bell curve, which sorted students into successes and failures. The new model, which assumes that everyone must achieve, has not fully entered the mindset of the public or of policymakers. Therefore the accountability systems that are developed are not always appropriate. He suggests that the bulk of the problem solving should take place at the district level.

(l to r) Governor Jim Geringer of Wyoming, Patrick Callan, President of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Governor Roy Barnes of Georgia and former Governor James B.



Hunt Jr. of North Carolina discuss ways of strengthening higher education

It is clear, however, that accountability is not merely about students. Accountability must take into account teachers, principals, superintendents, parents, state officials and the community. It is also important that accountability systems have consequences, both positive and negative. Accountability systems should have the goal of improving student achievement. As one wise panelist said, the bottom line is not how well the superintendent is doing, it's how well the students are doing.

How do people learn? That was a topic addressed by Suzanne Donovan of the National Academy of Sciences. This organization sifted through all the existent research on the topic and arrived at a fundamental understanding. They concluded that people learn only after they have developed a framework of understanding composed of key concepts. Learning is blocked if people have an incorrect preconception; then students misinterpret new information, and draw the wrong conclusions. Teachers must identify these misconceptions in order to correct them, so that learning can go forward. Knowledge is built with both ideas and factual content. The problem is that even though people agree with this approach, they don't understand how to put it in practice. Just as in the case with the new ideas of standards and accountability, a new attitude and a new perspective is needed in order for true understanding and implementation to take place.

One man who truly understands how children learned was honored at the conference for his lifetime work. ECS presented the prestigious James Bryant Conant Award for Outstanding Service to Education to Fred Rogers, of the PBS television program, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. I remember watching his program with my son when he was a toddler, so it was exciting to meet Fred Rogers in person. His speech at the award ceremony revealed the same warmth, humility and simple wisdom that make his television program such an important contribution to children and families. His message is that children need information, but they also need an adult to pay attention to them, to talk with them with respect and concern. He displays the humanity and values that make him so admired by parents and teachers everywhere.



The final event of the conference was the passing of the gavel to a new chairman of ECS. New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen concluded her term, and the new chairman is Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn. Governor Guinn said that his focus as chairman will be the issue of literacy. His parents were illiterate, and his father signed his name with an "X."

We all want the best for our children; we want them to grow to their highest potential, as society races ever faster into a technology-driven world. But we must never forget that the key to unlocking the door of knowledge is the basic skill of learning how to read.

*New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen
(l) passes the chairman's gavel to Nevada
Governor Kenny Guinn, who announced
that he will target the issue of literacy
during his tenure as the chair of ECS*



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



 OFFICIAL SITE OF MINNESOTA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK	 MAE SCHUNK			
Home Page Governor Ventura's Site	School Visits Speeches & Reports	What's New Boards & Advisory Groups	Schedule Mission to Croatia	Biography

**Education Commission of the States
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 17-21, 2001**



[COMPACT FOR
LEARNING AND
CITIZENSHIP
JULY 17-18](#)

[NATIONAL
FORUM ON
EDUCATION
POLICY JULY
19-21](#)

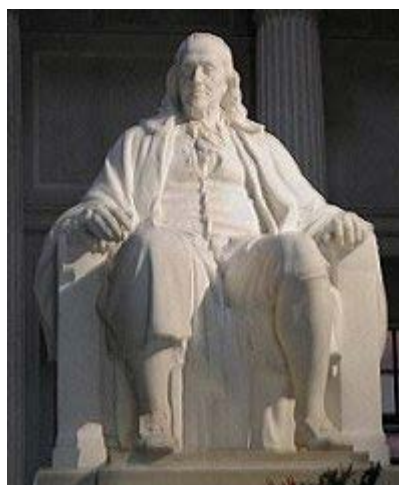
[NEWS:
LT.GOVERNOR
SCHUNK
NAMED TO
STEERING
COMMITTEE](#)

[PHOTO
GALLERY OF
HISTORIC
PHILADELPHIA](#)



PHOTO GALLERY OF HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia was the political birthplace of the United States of America. It was the scene of debate concerning our founding documents, and it served as our young nation's capital - until Washington D.C. was built. I hope these photographs stimulate a curiosity in viewers to learning more about the people, places and ideas that provided the intellectual foundation for our country.



This thirty ton statue of Benjamin Franklin sits in the rotunda of the Franklin Institute Science Museum, which includes displays of Franklin's early printing presses and electricity experiments.



A statue of George Washington stands before Independence Hall.

The Park Ranger who provided the tour of Independence Hall described this as the most important room in American history.

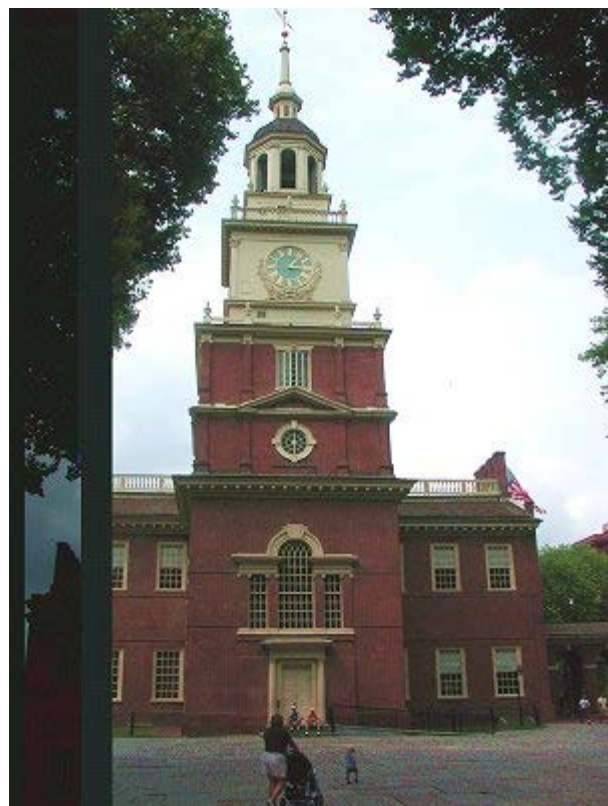
This was the room where the founding fathers debated the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The chair on the dais was used by George Washington during the proceedings.



(left) This bust of Thomas Jefferson sits in a re-created house where Jefferson rented two rooms in 1776. It was in the re-created room (below) that he wrote the original draft of the Declaration of Independence.



Visitors to Philadelphia can view this original print of the Declaration of Independence. This copy was the one used at the first public reading of the document on July 8, 1776, in the park behind Independence Hall (below).



In Washington Square lies the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the Revolutionary War. The inscription says that thousands of soldiers were buried throughout the small park.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Conference of Lieutenant Governors

"Prescription for a Healthy Nation"

Louisville, Kentucky
June 26-July 1, 2001



(standing) Host and chair of the conference, Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Stephen Henry and his wife, Heather French Henry, (sitting) Lieutenant Governor Schunk and her husband Bill

The title of this summer's meeting of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors (NCLG) was "Prescription for a Healthy Nation." The focus on health care was a natural for the host of the event, Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Stephen Henry, who is an M.D. An entire day was devoted to a Health Care Symposium that featured speakers and panels on a variety of topics, including long-term healthcare, insurance coverage, Medicaid and prescription drug coverage.

The United States has a serious health care situation because resources are limited, costs are rising and the "baby boomer" generation is rapidly graying. This means that the demand for health care will be rising sharply in the next few years. For many states this means budget shortfalls due Medicaid costs, because health care is often the second largest budget item (after education.) State and federal policy makers need to work together on health issues and health policies.

Many of the speakers suggested ideas and innovations to improve health care. Louisville Mayor David Armstrong mentioned a wellness program in local public schools, which encourages the prevention of health problems



through knowledge of nutrition, exercise and lifestyle choices. Humana Corporation chairman David Jones recommended a national health care approach similar to Germany's, in which everyone is mandated to purchase health insurance, with subsidies provided to the poor. The new head of the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs, Ruben King-Shaw, suggested a greater emphasis on adult day-care and home care programs as an alternative to nursing homes for long-term care.



*Louisville Mayor David Armstrong and
Lt. Governor Schunk*

[Click Here for Photos of NCLG Activities](#)

[Return to
Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Conference of Lieutenant Governors Photo Essay Louisville, Kentucky June 27-July 1, 2001

The host of this summer's conference, Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Stephen Henry, was proud to show the delegates some of the key aspects of Kentucky's economy. On this page are photographs of some of Kentucky's attractions.



(left) Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby, is a lucrative tourist attraction and an impetus to a major horse industry in the bluegrass state.



(right) Pegasus, after winning the Kentucky Derby in 2000, was purchased for \$65 million.



(left) The riverboat "Belle of Louisville" harks back to the era when the Ohio River was a major transportation route along Kentucky's northern border.

(right) Bourbon whiskey, the potent ingredient of mint julips, is an important product in Kentucky. The Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort still bottles by hand. We learned that most distilleries in Kentucky use barley from Minnesota to flavor their bourbon.



(left) The majestic capitol building in Frankfort, Kentucky houses statues of two famous native sons, Abraham Lincoln, America's 16th president and Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederacy.



(right) Kentucky's ornate Governor's Mansion in Frankfort is but a short stroll from the Capitol Building.



(left) Kentucky is one of the few states where the Lieutenant Governor has an official residence. This was once the Governor's Mansion, and it is the oldest government residence in America, predating the White House.



[Return toTop](#)

[Click Here for NCLG Health Care Symposium](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Education Conference Milken Family Foundation Los Angeles, California June 24-26, 2001



[Click Here for Award Ceremony](#)

Hundreds of educators, elected officials and policy makers converged at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles for the Milken Family Foundation's National Education Conference. A variety of panels and speakers, including several governors, all focused their attention on the issue of how to improve teacher quality. The magnitude of the problem was quantified a few years ago in Massachusetts, when the state gave a test to new teachers who were just graduating from college: 59% failed in basic literacy and communication. This is a crucial problem because teachers are one of the most important factors in determining the success of students. How can we expect students to do well when their teachers aren't qualified?



Florida Governor Jeb Bush delivered a keynote speech on education reforms in his state. Bush believes that schools are improving in Florida because of standards that hold students and schools accountable. Schools are ranked with a letter grade, A-F. There are no longer any "failing" schools in Florida, he says, because they were given the resources to succeed. Education spending has increased in Florida by 23% in three years.

In Massachusetts and across the country, a major response to the problem of teacher quality is to change the way teachers are paid in order to reward excellent performance. The challenge of revising the profession of teaching would mean an end to the old salary schedule, which treats all teachers the same, regardless of performance. Special interests and old-fashioned thinking provide obstacles to such reform, but I think it needs to be done.

Dr. Thomas Boysen (Milken Family Foundation) introduces a panel of governors, Governor Benjamin Cayetano (Hawaii), Governor James Geringer (Wyoming), Governor Angus King (Maine), Governor Paul Patton (Kentucky), Lewis Solmon (Milken Family Foundation). Governor King pointed out that teacher certification is so rigid that he would not qualify to teach eighth grade civics in Maine.



Many speakers suggested that the way to initiate reforms in teaching is to encourage innovations at the grass-roots level. Top-down solutions can stifle local decision making, or even worse. In Georgia a 65-member panel (which had only three teachers in it) decided the way to solve the problems in education was to launch a \$3 million ad campaign focusing on bad teachers. The result was that teachers left Georgia in droves - they quit the profession or moved to neighboring states. Georgia now has a new education problem to deal with: 1500 vacant teaching positions! As a rural Georgia student put it, "When the plow don't work, we don't shoot the mule."

Another common suggestion was to create elevated teaching posts so that educators can have career goals without moving out of the classroom and into the administration. Many states are incorporating the idea of master teachers, experienced educators who are rewarded for their wealth of experience and their willingness to share what they have learned with new teachers. Most professions differentiate between those who excel and those who fail to achieve proficiency. In teaching they are all paid the same.

The Milken Family Foundation has developed an intriguing model for changing the profession. It's called the Teacher Advancement Program or "TAP." Their approach for changing the institution of teaching follows five principles:

1. Multiple career paths
2. Market-driven compensation
3. Performance-based accountability
4. Ongoing, applied professional development
5. Expanding the supply of high quality educators

A number of states are beginning to explore TAP, and in Minnesota we just passed legislation that shares many of these ideas. I think we need to do whatever we can to improve the career of teaching. In today's economy many teachers are leaving the profession, and many young people are choosing higher paying careers. We must all realize that our future depends on well-educated students, and they depend upon quality teachers.

The conference concluded with an award ceremony honoring 155 outstanding educators, including



Lt. Governor Schunk with Michael Milken, co-founder Milken Family Foundation

three from Minnesota. Aside from the honor of being recognized as excellent, each winner receives a check for \$25,000. [Click here for more on the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards.](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk with the three Minnesota winners of the Milken National Education Awards. [Click here for story](#)

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Educator Awards Milken Family Foundation Los Angeles, California June 26, 2001

[Click for
National Education
Conference](#)



The Minnesota delegation to the National Educator Awards (l to r) Tim Constanza, Principal at Moose Lake Elementary, honor guard; Lynn Bartol, a teacher at Longfellow Elementary, St. Paul and Michele Connors, a teacher at the Community of Peace Academy in St. Paul

The emotional highlight of the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference in Los Angeles was the gala ceremony for the National Educator Awards. Three Minnesota educators were among 155 teachers and principals from across the country who were honored at the festival, and rewarded with checks for \$25,000. The Minnesotans are Lynn Bartol, a teacher at Longfellow Magnet Elementary School in St. Paul, Timothy Caroline, the principal of Moose Lake Elementary School and Michele Connors, a teacher at the Community of Peace Academy in St. Paul. It was a thrill and an honor to make a grand entrance into the award ceremony with three of Minnesota's finest educators.

The award ceremony was a star-studded event, with guest appearances by Art Linkletter, Rosy Grier and Graham Nash, who sang, "Teach your Children Well." Young people were a strong part of the evening's entertainment also, with excellent performances by the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, violin prodigy Hannah Tarley and the sensational thirteen-year-old singer, Alysha



Antonio.

Every minute of the ceremony served the goals of the Milken Educator Award: to honor and reward outstanding K-12 educators and focus public attention on the importance of quality teaching and leadership in education.



**Return to
Top**

The climax of the National Educator Award ceremony was the celebration of the winners on stage - 155 teachers, principals and others from across America



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Schunk meets fellow independent, Governor Angus King of Maine Monday, June 25, 2001

At the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference I was delighted to run into Maine Governor Angus King. He and Governor Ventura comprise the independent caucus of governors. (Governor King describes himself as "the one with more hair.")

He asked about the situation in Minnesota and I described how close we are to having a government shutdown. Governor King said Maine suffered a shutdown in 1992, before he was governor, and described it as a terrible disaster that people can't forget. He urged Minnesota to prevent a similar calamity.



Lt. Gov. Schunk and Maine Gov. Angus King



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Habitat for Humanity June 21, 2001



Sometimes I am invited to volunteer activities to lend encouragement, but on this day I was the one who was energized. Habitat for Humanity is constructing eight houses on a single lot in St. Paul, and two of the houses are being built by all-women construction teams. This is a part of the WomenBuild project. On the day I visited two of our administration's female commissioners showed up to help, along with a crew of women from around the country who are in St. Paul for a convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Over a five week period about 500 women will have volunteered. The volunteers come from a variety of businesses and organizations. Some stay for a day, others stay on for weeks.



Human Rights Commissioner Janeen Rosas, Lt. Governor Schunk, a Habitat worker, Housing Commissioner Kit Hadley and a Habitat worker

WomenBuild demonstrates the power of women to get things done. And it's all for a good cause: affordable housing in the Twin Cities is in great demand. The [Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity](#) builds around 60 houses a year in the metro area, and each house has a long list of applicants. Their goal is to build 100 per year.

The houses I saw are nearing completion, and they look like they will be wonderful homes in a pleasant tree-filled neighborhood. The grand opening is scheduled for June 30th.

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





U.S. Flag from Boys State Flies over Capitol



On Flag Day, June 14, 2001, I had the pleasant duty of filling in for Governor Ventura by giving a speech to the members of Minnesota Boys State at St. Olaf College in Northfield. Recently I had [spoken to Minnesota Girls State](#), so I knew about this program to teach high schoolers a civics lesson by having them set up a mock government. The sponsor of the event is the American Legion, which strives to encourage young people to become involved in government and to have pride in their nation.

I had a great time talking with all the boys, who seemed more concerned with the status of the Graduation Standards than the process of government. Many seemed dead set against the Profile of Learning, but I delighted in pointing out to them that the philosophy behind the Profile is the same as the motto of Boys State: *Learn by Doing!*

The youngsters showed their appreciation of my visit by presenting me with an American flag. I promised them I would fly it over the State Capitol and send them the certification that it had flown. Early the next morning I ascended the secret circular stairway that leads to the roof of the Capitol, and I made my way to the flagpole. With the help of Brad Randolph, who hoists flags as part of his job, I lived up to my promise.



GO BOYS!

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK ATTENDS "PEACE DAY" AT RED WING JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2001



Lt. Governor Schunk joins Commissioner of Corrections Sheryl Ramstad Hvass and Thupten Dadak. Dadak, a leader in Minnesota's Tibetan community, helped to organize "Peace Day." Several Tibetan Buddhist monks worked with the young inmates at Red Wing to share their philosophy of nonviolence.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Go to
'What's New'

Archives of "What's New"

[Lt. Governor Visits MIGIZI open house](#)

[May 19, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Meets President George W. Bush](#)

[May 17, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Judges Safety Patrol Parade](#)

[May 15, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Photos from Fishing Opener](#)

[May 11-12, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Reports on First day of Fishing Opener](#)

[May 11, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Views Tornado Damage in Glenville](#)

[May 2, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Presents Gen. Andreotti with Distinguished Service Medal](#)

[Lt. Governor heads south to begin April 2001 school visits](#)

[Lt. Governor speaks at Shakopee Correctional Facility](#)

[April 13, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor visits twenty school districts in March 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor visits the 2001 Youth Entrepreneurs Expo
March 12, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Schunk on KTCA's NewsNight Minnesota
Thursday, March 1, 2001](#)

[Lt. Governor Schunk travels to schools in northern
Minnesota
Feb 21-23](#)

[Outstanding Citizen Award
Monday, February 12, 2001](#)

[Winter Blast Celebrity Ride Ely, Minnesota
Saturday, February 10, 2001](#)

[National Conference of Lieutenant Governors Washington
DC
February 2 to 4, 2001](#)

[Senate Session Opening](#)

[Graduation at Oak Park Hgts Correctional Facility](#)

[Holiday Greetings for 2000](#)

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

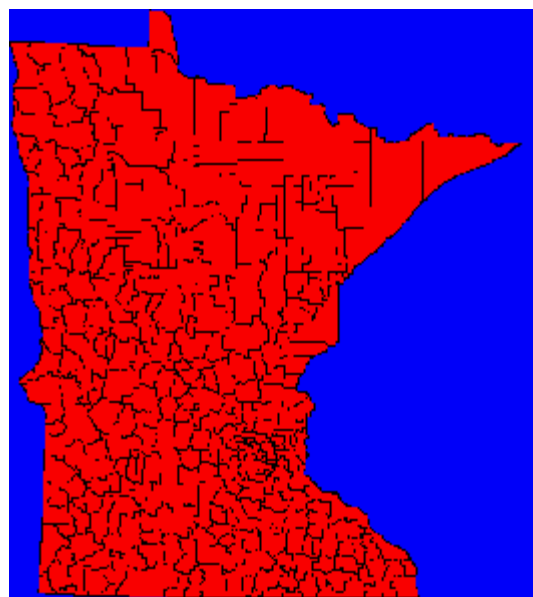
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in May 2002

May 1, 2002
Richfield ISD#280
May 2, 2002
Westonka ISD#277
May 7, 2002
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley ISD#113
May 8, 2002
Blackduck ISD#32
May 9, 2002
Littlefork-Big Falls ISD#362
International Falls ISD#361
May 24, 2002
South St. Paul ISD#6



On May 24, 2002 Lt. Governor Schunk fulfilled her pledge to visit every school district in Minnesota. This map shows all the districts she has visited.

[Return to Top](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155



Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in April 2002

April 3, 2002

[Waconia ISD#110](#)

April 4, 2002

[Blooming Prairie ISD#756](#)

[Owatonna ISD#761](#)

April 9, 2002

[Swanville ISD#486](#)

April 10, 2002

[Chokio-Alberta ISD#771](#)

April 11, 2002

[Medford ISD#763](#)

[Cleveland ISD#391](#)

April 23, 2002

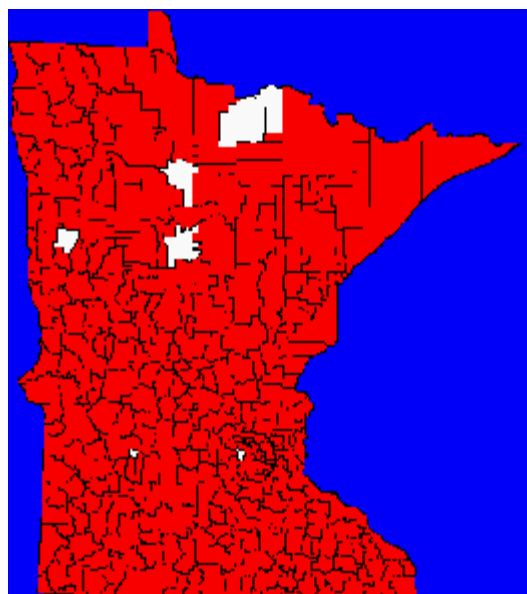
[Jordan ISD#717](#)

April 24, 2002

[Monticello ISD#882](#)

[Ogilvie ISD#333](#)

April 24, 2002



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited.

[Cannon Falls ISD#252](#)

April 29, 2002

[Ulen-Hitterdahl ISD#914](#)

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

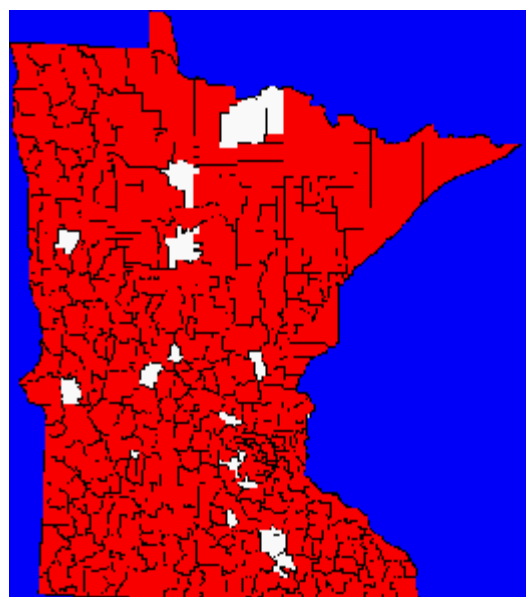
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in March 2002

March 12, 2002
McLeod West ISD# 2887
Hutchinson ISD# 423
A.C.G.C. ISD# 2396
March 13, 2002
Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian ISD# 2534
Cedar Mountain ISD# 2754
March 14, 2002
Windom ISD# 177
March 21, 2002
Lakeview ISD#2167
Springfield ISD#85
March 27, 2002
Blue Earth ISD#2860
Glenville-Emmons ISD#2886



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited.

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

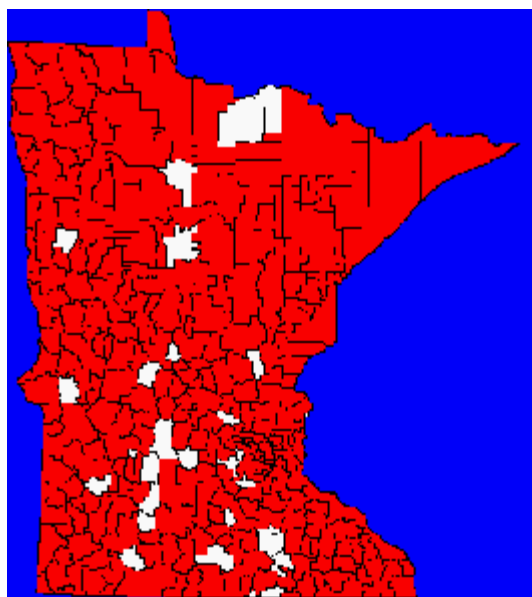


For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Journal of School Districts Visited in February 2002

February 12, 2002
Long Prairie ISD# 2753
Upsala ISD# 487
Royalton ISD# 485
February 13, 2002
Staples-Motley ISD# 170
Verndale ISD# 818
Wadena-Deer Creek ISD# 2155
Henning ISD# 545
February 14, 2002
Osakis ISD# 213
Browerville ISD# 787
February 26, 2002
Granada Huntley-East Chain ISD# 2536
Maple River ISD# 2135
February 27, 2002
St. Clair ISD# 75
United South Central ISD# 2134
Alden ISD# 242



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

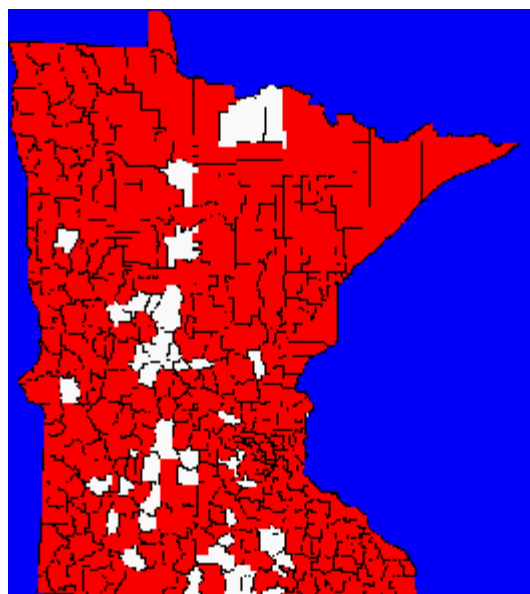
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in January 2002

January 7, 2002
Waubun ISD# 435
Mahnomen ISD# 432
Norman County East ISD# 2215
January 8, 2002
Park Rapids ISD# 309
Menahga ISD# 821
Sebeka ISD# 820
New York Mills ISD# 553
January 9, 2002
Detroit Lakes ISD# 22
Frazee ISD# 23
Perham ISD# 549
January 22, 2002
Underwood ISD# 550
Battle Lake ISD# 542
Ashby ISD# 261
West Central Area ISD# 2342
January 23, 2002
Minnewaska ISD# 2149
Cyrus ISD# 611



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited.



Barb Hexum, from CFL's MEEP program

Hancock ISD# 768
January 24, 2002
Benson ISD# 777
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley ISD# 611
Ortonville ISD# 62
January 28, 2002
Hermantown ISD# 700
Proctor ISD# 704
Wrenshall ISD# 100
January 29, 2002
Mountain Iron-Buhl ISD# 712
Eveleth-Gilbert ISD# 2154
Virginia ISD# 706

(Minnesota Educational Effectiveness Program), traveled with Lt. Governor Schunk to a number of schools in January, providing valuable expertise on many topics

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in December 2001

December 10, 2001

[Grygla ISD# 447](#)

[Goodridge ISD# 561](#)

[Red Lake Falls ISD# 630](#)

December 11, 2001

[Crookston ISD# 593](#)

[Plummer ISD# 628](#)

[Oklee ISD# 627](#)

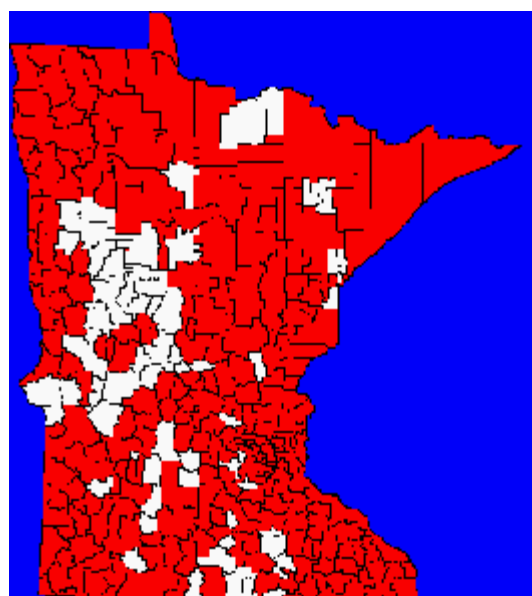
[Win-E-Mac ISD# 2609](#)

December 12, 2001

[Climax-Shelly ISD# 592](#)

[Fertile-Beltrami ISD# 599](#)

[Fosston ISD# 601](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



[Return to Top](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155



Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in November 2001

November 7, 2001

[Parkers Prairie ISD# 547](#)

[Eagle Valley ISD# 2759](#)

[Bertha-Hewitt ISD# 786](#)

November 8, 2001

[Fergus Falls ISD# 544](#)

November 9, 2001

[Melrose ISD# 740](#)

[Rocori ISD# 750](#)

[Paynesville ISD# 741](#)

November 27, 2001

[Nett Lake ISD# 707](#)

[Grand Rapids ISD# 318](#)

[Nashwauk-Keewatin ISD# 319](#)

November 28, 2001

[Deer River ISD# 317](#)

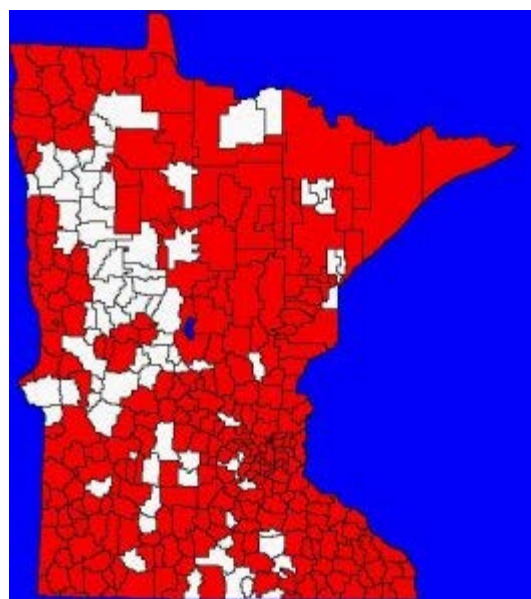
[Greenway ISD# 316](#)

November 29, 2001

[Hill City ISD# 2](#)

[Northland ISD# 118](#)

[Nevis ISD# 308](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in October 2001

October 9, 2001

[Lynd Public School ISD# 415](#)

[Lincoln HI Secondary School ISD# 403](#)

[Lincoln HI Elementary School, ISD# 402](#)

[Canby Elementary School ISD# 891](#)

[Minnesota West Community & Technical College](#)

October 10, 2001

[Milroy Schools ISD# 635](#)

[Red Rock Central Secondary School ISD# 2884](#)

[Edgerton Public Schools ISD# 581](#)

[Southwest State University, Marshall](#)

October 11, 2001

[Minneota Schools ISD# 414](#)

[Dawson-Boyd Schools ISD# 378](#)

[Lac Qui Parle Valley High School ISD# 2853](#)

[Bellingham Elementary School ISD# 371](#)

October 22, 2001

[Kelliher Schools ISD# 36](#)

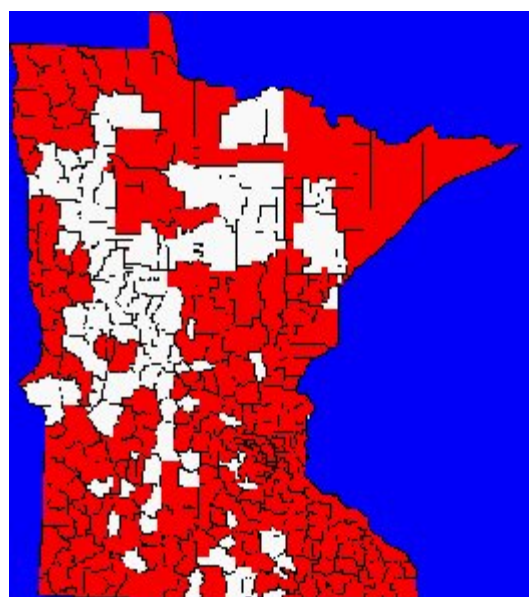
[South Koochiching Schools ISD# 363](#)

[Lake of the Woods Schools ISD# 390](#)

October 23, 2001

[Cass Lake Schools ISD# 115](#)

[Bagley Public Schools ISD#162](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



[Laporte Public Schools ISD# 306](#)

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Journal of School Districts Visited in May 2001

May 9, 2001

[Isle Public School](#)

[ISD # 473](#)

[Onamia Public School](#)

[ISD # 480](#)

[Pierz High School](#)

[ISD # 484](#)

May 10, 2001

[Pequot Lakes Public School](#)

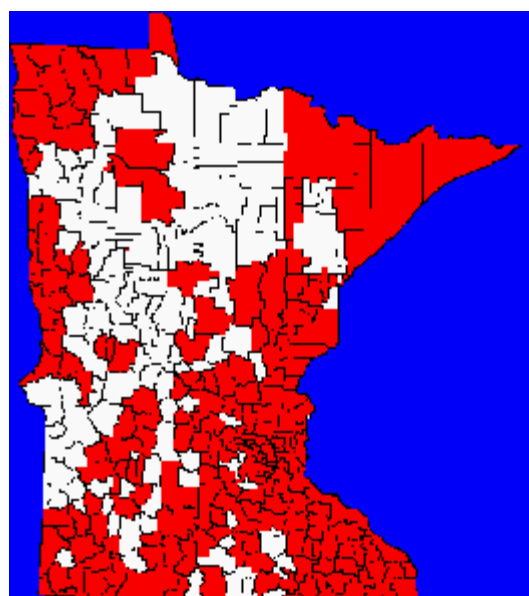
[ISD # 186](#)

[Crosby-Ironton High School](#)

[ISD # 182](#)

[Pillager Public School](#)

[ISD # 116](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer



[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

April 2001

Summary Reports of School Districts Visited

April 10, 2001

[Lake Benton School](#)
[ISD 404](#)

[Russell-Tyler-Ruthton High School](#)
[ISD 458](#)

[Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Middle School](#)
[ISD 418](#)

April 11, 2001

[Balaton Public School](#)
[ISD 411](#)

[Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Elementary School](#)
[ISD 584](#)

[Murray County Central School](#)
[ISD 2169](#)

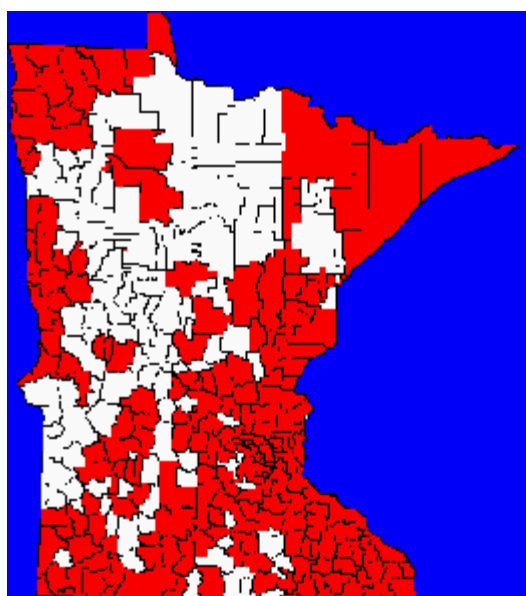
[Fulda Elementary School](#)
[ISD 497](#)

April 12, 2001

[Westbrook-Walnut Grove School](#)
[ISD 175](#)

[Tracy Area High School](#)
[ISD 417](#)

[Pipestone-Jasper Central School](#)
[ISD 2689](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



April 23, 2001

[Moorhead School District](#)
[ISD 152](#)

[Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School](#)
[ISD 2164](#)

[Norman County West Elementary School](#)
[ISD 2527](#)

April 24, 2001

[Hawley Elementary School](#)
[ISD 150](#)

[Lake Park - Audubon Elementary School](#)
[ISD 2889](#)

[Viking Elementary School](#)
[ISD 548](#)

April 25, 2001

[Barnesville High School](#)
[ISD 146](#)

[Rothsay Public School](#)
[ISD 850](#)

[Breckenridge Elementary School](#)
[ISD 846](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

March 2001

Summary Reports of School Districts Visited

March 6, 2001

[Lyle Public School](#)
[ISD 497](#)

March 7, 2001

[Chosen Valley High School](#)
[Chatfield ISD 227](#)

[Dover - Eyota Elementary School](#)
[ISD 533](#)

[St. Charles Elementary School](#)
[ISD 858](#)

March 8, 2001

[Lewiston - Altura Secondary School](#)
[ISD 857](#)

[Plainview Community School](#)
[ISD 810](#)

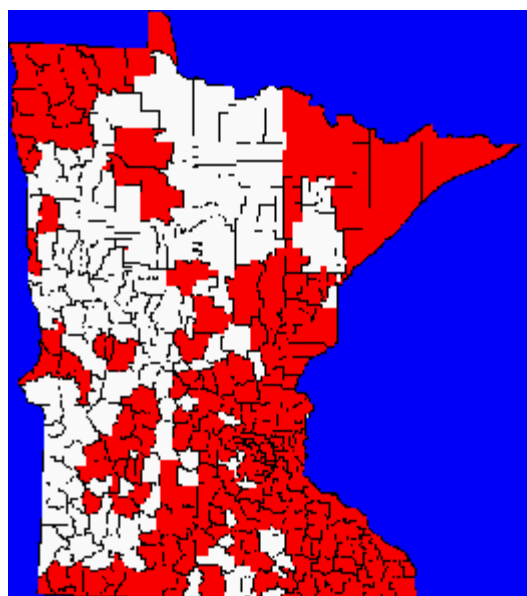
[Elgin - Millville Community School](#)
[ISD 806](#)

March 19, 2001

[Kasson - Mantorville Elementary School](#)
[ISD 204](#)

[Hayfield Public School](#)
[ISD 203](#)

March 20, 2001



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



[Stewartville Middle and High School](#)
[ISD 534](#)

[Pine Island Public Schools](#)
[ISD 255](#)

March 26, 2001

[Madelia Elementary School](#)
[ISD 837](#)

[Lake Crystal Memorial High School](#)
[ISD 2071](#)

[Butterfield - Odin Public School](#)
[ISD 836](#)

March 27, 2001

[Nicollet Public School](#)
[ISD 507](#)

[Armstrong Middle School, St. James](#)
[ISD 840](#)

[Truman Public School](#)
[ISD 458](#)



A valuable road companion from March 26 - 28 was Donna Oakey, who serves schools in the Mankato area as the MEEP coordinator for CFL (MEEP = Minnesota Educational Effectiveness Program) She helps schools implement the Graduation Standards.

March 28, 2001

[Martin County West High School](#)
[ISD 2448](#)

[Comfrey Public School](#)
[ISD 81](#)

[Mountain Lake Public School](#)
[ISD 173](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

February 2001

Summary Reports of School Districts Visited

February 15, 2001

[Shoreview, Turtle Lake Elementary](#)
[ISD 621](#)

February 21, 2001

[Carlton High School](#)
[ISD 93](#)

[Cloquet Senior High School](#)
[ISD 94](#)

[Cromwell-Wright School, Cromwell](#)
[ISD 95](#)

[Floodwood Public School](#)
[ISD 698](#)

February 22, 2001

[Hibbing Senior High School](#)
[ISD 701](#)

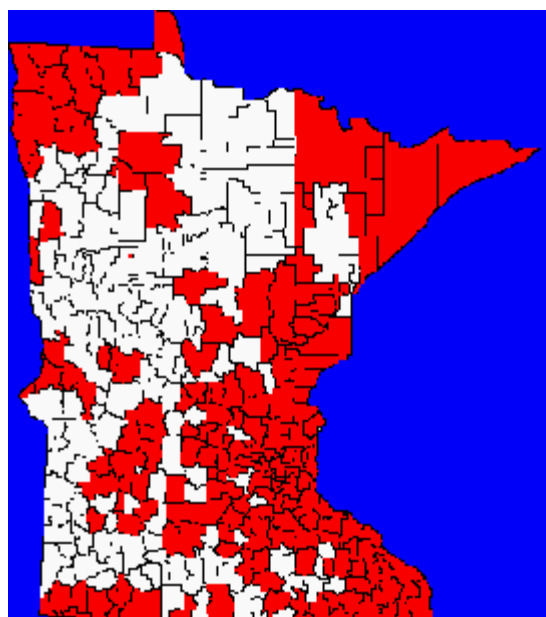
[Chisholm Senior High School](#)
[ISD 695](#)

[Mesabi East High School, Aurora](#)
[ISD 2711](#)

February 23, 2001

[Moose Lake Elementary School](#)
[ISD 701](#)

[McGregor Public School](#)



Lt. Governor Schunk has promised to visit every school district in Minnesota. The red portions of this map indicate the districts she has visited so far.



[ISD 4](#)

February 27, 2001

[St. Michael - Albertville Senior High](#)

[ISD 885](#)

February 28, 2001

[Rockford Middle School](#)

[ISD 883](#)

[Maple Lake School](#)

[ISD 881](#)

[Litchfield Middle School](#)

[ISD 4](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Hopkins School District 270

**Gatewood Elementary School, Hopkins
January 31, 2001**

At Gatewood School, I got a close-up look at the results of an artist in residency program. In the first grade classroom, Residency Artist/teacher Rhonda Lund brings storytelling and creative maskmaking to the first graders.

She is tying it all into a unit on the Hopi Indians, hoping she'll inspire some creative expression. And it sure looks like she has! The students gave a performance as a whole menagerie of animals, including coyotes, turtles, scorpions and badgers. After that they designed their own masks, using various



Gatewood students perform an animal improv

shapes on paper. All of this left me quite impressed and inspired by the many ways the Gatewood staff integrates art and creative expression into curriculum.



Bowls created by Gatewood 4th graders

Gatewood, and the entire Hopkins district are involved in a project to help raise money for the homeless and give to food shelves. The project is called the "Empty Bowls Event" and 4th graders from all over the district make pottery bowls, which they raffle off at a fundraising event. Last year the "Empty Bowls Event" raised roughly \$27,000 for local food shelves.

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not**



Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

December 2000

Summary Reports of School Districts Visited

December 12, 2000

[LaCrescent - Hokah Middle and High School](#)
[ISD 300](#)

[Houston Public Schools](#)
[ISD 294](#)

[Spring Grove Public Schools](#)
[ISD 297](#)

December 13, 2000

[Mabel - Canton School](#)
[Mabel ISD 238](#)

[Rushford - Peterson High School](#)
[Rushford ISD 239](#)

[Fillmore Central High School](#)
[Harmony ISD 2198](#)

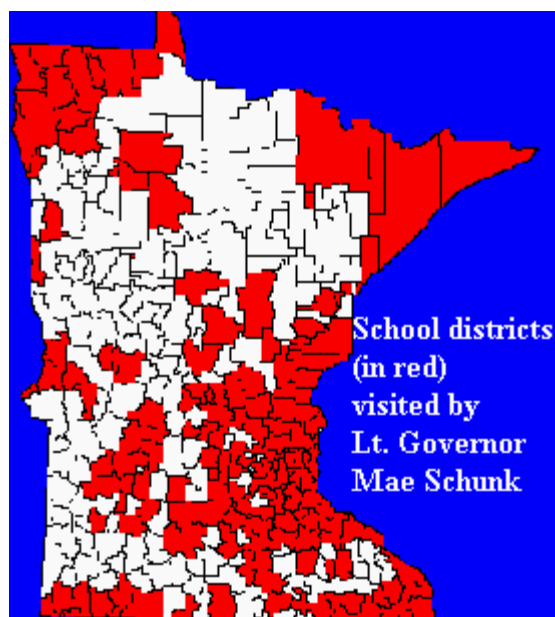
[Lanesboro Schools](#)
[ISD 229](#)

December 14, 2000

[Kingsland Middle School](#)
[Wykoff ISD 2137](#)

[Le Roy - Ostrander School](#)
[Le Roy ISD 499](#)

[Grand Meadow Public School](#)
[ISD 495](#)



[Southland Middle - High School](#)
[Adams ISD 500](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

November 2000

School Districts Visited

November 14, 2000

[Intermediate School District 917](#)
[Rosemount](#)

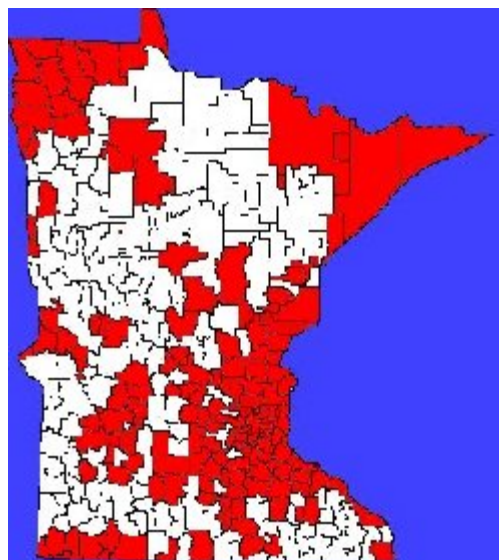
November 16, 2000

[Oak Hill Community School](#)
[St. Cloud ISD 742](#)

[Mississippi Heights Middle School](#)

[Sauk Rapids ISD 47](#)

[Intermediate School District 51](#)
[Foley](#)



Working to fulfill her pledge
to visit every
Minnesota school district!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

October 2000

School Districts Visited

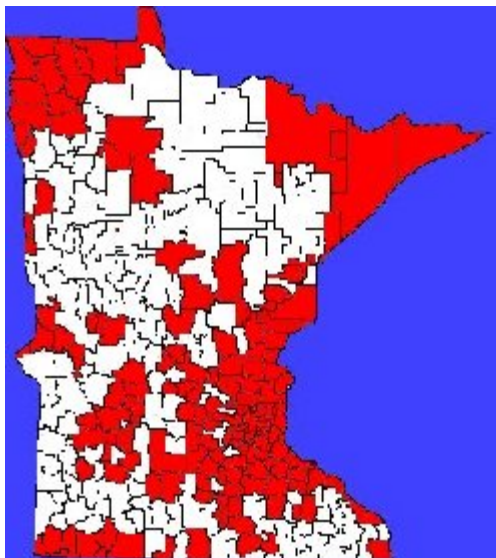
October 25, 2000

[Independent School District 516](#)
[Round Lake Senior High](#)

[Independent School District 2895](#)
[Jackson County Central Middle School, Lake Field](#)

[Independent School District 513](#)
[Brewster Elementary School](#)

[Southwest Star Concept School](#)
[ISD 330, Okabena](#)



October 24, 2000

[Independent School District 518](#)
[Worthington School District](#)

[Independent School District 671](#)
[Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary](#)

[Independent School District 514](#)
[Ellsworth Public School](#)

[Independent School District 2184](#)
[Luverne Middle School and High School](#)

October 23, 2000

[Independent School District 511](#)
[Adrian Elementary School](#)

Working to fulfill her pledge
to visit every
Minnesota school district!

October 10, 2000

[East Grand Forks High School](#)

[Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School](#)

[Stephen-Argyle Public School](#)

[Kittson Central School District,](#)
[Hallock](#)

October 4, 2000

October 12, 2000

[J.W. Smith Elementary School](#)

[Badger Public School](#)

[Roseau Community School](#)

October 11, 2000

[Marshall County Central High School, Newfolden](#)

[Tri-County School, Karlstad](#)

[Lancaster Public School](#)

[Greenbush-Middle River, Greenbush](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





List of Schools Visited in 2001-2002 School Year

[Link to 1999 Visits](#)

[Link to 2000 Visits](#)

[Link to Map of Visits](#)

DISTRICT NAME	IDS#	SCHOOL	DATE
ACGC	2396	ACGC Elementary School	3/12/02
Alden	242	Alden-Conger School	2/27/02
Ashby	261	Ashby Public School	1/22/02
Bagley	162	Bagley Public School	10/23/01
Battle Lake	542	Battle Lake Public School	1/22/02
Bellingham	371	Bellingham Elementary School	10/11/01
Benson	777	Benson Public School	1/24/02
Bertha-Hewitt	768	Bertha-Hewitt Public School	11/07/01
Blackduck	32	Blackduck Public School	5/8/02
Blue Earth	2860	Blue Earth High School	3/27/02
BOLD	2534	Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian High School	3/13/02
Browerville	787	Browerville Public School	2/14/02
Canby	891	Canby Elementary School	10/09/01
Cannon Falls	252	Cannon Falls Public School	4/25/02
Cass Lake	115	Cass lake Public School	

10/23/01			
Cedar Mountain	2754	Cedar Mountain High School	
3/13/02			
Chokio-Alberta	771	High School in Alberta; Elementary in Chokio	
4/10/02			
Cleveland	391	Cleveland Public School	
4/11/02			
Climax-Shelly	592	Climax-Shelly Public School	
12/12/01			
C-B-G	2888	Clinton-Graceville-Beardsly High School	
1/24/02			
Cyrus	611	Cyrus Math Science Technology School	1/23/02
Crookston	593	Washington Elementary School	
12/11/01			
Dawson-Boyd	378	Dawson School	
10/11/01			
Deer River	317	King Elementary	
11/28/01			
Detroit Lakes	22	Detroit Lakes Middle School	1/09/02
Eagle Valley	2759	Eagle Valley Elementary in Clarissa	
11/07/01			
Edgerton	581	Edgerton Public School	
10/10/01			
Eveleth-Gilbert	2154	Eveleth-Gilbert High School	
1/29/02			
Fergus Falls	544	McKinley Elementary School	
11/08/01			
Fertile-Beltrami	599	Fertile-Beltrami Public School	
12/12/01			
Fosston	601	Magelssen Elementary School	
12/12/01			
Frazee	23	Frazee High School	1/09/02
Glenville-Emmons	2886	Glenville Elementary School	
3/27/02			
Goodridge	561	Goodridge High School	
12/10/01			
Granada Huntley-East Chain	2536	Granada Huntley-East Chain Public School	
2/26/02			
Grand Rapids	318	Southwest Elementary	
11/28/01			
Greenway	316	VanDyke Elementary in Coleraine	11/28/01

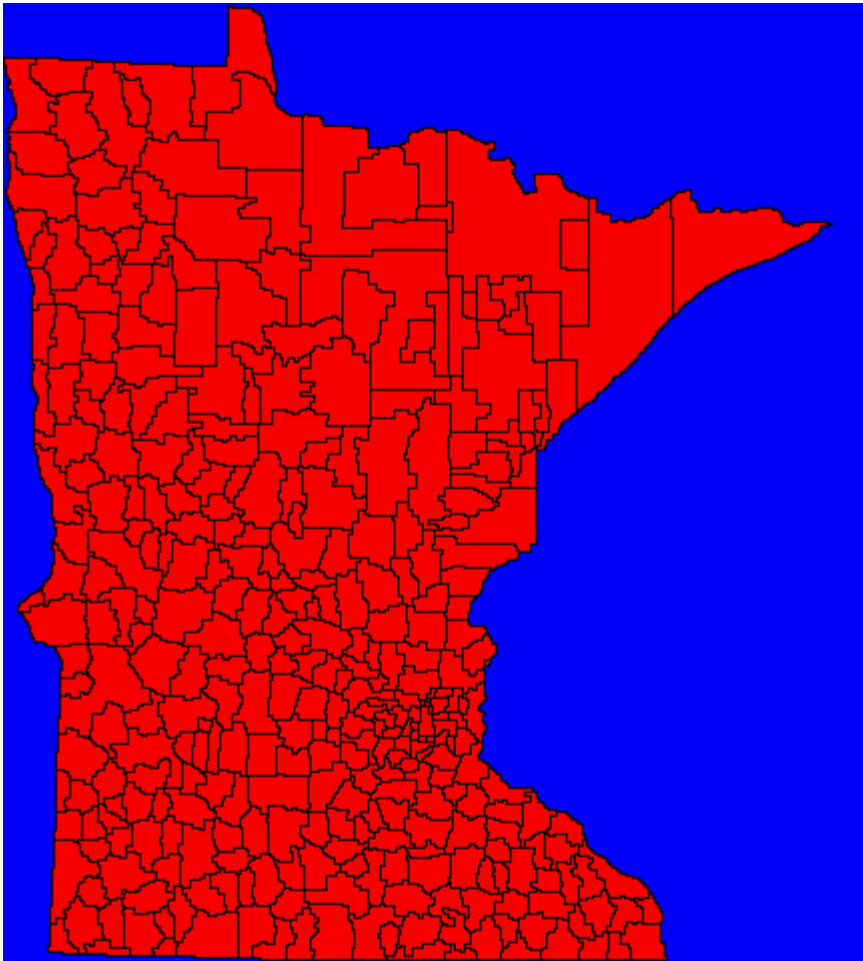
Grygla	447	Grygla High School	
12/10/01			
Hancock	768	Hancock Publick School	1/23/02
Hendricks	402	Lincoln HI Elementary School	
10/09/01			
Henning	545	Henning Public School	
2/13/02			
Hermantown	700	Hermantown High School	1/28/02
Hill City	2	Hill City Public School	
11/29/01			
Hutchinson	423	West Elementary School	3/12/02
International Falls	361	Holler Elementary School	5/9/02
Ivanhoe	403	Lincoln HI Secondary School	
10/09/01			
Jordan	717	Jordan Public School	4/23/02
Kelliher	36	Kelliher Public School	
10/22/01			
Lac Qui Parle	2853	Lac Qui Parle Valley High School	
10/11/01			
Lake of the Woods	390	Baudette Public School	
10/22/01			
Lakeview	2167	Lakeview Public School	3/21/02
Laporte	306	Laporte Public School	
10/23/01			
Littlefalls-Big Fork	362	Littlefalls-Big Fork School	
5/9/02			
Long Prairie/Grey Eagle	2753	Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Elementary/Middle	
2/12/02			
Lynd	415	Lynd Public School	
10/09/01			
Mahnomen	432	Mahnomen Elementary and High School	1/07/02
Maple River	2135	Maple River High School	
2/26/02			
McLeod West	2887	McLeod West Elementary School	3/12/02
Medford	763	Medford Public School	4/11/02
Melrose	740	Melrose High School	
11/09/01			
Menahga	821	Menahga Public School	1/08/02
Milroy	635	Milroy Public School	
10/10/01			

Minneota	414	Minneota Public School	
10/11/01			
Minnewaska	2149	Starbuck Elementary School	1/23/02
Monticello	882	Monticello High School	
4/24/02			
Mountain Iron-Buhl	712	Merritt Elementary School	
1/29/02			
Nashwauk-Keewatin	319	Nashwauk-Keewatin High School	
11/27/01			
Nett Lake	707	Nett Lake Public School	
11/27/01			
Nevis	308	Nevis Public School	
11/29/01			
New York Mills	553	New York Mills Public School	
1/08/02			
Norman County East	2215	Norman County East Elementary	1/07/02
Northland	118	Northland High School in Remer	
11/27/01			
Ogilvie	333	Ogilvie Public School	
4/24/02			
Oklee	627	Oklee Public School	
12/11/01			
Ortonville	62	Ortonville Public School	
1/24/02			
Osakis	213	Osakis Public School	2/14/02
Park Rapids	309	Century School	1/08/02
Parker's Prairie	547	Parker's Prairie High School	
11/07/01			
Paynesville	741	Paynesville Area High School	
11/09/01			
Perham	549	Heart of the Lakes Elementary School	1/09/02
Plummer	628	Pershing High School	
12/11/01			
Proctor	704	Proctor High School	1/28/02
Red Lake Falls	630	Lafayette High School	
12/10/01			
Red Rock Central	2884	Red Rock Central Elementary School	
10/10/01			
Richfield	280	Centennial Elementary School	5/1/02
ROCORI	750	Rocori Middle School in Cold Spring	

11/09/01			
Royalton	485	Royalton Elementary School	2/12/02
Saint Clair	75	St. Clair Public School	
2/27/02			
Sebeka	820	Sebeka Public School	1/08/02
South St. Paul	6	South St. Paul High School	5/24/02
Springfield	85	Springfield Public School	
3/21/02			
Staples-Motley	2170	Staples-Motley High School	2/13/02
Swanville	486	Swanville Public School	4/9/02
Ulen-Hitterdahl	914	Ulen-Hitterdahl Public School	
4/29/02			
Underwood	550	Underwood Public School	1/22/02
United South Central	2134	USC Sober School	
2/27/02			
Upsala	487	Upsala Public School	2/12/02
Verndale	818	Verndale Public School	2/13/02
Virginia	706	Parkview Learning Center	1/29/02
Wadena-Deer Creek	2155	Wadena-Deer Creek Elementary School	2/13/02
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley	113	Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Public School	5/7/02
Waubun	435	Wabun Public School	1/07/02
West Central Area	2342	West Central Area Secondary School	1/22/02
Westonka	277	Shirley Hills Primary	5/2/02
Windom	177	Windom Area Middle/High School	
3/14/02			
Win-E-Mac	2609	Win-E-Mac Public School	
12/11/01			
Wrenshall	100	Wrenshall High School	1/28/02

Lt. Governor Schunk has visited every school district in Minnesota!

[Return to Top](#)



[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





List of Schools Visited in 2000-2001

[Link to 1999 Visits](#)

[Link to Map of Visits](#)

2000-2001 Visited Schools

School Name	Date Visited	District Name	District Number
ALBANY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/16/00	ALBANY	745
ADRIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	10/23/00	ADRIAN	511
BADGER SCHOOLS	10/12/00	BADGER	676
BALATON PUBLIC SCHOOL	04/11/01	BALATON	411
BARNESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	04/25/01	BARNESVILLE	146
BECKER HIGH SCHOOL	03/14/00	BECKER	726
BECKER MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/14/00	BECKER	726
BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/21/00	BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA	2364
BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA SECONDARY SCHOOL	03/21/00	BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA	2364
BELLE PLAINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/29/00	BELLE PLAINE	716
BELLE PLAINE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	02/29/00	BELLE PLAINE	716
BEMIDJI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	10/04/00	BEMIDJI	31
J.W. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	10/04/00	BEMIDJI	31
BIG LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/14/00	BIG LAKE	727
OLSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/20/00	BLOOMINGTON	271
OLSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	01/20/00	BLOOMINGTON	271
POND IDT.	01/20/00	BLOOMINGTON	271
BRAHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/25/00	BRAHAM	314
BRAHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	01/25/00	BRAHAM	314
BRANDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/13/00	BRANDON	207
BRANDON SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/13/00	BRANDON	207
BRECKENRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/25/01	BRECKENRIDGE	846
BREWSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	10/25/00	BREWSTER	513
BUTTERFIELD-ODIN PUBLIC SCHOOL	03/26/01	BUTTERFIELD	836
CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI HIGH SCHOOL	01/25/00	CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI	911
ISANTI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/25/00	CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI	911
CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL	02/21/01	CARLTON	93
CHOSEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL	03/07/01	CHATFIELD	227
VAUGHAN STEFFENSRUD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	05/01/00	CHISHOLM	695
CHISHOLM HIGH SCHOOL	02/22/01	CHISHOLM	695

CLOQUET HIGH SCHOOL	02/21/01	CLOQUET	94
COOK COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL	01/11/00	COOK COUNTY	166
SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/11/00	COOK COUNTY	166
COMFREY-CHRE PUBLIC SCHOOL	03/28/01	COMFREY	81
CROMWELL-WRIGHT SCHOOL	02/21/01	CROMWELL	95
CROSBY-IRONTON HIGH SCHOOL	05/10/01	CROSBY-IRONTON	182
DILWORTH-GLYNDON-FELTON SCHOOL	04/23/01	DILWORTH-GLYNDON-FELTON	2164
DOVER-EYOTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/07/01	DOVER-EYOTA	533
CROSSROADS LEARNING CENTER	02/01/00	EAST CENTRAL	2580
EAST GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10/10/00	EAST GRAND FORKS	595
HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	05/09/00	EDINA	273
ELGIN-MILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	03/08/01	ELGIN-MILLVILLE	806
ELLSWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10/24/00	ELLSWORTH	514
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/12/00	ELY	696
LINCOLN SECONDARY SCHOOL	01/12/00	ESKO	99
WINTERQUIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/12/00	ESKO	99
EVANSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/13/00	EVANSVILLE	208
EVANSVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/13/00	EVANSVILLE	208
FARIBAULT MIDDLE SCHOOL	02/22/00	FARIBAULT	656
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/22/00	FARIBAULT	656
FILLMORE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	12/13/00	FILLMORE CENTRAL	2198
FISHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	05/16/00	FISHER	600
FLOODWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL	02/21/01	FLOODWOOD	698
FOLEY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	11/16/00	FOLEY	51
FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/15/00	FRIDLEY	14
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON SCHOOL	03/15/00	FRIDLEY	14
FULDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/11/01	FULDA	505
G.F.W. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/05/00	G.F.W.	2365
G.F.W. HIGH SCHOOL	04/05/00	G.F.W.	2365
GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	05/25/00	GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE	2859
GOODHUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/25/00	GOODHUE	253
GOODHUE SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/25/00	GOODHUE	253
GRAND MEADOW PUBLIC SCHOOL	12/14/00	GRAND MEADOW	495
GREENBUSH/MIDDLE RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10/11/00	GREENBUSH-MIDDLE RIVER	2683
NORMAN COUNTY WEST ELEMENETARY	04/23/01	HALSTAD-HENDRUM	2527
HASTINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	02/23/00	HASTINGS	200
PINECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/23/00	HASTINGS	200
HAWLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/24/01	HAWLEY	150
HAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	03/19/01	HAYFIELD	203
HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL	02/22/01	HIBBING	701
HILLS-BEAVER CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	10/24/00	HILLS-BEAVER CREEK	671
HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/02/00	HINCKLEY-FINLAYSON	2165
HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	03/16/00	HOLDINGFORD	738
GATEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/31/01	HOPKINS	270
HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12/12/00	HOUSTON	294
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 917	11/14/00	INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT	917
HILLTOP ELEMENTARY	03/30/00	INVER GROVE	199
SOUTH GROVE ELEMENTARY	03/02/01	INVER GROVE	199
SALEM HILLS ELEMENTARY	03/16/01	INVER GROVE	199
ISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	05/09/01	ISLE	473
JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	10/25/00	JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2895

JWP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/18/00	JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON	2835
JWP SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	01/18/00	JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON	2835
KASSON-MANTORVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/19/01	KASSON-MANTORVILLE	204
KENYON-WANAMINGO PUBLIC SCHOOL	05/03/00	KENYON-WANAMINGO	2172
KMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/26/00	KERKHOVEN-MURDOCK-SUNBURG	775
KIMBALL SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/27/00	KIMBALL	739
KINGSLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL	12/14/00	KINGSLAND	2137
KITTSOON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	10/10/00	KITTSOON CENTRAL	2171
LACRESCENT MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL	12/12/00	LACRESCENT	300
LAKE BENTON SCHOOL	04/10/01	LAKE BENTON	404
LINCOLN SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/25/00	LAKE CITY	813
LAKE CRYSTAL-WELLCOME MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL	03/26/01	LAKE CRYSTAL-WELLCOME	2071
LAKE PARK-AUDUBON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/24/01	LAKE PARK-AUDUBON	2889
JOHNSON ELEMENTARY	01/11/00	LAKE SUPERIOR	381
TWO HARBORS SECONDARY SCHOOL	01/11/00	LAKE SUPERIOR	381
CENTURY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	02/08/00	LAKEVILLE	194
CHERRY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/08/00	LAKEVILLE	194
EASTVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/08/00	LAKEVILLE	194
LANCASTER PUBLIC SCHOOL	10/11/00	LANCASTER	356
LANESBORO SCHOOLS	12/13/00	LANESBORO	229
LECENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/12/00	LECENTER	392
LECENTER SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/12/00	LECENTER	392
LEROY-OSTRANDER SCHOOL	12/14/00	LEROY	499
LESUEUR-HENDERSON SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/12/00	LESUEUR-HENDERSON	2397
PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/12/00	LESUEUR-HENDERSON	2397
LEWISTON-ALTURA SECONDARY SCHOOL	03/08/01	LEWISTON	857
LITCHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL	02/28/01	LITCHFIELD	465
LUVERNE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL	10/24/00	LUVERNE	2184
LYLE PUBLIC SCHOOL	03/06/01	LYLE	497
M.A.C.R.A.Y. EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/26/00	M.A.C.R.A.Y.	2180
MABEL-CANTON SCHOOL	12/13/00	MABEL-CANTON	238
MADELIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/26/01	MADELIA	837
MAHTOMEDI MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/28/00	MAHTOMEDI	832
MAPLE LAKE SCHOOLS	02/28/01	MAPLE LAKE	881
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	10/11/00	MARSHALL COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS	441
MARTIN COUNTY WEST HIGH SCHOOL	03/28/01	MARTIN COUNTY WEST	2448
MCGREGOR SCHOOLS	02/23/01	MCGREGOR	4
MESABI EAST HIGH SCHOOL	02/22/01	MESABI EAST	2711
MILACA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	05/11/00	MILACA	912
ANTHONY MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/22/00	MINNEAPOLIS	1
NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL	11/02/00	MINNEAPOLIS	1
MONTGOMERY-LONSDALE ELEMENTARY	03/01/00	MONTGOMERY-LONSDALE	394
MONTGOMERY-LONSDALE HIGH SCHOOL	03/01/00	MONTGOMERY-LONSDALE	394
MOORHEAD HIGH SCHOOL	04/23/01	MOORHEAD	152
MOOSE LAKE SCHOOLS	10/06/00	MOOSE LAKE	97
MOOSE LAKE SCHOOLS	02/23/01	MOOSE LAKE	97
SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/07/00	MOUNDSVIEW	621
TURTLE LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/15/01	MOUNDSVIEW	621
MOUNTAIN LAKE SCHOOL	03/28/01	MOUNTAIN LAKE	173

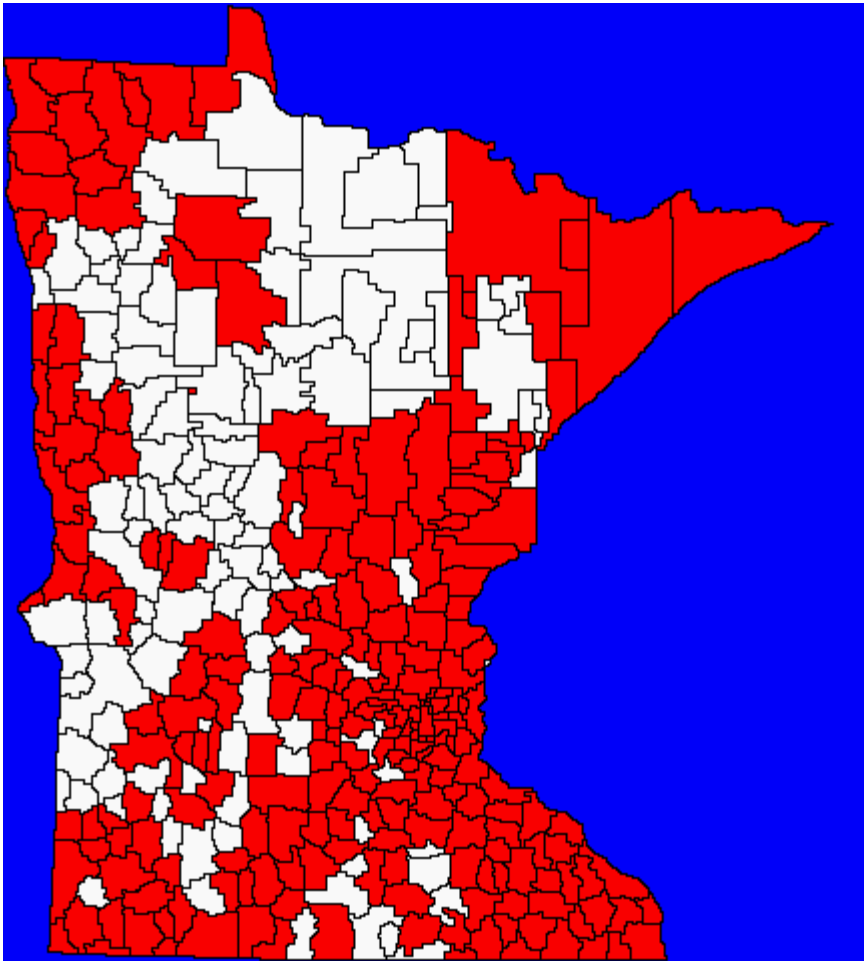
MURRAY COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOL	04/11/01	MURRAY COUNTY CENTRAL	2169
NRHEG ELEMENTARY	01/18/00	N.R.H.E.G.	2168
NRHEG MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	01/18/00	N.R.H.E.G.	2168
NEW LONDON-SPICER MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/21/00	NEW LONDON-SPICER	345
NEW LONDON-SPICER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	03/21/00	NEW LONDON-SPICER	345
NEW PRAGUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	03/09/00	NEW PRAGUE	721
NICOLLET SCHOOLS	03/27/01	NICOLLET	507
SKYVIEW COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/28/00	NORTH ST. PAUL-MAPLEWOOD	622
GREENVALE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/22/00	NORTHFIELD	659
CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/29/00	NORWOOD	108
CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	02/29/00	NORWOOD	108
ONAMIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	05/09/01	ONAMIA	480
VIKING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/24/01	PELICAN RAPIDS	548
PEQUOT LAKES SCHOOL	05/10/01	PEQUOT LAKES	186
PIERZ HIGH SCHOOL	05/09/01	PIERZ	484
PILLAGER PUBLIC SCHOOL	05/10/01	PILLAGER	116
PINE CITY HIGH SCHOOL	02/02/00	PINE CITY	578
PINE ISLAND SCHOOL	03/20/01	PINE ISLAND	255
PIPESTONE-JASPER CENTRAL SCHOOL	04/12/01	PIPESTONE-JASPER	2689
PLAINVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL	03/08/01	PLAINVIEW	810
NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/02/00	PRINCETON	477
PRINCETON MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/02/00	PRINCETON	477
HIDDEN OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/09/00	PRIOR LAKE	719
FAIR	06/04/01	ROBBINSDALE	281
ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL	02/28/01	ROCKFORD	883
ROSEAU COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	10/12/00	ROSEAU	682
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	02/08/00	ROSEMOUNT-APPLE VALLEY- EAGAN	196
EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL	10/02/00	ROSEMOUNT-APPLE VALLEY- EAGAN	196
APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL	04/20/01	ROSEMOUNT-APPLE VALLEY- EAGAN	196
BRIMHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/28/00	ROSEVILLE	623
ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	03/28/00	ROSEVILLE	623
ROTHSAY PUBLIC SCHOOL	04/25/01	ROTHSAY	850
ROUND LAKE SCHOOL	10/25/00	ROUND LAKE	516
RUSH CITY HIGH SCHOOL	02/01/00	RUSH CITY	139
RUSHFORD-PETERSON HIGH SCHOOL	12/13/00	RUSHFORD-PETERSON	239
RUSSELL-TYLER-RUTHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	04/10/01	RUSSELL	418
RUTHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/11/01	RUTHTON	584
SARTELL MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/16/00	SARTELL-ST. STEPHENS	748
MISSISSIPPI HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL	11/16/00	SAUK RAPIDS	47
SUN PATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/09/00	SHAKOPEE	720
SIBLEY EAST-ARLINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	04/11/00	SIBLEY EAST	2310
SIBLEY EAST-GAYLORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/11/00	SIBLEY EAST	2310
SLEEPY EYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/05/00	SLEEPY EYE	84
SLEEPY EYE SECONDARY SCHOOL	04/05/00	SLEEPY EYE	84
SOUTHLAND MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL	12/14/00	SOUTHLAND	500
SOUTHWEST STAR CONCEPT HIGH SCHOOL	10/25/00	SOUTHWEST STAR CONCEPT SCHOOLS	330
SPRING GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12/12/00	SPRING GROVE	297
ST. CHARLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/07/01	ST. CHARLES	858
OAK HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL	11/16/00	ST. CLOUD	742
ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL	03/02/00	ST. FRANCIS	15

ST. FRANCIS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	03/02/00	ST. FRANCIS	15
ST. JAMES PUBLIC SCHOOL	03/27/01	ST. JAMES	840
TOWER-SOUDAN SCHOOL	05/01/00	ST. LOUIS COUNTY	2142
ST. LOUIS PARK HIGH SCHOOL	03/21/01	ST. LOUIS PARK	283
ALBERTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	02/27/01	ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE	885
AMERICAN INDIAN MAGNET SCHOOL	03/01/00	ST. PAUL	625
	03/29		
LONGFELLOW HUMANITIES MAGNET SCHOOL	10/6/00	ST. PAUL	625
BRUCE F. VENTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	09/11/00	ST. PAUL	625
COMMUNITY OF PEACE CHARTER SCHOOL	10/06/00	ST. PAUL	625
CHEROKEE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL	10/18/00	ST. PAUL	625
ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	12/22/00	ST. PAUL	625
EASTERN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/09/01	ST. PAUL	625
ST. PAUL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	01/15/01	ST. PAUL	625
HEMLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/07/01	ST. PAUL	625
HIGHWOOD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/13/01	ST. PAUL	625
RANDOLPH HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY	03/15/01	ST. PAUL	625
CAPITOL HILL	06/04/01	ST. PAUL	625
MINNESOTA BUSINESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	03/29/01	ST. PAUL	625
		STEPHEN-ARGYLE CENTRAL SCHOOLS	2856
STEPHEN HIGH SCHOOL	10/10/00	STEWARTVILLE	534
STEWARTVILLE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	03/20/01	STILLWATER	834
DISTRICT OFFICE	04/11/00	THIEF RIVER FALLS	564
CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	05/16/00	TRACY	417
TRACY AREA HIGH SCHOOL	04/12/01	TRI-COUNTY	2358
TRI-COUNTY SCHOOLS	10/11/00	TRITON	2125
TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOL	05/03/00	TRUMAN	458
TRUMAN SCHOOL	03/27/01	TYLER	409
RUSSELL-TYLER-RUTHTON HIGH SCHOOL	04/10/01	WARREN-ALVARADO-OSLO	2176
WARREN-ALVARADO-OSLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10/10/00	WASECA	829
CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	01/18/00	WASECA	829
HARTLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/18/00	WASECA	829
WASECA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	01/18/00	WATERTOWN-MAYER	111
WATERTOWN-MAYER HIGH SCHOOL	03/23/00	WATERTOWN-MAYER	111
WATERTOWN-MAYER MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/23/00	WATERVILLE-ELYSIAN-MORRISTOWN	2143
WATERVILLE-ELYSIAN-MORRISTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/01/00	WESTBROOK	175
WESTBROOK-WALNUT GROVE SCHOOLS	04/12/01	WHITE BEAR LAKE	624
OTTER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	01/20/00	WILLOW RIVER	577
WILLOW RIVER SCHOOL	02/02/00	WORTHINGTON	518
WORTHINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	10/24/00		

10/18/2000

[Return to Top](#)

The red portions of this map indicate school districts visited by Lt. Governor Schunk



[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-359

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

List of School Districts Visited in 1999

[2000 Visits](#)

Working to fulfill her pledge
to visit every
Minnesota school district!

School Name	Date Visited	District Name	District Number
ADA-BORUP SECONDARY SCHOOL	02/28/99	ADA-BORUP	2854
AITKIN SECONDARY SCHOOL	12/03/99	AITKIN	1
PALISADE ELEMENTARY	12/03/99	AITKIN	1
RIPPLESIDE ELEMENTARY	12/03/99	AITKIN	1
CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH	01/07/99	ALBERT LEA	241
DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/04/99	ALEXANDRIA	206
JEFFERSON SENIOR HIGH	03/04/99	ALEXANDRIA	206
MILTONA ELEMENTARY	03/04/99	ALEXANDRIA	206
BENDIX ELEMENTARY	03/23/99	ANNANDALE	876
BLAINE SENIOR HIGH	11/08/99	ANOKA-HENNEPIN	11
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY	01/07/99	ANOKA-HENNEPIN	11
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY	03/04/99	ANOKA-HENNEPIN	11
WILSON ELEMENTARY	11/08/99	ANOKA-HENNEPIN	11
AUSTIN SENIOR HIGH	03/19/99	AUSTIN	492
BANK SCHOOL	03/19/99	AUSTIN	492
ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/19/99	AUSTIN	492
SOUTHGATE ELEMENTARY	03/19/99	AUSTIN	492
B.D.R.S.H.-DANUBE ELEMENTARY	12/17/99	B.D.R.S.H.	3001
B.D.R.S.H.-SACRED HEART ELEMENTARY	12/17/99	B.D.R.S.H.	3001
BARNUM HIGH SCHOOL	10/26/99	BARNUM	91
MISSISSIPPI HORIZONS MIDDLE SCHOOL	10/19/99	BRAINERD	181
BROOKLYN CENTER SECONDARY SCHOOL	03/15/99	BROOKLYN CENTER	286
BROWNS VALLEY ELEMENTARY	11/16/99	BROWNS VALLEY	801
DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY	01/26/99	BUFFALO	877
BUFFALO LAKE-HECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOL	12/17/99	BUFFALO LAKE-HECTOR	2159

HARRIET BISHOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/26/99	BURNSVILLE	191
BYRON PRIMARY ELEMENTARY	11/17/99	BYRON	531
BYRON SECONDARY SCHOOL	11/17/99	BYRON	531
CALEDONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	04/23/99	CALEDONIA	299
CALEDONIA HIGH SCHOOL	04/23/99	CALEDONIA	299
CAMPBELL-TINTAH ELEMENTARY	11/16/99	CAMPBELL-TINTAH	852
CAMPBELL-TINTAH SECONDARY SCHOOL	11/16/99	CAMPBELL-TINTAH	852
CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY	01/29/99	CENTENNIAL	12
BLUFF CREEK ELEMENTARY	04/13/99	CHASKA	112
CHASKA SENIOR HIGH	04/13/99	CHASKA	112
JONATHAN ELEMENTARY	04/13/99	CHASKA	112
CHISAGO LAKES AREA LEARNING CENTER	06/02/99	CHISAGO LAKES	2144
CLEARBROOK-GONVICK SECONDARY SCHOOL	11/22/99	CLEARBROOK-GONVICK	2311
FRANK LIEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	11/22/99	CLEARBROOK-GONVICK	2311
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	05/07/99	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	13
HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	05/07/99	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	13
DASSEL ELEMENTARY	12/13/99	DASSEL--COKATO	466
DASSEL-COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL	12/13/99	DASSEL--COKATO	466
DELANO ELEMENTARY	12/13/99	DELANO	879
DELANO MIDDLE SCHOOL	12/13/99	DELANO	879
CHESTER PARK ELEMENTARY	04/05/99	DULUTH	709
	05/19/99		
SECONDARY SCHOOL TECHNICAL CENTER	04/05/99	DULUTH	709
CEDAR RIDGE ELEMENTARY	02/01/99	EDEN PRAIRIE	272
EDEN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL	05/04/99	EDEN PRAIRIE	272
EDEN VALLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL	03/23/99	EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS	463
PARKER ELEMENTARY	05/27/99	ELK RIVER	728
FAIRMONT SENIOR HIGH	11/18/98	FAIRMONT AREA SCHOOLS	2752
MINNESOTA STATE ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND	10/18/99	FARIBAULT	656
FARMINGTON ELEMENTARY	01/08/99	FARMINGTON	192
CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH	03/12/99	FOREST LAKE	831
COLUMBUS ELEMENTARY	03/12/99	FOREST LAKE	831
COLUMBUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	03/12/99	FOREST LAKE	831
FOREST LAKE ELEMENTARY	03/12/99	FOREST LAKE	831
FOREST LAKE SENIOR HIGH	03/04/99	FOREST LAKE	831
FOREST LAKE SENIOR HIGH	03/12/99	FOREST LAKE	831
FOREST VIEW ELEMENTARY	03/12/99	FOREST LAKE	831
KATHERINE CURREN ELEMENTARY	10/27/99	HOPKINS	270
HOWARD LAKE-WAVERLY-WINSTED SECONDARY SCHOOL	12/13/99	HOWARD LAKE-WAVERLY-WINSTED	2687
HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY	12/13/99	HOWARD LAKE-WAVERLY-WINSTED	2687
JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH	09/22/99	JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL	2895
LINCOLN ELEMENTARY	02/08/99	LITTLE FALLS	482
LINDBERGH ELEMENTARY	11/19/99	LITTLE FALLS	482
DAKOTA MEADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/16/99	MANKATO	77
HOOVER ELEMENTARY	03/16/99	MANKATO	77
MANKATO EAST JUNIOR HIGH	03/16/99	MANKATO	77
MANKATO EAST SENIOR HIGH	03/16/99	MANKATO	77
MARSHALL SENIOR HIGH	07/19/99	MARSHALL	413
ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL	05/26/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1
BEACON SCHOOL	07/22/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1

BURROUGHS ELEMENTARY	09/08/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1
HEART OF THE EARTH SURVIVAL	05/24/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1
MINNEAPOLIS JAPANESE SCHOOL	09/11/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1
NEW VISIONS SCHOOL	08/26/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1
SOUTH SENIOR HIGH	04/15/99	MINNEAPOLIS	1
	05/11/99		
	11/03/99		
SCENIC HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY	06/02/99	MINNETONKA	276
MONTEVIDEO SENIOR HIGH	07/19/99	MONTEVIDEO	129
TRAILVIEW ELEMENTARY	12/03/99	MORA	332
MORRIS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	3/3/1999	MORRIS AREA SCHO	769
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	12/15/99	NEW ULM	88
NEW ULM SENIOR HIGH	12/15/99	NEW ULM	88
NORTH BRANCH LAB SCHOOL AREA	03/23/99	NORTH BRANCH	138
LEARNING CENTER			
ORONO MIDDLE SCHOOL	04/07/99	ORONO	278
ORONO PRIMARY ELEMENTARY	11/05/99	ORONO	278
ORONO SENIOR HIGH	11/05/99	ORONO	278
EVENSTART	11/03/99	OSSEO	279
PACT CHARTER SCHOOL	11/08/99	PACT CHARTER	4008
		SCHOOL	
PINE POINT ELEMENTARY	02/26/99	PINE POINT	25
PINE RIVER ELEMENTARY	11/15/99	PINE RIVER-BACKUS	2174
PINE RIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL	11/15/99	PINE RIVER-BACKUS	2174
RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY	01/08/99	RANDOLPH	195
RED LAKE ELEMENTARY	11/22/99	RED LAKE	38
RED LAKE SENIOR HIGH	11/22/99	RED LAKE	38
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	12/10/99	RED WING	256
RED WING SENIOR HIGH	12/10/99	RED WING	256
REDWOOD VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL	11/29/99	REDWOOD FALLS	2758
REDWOOD VALLEY SENIOR HIGH	11/29/99	REDWOOD FALLS	2758
REEDE GRAY ELEMENTARY	11/29/99	REDWOOD FALLS	2758
RICHFIELD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	04/26/99	RICHFIELD	280
COOPER HIGH SCHOOL	11/23/99	ROBBINSDALE	281
LANGUAGE IMMERSION ELEMENTARY	11/23/99	ROBBINSDALE	281
SANDBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL	12/09/98	ROBBINSDALE	281
CENTURY SENIOR HIGH	03/25/99	ROCHESTER	535
HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY	09/23/99	ROCHESTER	535
HOLMES ELEMENTARY	03/26/99	ROCHESTER	535
MAYO SENIOR HIGH	03/26/99	ROCHESTER	535
DAKOTA RIDGE SCHOOL	06/01/99	ROSEMOUNT-APPLE	196
		VALLEY-EAGAN	
EAGAN SENIOR HIGH	10/07/99	ROSEMOUNT-APPLE	196
		VALLEY-EAGAN	
HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY	11/01/99	SOUTH WASHINGTON	833
		COUNTY	
PARK SENIOR HIGH	11/01/99	SOUTH WASHINGTON	833
		COUNTY	
SPRING LAKE PARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	05/07/99	SPRING LAKE PARK	16
WOODCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	05/07/99	SPRING LAKE PARK	16
WILSHIRE PARK ELEMENTARY	03/22/99	ST. ANTHONY-NEW	282
		BRIGHTON	
ST. LOUIS PARK JUNIOR HIGH	10/27/99	ST. LOUIS PARK	283
ALL YEAR ROUND/ARLINGTON	01/06/99	ST. PAUL	625
BENJAMIN E. MAYS MAGNET/RONDO	10/25/99	ST. PAUL	625
CAPITOL HILL MAGNET/RONDO	03/24/99	ST. PAUL	625
CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH	01/18/99	ST. PAUL	625

DAYTONS BLUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	02/22/99	ST. PAUL	625
HARDING SENIOR HIGH	01/06/99	ST. PAUL	625
HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY	01/21/99	ST. PAUL	625
PHALEN LAKE ELEMENTARY	12/15/98	ST. PAUL	625
	03/02/99		
	03/17/99		
	06/07/99		
	09/07/99		
	09/16/99		
	09/23/99		
SOUTH ELEMENTARY	12/15/99	ST. PETER	508
WABASHA-KELLOG ELEMENTARY	12/10/99	WABASHA-KELLOGG	811
WABASHA-KELLOG SECONDARY SCHOOL	12/10/99	WABASHA-KELLOGG	811
WABASSO ELEMENTARY	11/29/99	WABASSO	640
WABASSO SECONDARY SCHOOL	11/29/99	WABASSO	640
ANGLE INLET ELEMENTARY	10/20/99	WARROAD	690
WARROAD SENIOR HIGH	10/20/99	WARROAD	690
WAYZATA CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	03/18/99	WAYZATA	284
SOMERSET ELEMENTARY	04/16/99	WEST ST. PAUL- MENDOTA HTS.- EAGAN	197
PEARSON ELEMENTARY	11/16/99	WHEATON AREA SCHOOL	803
WHEATON SECONDARY SCHOOL	11/16/99	WHEATON AREA SCHOOL	803
WILLMAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS	07/20/99	WILLMAR	347
WINONA SENIOR HIGH	12/10/99	WINONA	861
BERT RANEY ELEMENTARY	12/17/99	YELLOW MEDICINE EAST	2190
GRANITE FALLS SENIOR HIGH	12/17/99	YELLOW MEDICINE EAST	2190
ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA ELEMENTARY	11/17/99	ZUMBROTA- MAZEPPA	2805
ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA SENIOR HIGH	11/17/99	ZUMBROTA- MAZEPPA	2805



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-359

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





MINNESOTA DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE FOR PROJECT HOMESAFE AUGUST 2002

August 5 - August 31

The distribution of free gunlocks and gun safety information will occur from noon to 6:00 p.m. at each site.

Date	City
August 5	St. Paul - Kmart, 245 Maryland Avenue East
August 6	St. Paul - Kmart, 1450 University Avenue West
August 7	Minneapolis - Wal-Mart, 8450 University Avenue Northeast
August 8	Minneapolis - Wal-Mart, 8450 University Avenue Northeast
August 9	St. Cloud - Wal-Mart, 380 33 rd Avenue South
August 10	Little Falls - Wal-Mart, 1800 1 st Avenue Northeast
August 11	Brainerd - Kmart, 1200 Highway 210 West
August 12	Grand Rapids - Wal-Mart, 1400 Pokegama Avenue
August 13	Duluth - TBA*
August 14	Virginia - True Value Home Center, 1504 4 th Street South
August 15	International Falls - Kmart, 1606 Highway 11 East
August 16	Bemidji - Wal-Mart, 2025 Paul Bunyan Drive Northwest
August 17	Thief River Falls - American Legion, 324 Brooks Avenue
August 18	Moorhead - Scheels, 505 Center Avenue

August 19	Fergus Falls - Wal-Mart, 3300 Highway 210 West
August 20	Alexandria - Wal-Mart, 515 50 th Avenue West*
August 21	Montevideo - Wal-Mart, 2202 East Highway 7
August 22	Marshall - Wal-Mart, 1101 East Main Street
August 23	Worthington - Wal-Mart, 1055 Ryan Road
August 24	Hutchinson - Little Crow Shooting Sports, 18482 B, 202 Circle Street
August 25	Hutchinson - Wal-Mart, 1300 Trunk Highway 15 South
August 26	Mankato - Wal-Mart, 1881 Madison Avenue
August 27	Owatonna - TBA
August 28	Red Wing - Carlson Sports, 313 West 3 rd Street
August 29	Rochester - TBA
August 30	Rochester - TBA*
August 31	Winona - Kmart, 1122 West Highway 61

*Lieutenant Governor Schunk plans to attend these gunlock distribution events.

For more information on Project HomeSafe go their Web site at www.projecthomesafe.org



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK VISITS MIGIZI COMMUNICATIONS OPEN HOUSE MAY 19, 2001



The MIGIZI Communications building on East Lake Street in Minneapolis houses numerous organizations, including two charter schools and a college

Each time I visit MIGIZI Communications I learn something new. A couple of summers ago I helped to paint the colorful mural on the west side of their building at 3123 East Lake Street in Minneapolis. At that time I was impressed by their summer internship program and its focus on high technology. Young people worked on the latest computers and software to create Web pages for urban organizations.

On this visit I met the heads of two relatively new charter schools. Dorene Day is an administrator for the Native Arts High School, a charter school with 35 students with a focus on American Indian culture. There is no shortage of creativity here - especially when it comes to embedding the Graduation Standards. For example, the students learned math and geometry by constructing dome-shaped sweat lodges!



Lt. Governor Schunk with Dorene Day,



Students created model sweat lodges in

administrator of the Native Arts High School

Next door is a new tenant, the Minnesota Transition Middle School. Former Minneapolis City Council member Tony Scallon is the superintendent of this school, which is devoted to using technology in a school-to-work motif. They have 60 students.

Tony Scallon and Patty Brostrom run the Minnesota Transitions Middle School

partial fulfilment of the math Graduation Standards



Both schools, along with NAES College (Native American Education Service), make use of MIGIZI's terrific technology resources. MIGIZI has a bank of powerful computers, which is the centerpiece of the Native Academy. MIGIZI also has two other programs, the Family Education Center, which is devoted to health and exercise, and the Community Technology Consortium. The consortium is a partnership of eight schools and six urban organizations that have joined forces to combat the "digital divide."



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK JUDGES SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL PARADE MAY 15, 2001



(left to right) Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner, Ramsey County District Court Judge Mimi Wright and Lt. Governor Mae Schunk had the pleasant duty of judging the safety patrol parade

I was honored to be asked to be a judge at the 75th Annual St. Paul School Safety Patrol Parade. I was even more impressed when I discovered I shared this duty with two notable women: Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner and Ramsey County District Court Judge Mimi Wright. We watched the skills and drills of the safety patrollers from most of the public and private schools in St. Paul. The marching routines were pleasantly punctuated by music from St. Paul school marching bands.



The marchers strutted their stuff along 4th Street in downtown St. Paul from the Farmer's Market to the Ordway Theater. Then they caught buses to Como Park for a picnic.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





**PHOTOS FROM THE
GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER
AT BREEZY POINT, PEQUOT
LAKES
MAY 11-12, 2001**



Lt. Governor Schunk was a guest on "Lunch with the Governor," where she told of her personal secrets for catching walleye. David Ruth (at left) operates dials for the radio show, which took place at Antlers Bar & Grill at Breezy Point Resort



Fishing guide Bob Hanson steered Lt. Governor Schunk to a spot where she caught two walleye



The hosts of KMSP's Good Day Minnesota interviewed Lt. Governor Schunk in a remote broadcast



Golf lessons with Chip Lohmiller for an event called Walleye Widows Weekend. Golf allows women to get "teed off" in a fun way!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
MAE SCHUNK
ATTENDS
GOVERNOR'S FISHING
OPENER
AT BREEZY POINT, PEQUOT
LAKES
MAY 11-12, 2001**



Lt. Governor Schunk was a guest on "Lunch with the Governor," where she told of her personal secrets for catching walleye. David Ruth (at left) operates dials for the radio show, which took place at Antlers Bar & Grill at Breezy Point Resort

Friday, May 11, 2001

It's always exciting to go fishing, especially at the Governor's Fishing Opener. It is a heartwarming annual event in which the community goes all out to demonstrate why it should be a top national destination to go fishing. It's the perfect combination of promoting tourism and having fun. I have been up in the Brainerd area since Wednesday visiting schools, so I was here to welcome Governor Ventura at the Brainerd-Crow Wing airport this

morning. Later I joined him on his radio show, where I stumped him with my personal secret for catching walleye: putting salt on its tail. When the walleye stops to lick off the salt, he sees your bait and bites on it! His next stop is my frying pan!

This afternoon I plan to be "teed off." Actually it's a tongue-in-cheek protest against the fact that the Fishing Opener coincides with Mother's Day. It's called "Walleye Widows Weekend," a shopping event that begins at the Patriots Driving Range, where a student in a school-to-work program will teach me to tee off a golf ball. Then it's off on a shopping adventure in Pequot Lakes, the site of this evening's community dinner. Governor Ventura sure knows how to build the excitement that begins at midnight - the official opening of the fishing season. [Click here for a report on the Governor's day](#), or [here to go to the official Fishing Opener Web site](#). So long, and happy fishing!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MAE SCHUNK VIEWS TORNADO DAMAGE IN GLENVILLE MAY 2, 2001

It is amazing to comprehend the tremendous power of Mother Nature when you see first hand the results of a natural disaster, such as the damage caused by the tornado in Glenville on Tuesday, May 1, 2001. We can feel lucky and thankful that no one was seriously hurt. Town officials say that about one hundred buildings were damaged - from some losing a few shingles, to others being demolished.



The tornado caused damage along a 21 mile path, hitting several farms and a few blocks in town. I viewed the damage from a helicopter and on the ground. I was amazed to hear that the early damage estimates were only about \$2 million. I was honored to attend a forum at the high school, where I spoke to local citizens, along with Representative Dan Dorman and Senator Grace Schwab. I used the opportunity to convey greetings from Governor Ventura, and to praise the work of the Minnesota National Guard. I was heartened by how the people of the town came together to help clean up the debris.

When I was asked to fly to Glenville, I did not hesitate to say "yes," because I am quite familiar with the trauma of a tornado. My parents' farm was destroyed by a tornado some years ago.

*The tornado
knocked over
this grain
elevator as it*



*swept
through town*

*This heap of rubble
at the center of town
was once a garage*



This farmer and his family hid in their basement when the tornado hit. Several small buildings were destroyed, but he was most distraught by the loss of his windbreak, which included trees that were 75 years old.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598



An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





MAJOR GENERAL ANDREOTTI RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Major General Eugene R. Andreotti has received the Minnesota Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility," according to Governor Ventura's proclamation.

Lt. Governor Schunk presented General Andreotti with the award recently in St. Paul. Andreotti, the Adjutant General for the State of Minnesota, was recognized for his strong leadership and creative ideas. Since becoming the Adjutant General, he has implemented several outstanding programs. Those include Starbase, a non-profit school at the Twin Cities Air National Guard Base whose mission is to increase students interest in math and science by using an aerospace curriculum. The school serves more than 1800 economically disadvantaged students in the Twin Cities area.

Youth Camp, another of the general's initiatives, creates a camping experience for children of Minnesota National Guard soldiers and airmen. For more than ten years it has been bringing Minnesota National Guard families closer together.

General Andreotti's distinguished performance of duty in support of the Minnesota National Guard reflects extremely positively on himself, the State Area Command and the Minnesota National Guard.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer



[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lt. Governor visits:

Youth Entrepreneurs Expo

State Capitol Rotunda, March 12, 2001

If you wanted to see how to achieve a vision, you should have come to the Rotunda on March 12. You would have seen high school students from around Minnesota displaying their ideas of establishing entrepreneurships that really work. Working with a number of funding partners, these students have learned about cooperative teamwork, goal-setting, project planning and follow-through.

As I listened to the students talk about their projects, I noted their excellent listening and speaking skills as well as knowledge about their business. Each one could easily convince me he or she has the best product.

The students came to the Capitol to display the basics of each of their businesses. I have seen many of these projects in my travels to some of these same schools. These are the kind of learning experiences that connect students to the community. They experience the value of education through real-life, hands-on learning. This is the kind of teaching that teachers will be remembered by. They made a difference in a life, helping a student find a meaningful pathway to learning.

The school is a community of learners that includes the students, teachers and the community residents. But schools have hardly touched into the community. Those that have certainly know the value of such experiences. Everyone gains.

Here are short summaries of the projects displayed:

Founded in 1998,

Railway Catering

provides food service for the community of Proctor. In addition to preparing food for special orders, the business operates the Railstop Cafe in the



In Proctor, Railway Catering is the only game in town

lobby of Proctor Senior High School. Students stop by the cafe for healthy after school snacks. With no other catering service in town, the business has no competition.

Little Falls Aqua-Tech provides affordable diagnostic water testing to organizations concerned with Minnesota's water resources. Aqua Tech is an education outreach service of the Minnesota Fishing Museum and Education Center which works with Little Falls High School's on-the-job training program. Aqua-Tech is an outgrowth and expansion of the Little Falls River Watch program started in the early 1990s.

A project of students in Hopkins High School's entrepreneurial class, **Thaiwear** imports woven products from a small village in Thailand. In addition to providing a revenue-producing business for the Thai village, the project affords students opportunities to design items and practice marketing skills.

SHOLE, Inc., at Norman County West High School, Halstad, provides start-up loans for a variety of student-planned and operated businesses. Students pay SHOLE, Inc. 20 % of profits, some of which go back into a loan fund to help future students start individual businesses.

A community-wide Internet service, **Traverse Net** is a school-to-work project at Wheaton Area High School. In January 1999, students took on the responsibility of managing a local Internet service formerly operated by Traverse Electric. The school houses the Traverse Net business office and provides meeting space while students manage the business.

PrintWorks and ClassCycle Bikes are nonprofit corporations which offer Houston High School students opportunities to learn and work while providing valuable services to the local community. PrintWorks, a multi-service printing business, is located at the high school, and ClassCycle Bikes operates from a downtown shop. Both businesses are supervised by full-time professionals but governed by independent boards of directors which include students and adults.

Projects at Minnesota New Country School, Henderson, include **Dreamer Designs**, a business in which students create designs and do machine embroidery, and **Capra Hills**, a production business where students raise and shear Angora goats and then process the wool. In addition to planning and doing many kinds of work, students pay bills, meet with customers and prepare quarterly reports.



B.O.L.T. Enterprises

manufactures, bottles and distributes three flavors of Prairie Smoke Bar-B-Que Sauce. Students at Westbrook-Walnut Grove High School started with a recipe shared by a school board member, and have developed two additional flavors. The business will celebrate its fifth anniversary in May.

A software development and consulting company run almost exclusively by teenagers, **Clevrware, Inc.** is working to design more efficient ways for police officers to file incident reports with the use of hand held computers. Located in Sleepy Eye, the project has done preliminary usability testing with the local police department.

Little Buffalo Crafts is an American Indian student enterprise sponsored by the Indian Education Program of Osseo Area Schools. In addition to teaching a variety of business skills, the program helps students develop pride in their American Indian heritage. In its fourth year of operation, the project involves approximately 40 students in grades kindergarten through 12.

The Youth's Entrepreneurs' Expo was cosponsored by the Division of Lifework Development at the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning and the Center for School Change, a program based at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Schunk interviewed on KTCA for NewsNight Minnesota Thursday, March 1, 2001



Lou Harvin of NewsNight Minnesota asked Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk about her recent school visits. She said many teachers and students raised concerns about Governor Ventura's budget proposal. Her response was that Governor Ventura wants more accountability and results from school districts. Lt. Governor Schunk said she wears two hats and can see the situation from the perspective of a teacher and the perspective of Governor Ventura. The important thing is to improve student achievement while limiting the growth of government, and making sure our tax dollars are spent wisely and effectively.

Lieutenant Governor Schunk also said that if Governor Ventura runs for re-election, she will again join him as his running mate.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not



Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Schunk and First Lady Terry Ventura named "Outstanding World Citizens"

Monday, February 12, 2001



Lynn Elling, founder of World Citizen Inc., awarded plaques to Lt. Governor Schunk and First Lady Terry Ventura to commemorate their efforts to promote peace by helping to establish the Governor's Residence and the State Capitol as Peace Sites



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Schunk attends Winter Blast Celebrity Ride to support Iron Rangers Saturday, February 10, 2001



Subzero temperatures welcomed us in Ely, Minnesota, as I rode a snowmobile for the first time. It was quite a challenge, but it was all for the sake of the Iron Rangers who receive support from the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. In light of the layoffs at the LTV plant, I was glad to brave the cold if it would help someone. It was exhilarating to ride a snowmobile along the beautiful Tamarack Trail. It was also rewarding to talk with the people up here and find out their perspectives on the Governor's budget proposals.

Lt. Governor Schunk discussed higher education funding with some constituents who support Governor Ventura's fiscal restraint



Lt. Governor Schunk joins her guides at the Winter Blast Celebrity Ride, Doug, Nancy



and Bridget McReady of Ely, Minnesota



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Conference of Lieutenant Governors

Washington, D.C. February 2-4, 2001

"The New Administration: Reaffirming State Federal Relations"

[Saturday's Sessions:](#)

[Fighting Racism](#)

[Campaign Finance](#)

[Education reform](#)

[Sunday's Sessions:](#)

[Tomb of the](#)

[Unknown Soldier](#)

[Prescription Drugs](#)

[America's Promise](#)

Congressional Briefing Friday, February 2, 2001



Friday morning's session was a Congressional briefing featuring three members of Congress. Rep. Leonard Boswell from Iowa and Rep. Ken Lucas of Kentucky describe themselves as "Blue Dog Democrats," a group of more than twenty House Democrats who are socially liberal but fiscally conservative. Rep. Lucas is most concerned with paying back the national debt, which he says costs American taxpayers \$600 million per day, just on interest payments. He and Rep. Boswell agree that there should be some form of tax cuts this year, but they caution against the \$1.7 trillion cut recommended by President Bush. They were joined in this opinion by Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed, who said that support for Social Security and Medicare should come before major tax cuts.

All three emphasized the importance of campaign finance reform, and expect it to be seriously considered in both the House and Senate.

The three also support President Bush's education proposals, except for the bid to provide vouchers for private schools. Representative Boswell stressed transportation issues, with an emphasis on making sure the federal money collected for transportation and airport infrastructure keeps flowing back into the states. Too often, he says, the money is siphoned out for other purposes. Boswell also encouraged support for passenger railways and high speed rail.

Lt. Governor Schunk met briefly with Rep. Betty McCollum, a new member of Congress for Minnesota's 4th District. Rep.

McCollum is concerned with special education funding, and she notes that President Bush's educational proposal does not include money for it. She is also concerned with continuing funding for frog research in Minnesota, which she says is useful to uncover contamination that may eventually affect humans. McCollum says she will seek federal funding for the research, but says it is also important for the state to provide funding.



Lt. Governor Schunk and U.S. Rep. McCollum

Further sessions at NCLG will examine education, building healthy communities, public trust in politics and proposals for Medicare prescription drug benefits.



Lieutenant Governor Schunk was pleasantly surprised to find that one of her former students, Erin Dady of St. Paul, is now a staff member for Representative McCollum



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lt. Governor Mae Schunk officially opens the Minnesota Senate for the 82nd Legislative Session

Wednesday, January 3, 2001



Lt. Governor Mae Schunk opens the 2001 Minnesota State Senate Session. All the proceedings of the Senate are carried live on closed circuit TV throughout the State Capitol Building.

One of Lt. Governor Schunk's prescribed duties is to open the legislative session of the Minnesota Senate. As expected, Senator Don Samuelson was elected as President of the Senate, and was sworn into office by District Court Judge David Ten Eyck.



Lieutenant Governor Schunk oversees the Senate as Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz officially swears in the senators.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lt. Governor Schunk speaks at Graduation Ceremony at Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility

*Oak Park Heights is Minnesota's
maximum security prison*

Monday, January 8, 2001



Minnesota Commissioner of Corrections Sheryl Ramstad Hvass welcomed Lt. Governor Mae Schunk to address graduates of the Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility Education Program. Nine inmates earned Associates of Arts degrees in a program sponsored by Inver Grove Heights Community College. The program is funded through inmate user fees on telephone calls, rather than through state funds. Seven inmates earned their GED diplomas. About 25 family members watched the ceremony via closed circuit television to the visitor lounge. Lt. Governor Schunk emphasized the importance of education for every age and under all conditions, even behind bars. "Most inmates return to society," said the Lt. Governor, "And they have a better chance of being responsible and productive citizens if they improve their education while in prison. Who knows? They may end up living next door to you or me."

On a tour of Oak Park Heights, Warden James Bruton explained the programs and the daily challenges of the correctional facility to Commissioner Ramstad Hvass and Lt. Governor Schunk. In addition to the Associate of Arts degrees and GED diplomas, the education department includes specially designed courses in anger management, critical thinking skills, parenting and lifestyle change.



The graduation celebration was also a chance to recognize the career of Oak Park Heights Education Director Eileen Welsh. She is retiring this year after being an educator for 45 years.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for the graduates to express thanks to the staff and family members who provided encouragement and support for their educational achievements. Many talked of the importance of education, and encouraged other inmates to seek degrees.



Inmates Steven Gerken and David Spaeth, editors of the prison newspaper, interviewed Lt. Governor Schunk about her support for education. Gerken also volunteers in the Choice program, in which inmates counsel youth offenders to avoid making bad choices that will land them in places like Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility.

Spaeth says he uses knowledge gained from the prison educational programs to help his eight year old son with his homework.



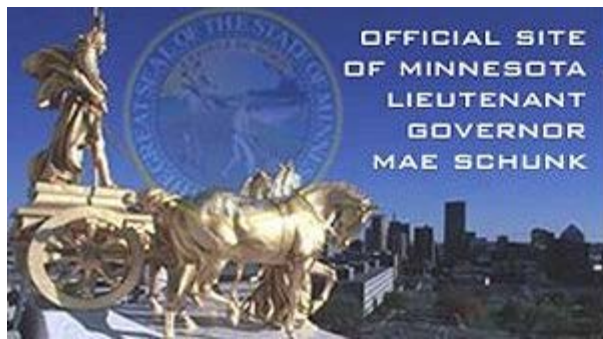
Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





[Home Page](#) [School Visits](#) [What's New](#) [Schedule](#) [Biography](#)
[Governor Ventura's Site](#) [Speeches & Reports](#) [Boards & Advisory Groups](#) [Mission to Croatia](#)

Season's Greetings!

[Click here to see
Holiday
Drawings by
Kids](#)



I hope that everyone has a pleasant and safe Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. This is a time to explore the wonder of life, the warmth of our families and the value of our friendships. It is also a time to view the Holiday decorations at the State Capitol. Please feel free to visit us any time of the year. On this page are some photographs from around the Capitol for you to enjoy .

Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk



The 47th Princess Kay of the Milky Way, Bridget Hollerman, helped to celebrate the

Tree ornaments, such as this classic Santa Claus, were donated by Midwest of Cannon Falls



This majestic Christmas tree welcomes visitors to the Capitol Rotunda; the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association and the Minnesota Christmas Tree Association donated Christmas trees and poinsettias to "deck the halls" in the Rotunda and the Governor's Office.

holidays at the Capitol with dairy products: egg nog and butter cookies.



These ornaments remind us that the Holidays center around children



Representatives from the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, the Minnesota Christmas Tree Association, Midwest of Cannon Falls, and the American Dairy Association join Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Sharon Clark and Lt. Governor Schunk



Singers from Roosevelt Elementary School in St. Paul brightened the Capitol with Holiday music



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Richfield District 280*

Centennial Elementary School
Richfield
May 1, 2002



Lt. Governor Schunk works with a student

I visited Cindy Lybeck's 1st grade class to see a fantastic reading program in action. Almost one quarter of the school's first graders are in reading recovery, then go on to once-a-week booster groups once they're in second grade. Those groups help monitor and ensure their progress.

Reading is the name of the game at Centennial School, and you can see the results. This is a school that has a lot of language issues to deal with--in fact, there are two dozen languages represented among the students! Four full time ESL teachers help carry the load.



Three students are deep in thought in the reading program

In Ms. Lybeck's classroom, the students go from station to station, doing independent learning. At each station, there is a different job to do, all of which relate to literacy. There's everything from book browsing to illustrating poems to writing about a favorite book. All the students get the opportunity to work at their own level. After watching the



Each literacy station is clearly outlined in the classroom

Return toTop

kids for a while, I was very impressed with the work they are doing. All the kids are motivated and engaged, and that's a testament to good leadership and high quality teachers.

I was also impressed during our question and answer session in the school's media center. State Senator Jane Ranum joined me, along with a mix of parents, teachers, board members, students and administrators, all of whom served as an excellent voice for the district.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Westonka District 277*



Students line up for the annual all-school picture at Shirley Hills Primary. All of the previous years pictures are displayed inside the school.

**Shirley Hills Primary School
Mound
May 2, 2002**

The Westonka district is one of the smallest in the Twin Cities metro area, with only about 2000 kids. Shirley Hills Primary is celebrating its 50th birthday, and I was fortunate enough to visit on the day a photographer was taking the annual all-school picture. In fact, I even made a cameo in the picture, with the staff sneaking me into the last row!

The community has been very supportive of technology, and Shirley Hills has a nice new computer lab to show for it, thanks to a bond. Each classroom has access to the Internet as well, and I had a chance to see an excellent Power Point presentation about the district by 7th graders Maleah Homola and Anna Lee, both of whom are obviously quite comfortable and proficient in front of a computer. Among the things I learned during the presentation: half of all district seniors are in advanced placement calculus, and three-quarters of the teachers have, or are working on, advanced degrees. Also, the students have a great deal of interaction with the community. Kids at Shirley Hills have pen-pal relationships with local senior citizens, and in the older grades, senior community members come into art classes to serve as models.



Colorful cupcakes representing each of the school's 50 years greet visitors in the front hall

The Westonka district is the only one in the state



Participants in the Know America program pose with Lt. Governor Schunk

in which its students take part in a program called "Know America." Students take four tests, and the kids with the top score win a trip to Washington, D.C. Teacher Marc Doepner-Hove, who leads the program, told me the kids do no fundraising to pay for the trip--it is all done by the community. Marc pointed out that this is an educational trip that kids earn by studying, not by selling the most candy bars. I heard from the six students who went on this year's trip, and each one talked about what an amazing, life-changing experience it was. The students got to meet with their congressional representatives and get a close-up look at all the fantastic monuments in our nation's capital.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Walker-Hackensack-Akeley District 113*



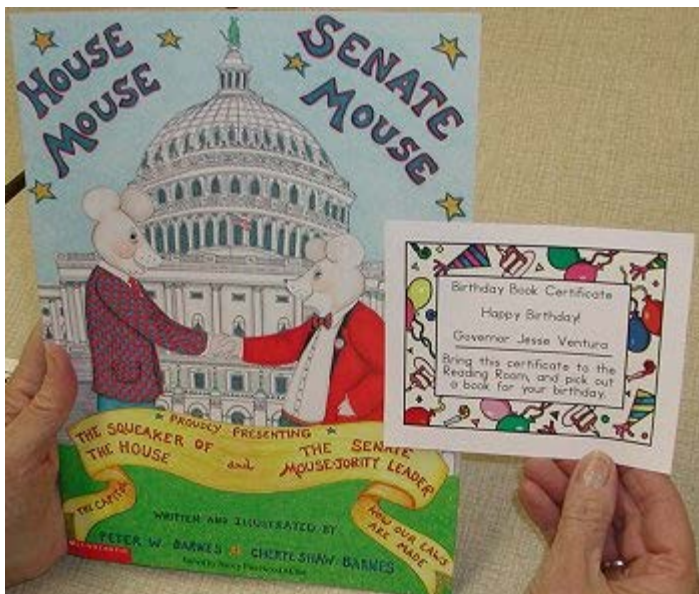
**Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Public School
Walker
May 7, 2002**

*Superintendent Jeff Lindstrom and students
Nick Enblom and Chris Huston welcome Lt.
Governor Schunk to the school*

They have a good sense of priorities at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley. A major goal is making sure all students are good readers. They know that if a child does not learn to read by third grade, he or she will fall behind the rest and is unlikely to ever catch up. That's why they use the Reader Recovery, an intervention reading program. Teachers Julianne Kerrigan and Toni Cox explained the program to State Representative Larry Howes and me (photo right). Reader Recovery is an international program that began in New Zealand, and before our visit some visitors from Sweden stopped by to see it. In 100 hours of the program (usually half a school year), some students make two years worth of progress. I'm told that after having this program at the school for six years, fewer students are being referred to special education services. That saves a lot of money in the long run.



In Reader Recovery teachers work with students on a one-on-one basis, focusing on reading, writing and speaking. I know that good speaking skills are important at this school, because they boast of having more state speech champions than any other school in the state.



Another program aimed at reading is called "Books at Birth." Every newborn gets a free book from the district, along with a book bag as part of the Home Reading Kit. Then the child gets a free book on every birthday until fourth grade. The idea is to get children acquainted with reading before they ever get to school. As Superintendent Lindstrom said, "The best thing a father can do is read to his kids." The school presented Governor Ventura with a book about politics, depicting mice as the politicians instead of people. (photo left) Their challenge is to agree on a national

flavor of cheese!

Change is afoot because the school is in the midst of a major building project. They are building a new High School and remodeling the rest of the school to accommodate the lower grades. To do this they are maximizing the amount of summer construction time by condensing school on both ends. That means they'll finish school two weeks early and start up two weeks later than usual. That gives an extra month for the building and remodeling projects.

Superintendent Lindstrom shows a sketch of the completed school to Representative Howes and Lt. Governor Schunk



[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer



[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Blackduck District 32*



**Blackduck Public School
Blackduck
May 8, 2002**

Blackduck provided a very warm welcome - the school's kindergartners lined up to greet me and presented a posy for me to wear. It was very touching, and it reminded me of when I was a teacher because I always enjoyed being a greeter. It is a great way to get students and teachers in a good mood for the start of a productive day in school.

A veritable jungle formed the centerpiece of this kindergarten room



At a discussion with students, educators and others in the school's media center, I listened to some observations about the Profile of Learning. One student mentioned that she was oblivious to the Profile because it had been blended so well into her courses. But some complaints stemmed from parents of elementary students, because they resent having to help their kids work on projects at such an early age. They said that kids should be allowed to

play after school and not be burdened with homework. They said, "School is school and home is home." I agree that it is difficult for elementary kids to work on projects without parental support, but if parents get involved they will find it can be fun and rewarding.

Other discussion centered on the merits and weaknesses of state tests, such as the MCAs and the MMIs. Many questioned the value of the tests and some of the questions in them, pointing out that tests are not always the best indicator of the state of the school or the knowledge of the student.

A far-ranging trio of musical presentations capped off my school visit. I listened to a tenor sing from Handel's *Messiah*, a bit of Mozart for clarinet and a lively song from the Broadway musical, *Guys and Dolls*. This rich display of talent is marvelous for a school the size of Blackduck.



Sacred music and a Broadway tune showed the span of musical talent at Blackduck during an impromptu recital in the school library

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Littlefork-Big Falls District 362*



**Littlefork-Big Falls Public School
Littlefork
May 9, 2002**

The Littlefork-Big Falls School is a remarkably well-designed K-12 structure that provides shared facilities for 350 kids. The 1997 structure was built around an old gym and an elementary building, and the result is a beautiful, efficient school. More important, the school is filled with wonderful students and teachers, who made my visit quite enjoyable.

After reading a story about a "Fine, Fine School" to a kindergarten class, I enjoyed a Laura Ingalls Wilder breakfast, thanks to the third graders. The kids dressed up as 19th century pioneers (photo right), and with old-time hospitality, they treated me and other visitors to a breakfast of corn muffins, syrup, bacon and beans. It's a great way to learn history and literature, not to mention good manners. I understand they have the breakfast every month.



The food motif was echoed by the fourth graders, who serenaded me with songs about

nutrition. The school's marching band added more music when I met with the high schoolers in the gym. The students had all kinds of questions for me - about my job and my views on education policy. I heard complaints about the Profile of Learning from the students and Superintendent Terry Erholtz. He says he is not averse to hands-on projects, and says the school has embedded the standards into the curriculum. But all the same the district chose to have no profiles required for graduation, and wishes it could stay that way. I sympathize but disagree with him. While their school may be doing a good job, we need to recognize that education must keep changing as society changes - and that this is best served by fixing the rough spots on the Graduation Standards, and not by throwing them out.

My final stop at the school was to visit with some students engaged in a hands-on project that is as worthwhile as any I have seen. These 11th and 12th graders work on the Minnesota Clean Rivers Project by running tests on the water quality of the Big Fork River. They check and measure fecal matter, pH balance, turbidity, phosphorous and dissolved oxygen. The data on these indicators of pollution is forwarded to the Big Fork River Board of Itasca and Koochiching Counties. These students learn by doing, but they also help the environment in a very practical way!



Students show Lt. Governor Schunk the equipment they use to conduct water quality tests as part of the Minnesota Clean Rivers Project

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *International Falls District 361*

**Holler Elementary School
International Falls
May 9, 2002**



The excitement of the Governor's Fishing Opener spilled over into my visit of Holler Elementary in International Falls. Artworks depicting fish and fishing appeared all over the walls in the hallway. One picture even showed me catching a big fish! (photo left)

At this K-2 school I visited the Title I program, which gives intensive reading and math lessons to students. The four teachers and one paraprofessional

makes for a good ratio with the students - a 4:1 or 1:1, depending on the topic. I saw students working on word problems, shapes and computers. A project on money consisted of a little store where the kids bought and sold grocery store items. (see photo below right) The teachers say this sort of hands-on learning has made a real difference. To heighten the impact the Title I teachers design lessons to correspond with those in the regular classroom. Good parent cooperation is encouraged by having parents sign homework sheets. When they sign, each student gets a star!

In the school's library I met with teachers, school officials, city

leaders and others to discuss education policy and other issues. I learned the district is forced to cope with declining enrollment - a predicament that encompasses most districts in the state. District enrollment has dropped 50% in 20 years, and it is still going down.



A grant writer for the district pointed out the burden of paperwork required to get state and federal education grants. She said it is unfair to smaller districts that cannot afford full-time grant writers.

The principal asked me to look into funding inequities that seem to treat adjacent districts in quite different ways. Another problem concerns open enrollment. One person pointed out that some parents abuse the enrollment options provided by the state. If they get mad at a teacher, they simply switch districts, and some kids get enrolled in three districts in one year! Choice is good, but perhaps limits are needed to ensure prudent decision-making.

The finale of the meeting was the prelude to the fishing opener. I was presented with a unique tackle box - which included everything from aspirin to nail polish! (photo below) I wore a sun visor decorated by the students to several fishing opener events, and told everyone I met over the weekend about the delights of Holler Elementary. On the Governor's radio show I read fishing tips provided by the students. It must have worked because both Governor Ventura and I caught walleye!



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *South St. Paul District 6*

**South Saint Paul High School
South Saint Paul
May 24, 2002**

South St. Paul Superintendent Kent Baldry watches as Governor Ventura congratulates Lt. Governor Mae Schunk upon the completion of her pledge to visit every school district in Minnesota



My trip to South St. Paul High School was not just another school visit. It marked the completion of my pledge to visit every school district in Minnesota. When I began my visits shortly after the election in 1998, there were 437 school districts; now because of consolidations it's down to 340. That means I visited some districts that don't exist anymore!

This visit was distinguished by a special visit from my boss - Governor Jesse Ventura - along with a pep fest and news conference. While that was a lot of fun and made me feel very honored, the true highlight for me was visiting with the students and staff of the school.

South St. Paul is fortunate to have a strong International Baccalaureate program, a world-class curriculum of advanced courses in six subject areas. I visited a Russian program and was very impressed. The kids and teacher understood a few words of Croatian, which is another Slavic language. The teacher,



Vladimir Kuskovski, is truly an expert in his field. He was born and raised in Belarus, so Russian is his native language. One of his teaching tools is a former Soviet Union flag featuring a portrait of Lenin (photo above right). The students are in their third year of language study, and seem to love it. Hopefully this and other IB courses will allow them to save time and money by testing out of college courses. By being a step ahead, many of the Russian students double-major in math, science or business.

At a meeting with some students from the school's executive council I listened to several criticisms of the Profile of Learning. One student mentioned that the Profile projects just seemed to be added onto his regular coursework; another student complained that the mandated projects limited the electives she could take; and a third student disliked the idea of any sort of mandates. To me these complaints are indicative of the fact that the Graduation Standards are still relatively new, and teachers have not completely integrated them into the curricula. I'm also well aware that we still need to fix the rough spots on the Profile. In particular, I think it is very import that the Standards work with advanced courses, such as the International Baccalaureate, and not against them.

I was greatly impressed by the academic and career visions of the students I met with. One wants to be a meteorologist, another a chef, one a journalist and one wants to be a teacher. When students have a goal in mind it gives meaning to their schoolwork. I told them that you may find something you like better once you go to college, but that is okay. As my life has shown, you may end up in a career that you never expected to be in. Whatever you do, do your best and good things will come your way.

All in all, I may have saved the best for last. After all, their team is named the "Packers!"



Students from the executive committee discussed their futures and their critique of the Profile of Learning with Lt. Governor Mae Schunk

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Waconia District 110

Clearwater Middle School
Waconia
April 3, 2002



There are about 700 students in this middle (grades 5-8) school, but with enrollment in the district growing at 6 percent a year, they'll need a new school for the 5th graders when enrollment reaches 800. This is really a great example of a community and a school teaming up. The school and the Safari Island Community Center are in the same building and each helps the other out.

For example, the school uses the auditorium as its cafeteria, but a stage turns it back into an auditorium for community center events. Many students stay after school to use the facilities, which include an exercise area. After 6:00 at night, the gyms are used exclusively for community activities.

The shallow pool was paid for by the city, with the hot tub donated by the Lion's Club, and everyone gets to use them. The local hospital even uses the center as a rehabilitation area. This wonderful facility just celebrated its first anniversary.

As for the school, there is definitely a lot of pride in the music program, and for good reason. Eighty percent of the students play in the band, and all music students get to make use of some beautiful equipment and facilities, including a keyboard lab, a set of guitars and state of the art practice rooms.

Technology is also stressed here. We visited two computer labs, each with brand new



computers. Both are used by students, with the one in the media center also available for teachers. Just another example of how things have changed for the better since I was in the classroom.

The school is divided into "houses," with six houses on each of the two levels. Each house has a commons area surrounded by six classrooms, which makes for a nice, open learning environment.

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Blooming Prairie District 756*

**Blooming Prairie Elementary
Blooming Prairie
April 4, 2002**

Just about all the kids at Blooming Prairie Elementary started out as preschoolers in the building. That's not surprising, once you see what a great job they do with getting kids off to a good start.

There's Title I preschool, as well as special ed and early childhood. The school has found that starting the kids out at the age of 3 gives them more time to work on their skills. Some of the kids don't necessarily need that extra time, but many of them do, and it really pays off.

I stopped by Diane Pfeiffer's room, where she has been teaching for five years. Diane gets everyone involved in the students' education. Over the course of the year, you'll find parents, other teachers and members of the administration reading to the kids.

When the school had an open room a few years ago, administrators invited the county to use it for Headstart, and that has also been a big success.

In our forum to talk about concerns, one in



particular stood out: the district's high school runs into budget problems when students announce in the summer that they'll be taking advantage of a post-secondary program and leaving the school.

The district loses that per-pupil funding, which it had planned for, and the students don't seem to be getting a better education. Many of them aren't ready for college life and have trouble adjusting.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Owatonna District 761*

Wilson Elementary School
Owatonna
April 4, 2002

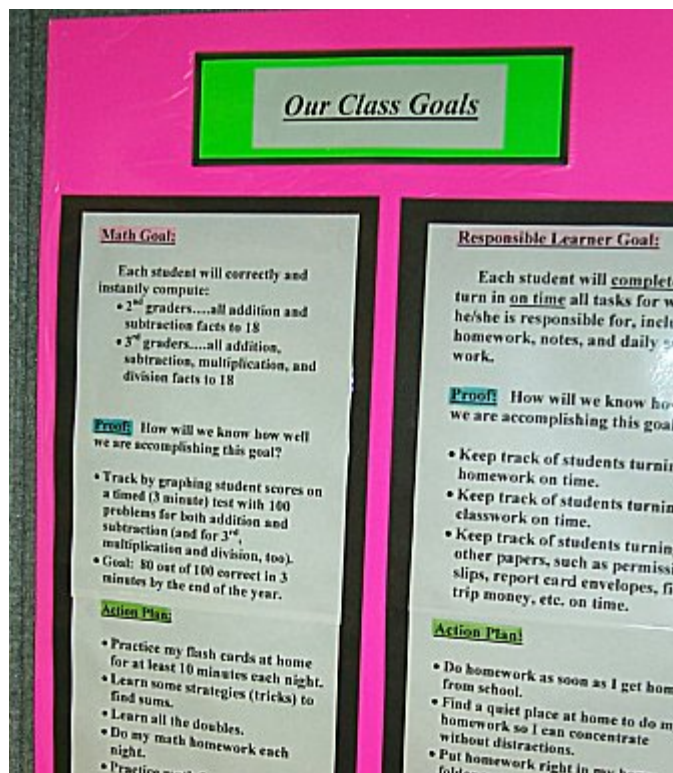


Have you ever seen a Brain Gym? Neither had I, until I stopped I saw kids from the "Jump Smart" program making the most of one at Wilson Elementary. The Brain Gym is a place where kids can work on many different sensory and motor skills, which they do for at least 20 minutes per day. Jump Smart helps kids who haven't quite caught up to where they should be at their age and the Brain Gym is a perfect fit.

Wilson Elementary is about 30 years old, but a bond referendum in 1998 financed a major renovation. The 500 kids in grades 1-5 are also exposed to the multi-age learning option, in which students of different grades are mixed into classes with each other. I stopped by one such room where the kids were all diligently at work. The teachers love the idea of keeping the same students for two years

and say it's very beneficial for a number of reasons, including getting to know parents as well as students.

Each class and each grade posts its goals (right) and mission statement on the wall, so everyone has a constant reminder of what they are there to learn. I was impressed at the clarity of the goals.



The student population has become increasingly diverse, with the number of minority students increasing 10 percent in the past decade or so. As a result, the school has implemented a program designed to give them the new students the basic "survival" skills they need for school.

Wilson Elementary left me with a very good feeling about what's going on in these classrooms. I could feel it as soon as I walked through the door.

*Wilson student
Maggie Noble was
among the
panelists at our
roundtable
discussion.*

[Return to Top](#)

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**



130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Swanville District 486*



Swanville Public School
Swanville
April 9, 2002

I was delighted to be welcomed to Swanville by a familiar face: Superintendent Gene Harthan, who is also the superintendent for Upsala, which I visited earlier this year. In fact there was an effort to have the two districts merge, but Swanville voted against it. The community is strongly proud of their school, and recently passed an excess levy referendum to support the school and keep class sizes small. Another nice feature is the all-day, everyday kindergarten. They face declining enrollment, which makes it financially more difficult to keep the school intact. On the positive side, the students are doing quite well academically.



(l to r) Superintendent Gene Harthan, Lt. Governor Schunk, Swanville Mayor Duane Johnson and Principal Dennis Saurer

They are also doing well artistically, thanks in part to theater director, Lowell Drager. He is a retired teacher, but he could not resist the roar of the crowd and the smell of the greasepaint, so he has returned to direct plays. Recent productions included "Harvey" and the "Mouse that Roared." This kind of enthusiasm seems to run through the school. For example, when the district started losing kids to Area Learning Centers in other districts, they decided to form their own ALC. It's been up and running for eight years.



*May Day came early because these first graders gave
Lt. Governor Schunk paper blossoms*

After visits to a first grade class and a high school class, I met with the student council and others for a forum in the media center. I learned that the student council is quite active in organizing school events as well as community service. They promoted the visit of the bloodmobile to town, and yielded 74 units of blood. Not bad for a town with just over 300 population. Some of the questions raised included school funding, the Graduation Standards and gubernatorial politics.



Lt. Governor Schunk answered questions on a variety of topics during this forum in the media center

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Chokio-Alberta District 771*



**Chokio-Alberta High School
Alberta
Chokio-Alberta Elementary School
Chokio
April 10, 2002**

The school board members and superintendent in this town are desperately concerned about declining enrollment in the district. They used to have 500 students, it's now down to 225, and they expect it will soon be 175. Their passion is driven by the excellent students produced at their schools. They rightly ask: Why not maintain small schools with high academic achievement? The next question is: How do we do it? The district is engaged in several measures to stretch their budget. Superintendent Ed Nystrom is part time, the elementary school in Chokio is co-located with the community swimming pool and the community passed an excess levy referendum with 80% in favor.



The superintendent believes the only answer is to alter the education funding formula to provide a base amount for small rural schools. Otherwise he says, they will disappear. I asked some students whether they would be willing to attend a school in a different district. They answered that it all depends on the attitudes at the other school. At the high school in Alberta, academic achievement is high and discipline problems are rare. It's hard to find that perfect combination in every school.

I found a bit of humorous creativity
in a computerized video production



class. Students created a music video using Weird Al Yankovic for the soundtrack. The production may not be ready for prime time, but soon the school hopes to create programs for local cable access channels. That's the hope behind a grant from Prairie Public Television: PPTV provided cameras, editing equipment and training to the school and other districts in the area. Soon the

creativity of the students will be shared with the general public. Who says education can't be fun?

Another unique amenity in the district is the use of teacherages. In the old days teacherages were established to provide a place for teachers to live - or to stay if bad weather prevented them from going to their homes. Chokio-Alberta keeps that tradition alive by running several teacherages that make apartments available for teachers to rent. (see photo below) The superintendent says the project helps to recruit and maintain teachers, especially in an era when affordable housing is not easy to find!



[Return toTop](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer



[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Medford District 763*

**Medford Public School
Medford
April 11, 2002**

Superintendent Gary Hanson is leading the way in an amazing revival in Medford. A few years ago, this district was in statutory bankruptcy--now it has money in the bank and is building a brand new K-12 school.

Gary took me out to the construction site on a rainy April day. I could see how impressive this facility will be when it opens in the summer of next year. Although there are about 550 kids in the school now, the new one will be built for 750 students.

Already seeing steady enrollment growth, administrators hope to add about twenty students a year as the new school gets up and running. The school will have three full-size gyms, a 450-seat auditorium and be fully air-conditioned. The district bought the 60-acre site from a farm family, and for the first time will be able to have all its athletic facilities right on site.



The first wall of the auditorium (above) rises from the ground. Below: the new school takes shape.



Back at the current school, we had an interesting discussion in an interesting room. Social studies teacher Todd Bergland's classroom features a stuffed



deer head. Did Todd bag the big buck (left) himself? No, it was shot by his great grandfather in 1908!

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Cleveland District 391*

**Cleveland Public School
Cleveland
April 11, 2002**

They start 'em out early at Cleveland Public School. There are three preschool classes in the building, as well as K-12. I spent most of my time in a Monday through Thursday class, where the kids were busy, busy, busy!

I had the privilege of helping out with a couple of their main projects. First we did some seed planting. With spring just beginning, the kids will be able to watch their projects germinate.



Then it was on to a finger-painting project, which was really more like hand painting. Each child grabbed a handful of paint and made a five-fingered impression. Once it was done, it was a group effort they could all be proud of.

This school attracts an unusually high number of open enrollees. Cleveland is close to both St. Peter and Mankato, so the smaller setting is very attractive to kids from larger areas.

They get to be in a school where everyone knows everyone else, where the competition to make athletic teams



isn't outrageous and teachers can provide more one-on-one attention. The community is also very supportive, having passed a referendum both last year and two years before that.



[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Jordan District 717

Jordan Elementary School

Jordan

April 23, 2002



Lt. Governor Schunk is welcomed by Principal Joe Benko.

Teacher Mrs. Miller-Martin told me about a Monday-Thursday after school program called GOALS (Get Out And Learn Something), which is federally funded through the 21st Century Programs grant.

The 150 elementary students who participate in the program first complete their homework and then participate in activities such as Spanish, cooking or computer time. Students are required to fill out goal sheets to show what they are accomplishing. Mrs. Miller-Martin,

the program's coordinator, explained, "Our hope is to teach students that they need to set smaller goals in order to accomplish larger ones." Field trips are offered as rewards once the students have accomplished their goals.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Jordan Elementary School's Principal Joe Benko, Superintendent Larry Kauzlarich, and several teachers and students.

They are very excited about a new addition to their school, which will house eight more kindergarten and first grade classrooms in an effort to keep class sizes between 17 and 24. The district is also building a new high school (grades 9-12), and the old high school will be used as a middle school for grades 5-8.



Lt. Governor Schunk visits with GOALS coordinator Mrs. Miller-Martin and a high school student in the program.



Teacher Mrs. Sheplee, Principal Joe Benko, and Student Council President Tyler Adamek participate in the discussion.

Twenty students participate in the GOALS program at the middle school level, and coordinators are trying to increase participation. Teachers concentrate on teaching social skills and conflict resolution at this level. High school students focus on possible career choices. Students who are interested in teaching help the younger students with their homework. A downtown

coffee shop called "Cup of Knowledge" was built using the McKnight Business grant, and is completely run by the students. Parenting classes are also offered at the coffee house.

Five teachers have extended their hours to facilitate the GOALS program. Four area schools were given the grant, and Jordan will be the model program. The teachers say the program has been beneficial to students in terms of better grades and conduct in school as well as better peer relations and emotional adjustment.



I like what I saw at the school. The walls are covered with beautiful artwork by the students, and the after school program gives children a positive activity to fill their time after school. I could tell that the staff is really concerned about their students!

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Monticello, District 882

Monticello High School

April 24, 2002

Pop Quiz:

The Smith family owns the Monticello Times. Patriarch Lin Smith started the paper and was the creator of a statewide campaign. What is the statewide campaign Mr. Smith started in Monticello?

The answer is at the end of this school report!

Monticello is just 40 minutes northwest of the Twin Cities on Interstate 94, about halfway between St. Cloud and Minneapolis. The high school also serves the communities of Big Lake, Otsego, Becker, Clearwater, Maple Lake, and Silver Creek.

The first thing you notice about the school when you walk in is its impressive central corridor--it's like walking into the Mall of America!

Before touring the school, I presented a proclamation signed by the governor to the seven secretaries who work at the school. Wednesday, April 24, 2002 was declared *School Secretaries Day* in Minnesota. The

proclamation honors ALL school secretaries in the state who are the everyday glue during the academic school year.



I then went on a tour of the school, where Principal Ringstad showed me their unique



"pods."

Monticello uses open areas much different from "wings" of a school; they have areas for their 9th and 10th graders.

Near the end of my tour, we went into a classroom, where students are doing four murals on the classroom walls. Also in the room are large poster boards signed by all

seniors as they enter their freshman year. The poster board is titled, "Commitment to Graduate."

Overall, one would think that Monticello High School would have increased enrollment every year (which they do); however, the increase has steadily declined from 150 to 50 the last three years.

OK here it is, the answer to the question!

A: Lin Smith founded "D-Day" in Minnesota--the national anti-smoking campaign that has helped thousands quit tobacco every year. D-Day eventually turned into a national campaign called "The Great American Smokeout."



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Ogilvie District 333*

**Ogilvie Public School
April 24, 2002**

The first thing you notice when you drive into Ogilvie Public School are the paw prints that lead from the road towards the school. Interestingly, though, they ended halfway to the building. I asked my security guy, John, what he thought they were: tiger or lion prints. We went back and forth and came to the consensus that they were definitely lion prints--especially after we drove by the ball diamond where it said the school mascot was the Lions!

There is a reason I mention the lion prints. After doing a brief tour of the school with Superintendent John Kopnick, Principal Sondra Furman and Vice Principal Todd Stejskal, I met with a group of seniors, whose participation in "Senior Problems Projects" gives them credits towards the Profile of Learning and graduation.

The paw prints are a work in progress, and will lead visitors and students all the way to the front door.

Like many other smaller, rural schools, Ogilvie faces declining enrollment. The first part of the

meeting we discussed what some potential solutions are, and I explained my ongoing meetings across the state on declining enrollment. We also talked about education funding, overall. Let me tell you, these are some bright young adults!



The second half of the meeting we talked about the Profile of Learning. The students told me of the difficulty they had last year at the end of school, and I told them they're not alone and like all new things, you have a transition period



where the wrinkles need to be worked out.

The project I mentioned earlier is a good example of what the profile can do: give students credit for real-life experiences.

The senior problems projects includes 25 volunteer events and fundraisers for school funding of items like the school newspaper. Other projects include Daffodil Days, where they raised \$1500 for the America Cancer Society, a food drive for the food shelter, painting the weight room, providing valentine hearts for the elderly on Valentine's Day, working at the Mora animal shelter, and more.

The students must give 20 hours of their time to pass, and 30 hours will get them an A.

I applaud the efforts of these students, many of whom will likely be attending an area community college this fall and have learned the value of volunteerism--something we should all take with us throughout life.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



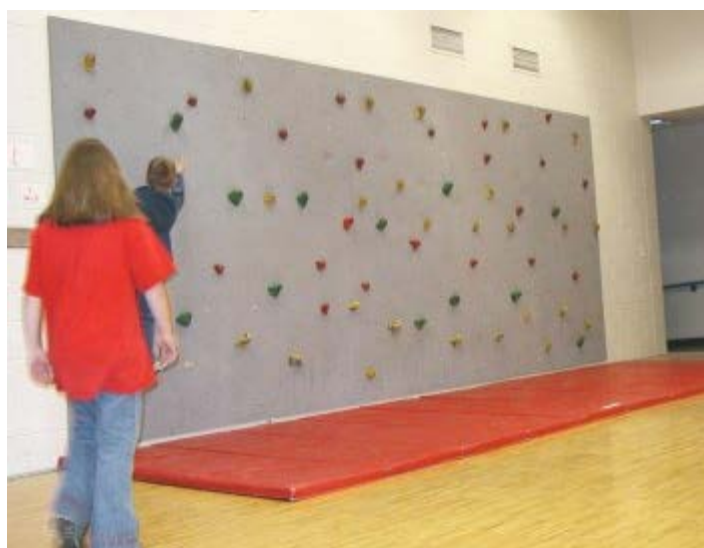


Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Cannon Falls District 252

Cannon Falls Elementary and High School

April 25, 2002



Look what I walked into at Cannon Falls Elementary! And no, I didn't scale this wall like Spiderman, but some of the kids did their best impersonation.

Cannon Falls is just a hop, skip and jump from the Twin Cities metropolitan area--nice transition to explain the elementary's physical activities in the gymnasium. Cannon Falls, like many Minnesota schools, is doing more agility activities to get the mind in gear during the school day.

The elementary has newer "pods" that offer more open space for the students to congregate to. Higher ceilings (as shown in the picture to the right) offer a more comfortable learning environment. Tables and chairs are available for students to socialize, do homework or take a minute to relax before hitting the books.

I was reminded that this wasn't my first visit to the school. About three years ago, I came to read to the students during Reading Awareness Month.

During this visit I learned that the school



district

has found that some of the students they originally thought might be A.D.D. (attention deficit disorder), were later diagnosed with autism. The principal wanted to bring this to my attention.

After touring the elementary school, we went next door to Cannon Falls High School, where I addressed Mrs. Sviggum's 8th grade social studies class. Sviggum sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Sviggum, Sviggum, Deb Sviggum. Oh yeah, she's the better half of our esteemed Minnesota Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum.

Anyway, after addressing the students for about 15 minutes, I took questions that centered on education, politics and, of course, the governor. It was a great treat to be in front of Deb's class, and I can tell you that she is doing a magnificent job.

I then met with school officials, board members, the mayor and others. One of their main concerns was Internet connectivity. Cannon Falls is part of the Southeast Co-Op, where many communities share the costs of high-speed access lines. They are facing a problem of other communities dropping out of the co-op to receive reduced rates from the private sector. Cannon Falls wants to know if the co-op will continue to exist, and if prices are going to rise due to communities leaving. Should they look to the private sector too?

I asked someone from my staff to contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce to look into this for them.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Ulen-Hitterdahl District 914

Ulen-Hitterdahl Public School

Ulen

April 29, 2002

When I was a girl, I walked to school. When I was a teacher I drove to school. But when I visited Ulen-Hitterdahl school, I arrived in a helicopter! It was a Minnesota National Guard UH1-D "Huey" helicopter, which is a key player in a National Guard Reserve program designed to reduce drug use by school age children. Here's how it works: The National Guard participates in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)



Lt. Governor Schunk is greeting upon landing near the school

program by flying helicopters to schools throughout the state to promote a drug-free lifestyle. The crew, pilots CW3 Bob Vetscher and CW3 B. J. Voute, along with their crew chief, SFC Kelly Fischer, speak to the students at each school about military aviation and about how drugs are incompatible with aviation and with building a future. Through humor and real life examples they get the message across: "Drug Abuse is Life Abuse!"

As for the building itself, the community is just putting the finishing touches on a new elementary school attached to the high school. They have done an excellent job of designing a building that will grow with the community and will accommodate the needs of students for many years to come. Unfortunately, the attached high school building is rapidly aging, and becoming difficult for the community to maintain and



Lt. Governor Schunk poses with the troops who made it all possible

The high school students here seem to like their school and are eager to continue their education. They did say that they would like a broader range of classes, especially in college prep math, and science. They have tried to use Interactive Television, but the expense is high and the results have been mixed. They say they need access to classes at home that will prepare them for college. They do have a service co-op in Fergus Falls, which is working with the school on distance learning initiatives.

heat.



Crew Chief SFC Kelly Fisher demonstrates his emergency radio during a DARE presentation

After getting back on the helicopter and taking off from Ulen, we flew to Starbuck, where I was able to watch the DARE presentation first hand. It was very informative and funny and the National Guard really captured the attention of the kids while engaging them in the discussion.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *McLeod West District 2887*

McLeod West Elementary School
Stewart
March 12, 2002

Superintendent George Ladd and Principal Ron Sandell welcomed us to McLeod West Elementary and ushered us into the school's media center.

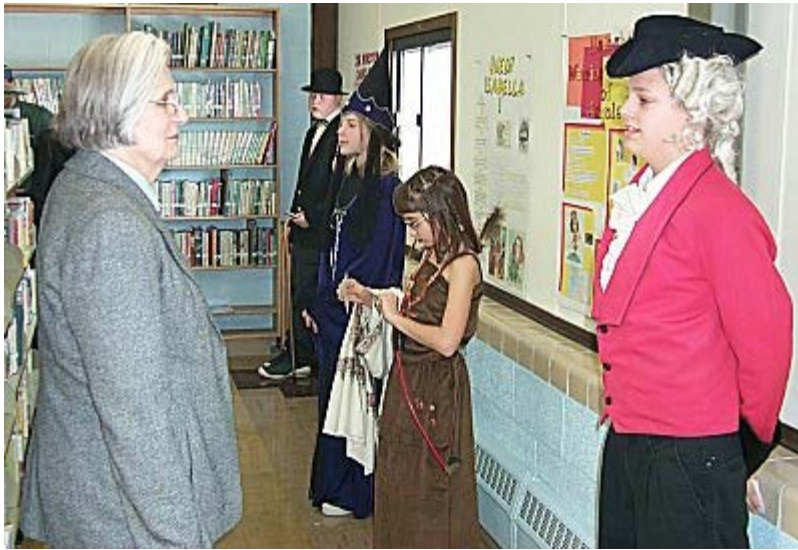
There we saw excellent science projects by two 4th graders. Mackenzie Trettin's project answered the question, "Can a penny hold more drops of plain water or soapy water?" I was glad

Mackenzie showed us, because I sure wouldn't have known the answer! It turns out the penny held more soapy water because, according to Mackenzie, soapy water has a weaker surface tension.



Then Mark Zaske fired some erasers from his catapults to demonstrate exactly what affects how far a catapult will launch an object. Mark determined that the shorter the catapult is, the farther and straighter the object will go. These projects were just two of the many that students were preparing to present at a science fair the following week.

After the demonstrations, I got to meet some celebrities: Mozart and Churchill, to name a few. Students dressed up as historical figures lined up to introduce themselves and tell me their



stories.

Let me tell you, those students knew their "wax figures" top to bottom by the time they were done with that project.

We also made a stop at an Early Readiness program in the school, which is held on the opposite days of all-day kindergarten.

Carol Vinkemeier showed us what the youngsters are working on--on this day it happened to be zebras.

The room seemed like a great environment for young minds to develop!



[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Hutchinson District 423*

**West Elementary School
Hutchinson
March 12, 2002**

Hutchinson uses a campus concept, with the schools all within sight of each other. Within a couple of years, the district hopes to have a new high school built, which will allow a little more breathing room for the steadily increasing enrollment.



The first graders' project at the school had an international flair

As we walked into West Elementary, it felt like we were taking a trip around the world. We saw dozens of flags hanging from the rafters, with cutout figures of people lining the walls. This was part of the 1st graders' "One World, One Family" program and it was quite a sight!

Principal Dave Conrad has done an outstanding job of creating a warm, nurturing environment for the kindergarteners and first graders at this K-1 school. I could see that everywhere I went.

In the 1st grade class I visited, three teachers divide up the classroom, while 5 part-time reading teachers go from class to class. In fact reading is really emphasized throughout the school. Teachers do a lot of assessment on each student here, but, as Principal Conrad put it, they assess in order to formulate how to teach, not just



Students join hands and sing of telling the world about love

for the sake of doing assessment.



Lt. Governor Schunk is joined by superintendent Robert Windel (left) and principal Dave Conrad

It seems like they're doing everything right at this school, yet they're doing it for less.

Test scores are well above the statewide average, and reading scores have improved dramatically the past few years, yet spending is down.

When I visit schools like West, it buoys my spirits about the state of education in Minnesota.

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *ACGC District 2396*

ACGC Elementary School
Atwater
March 12, 2002

The kids start learning early at ACGC Elementary. We visited a child care center in the school that's open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It's even open on non-school days. It helps enrollment: kids start there, and they stay there through the years.

We stopped by a kindergarten class (right) to see kids trying to put Humpty Dumpty together again. (Apparently all the king's horses and all the king's men weren't available). The kids seemed quite engaged and the teachers very attentive to their learning needs.



This school has done a remarkable job of securing a variety of grants to help with funding. Their list of more than a dozen grants includes American Legion, ECFE, ECSE, Title One and many more. Congratulations to the district, including superintendent Pam Kyllingstad, for working hard to find alternate sources of funding.

The results are not lost on families in the area: this year there were 27 additional open enrollment students compared to last year.



On the way out, I met a couple of very special students: Hannah Helsell and her brother Trent.

If you look at the picture, you'll see Trent's hiding a bit behind his hat, but I could see his smile anyway!

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

BOLD District 2534

**BOLD High School
Olivia
March 13, 2002**

Four of BOLD's top students were my escorts, led by student council president Annmarie Flom. Right away, I learned how important technology is to this school, when they took me to Paul Seehusen's accounting class. There I met four young men who are part of the "Cisco Academy" program, in which students learn Internet networking.



Krystal Abrahamson, Anne Osthus, Lindsay Kuznia and Annmarie Flom (left to right) escort Lt. Governor Schunk



After four semesters, they can get certified, which will qualify them for some high-paying jobs right out of high school.

They showed me routers (left), which are connected throughout the world and are the backbone of the Internet.

I enjoyed watching Mr. Seehusen in the classroom--he seems not only knowledgeable, but passionate about his work as well.

Later I met with Mr. Cooper's senior social class in the media center (right). They shared their concerns about, among other things, economic development, the cost of textbooks and especially declining enrollment. This

year's graduating class will have 98 students, while the current kindergarten class has only 50 kids coming up through the ranks.



[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Cedar Mountain District 2754

Cedar Mountain High School

Morgan

March 13, 2002

Cedar Mountain High is a 7-12 school, but there is also a pre-school in the building. That comes in handy for the 3-5 year-olds who get an inter-generational education. High schoolers stop by to help them, as do older people from the community. By the time those kids are in first grade, they have gotten a wide variety of perspectives.



As I walked through the school's halls, I met Mike Woodford (above), a senior who is taking advantage of opportunities to get college credit while still in high school. Mike is doing quite well in college chemistry and algebra.



Our next stop was the "Baby Think It Over" program, in which students are given a baby doll to take care of for seven days and two nights. But these dolls aren't like others--they're more like real babies. They cry at inopportune times (like the middle of the night) and are particular about how they're comforted. Each doll has an electronic box in its back that helps evaluate how often the student cared for his or her "baby." In addition to the obvious benefits of pointing out the great responsibilities that come with being a parent, the class also serves as a starting off point

for studying

such topics as birth defects, autism, brain development, fetal alcohol syndrome, discipline, sex education and many more.

I also had the opportunity to meet a group of students working on the district's Web pages (right). Each was working on a different facet of the district's site, gathering information, updating items and doing layout. If you'd like to see their work, go to the Web site by [clicking here](#).



Some parts of this building date as far back as 1898, but there have obviously been a number of additions over the years. After we had a forum with students and administrators in the school's 1930s-era auditorium, (a meeting which included some crying "babies," by the way), we were treated to a delicious lunch in the cafeteria.

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Windom District 177

Windom Area Middle/ High School

Windom

March 14, 2002

Our first stop was the refurbished media center, a beautiful facility which is the result of a \$17.7 million dollar bond issue a few years ago.

The center is so new, (it just opened in October), there are still a few details to be added, but the students are definitely making the most of it right now. In fact I had a chance to see exactly how they are putting it to use.



A group of 4th and 5th graders presented a Graduation Standard project on inquiry (above), and it was very impressive. The students learned to share problems and solutions, to do research, to make a display and write a paragraph about it, to make a timeline and to write a two-part question. They put all this knowledge into their displays, which are spread throughout the media center. As one student put it, "It's cool when you see someone looking at one of your displays." I could really tell these students were getting the skills they need to move on. The Graduation Standards are flourishing in Windom.

After the presentation, I found out, through complete chance, I had ended up in Windom on Pi Day! What's Pi Day? It's March 14th, or 3-14, which corresponds with the



mathematical term Pi, 3.14. At Windom, they have a long-standing tradition of celebrating Pi Day with "Pi carols," and, of course, pie. I had the pleasure

of listening to National Honor Society students (above) sing Pi carols like "Oh, number Pi" and "Happy Pi Day To You," before the carolers headed out to spread their mathematical good cheer throughout the school!

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Lakeview District 2167*

Lakeview Public School
Cottonwood
March 21, 2002



The Lt. Governor visits with a student participating in the Destination Imagination program.

The students of Lakeview Public School are very involved in the Destination Imagination (DI) program. DI encourages them to creatively find unique solutions to a set of challenges they select. There are many benefits to participating in DI. Students learn to be innovative and courageous when developing solutions to problems. They learn to compete fairly and win or lose graciously. Individual team members also acquire knowledge and skills for locating and organizing information from their individual research on the challenge topic.





The Lt. Governor poses with a group of DI students who completed the "On Holiday" challenge in the DI program.

A t-shirt displayed by some students who are participating in the Future City competition.

The students of Lakeview Public School also participate in the National Engineers Week Future City competition. The competition asks students to create -- first on computer and then in large 3-D scale models -- their visions of the city of tomorrow. Students work with engineer mentors who help guide them through the rigors of building a functioning city. Using SimCity 3000 -- donated by Maxis, a software firm in Walnut Creek, California, the students fabricate a metropolis from the ground up and balance a city budget. They also deal with social issues such as pollution and unemployment, and solve intricate problems of math, science, and technology. Then they present and defend their city to engineer judges at the competition. They write an essay about research, exploration, generation, and conservation of energy and an abstract describing their city and its services.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Springfield District 85

Springfield Public School

Springfield

March 21, 2002

The students and staff of Springfield Public School were an interesting, informative group. I had a great opportunity to learn about their school and tell them more about what Governor Ventura and I hope to accomplish for public education in Minnesota. One of the topics we focused on was Graduation Standards. The students felt that while standards have helped them succeed in some areas, the degree of success depends on how the standards are implemented by teachers. One interesting approach that the school has taken is to provide funding for teachers to have a day off from teaching and work on developing a curriculum that incorporates Graduation Standards.



Lt. Governor Schunk spends time discussing the concerns of students, teachers, administrators at Springfield Public School.



Springfield Public School student artwork

I also had the opportunity to learn some about new technology in digital photo production. I visited Neil Neidt's Advanced Digital Imaging class and was very impressed by his students' ability to take images from sources like digital cameras, cd-roms, the internet, digital video and student artwork and use high-end software to create a variety of projects. The students also showed me how to take a photo using a digital camera. I was so impressed with the skills that these students have acquired in Mr. Neidt's class. They can compete with professionals already working in the graphic arts industry!



The Lt. Governor learns how to take a photo with a digital camera.



The Lt. Governor practices her new digital photo skills.



Return toTop

The Lt. Governor asks a student about her digital imaging project.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Blue Earth District 2860

Blue Earth High School

Blue Earth

March 27, 2002

The enormous Green Giant (right) who welcomes visitors to town gives a good representation of the strong local agriculture economy in Blue Earth. At the school we were greeted by Superintendent Tim Collins. That shouldn't have surprised me--I see Tim every- where!

First of all, Tim is on the Education Commission of the States, so we saw each other at that recent meeting in Philadelphia. I've also worked with him at a meeting of local superintendents, attended a dinner he hosted, and even saw him the day before our visit at our workshop on declining enrollment in rural schools. Good thing he's such a great host!



Declining enrollment is indeed a problem in this district: there are 1600 students now, but the district expects to lose 300 in the next two years. And consolidation isn't the answer anymore. They're already made up of five consolidated districts. That means when a levy is up for a vote, the people who live in the cities that have lost a school to consolidation aren't very interested in approving the funding.

Fortunately, the state provides monetary incentives to consolidate, and the school we visited was built primarily with that incentive

The ubiquitous Tim Collins, along with Casey Barnes and Ellen

Koranda of the student council, greet Lt. Governor Schunk

money. It's a beautiful facility with lots of excellent features, including a multipurpose cafeteria/basketball court/meeting area, which we utilized. There is also an impressive production unit, where I watched students edit videos for cable TV. The unit is right in the middle of the building, so many classes make use of it.

Music also has a strong voice at this school. I heard from the choir, showing off the talent they used to win the many trophies that are on display.

There is also a full orchestra, which is not very common for a school this size.



The Blue Earth High School choir shows off its vocal range

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Glenville Emmons District 2886*



**Glenville Elementary School
Glenville
March 27, 2002**

What a difference from when I was here last year. I stopped by in May of 2001 to survey the destruction left by a tornado. So it was very encouraging to see all the good work that has been done since then.

The schools boasts an innovative reading program that began last fall and is already paying off. The program is called "Ungraded Reading." Students are placed in reading classes based on reading level, not on their grade level, which results in more individualized attention. And instead of a big reading test at the end of the semester, the students are tested every six weeks, so teachers can really monitor progress and adjust accordingly. Even though the final progress results aren't in yet, teachers are so excited about what they've seen so far that they're thinking about starting a similar program to teach math.



Escorts Christin Cram, Jessica Claussen, Lindy Heideman showed Lt. Governor Schunk around

Because this community is so close to the Iowa border, there's a lot of discussion about the difference between the two states' education systems. Superintendent Chesmore said he



appreciates Minnesota's flexible policies, particularly when it comes to administering the Graduation Standards. The superintendent would like to see more reciprocity when it comes to programs and licensure requirements.

Mayor Wes Webb told me that from the perspective of an interested person outside the education system, he sees a need for greater predictability of funding. He says it's difficult to operate when you don't know until the last minute what you're going to get--it would be helpful to be able to look two years down the road.

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Long Prairie District 2753*



Grey Eagle Elementary and Middle School Long Prairie February 12, 2002

All the world's a stage in first grade at Long Prairie. I had the pleasure of stopping by a couple of first grade classrooms just in time to see some excellent performances. The students are learning about theater, and they dive into it headfirst. The plays they have been reading have been the impetus for them to create costumes, including masks, props and more - in fact everything you need to put on a play. Once they have all that, there's only one more thing to do: perform! And that makes for a fun time for the students, and the audience as well.



These first graders in Bonnie Langfield's class perform plays as part of learning language arts skills

There is a high Hispanic population at this school, because local jobs draw many people from Mexico. The Hispanic students have their hands full learning a second language, but they're doing a great job. They read cards they had made for me in English, and some even read to me in two languages. I told them I know just what they're going through, because I was raised



*Each student in this ELL class created
bilingual Valentine cards for Lt.
Governor Schunk*

in a Croatian-speaking household and, like them,
didn't learn English until I went to school.

A pleasant surprise for me was to run into a
former colleague of mine, Jan Olderness. She
taught 3rd grade when I worked at Phalen Lake
Elementary in St. Paul. Now she's an ELL
teacher at Long Prairie, with about 100 students.

My visit was capped by a discussion with student council leaders and representatives from
grades 4-12. Questions ranged from education funding and the Graduation Standards, to the
future design of the Minnesota commemorative quarter.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
**Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Upsala District 487*



Upsala Public School
Upsala
February 12, 2002

This is a small school in a small town that, despite its size, is trying to build a new high school. Why? Because the high school part of the current building is 80 years old, and it is showing its age. At one point, the town voted to consolidate with Swanville, as a means to getting a new school built. But voters in Swanville rejected the proposed consolidation.

It would be nice to see a new facility here, because the student achievement is quite high. The school is very strong in Interactive Television, or ITV. There are two classrooms devoted to it, and there is a lot of teaching going over the network both to and from the school. The day we visited, an accounting class was being sent to various other districts, while another classroom was receiving a German class on ITV. There are ten other K-12 schools trading classroom instruction in the ITV cooperative, as well as post-secondary institutions in St. Cloud and Brainerd.



Interactive Television allows small schools like Upsala to expand their range of subjects, and to provide classes to schools in other districts

As with all districts, money is tight here, but administrators have come up with an interesting structure designed to save money. For grades 7-12, the principal also works as a teacher and as a counselor; for the elementary grades, there is no principal! The teachers do that job as a team, bouncing ideas off each other and voting on final decisions. They like the arrangement for a lot of reasons: it saves the district a lot of money, they didn't have to lay off a teacher and class sizes stay small.

I personally sampled another good idea they've had here for years. The Future Leaders of America (FLA) bake huge Valentine Cookies and sell them for fundraisers. At two dollars a cookie, I can't think of a tastier way to raise money. They learn teamwork, baking, business skills and public service all at once!



A small group of educators discussed their concerns with me in the media center. The principal noted that their district - like 80% of those in the state - is suffering from declining enrollment. He requested that we look into a different way of funding schools that is not dependent solely on the number of pupils in a school. Others expressed hope that our administration would work harder to promote more positive attitudes toward teachers and public schools. That's a hope I share 100%!



After participating in a forum, members of the Upsala student council presented a sweatshirt to Lt. Governor Schunk

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Royalton District 485*



**Royalton Elementary School
Royalton
February 12, 2002**

*This old school bell at Royalton
Elementary School rings on special
occasions*

The student council and music-making third graders welcomed me to Royalton, for a visit that took me back quite a few years, because of a distinct sound resonating through the hallways. They have an authentic school bell in the foyer, and when they rang it, I was back in 8th grade at my old one-room schoolhouse! That's the last time I heard that sound. I will never forget the wonderful, thoughtful welcome I received at Royalton.

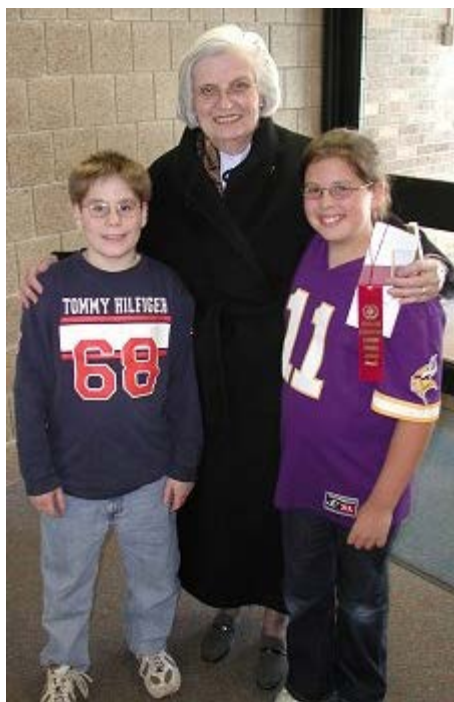


*This music ensemble composed of third graders provided a
talented welcome to Lt. Governor Schunk*

The school itself is brand new, but declining enrollment has meant financial trouble for the district. Still, this is a determined bunch, led by their principal, Phil Gurbada who *walked* to the Twin Cities to demonstrate concern for public education. (That's quite an accomplishment, considering our *drive* to the area from St. Paul was not particularly short).

The school has an interesting concept, called a "Responsive Classroom," which we saw in action. Every morning the students gather in a circle, exchange greetings, share ideas and information, conduct an activity and have announcements. Each student shared something with me about various recent events, school routines, projects or activities. Then they presented me with a book they'd put together that was made up of that same information. I was impressed that every student used excellent public speaking skills - a talent that will benefit them wherever

they go.



I also stopped at a computer lab where 1st graders are learning technology skills. The students in Karen Mower's class are learning the basics of the mouse and keyboard by making computerized drawings. They're pretty knowledgeable, and could teach me a thing or two about computers!

Student council members Adam Trettel and Brooke Duevel had the honor of officially welcoming Lt. Governor Schunk to their school

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Staples-Motley District 2170



**Staples-Motley High School
Staples
February 13, 2002**

Delicious caramel rolls and informal conversation were the first items on the agenda at Staples-Motley High School

We were welcomed with some genuine down home hospitality at Staples-Motley. The first portion of our visit consisted of casual conversation while munching on some of the best caramel rolls I ever tasted! I could just tell the students and teachers take a lot of pride in their school, but you can also see there are lots of challenges.

One way the school is reflecting its proud tradition is through the hundreds of trophies on display throughout the cafeteria and the hallways. When the current principal took over, he found many trophies hidden away in the basement. He dusted them off and put them on display, to make sure the current students know something about their school's rich sports tradition.



Students also take pride in their education, and they are concerned that it is going to suffer in the future. For one thing, the district expects to lose 100 students in the next four years, which means cuts of \$700,000 this year and \$600,000 last year. For students, it means they can't take certain classes because there aren't enough kids signing up to justify offering the course.

They are making the most of what they have,



particularly with their childcare center. It's right in the school--an affordable, half-day program that is well attended and well run.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Verndale District 818*



Verndale Public School
Verndale
February 13, 2002

Verndale is a small school that has become successful by marketing its wonderful asset: it's a small school! Superintendent David Holmquist explained that 25% of their students enroll from other districts. Parents in Verndale refused to consolidate when times became tough, but at this rate they'll do just fine on their own.

Another angle is to get parents acquainted with the school early on, and this happens thanks to the Head Start Early Education Collaborative. Basically, all the early education and childhood programs around are now under one roof at the school (see photo on right). This sort of community resource is especially important because the area has a many people with lower incomes who want to make sure their children get a good start in life. It is so successful that they are turning people away. And it works for recruiting new students, too!



In the school's boardroom I met with some teachers, the superintendent and principal, but 11th grade reporter Erika Dalen started things off. She asked questions in order to do a story for the school paper, and covered a lot of the items the adults had in mind. Superintendent Holmquist, who started his career in Iowa, had a lot of suggestions to improve education by promoting a better dialogue between administrators and policy makers. He made a lot of sense to me. Everyone needs to be accountable for the role they play in ensuring the best possible education for our kids.

*Student reporter Erika Dalen interviewed
Lt. Governor Schunk at the beginning of a
discussion with educators*



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Wadena-Deer Creek District 2155*



Wadena-Deer Creek Public School
Wadena
February 13, 2002

My first stop was in the Elementary School, where I visited Christine Lane's third grade class (see photo right). They were busy studying the mathematical concept of symmetry. I enjoyed the way the students worked together to find the answers. We chatted a bit about reading, and I guess they are typical 21st century kids: many said their favorite book is Harry Potter!



At the high school I participated in a forum with students, teachers and community members. One of the issues the district is facing is declining enrollment. They've lost a hundred students in the last few years - which is a big proportion of the school's 720 students. The problem has to do with geography. Their district is a fading agricultural area stuck between two tourism regions. That makes the economy much stronger to the east and to the west.

One teacher expressed her support for the Graduation Standards, and wanted to be reassured that we were not planning on eliminating them and going back to the drawing board. As the Governor would say, rest assured.



Lt. Governor Schunk greeted high school students at a forum

Even though some lawmakers and a few highly vocal opponents continue to attack the Profile of Learning, we are determined to keep them and fix whatever problems they might have.

Another teacher had an interesting idea about what to do if a student is learning at a fast pace and starts taking post-secondary options (PSO) courses in high school. She wondered why not just let those students start going to college, and apply their per pupil money to their college tuition.

Student artworks representing each senior class adorn the high school cafeteria



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Henning District 545



**Henning Public School
Henning
February 13, 2002**

Henning is an expansive district geographically, which makes for some very strong challenges. Nothing gets in the way of student achievement, though, and everyone is proud of the high student scores on standardized tests. In fact, they have some of the top scores in the state. This is accomplished despite a high number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. Perhaps one reason for the success is the low ratio of students to teachers. I have always favored small class size, and Henning is another endorsement of the idea that "small is beautiful."

Another powerful force in Henning are the parents and teachers who are passionately interested in education. Their fear is that declining enrollment will force an increase in class size.



Terry Oscarson works with Henning's Dollars for Scholars, which has an endowment worth \$250,000



Lt. Governor Schunk with Superintendent Debra Wanek and Principal Clay Houselog

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Osakis District 213*



**Osakis Public School
Osakis
February 14, 2002**

At Osakis I met one of the most inspiring teachers in the state: science teacher Pat Ryan (see photo right). He is the Knowledge Bowl Coach of the Year, but I didn't judge him by his award, I judged him by his students. We went out into the hallway for a couple high-powered demonstrations of student ingenuity.



Adam Schlosser displayed his Robot Rambo, which was a winner of the Regional Olympiad (see photo left). The assignment was to create a robot of a specific size that could pick up ping-pong balls and put them in a box. It sounds simple, but Adam was the only one who succeeded. First he picked out a toy fire engine for his vehicle, but it was too long. Solution? He



sawed it down till it was short enough. His final bit of cleverness was to devise a way of picking up the balls using the most versatile product of the modern era: duct tape!

Other students demonstrated their rocket car, which raced down the hall in the blink of an eye. When the excitement died down I asked the students whether they enjoyed learning science in this way. The answer was a resounding "yes." To top it off, I discovered that they had been completing Graduation Standards in class without realizing it. Now that's what I call a good teacher!

I met with a number of students in the auditorium. They asked a variety of questions, mostly on education policy and funding. Administrators expressed concern about the rapidly rising costs of health care insurance. The student population of the school is relatively stable, because in addition to local resorts and farming, a number of people choose to live there, and then work in nearby Alexandria

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Browerville District 787*



**Browerville Public School
Browerville
February 14, 2002**

I guess I should not have been too surprised to see the entire elementary school dressed in red on my visit. After all, it was Valentines Day. I felt just like a teacher again, because my first activity in the school was to conduct a question and answer session with the students, who were all sitting on the auditorium floor. They were a wonderful group of bright children.

I talked with some of the older students at the high school media center. Student council members and faculty members gathered to ask questions and express their concerns. I learned about their Hall of Fame, which features graduates of the school who have led successful careers. I also



learned about REAP, a federally supported Russian exchange program. Six Russian students will be coming here, and three Browerville students will be going to Russia. I can't imagine a more stimulating educational opportunity! I'm sure it will be the kind of experience that helps a student shape their direction in life.

After the forum I was delighted to meet Betty Masoner, a veteran chemistry and physics professor who has a hobby of collecting military uniforms. Each Veterans Day she works with students to put on spectacular displays of men in uniform from previous eras.

Many rural areas have expressed their dissatisfaction with the low quality of Internet service

available through local phone companies. In Browerville many folks have come up with a solution. They choose satellite Internet service!



Some of the outstanding graduates of browerville are honored in the school's "Hall of Fame"

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Granada Huntley-East Chain District 2536*



**Granada Huntley-East
Chain Public School
Granada
February 26, 2002**

This district is a good example of how technology can really bring students together. The Interactive Television program at Granada is invaluable. We met teacher Sue Ehlers via ITV at Lake Crystal School. Ehlers is a 12-year veteran who described how ITV teaching works. First of all, there are no teachers in the classrooms where the students are watching the TVs. But that doesn't mean there is a lot of misbehaving. Most of the kids are in the upper tier of their class and know that if they misbehave the teacher will contact the attending principal and have them removed. And if they are kicked out of the class, they must pay the \$600 fee. Each student agrees to this in a signed contract. There is no need to have another teacher in the room unless it is requested or the students are taking a test. Assignments and homework are faxed. Even parent/teacher conferences can be done on ITV.



Thanks to the program, students can take advanced, post secondary and other interesting classes. And administrators can keep the 167 students in grades 7-12 in their district and not lose them to a neighboring district. Right now there are only 30 seniors and 12 kindergarteners, so, enrollment is declining while the need to share teachers gets stronger.

The program is a relative bargain at about \$38,000 for equipment that needs to be replaced about every 5 years. The school and this system can also be used for community ed classes, instructional classes for teachers and city business meetings.



Lt. Governor Schunk presents books about Minnesota to the principal and school board members

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Maple River District 2135*



**Maple River High School
Mapleton
February 26, 2002**

*Maple River students and staff are
justly proud of the athletic
achievements of the district*

I was greeted by Superintendent Dr. Jack Stouten (at podium right), who is retiring at the end of the year, leaving a solvent district. I thanked him for his many years of commitment to education.



The students began things with a Power Point presentation of their school's Serteem. That's the teens in service to mankind group, which includes 90 students from grades 9-12, along with advisor Jim Swanson, who is also the Social Studies teacher and mayor of Maple River. The group is involved in all kinds of community projects, including a recycling program with local seniors. All the money raised from this goes back into the community.

Some of the group's other projects involve local camps, and donation of Christmas trees to people in need. This group has logged almost 2000 volunteer hours already this school year! Considering the entire high school has 450 students, it's pretty amazing that there are 90 in

Serteem.

This is a very impressive district in other ways as well. There is all-day Kindergarten, a balanced budget, stable student enrollment and above-average test scores. All that and a building that's up to code!

(And if that weren't already enough, they also gave me a t-shirt and a teddy bear that represent their school pride.)



These students are members of a human service organization called Serteem. They are joined by their adviser and Lt. Governor Schunk.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

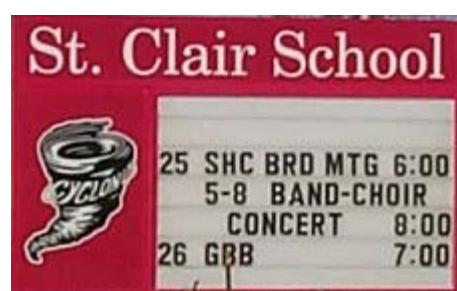
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *St. Clair District 75*



St. Clair Public School
St. Clair
February 27, 2002

The name of the game here is "Mac," which stands for Multi-age classroom.

The "Little Mac," where I visited first, is for first and second graders. (see photo on right) They were working various projects, including making mobiles based on Jan Brett's books. They have even had regular correspondence with Ms. Brett, who has responded several times to the letters they sent her.



In the "Big Mac," which includes grades 2-4, they're learning about continents. I gave the students a pop quiz by asking them to name all the continents. They not only did, they also showed me a topologically correct relief map they were working on

The multi-age classroom idea did lead to one drawback to my visit: all the teachers were gone, attending a workshop on implementing the multi-age concept! Fortunately, I got to meet their excellent substitutes, who joined the kids in giving me a complete look at what they were doing that day.

The school also has three all-day, everyday kindergarten classes, and the majority of kids are reading by the time they head for first grade.



Lt. Governor Schunk presents a book on Minnesota to students who had participated in a forum on educational issues

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *United South Central District 2134*



**USC Sober School
Freeborn
February 27, 2002**

USC's Sober School in Freeborn is a unique way to serve 30 students in 8 districts in the region. The school was started in 1999 as a place for students who are recovering from chemical addiction.

Pierre Stencil is the man who makes it work at the Sober School . He is the only teacher and he is doing an outstanding job. Pierre and Dixie Johannsen, the school's secretary, cook and mother figure, work with the students.

Prior to 1999, the school was vacant, so they are really making the most of what was already in place. At first, residents of the town of 310 were a little apprehensive, but now the students and the town have a great partnership, with the students helping out a lot in the community.



Each student has his or her own guidelines must sign a contract outlining duties and expectations. The students do all of the maintenance work at the school, with the exception of jobs involving chemicals, and help Dixie with the cooking as well.

The kids from all different economic and social backgrounds, with the goal being to get them back into their own schools once they're ready. It is a big commitment for the kids, and one

that can change their lives. All of them either drive themselves to school or get picked up in a van. There are parent meetings once a month to keep families up-to-date on what's going on.



(left to right) Pierre Stencel, Lt. Governor Schunk, Dixie Johannsen and Superintendent Frank Lorentz

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

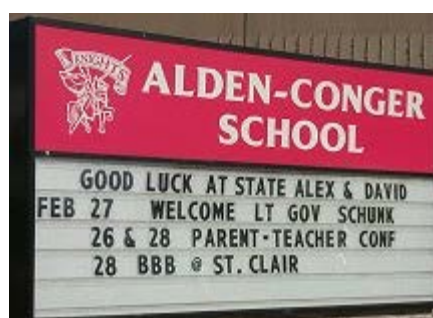
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Alden District 242*



Alden-Conger Public School
Alden
February 27, 2002

I'm confident my visit to Alden Conger will be preserved forever - that's because two students from the yearbook greeted me at the door and took my picture for this year's edition.

They must be doing something right here, because out of 424 students, 141 are attending through open enrollment. And you can see why they would want to come. The class sizes are small, and the school has lots of volunteers who help maintain the building, demonstrating the immense pride the community has in its school.



The learning here starts early. An excellent pre-K program for 4-year-olds is being expanded, and that gives kids a great start to learning. There is also all-day, everyday kindergarten.



Lt. Governor Schunk visits students in the all-day, everyday kindergarten program



Superintendent Rita Usselman accepts a book on Minnesota from Lt. Governor Schunk

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Waubun District 435*



**Waubun Public School
Waubun
January 7, 2002**

Lt. Governor Schunk with Superintendent Boyd Bradbury (inset), school board members and students in the school's media center

My appreciation of the strong educational spirit of the Waubun School began before I even set foot in the building. The evening before our visit I read a wonderful opinion piece in the Detroit Lakes newspaper written by Waubun School Board Member Terry Anderson. She stressed the importance of education for a successful future. The people I met in the school shared this important vision. Waubun has bright and ambitious students, an active school board and caring teachers--they seem very motivated to make their school better.

The K-12 school is located on the White Earth Indian Reservation, and 70% of the 620 students are enrolled tribal members. In a forum with Superintendent Boyd Bradbury, Principal Helen Kennedy, school board members and students, I learned that some unique challenges face this small town school. Of the 347 districts in the state, Waubun is the sixth poorest. This translates into limited educational programs. One of the students at our round table felt that this shortcoming meant that students could not adequately prepare for college.



Lt. Governor Schunk reads "Back in the Saddle" to a second grader in the computer lab

Without advanced English or science, which is offered in Detroit Lakes just 25 miles away, many of the students who go on to higher education must end up taking remedial classes.

My visit also included a stop at a second grade class taught by three teachers! And para-professionals are also often assisting in the class. This works out to a 15-1 ratio or better. The class splits up for reading and math, so personal attention is never lost. This dedication to student achievement bodes well for the future of the school.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

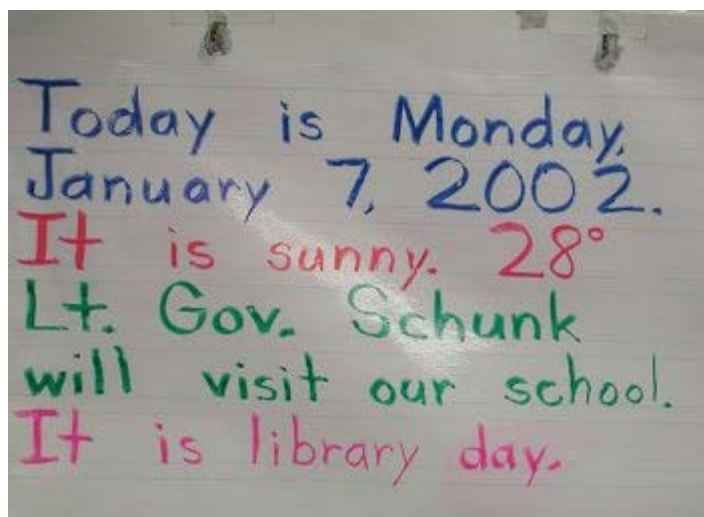
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Mahnomen District 432*

**Mahnomen Elementary
and High School
Mahnomen
January 7, 2002**



The strong partnership between the Mahnomen School District and the White Earth Reservation was made evident by the welcoming committee at the school: Principal Dr. Ramona Miller, Superintendent Brent Gish, and White Earth Tribal Chairman Doyle Turner. The tribe operates the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen, which has a close working relationship with the school. It often hosts events for the school and donates time, space and prizes for students. . Shooting Star has a big influence on the vitality of the community; it pays more than \$650,000 in taxes and provides employment for 1,000 people.

I was delighted to see students engaged in the SMART motor skills program in Becky Olson's kindergarten class. SMART (Stimulating Maturity Through Accelerated Readiness Training) uses crawling, rolling, spinning, tumbling, tracing steps, letters and numbers, and much more to stimulate students' brains! The results are higher levels of readiness skills and improved academic achievement. Teachers say that the kids are much better all-around students because of these exercises.

I met with the high schoolers in the auditorium, where I fielded questions on a gamut of topics,

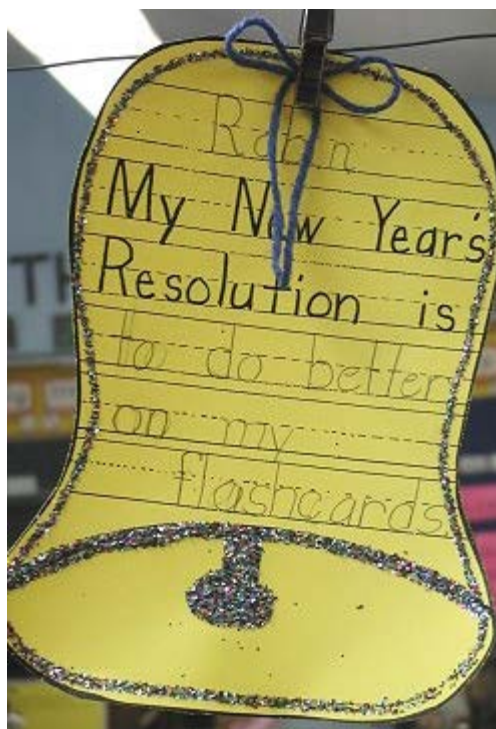


The physical exercises in the SMART program translate to improved academic achievement

including high school dropout rates, the Graduation Standards, testing, health insurance costs, school funding, property taxes, the economy, and much more



Members of STAR (Students Teaching Attitudes of Respect) received a book from Lt. Governor Schunk for the school library



Ms. Hoppestad's first grade class displays bells made by the students with their New Year's resolutions

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Norman County East District 2215*

**Norman County East
Elementary School
Gary
January 7, 2002**



Lt. Governor Schunk chats with 2nd grade teacher Myrtle Hanson, who has been teaching at the school for 32 years!

Aside from visiting classrooms I met with the superintendent, who also serves as the elementary principal, and with the Twin Valley High School principal and school board members.



Lt. Governor Schunk stopped by Mrs. Shafer's class during story time

Each day students receive a free breakfast and 30 minutes of both vocal music and phy ed.

In third grade, youngsters begin formal computer instruction, and in fourth grade learn word processing. By fifth grade, they are taught data base and spreadsheets.

And get this: The students learn ro make power point presentations in the sixth grade!

The high school is in Twin Valley, where they will begin ITV with the elementary. (ITV is

interactive television). A teacher at the high school, in this case a Spanish teacher, will be able to teach the course to the elementary kids.

Another thing that I noticed on this visit was the very good working relationship the superintendent has with the school board.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Park Rapids District 309*



Century School Park Rapids January 8, 2002

I was greeted at Century by Principal Bruce Gravalin, who led me on a tour of the school. We stopped by the Century Sewing Lab, where we watched students hard at work on sewing projects. This is an excellent example of hands-on learning, and I could tell the students were enjoying learning a useful skill.

Before posing for this photo with the Century Student Council, I sat down with them for a discussion in which they asked many insightful questions.

In addition to stopping at the sewing lab, we also visited the Tech 2000 Lab, and an art classroom. Once again, students were getting practical, hands-on instruction in skills they will really be able to put to use.

Then it was off to a meeting with students and staff in the cafetorium. We had a lively conversation, ranging from discussing new ideas and plans



Students learn a practical skill in the sewing lab

for education to how much time I spend with Governor Ventura.

It was a wonderful visit, and I hope to see these students again in the future!

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Menahga District 821*

**Menahga Public School
Menahga
January 8, 2002**



What a wonderful way to start off my visit to Menahga Public School - my very own, personalized parking sign!

Then, right when I stepped through the front door of the school, I was greeted by elementary students singing a song and performing the Pledge of Allegiance.

I also had an opportunity to sit down with teachers, administrators and school board members to discuss their *2001-2006 Strategic Plan*. It is a document that is designed to help the school district create its own future, instead of just reacting to the changes around them. That's an example we should all follow! We should also emulate the values the school district tries to teach its students: respect, honesty, responsibility, self-discipline, safety, health and wellness, tolerance and cooperation.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Sebek District 820*



**Sebek Public School
Sebek
January 8, 2002**

I had a lot of fun at Sebek Public School. I spent most of my time visiting with the jazz band. We began by discussing issues important to the students, like the value of performance arts and how much they enhance the lives of the young people who participate in them. We also talked about some of the things I do every day in my job as Lieutenant Governor.

Then the band performed a concert just for me! I was overwhelmed with their talent, and couldn't have enjoyed the concert more. The talent of these students was obvious after hearing them play just one song!

Following the concert, Principal Brian Stefanich and Superintendent Paul Lehmkuhl escorted me on a tour of the school. During the tour, students were changing classrooms, so I got to talk to many of them as they passed in the hall.



**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**



130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *New York Mills District 553*



New York Mills Public School New York Mills January 8, 2002

New York Mills Public School was the last stop on day one of this trip, and I had an opportunity to learn about the New York Mills NYM Eagle Channel - a television channel run completely by students! The school actually has its own television studio in the building, and the students, under the skillful instruction of teacher

April Erickson, are learning about every aspect of television production - from writing, to videotaping, to editing and appearing as hosts and reporters. In fact, I was interviewed on camera for the Eagle Channel. I was very impressed by the professionalism of the students' work.

After visiting the television studio, I had a meeting with members of the school's student council. We discussed issues that were of particular importance to them, such as the role of women in politics, and the effect that the terrorist attacks of September 11 have had on us as a society.

Governor Ventura and I are always excited to see students involved in government. I hope these students will continue to be active in government as they progress through school.



Lt. Governor Schunk poses for a photo with the New York Mills student council



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Detroit Lakes District 22*



Mrs. Vollmers' 7th grade class

Detroit Lakes Middle School Detroit Lakes January 9, 2002

Detroit Lakes Middle School was a bustle of activity! The goal of the school is to help students reach their full potential intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. Our first stop was Colleen Vollmers' 7th grade class. Mrs. Vollmers and the students explained to me that everything they do in the classroom is integrated into quality standards. Students work toward achieving these goals by

developing a sense of responsibility, problem-solving skills, being productive team members, using opportunities for exploration, and participating in the schools' challenging academic program. As you can tell, these students are busy!

After meeting with students, I sat down with teachers and administrators to learn more about how they use quality tools to help their students learn. They certainly have some innovative ideas at Detroit Lakes Middle School!

Mrs. Vollmers and students join the Lt. Governor for a discussion about what it is like to participate in the Quality Classroom project.





Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Frazee District 23*



Lt. Governor Schunk and students and staff from Frazee High School

Frazee High School Frazee January 9, 2002

During my visit to Frazee High School, I toured several classrooms and then met with 50 students from government classes to learn about what they are studying and to answer their questions about government. We discussed a number of issues, such as the Graduation Standards, their thoughts on how to fix Minnesota's budget problem, and whether Governor Ventura and I will run for election (they'll have to wait for the answer to that one!).

Next, it was on to a whirlwind tour of Frazee Elementary School. The students presented me with a lovely school sweatshirt, then I toured a computer classroom and visited with a class of third graders. It was a very quick stop that ended too soon!



Lt. Governor meets with students in a government class.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Perham District 549

Heart of the Lakes Elementary School

Perham

January 9, 2002



Lt. Governor Schunk poses with students displaying the books they are currently reading

My last stop on this trip was Heart of the Lakes Elementary School. Principal Rutten showed me around the school, and I had the opportunity to meet all the people who keep this district running smoothly: students, teachers, administrators, and parents. It's always nice to meet as many people as possible who are concerned with making sure that students receive a good education.

After visiting a number of classrooms, I sat down for a very useful roundtable discussion in the school's media center. Teachers and administrators shared with me their successes, their concerns and their suggestions for improving education in

Minnesota.

And before we left the school, I saw the most amazing thing: A class of kindergarteners exercising on a rock climbing wall! I couldn't believe how strong they were!



Kindergarteners climb the walls at Heart of the Lakes



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Underwood District 550*



**Underwood School
Underwood
January 22, 2002**

Students and staff at Underwood are rightfully proud of their newly remodeled school. Thanks to an \$8.2 million referendum voters passed a few years ago, an expansion project has doubled the size of the school. This gave much-needed room to the 466 students at this K-12 school. Plus, the number of students is growing; enrollment was up 7% last year.

One of the improvements was a separate science lab for elementary students. Ordinarily science projects are done in the homeroom, so things can get a little messy. 5th grade science teacher Brian Hovland says having a separate lab allows him to set up experiments and projects ahead of time, and students enjoy getting out of their homeroom to trek to the science lab. I watched a group of fifth graders rotate through various testing stations where they had to identify basic compounds and mixtures. Their analysis required the use of most of their senses: they had to feel, see and smell their way to an answer at each station. This sort of hands-on science class is the best way to learn!



Lt. Governor Schunk observes fifth graders identifying substances in the school's new science lab

I met with senior class
representatives for a forum
in the school's media

center, which had been the original school gym built back in 1938. The students had a variety of questions, ranging for school funding to the Profile of Learning. Their message to Governor Ventura is that "Education is a priority."



One teacher asked about President Bush's legislation that will add more tests in schools. I responded that I see tests as a tool for determining what kids know, and what teachers need to focus on. But those tests should be aligned with the curriculum, so teachers don't have to waste valuable classroom time teaching students to take a particular test. I believe "teaching to the test" becomes a problem with too many mandated tests.



Principal John Hamann and Superintendent Gary Sletten show Lt. Governor Schunk their expansive new gymnasium

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Battle Lake District 542*



**Battle Lake Public School
Battle Lake
January 22, 2002**

I was welcomed to the newly built Battle Lake School by two student council representatives from the senior class, Tori Ehlert and Luke Stewart. In addition to being academic leaders, I understand they are both excellent athletes.

Superintendent Rick Bleichner explained to me that a 1998 building project costing about \$9 million allowed the school to add a gym, auditorium, a new high school, an elementary wing, and refurbish the library and administrative office. And they did it all without asking for state money!



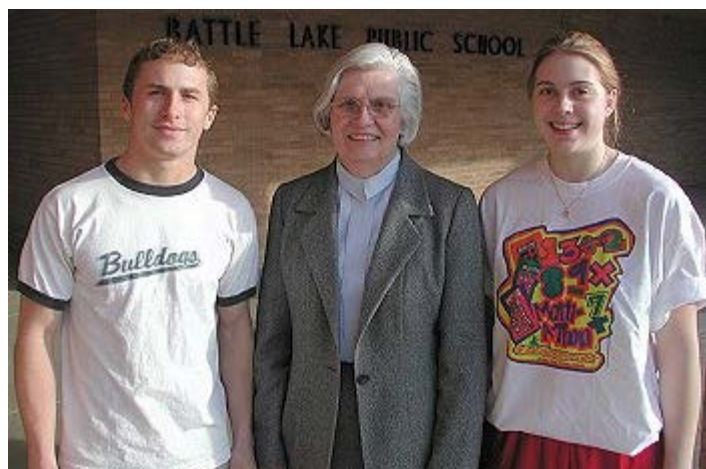
These FFA members demonstrated parliamentary procedure in preparation for a competition

I was very impressed by a demonstration of parliamentary procedure presented by a group of FFA students. Their teacher, Blaine Larson, explained that the students have been practicing in order to enter a competition with other FFA groups.

With tremendous order and speed they conducted a very formalized meeting right before my eyes. If the state legislature moved at their speed they could finish the session in less than a week! Formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, the FFA is a student service organization that sponsors a variety of school activities. They also perform good deeds. I saw a fish house they built to donate to the Ottertail Nursing Home. With students like these the future is in good hands.



I met with the mayor, teachers and community members in the auditorium to exchange ideas and information. Everyone was concerned about the budget shortfall, and how it would affect everything from the school to the town to health care facilities.



Two student council representatives from the senior class served as guides for Lt. Governor Schunk's visit, Luke Stewart and Tori Ehlert

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

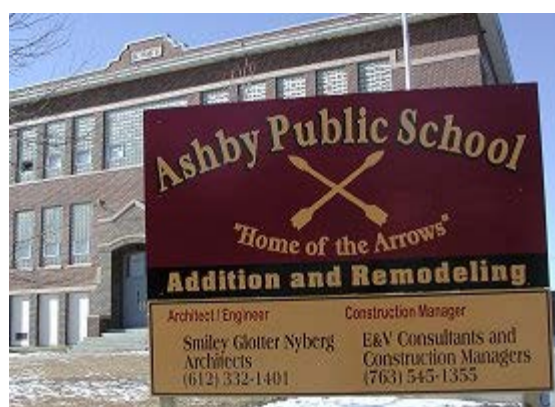
130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
 For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Ashby District 261*



Ashby Public School
Ashby
January 22, 2002

Ashby is one of several schools in this area in the middle of major building and remodeling projects. This demonstrates strong local support for education.

I was very intrigued by a mock trial presented by a "Law and Society" class. Students played the parts of prosecutor, defense attorney and defendant. The teacher, Marcie Andreason, played the judge. It is a hands-on introduction to the legal system, and a good chance to practice public speaking and debate skills. The students will compete with their counterparts in other schools. During the competition, the judges will be played by *real* judges.



I met with the Ashby student council in the library, where they had a chance to ask me questions and give me their opinions. A big concern was whether our proposed budget cuts would reduce financial aid for students going to college. I was glad to say that student aid was not cut. Several questions involved the value of small schools.

I was delighted to meet Cheryl Nash (below right), an educational consultant helping teachers implement the Profile of Learning. She was one of 26 teachers on the Instructional Support Team on loan to the CFL who worked with all the districts in the state. When their funding was cut, three of them wrote a grant to continue their work.



KSAX-TV in Alexandria sent photojournalist John Lauritsen and reporter Sarah Casello to interview Lt. Governor Schunk during her visit to Ashby



Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *West Central Area District 2342*



**West Central Area
Secondary School
Barrett
January 22, 2002**



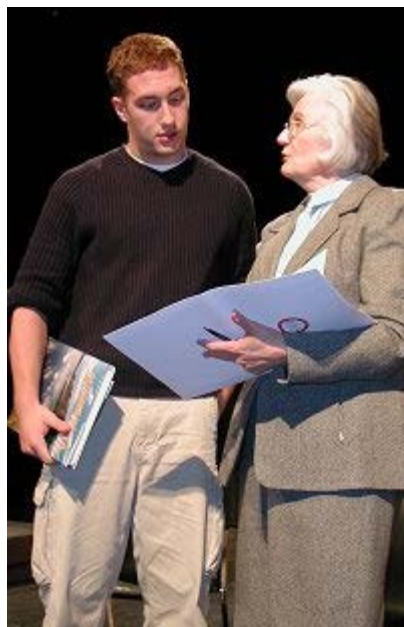
At the West Central Area Secondary School, grades 7-12, I began my visit with a tour of the industrial technology center. Students rotate through computerized stations that let them engage in a variety of hi-tech endeavors, from architectural design to flight simulation. They put their skills to good use, too. From their desktop publishing unit they created individualized sports cards (left) for all the members of the boys and girls basketball teams. To help subsidize the project they sold the cards to parents.

A student videotaped my visit to the technology center, and then another student took that tape, transferred it to a computer, and gave me a demonstration of digital editing (right). It is very slick and fast. I was told that all TV arts and communication students learn how to produce videos, and they make a special "senior" video for the graduating class (complete with their baby pictures!). Students who create news and feature videos can submit them to the local



cable access channel for playback to the local community.

At a forum in the auditorium the student council members asked me a variety of challenging questions. I learned from them that their school district, which is the result of the consolidation of four districts, is suffering from declining enrollment. They've lost 100 students in the last five years. The most loaded question was whether Governor Ventura's rocky relationship with the media affects my job performance. I responded that the effect on me varies, because the Governor usually goes in cycles with the media. After all, he ultimately knows that they help him communicate his message to the public.



Lt. Governor Schunk presents a book about Minnesota to the school and discussed service learning programs with a student leader

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Minnewaska District 2149*

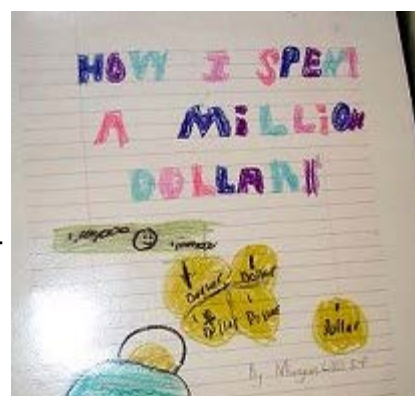


Starbuck Elementary School
Starbuck
January 23, 2002



Starbuck Elementary School, with 280 students, is one of three elementary schools in the Minnewaska District. The student population is rapidly declining. The number of enrolled students dropped more than 180 in the last two years. Superintendent Bob Vaadeland explained that the area needs more industry to augment the local economy, which relies heavily on tourism and agriculture.

I saw a number of interesting student projects in the building. A fifth grade class created projects on what they would do if they had a million dollars to spend (right). They had everything from buying farms to going on very elaborate vacations! I watched a little of a rehearsal by the 5th and 6th grade choir, which was excellent (above). I visited with the kindergartners, who attend all-day, every other day. I was impressed that they are already learning how to read. In a 2nd grade class I met Tyler Strickler, who was quite absorbed in his Harry Potter book (below left).



In the school basement the former cafeteria is now rented



out to a day care provider called "Rainbows and Rhymes."

In the school's library I met with the student council and about a dozen teachers and parents for a discussion. Their concerns included funding for gifted and talented students, special education students and class size reduction.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Cyrus District 611*



The Cyrus Math, Science, Technology Magnet Elementary School is a success story. This former K-12 school had to be creative to stay afloat, due to the financial crunch caused by declining enrollment. Now the 7-12th grade students in the district are tuitioned out to Morris, but the excellent program at the elementary school attracts 47% of its students from other districts.

**Cyrus Math Science Technology
Elementary School
Cyrus
January 23, 2002**



*Joan Thoren's fourth grade class posed with
Lt. Governor Schunk*

Also, the previous superintendent realized the district couldn't afford her salary, so she resigned. Now the district hires the services of Bob Vaadeland, the Superintendent of the Minnewaska District. This arrangement seems to be working quite well. Finally, the school operates a day care center, which serves as a marketing tool for attracting new students and volunteers to the school.

I happened to arrive during "pie day." Second and third graders in Kim Erdahl's class were scrambling around their room with various ingredients, busily making pies.

In the library I met with a small number of students and teachers for a forum. Many questions involved their continuing problems with declining enrollment, and the failure of many levies to pass in the suburban Metro area.



Lt. Governor Schunk congratulates volunteer Gen Gunvolson for her many years of service. Gen recently made chair packs for all the students.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Hancock District 768*

**Hancock Public School
Hancock
January 23, 2002**



Lt. Governor Schunk was guided around the school by Student Council President Jenny Noordmans and class president Jenny Hommerding



The Hancock District personifies togetherness. A few years back their community came together to pass a referendum to build an addition to the school, and it won 92% of the votes! One of the innovations is that the new library put all the books for the elementary and secondary students in one room. That's what I call togetherness! They don't lose sight of the past, either - the arch from the old high school is embedded in the wall of the library, as a reminder of the value of history. (Below)

The entire school gathered in the gym to greet me, and the music of the marching band sent our spirits soaring. To add to the excitement, a reporter from KCCO-TV in Alexandria stopped by to catch the action.

The 4th graders in the computer lab were busy graphing a very important list of priorities: they were making

computerized bar graphs and pie charts of their favorite foods for a unit on "Chance and Data."



At a conference with the principal, superintendent, a couple of board members and a couple of students, I was able to get a clear idea of how much everyone values the school. They appreciate its small size, and informal atmosphere. A student described it as "one big happy family." Academically, they have a 100% graduation rate; fiscally, they have a positive fund balance. Something is sure working right

in Hancock!

Photojournalist Bob Mattsen of KCCO-TV Alexandria caught the action following a forum in the school gym

Thanks to interactive television (ITV) these students can learn Spanish from a teacher at another school. Distance learning enables small schools to provide a greater variety of educational programs to their students



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Benson District 777*



**Benson Senior High School
Benson
January 24, 2002**

The Benson High School and Middle School has an amazing project going on in its graphics department. Students who become adept at the process of designing computer generated artwork and learn how to print the designs onto t-shirts, can join a student-run business called "Inkspot." They sell the t-shirts, and buy new equipment with the profits. My student guides were very excited about the project, and they mentioned that some students end up entering this profession. This project was initially designed for alternative learning students, but it has become so successful that everyone wants to get involved.



Creativity is also demonstrated in the school's other community partnerships. Declining enrollment is forcing the district to spend less, so they are planning on sharing a computer network administrator with the hospital and the county. They may also seek a cooperative arrangement with a business manager. City leaders are doing their best to strengthen the town's economy: they are developing a city-run business called FibroMinn, which will generate power by burning turkey manure. They sent a delegation to England to learn the technology for this \$140 million project.

I met with the Mayor Paul Kittelson and others in

a science lecture room for a forum. Many questions centered on ways to make education better funded. The mayor suggested that the state take over making contracts with teachers, so all teachers would be paid the same. I've heard this suggestion before, but the Governor and I fear it would subvert local control of districts, which is one of our top priorities.



The student guides for Lt. Governor Schunk expressed a great deal of interest and knowledge in the graphic design project, Inkspot. The students are, Brittany Shea, Darcie Larson and Jon Schrek.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley District 2888*



**Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley High School
Graceville
January 24, 2002**

The pleasant small town of Graceville is the home of C-G-B High School, where well-behaved students and a seasoned staff are taking the future by the horns. A good example is the technology lab I visited. Randy Giles, a former shop teacher, was busy teaching computer video editing in his Industrial Communications class, and Jill Doschadis, a former Home Ec teacher, was having students dismantle computers to learn about computer networking (right).



Another example of the old meeting the new was a "hi-tech" quilt. 11th grader Kayla Seifert generated digital photos for the family history quilt (left), while her mom and others helped with the (old-fashioned) sewing.

I learned that this district has a couple of one-room schools located in local Hutterite communities. The students typically drop



out when they turn 16, and then become apprentices in some of the Hutterite businesses. This group wants to limit the influence of the outside world, and embraces many traditional virtues, such as discipline, hard work and frugality.

At a forum in the high school's music room, I had a number of questions involving the K-12 budget and the Governor's recommendations. Since this district is experiencing declining enrollment, every dollar counts. Students asked questions about the Profile of Learning, school violence and the future of the public schools.



Lt. Governor Schunk was escorted by Student Council Vice President Amy Gibson and President Shantelle Needham

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Ortonville District 62*

**Ortonville Public School
Ortonville
January 24, 2002**



At Ortonville I saw students engaged in various ways of learning about business. In the business seminar the students were busy creating children's games that taught business concepts. Alexis Barr and Katie Thymian (at left) showed me their creation.

Across the hall I visited some students who are members of Business Professionals of America. They were busy creating a speech and a PowerPoint presentation about e-

commerce, as part of a competition with teams from other schools. They had to do a lot of research about the pros and cons of doing commerce on the Internet, which is a very hot topic right now. Both of these sorts of hands-on activities are sure to give students a greater insight into the complexities of business than they can learn simply by reading a book.

I was pleased to discover that Carol Engebretsen's 5th graders did research on my Web site. This class presented me with a booklet in which they had provided the illustrations to a story from a local writer.

A forum in the media center was enriched by the participation of State Representative Doug Peterson. I am grateful that he demonstrated his support for schools by coming to the meeting, as he has in my previous visits to his districts. He pointed out

quite clearly how he disagrees with the Governor's policies in a few areas. That's okay; a sharing of perspectives in an open debate is an essential part of the democratic process. We agreed to disagree!



In a project on measurement, this kindergarten student discovered she was 15 cookies tall!



Lt. Governor Schunk visited Jo Elliot's fifth grade class

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Hermantown District 700

Hermantown High School

Hermantown

January 28, 2002



Students from the Business Management and Job Skills class serve breakfast to the Lt. Governor in Hermantown High School's Hawk Cafe.

My visit to Hermantown High School began early in the morning - at 7:00 a.m., to be exact!

Fortunately, the students in Linnae Bosley's Business Management and Job Skills course provided breakfast for me at the Hawk Cafe.

The Job Skills class is a year-long course where students are introduced to the fundamentals of business management and learn about things like financial management, work-related laws affecting employment, inventory management, and the marketing functions of a business. The students apply the business management strategies they learn in class as they operate the Hawk Cafe. The cafe is open two mornings per week for breakfast. Profits from the cafe are returned to students and staff of the school community through GOMA (Give Our Money Away).

I also met in the auditorium with teachers, administrators and members of the community, including the school's Parent Involvement



The Lt. Governor meets with staff and parents from the Hermantown Area Family Resource Center.

Committee (PIC). I was thrilled to hear that the school has a PIC, because parent involvement is such a key element to student success.

My next stop was at the Hermantown Area Family Resource Center, where I toured the facility and then sat down with staff and parents to discuss their ideas and concerns. I was very interested to learn that the facility functions as a one-stop family center, offering various types of assistance, such as adult reading, writing and math skills. It also houses several different programs, including Headstart, ECFE and School Readiness.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Proctor District 704

Proctor High School

Proctor

January 28, 2002



Two houses being built by students in Proctor High School's Construction Occupations class. One of them is in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

At Proctor High School, I was escorted by Superintendent Carlson, who showed me two houses being built by students in Mr. Jim Bordson's Construction Occupations class. The course provides an introduction into a variety of trades, such as carpentry, heating, ventilating and electricity. The students in the class build a house each year, which is then auctioned off to the highest bidder. The money from the house sale is then given to the school to fund various programs. There is such a demand for the class that only seniors are allowed to take it.

Mr. Bordson also told me that many of the students have gone on to careers that utilize the skills they learned in this class! I think this is a wonderful example of how school can prepare students to be productive, successful members of society.

I also visited Mr. Jay Belcautro's DECA (Association of Marketing Studies) classroom.



The Lt. Governor poses with a group of students participating in the DECA - Association of Marketing Studies - program at Proctor High School.



A model train displayed in the Railway Pizzeria & Deli, Inc. that celebrates Proctor's railroad heritage.

The students, who have completed a year of marketing study, have created projects that impact the community and region and teach teamwork and the skills they have learned in the classroom. What a great way for the students to bring their talents and skills into the community!

Before leaving Proctor, I had lunch at the Railway Pizzeria & Deli, Inc., which is owned and operated by Bill Shelton. The restaurant actually began as a DECA project while Bill was a student at Proctor High School, and it was so successful that Bill has continued to run it now that he has graduated!

Bill explained to me that the Railway is part of Proctor's proud railroad heritage. His grandfather, Larry Greiten, owned and operated Greiten Electric & Gift Shop in the 1940s at the same location.



The Lt. Governor with Bill Shelton at the Railway Pizzeria.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Wrenshall District 100*

**Wrenshall School
Wrenshall
January 28, 2002**

I visited a wide range of students at Wrenshall's K-12 school. In Mrs. Helen Kinnunen's second grade class the students were very busy with Investigations Math, which is part of the school's integrated math program. The integrated math program is funded through a federal grant and the school is in its second year of the program. By the end of the third year, all grades will be involved.

My second stop was in Mrs. Denise North's civics class. Members of the school's student council also joined us. We had an interesting discussion about topics like declining school enrollment in rural Minnesota, and the students had many questions about the Governor's proposed budget.



Wrenshall School



The Lt. Governor meets with students from Mrs. Denise North's Civics class.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Mountain Iron-Buhl District 712*

**Merritt Elementary School
Mountain Iron
January 29, 2002**



Banner hanging in the entryway of Merritt Elementary School welcoming Lt. Governor Schunk

Then it was on to Mrs. Marsha Miller's second grade class. Mrs. Miller is a recipient of the Minnesota Forestry Educator of the Year award. The students were working on a brainstorming exercise that asked them to complete tasks like brainstorming a list of trees, a list of forest animals, a list of forest birds and elements of a forest habitat.

The class also had a surprise for me: A cake baked by Mrs. Niska that welcomed me to the school! It looked delicious and I asked the

Visiting Merritt Elementary School was a great way to start the day. Right when I walked in the front door, I was greeted by a huge banner welcoming me to the school!

After saying hello to some students and staff in the school's entrance, I was given a tour of the building and got to see some of the successful innovations the school has been developing. For example, the school has 692-seat auditorium that is used for community events as well as school performances.

I also stopped to chat with students enjoying the school's breakfast program.



students and Mrs. Miller to thank Mrs. Niska for the time and effort she put into baking this beautiful cake.

Two Merritt Elementary students enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast in the school's cafeteria before school.



The Lt. Governor helps students in Mrs. Miller's second grade class work on a brainstorming exercise.

After working on their brainstorming exercise, the students recited a poem - from memory - about the importance of listening. I was very impressed by the students' listening skills and their ability to focus on the task at hand.

My visit to Merritt Elementary School concluded with a meeting with teachers, administrators, parents and several high school students. We talked about diverse topics ranging from rising costs in healthcare, to operating levies, to special ed funding and open enrollment for schools. I really enjoyed hearing their thoughts and suggestions.



The Lt. Governor - assisted by one of Mrs. Miller's second grade students - displays the cake made by Mrs. Niska



A close-up of Mrs. Niska's cake.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Eveleth-Gilbert District 2154

Eveleth-Gilbert High School

Eveleth

January 29, 2002



Fourth graders are introduced to the Adventures in Science and Math program.

The purpose of Adventures in Science and Math for Fourth Graders is to give high school students real world experience in teaching and to better prepare elementary students for future classes and the Graduation Standards through fun and exciting projects. Students will explore math and science through experiments taught by high school students under the supervision of Mrs. Hendrickson.

At Eveleth-Gilbert High School I got to witness some future teachers in action. Elementary students were being introduced to a new program called Adventures in Science and Math for Fourth Graders. The program is a cooperative effort between elementary teachers and Mrs. Amy Hendrickson (a high school chemistry and physics teacher) and several high school students. The program is funded by a grant from Education Minnesota.



Fourth grade students talk about the Adventures in Science and Math program with one of the high school students who will be assisting Mrs.



An eleventh grade student works on an experiment with a fourth grade student.

Before leaving the school, I met with a group of students in a twelfth grade AP English class. They told me that they are currently studying logic and reasoning - two very important skills to have in life! I spent about an hour with these students and we talked about Minnesota's economy and its impact on the job market. I could tell these students were thinking a lot about the next stage of their life and how best to prepare for a successful future.

Hendrickson.

I was particularly excited to hear that the program reaches out to young women and encourages their interest in science and math. When I was a student, women were often discouraged from taking math and science classes, and were a minority when they did take them! I hope the young women of today have more educational opportunities in these areas.



Lt. Governor Schunk observes two students working on a chemistry experiment.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Virginia District 706

Parkview Learning Center

Virginia

January 29, 2002



Lt. Governor Schunk meets with parents, teachers, administrators and high school students.

My last stop on this trip was at Parkview Learning Center, which is an early childhood through grade three school. Parkview is a strong Title I school and one that has a lot of community support and parent involvement. For example, the school was the recipient of a grant from the Target Corporation, which enabled them to build an interactive library where parents can work with their children. The school received additional grants from businesses like the Mobile Corporation and local companies.



Third grade students who are appearing in "The Nutcracker Suite" in order to fulfill the third grade graduation standard for artistic expression.

I saw many students during my tour of the school, including a kindergarten class and Mrs. Salin's second grade class. They were very polite, and when I asked them what message I should bring back to the Capitol for Governor Ventura, they said, "Tell him that we are very good students." So I did!

After the tour, we went to the school's library for a performance by third graders who are appearing in "The Nutcracker Suite" in order to fulfill the graduation standard for artistic expression. I was overwhelmed by their talent and very excited and proud of how successfully the Graduation Standards have been implemented.

After the performance, I sat down with teachers, parents and some high school students to hear their concerns about education. They listed declining enrollment in rural Minnesota and early childhood and family education as areas of particular concern.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Grygla District 447*



**Grygla High School
Grygla
December 10, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk visited Debra Haugen's computer class

Technology is all around us at Grygla. For starters, we visited Debra Haugen's junior computer technology class. Students there are studying historical events, then putting together a Web pages on their subject.

Then there's Interactive Television, which the district uses to pull in Spanish I and II classes from Oklee, and sends out business law class to surrounding districts. This is the tenth year the district has been using ITV, and it has paid off its capital costs, so it will be much less costly from now on.

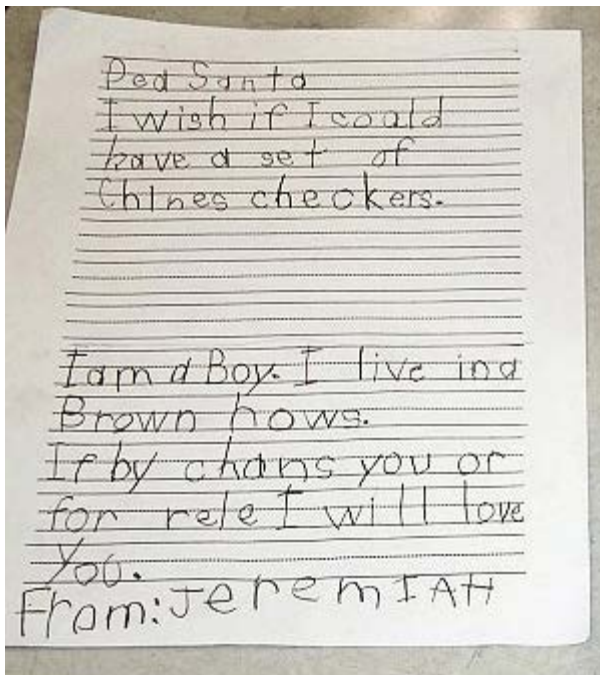
They have something at this school that you don't see in a lot of districts: a foster grandparent program. It helps the kids connect with older people from the community. I met volunteer Tom Wailing, who was working with Kyle Klammar (right). There were also grandparent volunteers from the high school helping out



in various classrooms.

And there is more technology on the way. The district won a technology grant to establish a mobile computer laboratory, which allows students to stay in their classroom (and desks designed for them) and use wireless technology to integrate a writing and reading curriculum.

The district is in its third year of using of Accelerated Reader program, primarily to provide basic skills to elementary students and those preparing for 8th grade basic skills test. The results have been good, and it is only the third year the program has been in place.



Here's a timely sample of practical writing: a letter to Santa. Students typed their letters on computers.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Goodridge District 561*

**Goodridge High School
Goodridge
December 10, 2001**

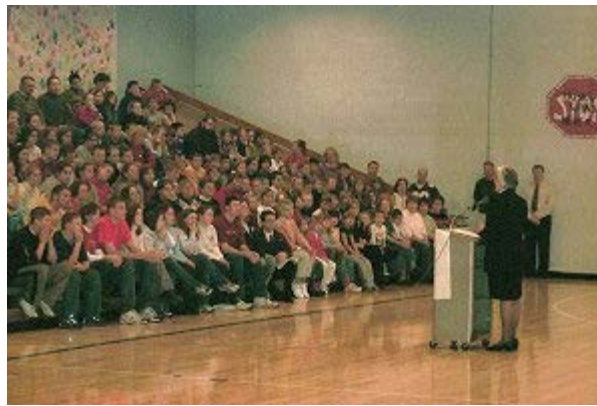


Creativity merged with patriotism in these posters welcoming Lieutenant Governor Schunk

My visit to Goodridge coincided with the holidays, and I got to Connie Moe's 3rd grade class at just the right time. They had been discussing traditions, and after I read to them, they wanted to know some of my favorite Christmas traditions. That was easy to answer. I love picking out and cutting a tree to decorate, and then making it beautiful, decorating it with apples, oranges and homemade popcorn chains.

We also talked about one of Governor Ventura's favorite topics, personal responsibility. I reminded the students how important it is, even when you are very young. As a girl, I was expected to help milk cows on the family farm before and after school, beginning in the first grade. I think having chores like that really helped me establish a good sense of personal responsibility that I still carry with me today.

Lt. Governor Schunk held a forum in the school gymnasium to discuss education policy and to answer student questions



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Red Lake Falls District 630*

Lafayette High School
Red Lake Falls
December 10, 2001



Built in 1997, this is a state-of-the-art school, particularly in its energy efficiency. It uses geothermal heating and cooling, taking advantage of inexpensive resources straight from the earth. Clay from the earth is the medium for a beautiful wall mural inside the school. Students and community members designed ceramic tiles, and professional artists did the rest.

I stopped by a synergistics lab, which combines an 8th grade family and consumer sciences class and a 9th grade career exploration class. My guides, Keilani Kouchi, Lee Zutz and Thomas Johanneck took me on a thorough tour. Synergistic lab stations cover several subject areas, including personal finance, personal health and fitness, cooking and nutrition, clothes and fabric, sewing,

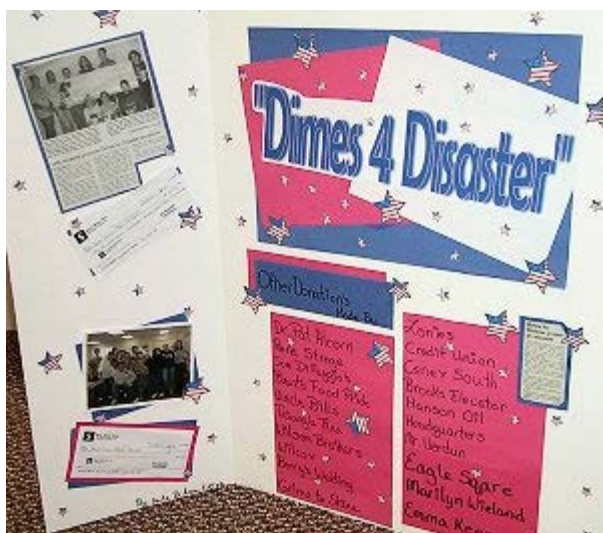
personal and group social issues, interior design and budgeting, children's story book development and breakfast nutrition.



Lee Zutz works on a project for a consumer science class

Each module also includes career exploration as part of the curriculum and its exercises. What a great learning environment! This is the 5th year the lab has been doing this kind of integration.

You can tell how much the arts are valued here. The school has a trophy case similar to the kind that celebrate athletics, but this one shows off students' artistic accomplishments.



Students respond to September 11th with a project called, "Dimes 4 Disaster." The proceeds go to the Red Cross.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Crookston District 593*



**Washington Elementary School
Crookston
December 11, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk reads with a student

Students at Washington Elementary are the beneficiaries of a 21st Century Learning grant, and you can see the results. It is a federal grant used to purchase technology for educational software, and to provide instruction on language, grammar and math for special education and after-school students.

In fact, special education students get some important extra attention. Teachers, parents, students and even the foster grandparents program provide additional instruction and support for the students. The peer helpers come from the America Reads program.

Reading help for 1st-3rd graders comes from the nearby University of Minnesota-Crookston, whose athletes volunteer as reading mentors in the "Book Buddies" program. They help students of all reading levels.

The 3rd grade math class, the Investigations Math program, is using technology to study geometry. They use something called Tumbling Tetrominoes. In my day, we just had plain old dominoes!



[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Plummer District 628*



**Pershing High School
Plummer
December 11, 2001**

*Lt. Governor Schunk addresses a
forum in the school's media center*

The Pershing High student council greeted me, and served as gracious hosts. This school has a "temporary" wing--that's 35 years old!

Still, they are keeping up with technology here, as I quickly found out. Students demonstrated their ability, aptitude and interest in using technology. I toured their technology lab and was quite impressed with the student-designed Web pages I looked at. They certainly get their share of hands-on experience using hardware and software, everything from still photos to creating videos as well as their Web pages. The district recently received a \$50,000 technology grant that has helped make it all possible.

I had a chance to stop by and observe the learning at three classes: Stacy Berberick's, Sharon Rosten's 1st grade class and Kristin Norland's 2nd grade



class. The kids were not only learning,
they were having a good time and a
good educational experience.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Oklee District 627*



**Oklee Public School
Oklee
December 11, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk visits a senior economics class

Members of the student senate served as our hosts. One of our first stops was Mrs. Peterson's senior economics class. Talk about making your curriculum relevant! The class is studying aspects of Major League Baseball's proposal to contract and state revenues, two topics that are in the news every day.

At Mrs. Hegge's 5th grade class, juniors and seniors stop by every day to provide mentoring and tutoring. The day we were there they were working on spelling.

The school staff points to the Student Council as doing an outstanding job of showing support. The council gave teachers gifts of treats during Education Week and are sponsoring a Christmas party for elementary students.

Lt. Governor Schunk joins student council leaders



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Win-E-Mac District 2609*



**Win-E-Mac Public School
Erskine
December 11, 2001**

This third grade class studies Russian language

This K-12 school was built in 1998, but they are currently adding four classrooms because of increasing needs. The additions include: an Early Childhood classroom, which goes hand in hand with the all-day, everyday kindergarten they already have; a computer lab for the elementary wing; another computer lab in the high school wing and a foreign language classroom. Why the need for more space? The school has had increased enrollment the past few years.

That increased enrollment includes some 76 students from Russian Orthodox families. The first of those families was traveling through the area and liked what they saw, so they stayed and others followed. The school now provides Russian language instruction in grades 1-12, and as part of community education. In Candace Haauen's 3rd grade class, teacher Lindsay Rettman stopped by to help the students with their Russian. They students learned greetings and worked on booklets about Russian people, history and culture.

There is also a Chinese influence here. The district has hosted two Chinese teachers and plans to host two more. There is also talk of district teachers traveling to China.



*Lt. Governor Schunk poses
with some of the students at
Win-E-Mac*

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Climax-Shelly District 592*



**Climax-Shelly Public School
Climax
December 12, 2001**

"Teacher of the Year" Devery Feichert leads a debate on the pros and cons of home schooling in his behavioral communications class

I stopped by Devery Feichert's English class to see Climax-Shelly's Teacher of the Year in action. The students were discussing a very pertinent topic: "Home schooling versus public schooling." It was part of their behavioral communications course and helped satisfy the interpersonal communication Graduation Standard.

This school is proud of its success in winning technology components and grants. Four years ago, they received 14 used, refurbished computers through the Computers for Schools program, which school officials described as a "godsend." Since then, they've added desktops, software and a network server, and leased mobile computer labs, by winning competitive technology grant awards. They also participate in a 13-school public-private partnership created by area school technology coordinators to help provide staff development and share ideas and information about technology uses.

And students and staff demonstrated their technology by showing me a digital movie they made called "Who We Are and What We Are Proud Of: A Bird's-Eye View of Our School." This excellent movie showcased the pre-school program (including the grandparents who provide volunteer help), a classroom spelling/basketball quiz, a classroom of students who received a Harry Potter book from their teacher to encourage and reward their reading efforts, and students who serve as peer mentors helping younger students (often their younger siblings) build Christmas wreaths.

The school also enjoys strong community support and volunteering. For example, it won a Northwest Minnesota Foundation grant to pay for paint to spruce up the school, and volunteers from all three of the communities within the school district pitched in to help with the work of brightening things up.



Lt. Governor Schunk participates in a discussion in the school's media center

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Fertile-Beltrami District 599*



**Fertile-Beltrami School
Fertile
December 12, 2001**

*Lt. Governor Schunk with technology students
Steven Fick and Micah Gast*

Technology is the word at Fertile-Beltrami, where students are doing all kinds of things with computer technology. At Mrs. Halvorson's Computer II class, students showed me music videos they created using mixing photos and video clips with music and other audio. And that's just the beginning.

In fact, there is nothing these kids can't do!

The students also create and sell senior yearbook videos, are working on a promotional tape for the town, and another for the school, for new residents and new students. They also produce sports highlights tapes for their school's teams.

As if that isn't enough, they also develop and maintain the city's Web page and use the revenue they receive from advertisers for scholarships for business and accounting students, and for some school functions.

Students from the class meet with the business owners and develop the sponsor's web advertisement; three students who serve as webmasters take the individual components and integrate them into the Web



site. A school bulletin is also part of the Web site, and the addition has increased the number of visitors to the site, particularly from parents who like the increased access to the updated information. Because many businesses don't have high-speed Web access, or the technical capability to create Web sites or pages, the partnership has been a successful and beneficial one.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Fosston District 601*



**Magelssen Elementary School
Fosston
December 12, 2001**

*Students are absorbed in the work
in the school's computer lab*

My tour in Fosston was highlighted by a trip to the school's computer lab. The computers were paid for by grant from the local telephone company, while the school used Title I and local money to buy software from Computer Curriculum Corporation. The software covers math and reading and allows self-paced instruction for each student. Students have 15 minute sessions four-five days a week in the lab.

The classroom teacher, principal Greg Bruce and lab manager Mr. Retter assist students as they work through their lesson. School officials believe the use of the software will help prepare their students for the state assessments in grades 3 and 5, because of the focus on reading and the associative math concepts that are the core of the curriculum.

The district also uses Accelerated Reader program to instruct students on reading and help them better develop their skills.

*Lt. Governor Schunk
answers student
questions in a forum*



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Parkers Prairie District 547

Parkers Prairie High School

Parkers Prairie

November 7, 2001



These geography students discussed a project that involved the investigation of ten different states

Current events, school finance and education policy were the big topics in my discussion with students from Kelly Mesker's civics class, members of the Student Council and other Parkers Prairie High School students and staff.

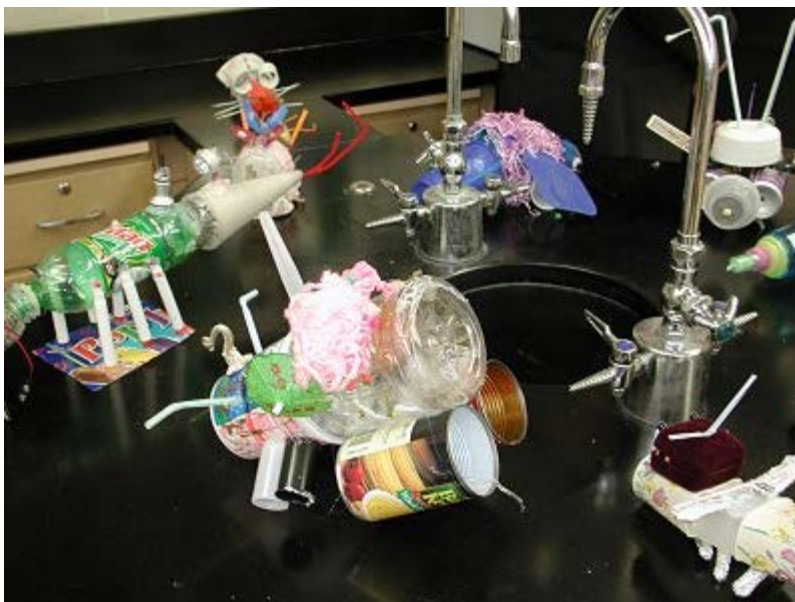
A lot of people had specific questions about education finance. That made sense because voters in the district had just approved an excess levy of \$400 per student for 10 years. That money will primarily go for teachers' salaries and technology.

Dean Yocum's 8th grade geography class presented an overview of their WebQuest project, where they studied the people and geography of 10 different states. As part of their project, they created a travel budget and wrote to officials in their selected states to learn more about attractions in those states. The students told me they enjoyed the hands-on approach to learning organizational skills, research skills, and money management.

Heather Netland's 7th grade science class created "Junk Bugs" as part of their studies of insects. (photo on right) These students, in addition to learning about insects and biological metamorphosis, learned that science can be fun. They incorporated electrical devices

to add motion and sound to
their creative critters.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Eagle Valley District 2759

Eagle Valley Elementary School

Clarissa

November 7, 2001



Students who use the Accelerated Reader program learn to read better, and they also tend to check out more library books

While some people fear that computers will replace books, the staff at Eagle Valley Elementary has discovered that a computer-assisted reading program actually encourages students to read more books. They used the Accelerated Reader, a teacher-directed program that uses computer software to help measure the progress of students in developing their reading skills and comprehension. Plus, school staff report a dramatic increase in books checked out of the school library. This shows how students can become hooked on reading once they learn the basic skills.

When a student reads a book and completes the accompanying test, the computer program generates a diagnostic report. The teacher uses this analysis along with other recommendations to guide the student's reading skills to the next level. At Eagle View Elementary, students are further encouraged to enhance their reading through prize fairs held two times a year. As they read books they earn points, which they redeem at the fair for fabulous prizes. A hallway display of racing car cutouts (below) shows how students compare with each other.

Since the Accelerated Reader program worked so well, the school implemented a similar approach to teaching math concepts, using Star Math software. For most students Star Math reinforces classroom teaching, but high achieving students use the program to learn more advanced material. School officials say

the program is popular with students, and they are adjusting their lesson plans and assignments accordingly.



Representative Mary Ellen Otremba and Lt. Governor Schunk listen to a teacher's explanation of the Accelerated Reader Program

School administrators are pleased with another kind of math: district voters approved a levy of \$300 per student for ten years. This money will help compensate for lost revenue due to declining enrollment, and to maintain current programs and teachers.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Bertha-Hewitt District 786

Bertha-Hewitt Public School

Bertha

November 7, 2001



Bertha-Hewitt's elementary students gave me a warm welcome to their school, which serves students from Head Start and pre-school programs through grade 12. After a discussion with student council members, government students, staff and community members, I learned about two long-standing school traditions.

Staff and students are very proud of an award for 29 years of participation by their 6th grade students in the Long Lake Conservation Center program. The program has been kept alive over the years through community support, which supplemented school funds. The center is a non-profit accredited learning facility near Palisade, which offers hands-on learning aligned with the state's graduation standards. Students told me that during their three-day program they learned academic skills, and much, much more. They learned how to cooperate with each other, how to help each other - and they generated lifelong memories.



Staff members display pictures and an award from their Long Lake conservation trip

Another school tradition that has survived the budget challenges small districts face is the school band's biennial trip to New York City. The trip gives the band members an opportunity to learn about the history, art and culture of the nation's East Coast. Plus the students have the opportunity to showcase their musical talents for appreciative spectators. Students in last summer's trip toured historical and cultural sites in the New York City and Boston areas. Once again, community support helps to make these trips possible. Another sign of community support for education: district voters approved an excess levy of \$126 per student for ten years. The funds will be targeted for operating costs and staff salaries.

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Fergus Falls District 544

McKinley Elementary School

Fergus Falls

November 8, 2001



Lt. Gov. Schunk with principal Jon Harris (left) and National Teacher of the Year Mark Boen

As a lifelong educator I have always felt that teachers need greater respect. That's why it was a wonderful experience to meet Mark Boen, who has recently been named as WalMart's first National Teacher of the Year. But when I met Mark, he was more eager to talk about the reading achievements of his third grade class than his award. He told me about their love for reading, and how an emphasis on reading is integrated throughout the entire school day, including the use of the Accelerated Reader program. That's a sign of an excellent teacher - students always come first!

Mark actually gives much credit to the parents and students who nominated him for his award.

That's why he has asked them to help decide how to spend his prize so that it will benefit his classroom and the entire school.





A visit behind the scenes at MCK-TV, featuring student anchors Cristina Masten and Matthew Schneeberger

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lt. Gov. Schunk reads with a McKinley student

After meeting a national celebrity, it was my turn to become a media star--on MCK-TV. That's the school's closed circuit news program. The student anchor asked me to share some of my experiences as a teacher and lieutenant governor. I even repeated my favorite piece of advice to students: "Do your best, and be the best you can be." After the interview, student anchors Cristina Masten and Matthew Schneeberger accepted a donation of the book "Minnesota, a Land of Innovations" on behalf of their school library.



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Melrose District 740*



A patriotic project from Melrose students

**Melrose High School
Melrose
November 9, 2001**

Connecting ideas to the real world is the theme at Melrose High School. Students in Mrs. Masford's 7th grade math class demonstrated their hands-on and team learning skills by designing and building math cubes and model homes. Student projects in Mr. Dersha's 7th grade social studies class took a patriotic turn: they built models of the White House.

The work of students in Mr. Bahr's social studies class served as a backdrop for a quick visit and discussion of governance and current events.

At a forum I learned that practical matters are on the minds of everyone. Students, teachers, school board and PTA members, and school administrators shared their questions and concerns about such topics as education finance, testing, volunteering, and attracting new teachers to replace retirees. The concern of local citizens for education extends to their pocketbooks: District voters approved a three-year excess levy of \$444 per student, primarily to maintain current teaching staff and programs.



Lt. Gov. Schunk speaks with students as Sen. Michelle Fischbach and Rep. Doug Stang look on

Return toTop



Lt. Gov. Schunk and the Melrose student council



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Rocori District 750*



Seniors welcomed Lt. Governor Schunk to the Rocori Middle School, because the senior center shares the facility

Rocori Middle School Cold Spring November 9, 2001

Students, staff and visitors get a lesson in intergenerational studies every time they walk into Rocori Middle School. That's because the school is co-located with Cold Spring's senior citizen center. The partnership between the school district and the senior center started as a financial and facilities relationship, and quickly evolved into a caring and sharing partnership between generations. Lifelong learning has become a reality.

An Intergenerational Committee consisting of students and seniors meets to plan programs, projects and activities, including the SAINT, or Senior And Intergenerational Next-to-New Toy, Project. The district's community education program is the umbrella for the SAINT Project. Activities include the repair and refurbishing of bikes, trikes and scooters for distribution at Christmas, along with new toys and games made from wood scrap donations. They also collect donated food to distribute to families in need.

Seniors also volunteer around the school - I



Lt. Governor Schunk poses with student council members who participated in an intergenerational discussion

Note: Rocori's unique name comes from

the first two letters of three of the towns
served by the district: Rockville, Cold
Spring and Richmond.

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Paynesville District 741*



Patriotism turns up in many different forms at Paynesville Area High School

It was a different tune when I listened to local concerns at a forum with students, teachers, administrators, parents, school board and community members. They shared with their frustration and displeasure with the education funding policies. This stemmed from a failed vote for an excess levy this year. Several of the forum's attendees also voiced their concerns and criticisms of the history and goals of the state's

**Paynesville Area High School
Paynesville
November 9, 2001**

Students have plenty to sing about at the Paynesville Area High School. I enjoyed a wonderful, patriotic performance by the second graders. The most memorable lines from the musical were, "America may not be perfect, but we're working on it." It was a stirring performance celebrating freedom in America, and it also marked the first elementary production performed in the new auditorium in the High School. The auditorium and a new fitness center were designed and built to serve all the schools in the district, as well as the community. They are the result of a successful capital levy campaign.



graduation standards. I explained the great advantage students have when they earn a diploma that spells out how hard they worked and how prepared they are for life after high school.

Lt. Gov. Schunk takes questions from Paynesville students

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Nett Lake District 707

Nett Lake Elementary School

Nett Lake

November 27, 2001



The first thing you see when arriving at Nett Lake Elementary on the Bois Forte Indian Reservation is a beautiful mosaic mural on the outside of the school. The inside is equally beautiful, with a circular atrium, which serves as a gathering place for both academic meetings and traditional ceremonies..

There are only 61 students in this preschool through sixth grade, but the school building itself gets plenty of use. The building also houses the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe's human service agency as well as the Headstart program. Having the additional tenants helps with building upkeep.

I had the pleasure of seeing a wonderful ceremony with teachers and tribal elders on the drums, and the kids singing and dancing. It



Lt. Governor Schunk joins in traditional dancing at Nett Lake

was a very moving experience, and an impressive example of cultural excellence.

Like other rural areas, this one has been hurt by decreased funding and the slowing economy. The school receives funding from both the state and federal governments. The nearby casino, Fortune Bay, donated computers for a brand new computer lab.

This community is not only very small, it's also quite remote. The high school students have to bus to Orr, and they have to go even farther if they continue their education at the nearest community college.

I have been quite pleased to see an encouraging trend: more Native Americans are graduating from high school and college than ever before, and it's schools like Nett Lake that help get them off to a great start.



Lt. Governor Schunk listens as pre-schoolers speak Ojibway

[Return to Top](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not



Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Grand Rapids District 318*



The snow delayed the Lt. Governor's arrival, but it did not deter these students from enjoying recess outdoors

**Southwest Elementary School
Grand Rapids
November 27, 2001**

Visiting Grand Rapids brought back memories of the Governor's Fishing Opener held here a few years ago. The people at that event were extremely friendly, and I found out that was no fluke: everyone at Grand Rapids Southwest Elementary was just as welcoming and hospitable.

They were also very flexible. The weather caused us to be late, but the folks at the school just juggled a few things on the schedule and everything worked out fine.

After an enlightening question and answer session, we had a remarkable visit to Mrs. Guttormson's second grade class. The rules in the class, which are posted, are very simple: do unto others (the Golden Rule), and treat people with respect. Every student welcomed me individually, and then gathered in a circle and greeted each other by passing a ball around. The person who caught the ball was acknowledged by the person who threw it, with the whole exercise fostering unity and respect. Then they passed a beanbag around, something that got everyone involved. I'm proud to say I took part in the beanbag circle, and we tied the class record of 14 seconds!

Students in Mrs.



Guttormson's second grade class pass a ball around as a way of encouraging interaction and respect

The students also sang songs in English and Spanish, including "The More We Get Together." What made it especially remarkable was that they were all native English speakers who have learned Spanish in school. The versatile Mrs. Guttormson accompanied them on the guitar.

Next came poetry reading, which helps not only reading skills, but performance skills as well. The students read in unison and were extremely enthusiastic about it, especially a post-Thanksgiving poem about eating too much!

All in all, it was a very warm, hospitable visit on a cold, snowy day.



No visit to Grand Rapids seems complete without a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Judy Garland

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Nashwauk-Keewatin District 319*



*Snow falls on the old school bell in front of
Nashwauk-Keewatin High School*

**Nashwauk-Keewatin High School
Nashwauk
November 27, 2001**

I feel strangely at home on the iron range. Maybe it's because so many people come up to me and say "dobar dan," which is Croatian for "hello." Immigrants from the former Yugoslavia are numerous here, and they know I'm of 100% Croatian stock.

The Nashwauk area has plenty experience facing the economic woes caused by the shutdown of taconite plants. They experienced a tremendous setback in the 1980s and they've learned to adapt. The school district started implementing advanced information technology in the schools years ago, and they are staying ahead of the curve. Superintendent John Klarich tells me that their strengths are technology and vocational education.

These strengths are the centerpiece of an exciting new project called the Itasca Educational Center, a partnership involving the city, the school district, Itasca Community College and local businesses. The center will be attached to the high school, and will offer vocational training in computers, mining technology and other skills used in light industry. The major business partner is the Minnesota Iron and Steel Company,



a major business that plans to begin producing steel in Minnesota in three years. Minnesota has produced mountains of iron ore and taconite over the years, but they've never made steel here.

Ron Tichlich, (right) a former state legislator, now works for Minnesota Iron and Steel. He explains to Lt. Governor Schunk why his business is interested in the Itasca Educational Center. Superintendent John Klarich listens.

The plan is to have the Itasca Educational Center train students and retrain workers from other fields to work in the new steel plant and the various spin-off businesses.

Nashwauk Mayor Bob Fragnito (who I once faced in a debate during the campaign for governor in 1998) told me of another exciting school-community partnership: the town's public library is being incorporated into the school's library. This allows better use of the school building on evening and weekends when it's usually closed, plus it saves the city the cost of building a library!

The district and community leaders agree that the area's biggest resources are the people, and that's why education and vocational training are so important. At a forum I saw for myself how impressive the students are. They asked intelligent questions about education policy, the local economy and the effects of September 11th on Minnesota. I left knowing that the future of this corner of the iron range is in good hands.



Lt. Governor Schunk answered questions from students at a forum in the school gymnasium

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)



For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Deer River District 317*



Lt. Governor Schunk observes the Reading Recovery program with Michael Tibbets and Denise Drennen

**King Elementary School
Deer River
November 28, 2001**

It's all about reading at King Elementary, where students have improved their reading consistently since the district redesigned its curriculum in 1998. The idea was to make sure all the teachers are using the same strategies when it comes to concepts, priorities and language. The result has been a steady climb with students at or above state requirements.

I observed the Reading Recovery program, an intervention program where teachers work one on one with students. There is an intervention program for all levels, up to sixth grade. The more advanced readers have Harry Potter books incorporated into their Accelerated Reading program, which has computer assisted quizzes to test reading comprehension.

The school chose these programs because research shows they work, and they're working quite well here.

Administrators are also proud to have all-day, everyday kindergarten at the school. They're using federal money, but hoping that someday the state can provide the funding.

I participated in a forum with all 460 students, all of whom sat in perfectly

straight lines. We found we had a lot in common, most notably the fact that many of them said they had milked cows at a young age, just as I had.

Twenty-five percent of the students are Native American, but the school doesn't have any special cultural programs for them. I recommended contacting the Indian Education Program at the Department of Children, Families and Learning for some ideas.



Patriotism and art combine beautifully in this Peace Quilt created by students and staff at King Elementary

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
 For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Greenway District 316*



**VanDyke Elementary
School, Coleraine
November 28, 2001**

*The "School By The Lake"
has one of the most
beautiful settings of any
school in the state*

Rarely do I see such a lovely setting for a school as VanDyke Elementary, "The School by the Lake." The timeless beauty and serenity of Trout Lake stands in stark contrast to the passionate struggle to meet the economic and social challenges in the school and in the community. This Iron Range community desperately needs economic development, and the ill effects of that fact show inside the school. For one thing, the school's media center



is loaded with the most archaic computers I have seen in some time.

At a forum with the elementary students I asked what their school needs the most. They yelled in unison, "COMPUTERS!"

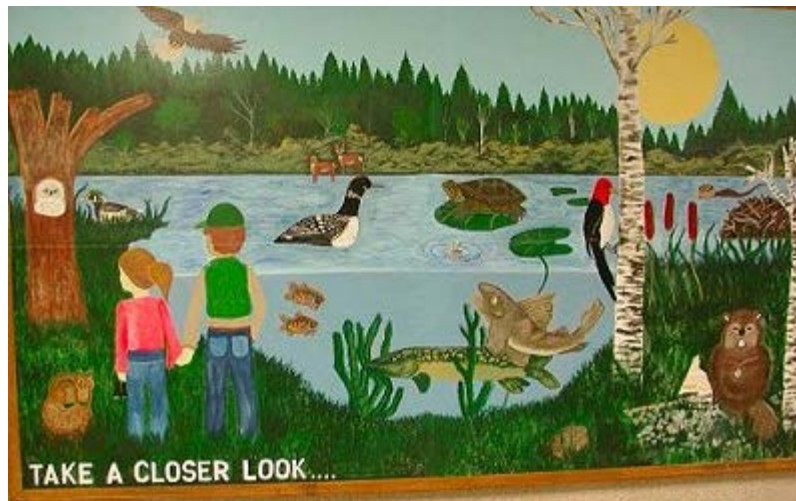


That was one indication of the strong spirit within the school, which is matched by the beauty of their lake. The lake is a symbol of pride, but it is also an outdoor laboratory for science students. Monarch butterflies and a host of other creatures inhabit the lake and the shore. This diversity is depicted in a beautiful mural inside the school. In a tragic irony, Trout Lake has no trout; they were killed

off years ago by pollution from the mines.

The school has also initiated Project Read, which encourages parents to read to young children. In fact, the school presents all newborns with a reading kit, including a book and a bib.

The community responds with strong support. Local voters have supported every referendum that has come along. School pride is especially strong among senior citizens.



Biodiversity is the theme of this mural inside Vandyke Elementary School

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Hill City District #2*



Reading buddies Courtney Johnson and Lee Olson look on while Lt. Governor Schunk reads a story

**Hill City Public School
Hill City
November 29, 2001**

The only thing more impressive than the school in Hill City is the people inside it.

The school is only 18 years old, but it looks even more modern than that. Not surprisingly, technology is the big emphasis, and students are fortunate enough to have a beautiful computer lab, which was funded in part by a technology literacy grant.

Unfortunately, this district is losing enrollment, so it is also losing funding. It's a beautiful tourism area, but the seasonal residents who own high-value homes drive up the

property values for the year-round residents. The result is the community desperately needs more affordable housing.

These issues were discussed with the help of a broad group of key players: the mayor, a county commissioner, the superintendent, the principal and a school board member. I appreciate the effort it took to organize such a meaty discussion. It gave me a good grasp



Principal James Smokrovich and superintendent Brad Johnson welcome Lt. Governor Schunk to Hill City

of the complex challenges facing the community.

I had a chance to see some excellent peer tutoring at work, when I stopped in a reading buddies class. Fourth graders there are helping the first graders read, and I was able to see and hear the results firsthand.

I also stopped at a civics class and heard a lot of good questions from students who obviously know their stuff!

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Northland District 118*



10th grader Tom Dollins accepts a book about Minnesota on behalf of the school

**Northland High School
Remer
November 29, 2001**



The bell rings through history in front of the school

The students at Remer have a distinct way of learning about business: monograms.

They run a monogram business as an extension of the home economics program. It's a profit-making venture, with the profits going back into the business for things like new equipment. Their clients include everyone from the school band to local resorts.

Tourism and logging are the main industries here, so the highest-priced lakefront homes are owned by seasonal residents. As a result, students and teachers complain that the community doesn't receive adequate tax support from those who can best afford it.

Likewise, the community has declined to pass a referendum, so the school is definitely having some financial difficulty.

I would like to especially thank Denny Ganz, a school board member who warmly hosted our gathering.

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Nevis District 308*



**Nevis Public School
Nevis
November 29, 2001**

Nevis was a tremendous finale to our three-day trip to Northern Minnesota. It's a great example of a very successful district, and it shows, all the way from the superintendent to the students. Our host was a senior Laura Gooch, who is planning to go to college, and then medical school. She was playing mom for the day, caring for a toy baby that, like real babies, cries at inopportune moments. It's part of a program in which all seniors take care of the baby at some point.

Laura is involved with FCCLA, the Family Community Career Leaders of America. It's a service organization that promotes leadership, and her leadership skills shined through as she took as around the school. An articulate group of FCCLA members described how their organization creates public awareness on such

issues as anorexia, domestic violence and school bullies. Members take turns hosting family recreation events at the school on Sundays. I fully expect these students to be future leaders of their communities.



This school is so popular in the area that nearly 40 percent of these K-12 students attend as part of open enrollment. In fact, the school can't even accept everyone who wants to get in.

Obviously, there's no declining enrollment problem here, so the school is financially stable. A levy which recently passed (by just 11 votes) will also help with funding.



Lt. Governor Schunk and members of the Nevis FCCLA

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
 For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Lynd District 415*



Lt. Governor Schunk addresses the entire Lynd student body

everything from their gym and cafeteria, to the tables and chairs the school owns. Various parts of the community rent the facilities for events, and that rent paid for a new set of lights for the gym.

High school-age students go to Marshall--the district pays tuition for them to go there. But some kids who have moved to Marshall miss Lynd so much, the district buses them back!

Overall, about one quarter of the kids are in English Language Learning, because they come from Spanish-speaking countries.

I felt very welcome during our forum at the gym. It was refreshing to see every student was paying such close attention to each other's questions. When I asked asked them the best thing about their school, there were just too

**Lynd Public School
Lynd
October 9, 2001**

If there's one thing the kids at Lynd love, it's the size of their school. You can fit all 112 students into the gym, and that's where they greeted me for my visit.

A school this small needs to do some creative thinking to pay they bills, and at Lynd they take an entrepreneurial approach. They bring in revenue by renting out



Lt. Governor Schunk and Lynd Superintendent and Principal Faye Fossum

many hands to pick one answer!



Some ghostly research from Mrs. Seiler's fifth graders

As for the teachers, one teacher liked the fact that she teaches the same kids for three years. And the principal likes getting to know every one of the parents, teachers and students (although she gets to know some students better than others).

In Mrs. Seiler's class, the fifth graders are doing some ghostly research. They're answering Halloween-related questions, like who wrote the novel *Frankenstein*, to help them learn research skills.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Ivanhoe District 403*



Lt. Governor Schunk and her helpful student escorts

**Lincoln H.I. Secondary School
Ivanhoe
October 9, 2001**

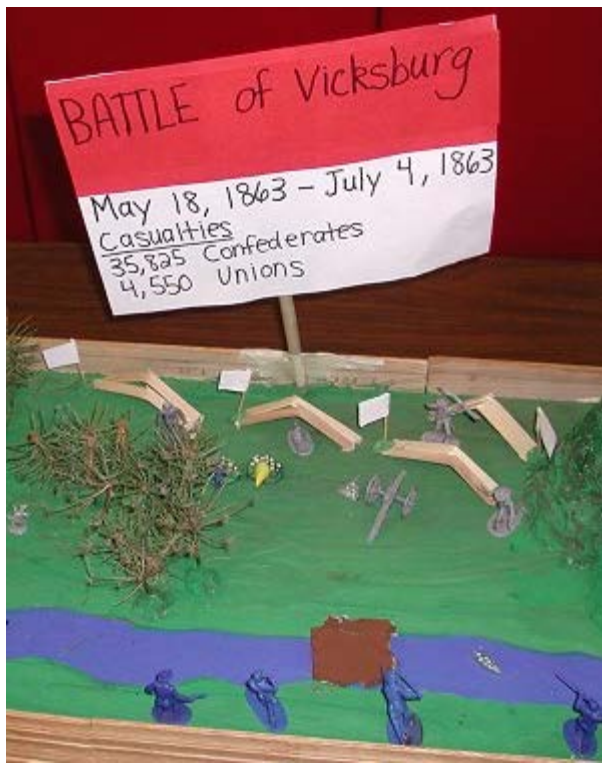
The superintendent in this district has a pretty good idea of what goes on at my workplace. Ted Suss is a former two-term legislator.

At Lincoln HI Secondary we were escorted by four girls, two of whom were named Ashley and one who was named Sarah. Ted told us it seems like half the students in the school are named either Ashley or Sarah--makes it easy for teachers to learn names!

The Future Leaders of America made an excellent presentation about strengthening self-development. The FLA is very active in community service, including organizing "Project You Day", which helps people gain a clear focus on self-improvement.

We also saw a social studies project on Civil War, in which students recreated battlefields. Their project took the war out of the history books and right into the classroom, with students exploring various perspectives of the Americans who lived through that time. Civil War marching songs could even be heard echoing through the halls as students prepared their project.

Another hands-on project came from the biology department, which studied human anatomy by dissecting baby pigs. Students were able to learn about various body parts in this messy, but worthwhile project.



Two examples of hands-on history projects done by students at Lincoln H.I. Secondary School

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Hendricks District 402*



It's common to see golf carts as part of the traffic in Hendricks

The elementary school used to be the high school, so it still has that secondary feeling in some parts, with all the old trophies are still in the cases.

We saw some very interesting and heartfelt presentations. They included two students reciting poems about their country and freedom. It was very moving, given what has been going on in the world. ([Click here](#) to read the poems).

A big lineup of kids told us what they like about their school, and was it ever a long list! It includes: the Pledge of Allegiance, their friends, their trust in each other, that there are very few fights, the safety they feel, the musical programs and even the food!

Lincoln H.I. Elementary School

**Hendricks
October 9, 2001**

The big industry in Hendricks is the Ness Brothers Golf Cart company, which is the midwest's largest distributor of golf carts. Because of that, it is not uncommon to see people cruising around town in used carts which have been sold to residents.



Lt. Governor Schunk with Superintendent Ted Suss

Some students who are heading off to Camp Courage talked about what they'll be doing: survival, ecology,



Students at Lincoln Elementary talk about what makes their school great

biology, building a fire without matches. They are understandably excited about all the outdoor education they'll be experiencing.

Because of the strong early childhood program, the kids here are very ready for kindergarten. And once they get here, they seem to thrive. I met a school full of friendly, cooperative, bright kids!

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Canby District 891*

The night before we visited the school, I had the distinction of speaking at the Canby Honor Society induction ceremony.

**Canby Elementary School
Canby
October 9, 2001**

To be in the honor society, you have to demonstrate scholarship, service, leadership and character. And once you're in, you have to continue upholding those ideals, or you can't stay.

I told the inductees that they are demonstrating that learning isn't just about books, it's about a lot of other things too.

And I told them it's good for everyone to be around self-starting, energetic people like them.



Distinguished inductees into the Canby Honor Society



Lt. Governor Schunk with, from left, Robert Slaba, Canby High School

At the school, we attended a well-organized forum in the library that included representatives from the entire district: teachers, students and administrators.

One of their concerns comes up because students are so bright: many of them take post-secondary classes while still in high school. That means the district loses out financially because they can't count those students anymore, and it also loses because those bright leaders aren't around as much to serve as

principal, CFL MEEP Coordinator Deb Hoyme and Superintendent Marvin Niedan

examples and mentors to other students.

We also went to the pre-school, which really helps get kids ready for all day, everyday kindergarten.

Nearly 100% of the school's kindergartens have come through this program.

Technology is also very important here.

All the classrooms are wired for Internet, with the wiring done by high schoolers.

Those students learn computer repair, trouble-shooting and networking in their classes, and then put them to use in the elementary school. Every day, students age 3 to 6 do advanced math on the computer and after school there's open computer lab where they can play games.



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Minnesota West Community and Technical College*



A training program for dental assistants is one of the 80 programs offered at the college

Minnesota West Community and Technical College Canby October 9, 2001

This 2-year college is a five-school merged, encompassing five campuses, and 20,000 square miles in Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Pipestone, Worthington. We met four fulltime students, two of whom are in graphic arts and animation. They say this rural area is perfect for their field's education--all they need is the hardware and the software to get going.

Technology also plays a part in bringing students together from all the campuses. Interactive TV can turn a small class into a big one.

In this case, it helps to have bigger classes, so everyone who wants to can be included.

The college spends about \$60,000 a year for its ITV system, because it's so important to linking the five campuses.

One of the school's problems is on-campus housing because there is not very much housing in these towns to begin with.

Still, they try to maintain a vibrant campus life for the students.



Interactive TV can turn a small class into a big one

We toured several areas, including computer graphics, photoshop, and soil and water conservation. In all, the college offers 80 different programs in technology.



Return toTop

Each of the campuses has a CEO. Deb Peterson serves that role in Canby. College President Ron Wood is at right.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Milroy District 635*



**Milroy Public School
Milroy
October 10, 2001**

"Small is beautiful" seems to be the theme at Milroy, where all 99 students in the K-8 school gave me a very warm welcome.

When I talked with the students, as they sat on the cafeteria floor, it was like being back in classroom.

Unfortunately, small and intimate can have its drawbacks. Even with fewer than 100 students, there's still a large physical plant to run, and that takes money. The district has a part-time superintendent who works just one day a week, to stretch the budget.



Because of a shrinking student base and dwindling funding, Milroy is looking for any kind of funding alternatives. One suggestion: a funding break for towns with fewer than 500 people.

Right now they're working on getting caught up in terms of technology, by revamping the library and the computers. The school is working with the community to let citizens learn technology skills, and that helps make it more affordable for the school.



I had a delightful time, and it was capped off when the students gave me a beautiful quilt they had made in class.

As you can see, it has lifelike images of me and Governor Ventura, along with icons representing great things about our state.

[Return toTop](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

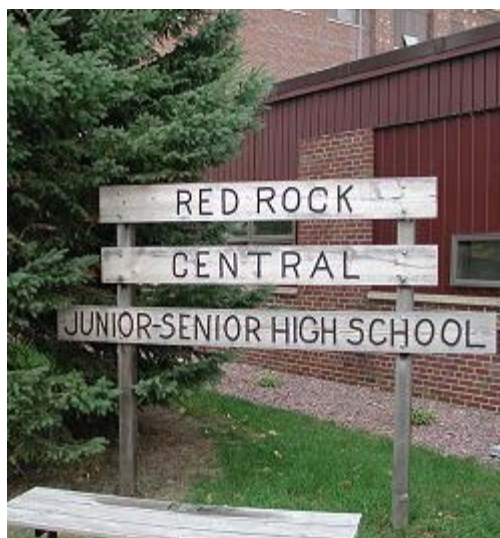
130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Red Rock Central District 2884*

Red Rock Central is another example of a district with exciting academic initiatives, but yet is struggling for survival because of declining student numbers. The town of Lamberton used to be its own school district, but now it has joined with three other districts to become Red Rock Central. Superintendent John Brennan asks, "What's next?"



**Red Rock Central
Secondary School
Lamberton
October 10, 2001**

Despite these restraints there is no shortage of talent and creativity. I met with some very bright social studies students who asked very intelligent questions about education funding, the state workers' strike and the war against terrorism. Then I learned about a wonderful school-business partnership: RRCNET. This project provides Internet service to the community and presents a unique learning opportunity to students. Technology students who become a part of RRCNET go into the community and do troubleshooting and customer relations with the 700 families and 50 businesses that have purchased dialup or wireless services.

The major business partner is the Meadowland Farmer's Co-op, which allows wireless transmitters to be placed on top of its grain elevators. Representatives from Meadowland say they were happy to partner with the school by providing resources, in exchange for the technical know-how from the school. The result is that the community has an essential resource that may otherwise be unavailable.

The students benefit by learning all the latest technology, as well as the people skills it takes to run business. I hope they use their skills to set up new high technology businesses in their hometowns. Then maybe they can help

jumpstart the rural economy and attract new families to their school district.



Lt. Governor Schunk learns about RRCNET from students, staff and business partners



Lt. Governor Schunk presents a book about Minnesota to Superintendent John Brennan, PhD.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Edgerton District 581*

We encountered something in Edgerton that we rarely see these days in rural Minnesota: a growing student population.

**Edgerton Public School
Edgerton
October 10, 2001**



Mayor Jim Achterhoff and Superintendent LeRoy Domagala join Lt. Governor Schunk at the Forever Young Child Care Center

A few years ago the district had 240 students in its K-12 schools--now that number is up to 300. What's more, there are four private schools in the area, yet the student population is still going up.

A big reason for the increase is Fey Industries, a very strong company that attracts workers and their families.

Fey has built a daycare center next to the school called Forever Young Child Care Center.

It is used both by Fey workers and by people who work at the school. It also works with the school by giving students the opportunity to come over and get first-hand experience at working with youngsters. We toured Forever Young, and it was very impressive.

I talked with a lot of the students, and they were very bright and perceptive. The older students had thoughtful questions about the state workers strike and the terrorist attacks.

But a fourth grader came up with the question of the day: "Does Jesse ever put a choke slam on you when you do the wrong thing?"

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155



Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Southwest State University at Marshall

Wednesday, October 10, 2001



State Representative Marty Seifert, SSU President David Danahar and Alumni Affairs Director Mike Nesdahl welcome Lt. Governor Schunk to campus

Southwest State University is a stellar outpost of higher learning on Minnesota's rolling prairie. It has repeatedly won awards as the #1 public liberal arts college in the Midwest. SSU attracts about five thousand students, and 3800 are full time. I am happy to say that about three hundred of those students plan on becoming K-12 teachers.

It was a pleasure to visit with President David Danahar, who showed me around the campus with his staff. He is bracing for his first Minnesota winter, but he'll be well protected from the fierce prairie winds once he gets to campus--all the buildings are connected with tunnels. That makes it easy to go from class to class without getting severe frostbite!

SSU President David Danahar shows Lt. Governor Schunk areas in the Individualized Learning Center that were damaged by fire. The immediate destruction was not extensive, but the smoke damage was much broader, forcing the temporary closure of several



adjacent areas.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Minneota District 414*



**Minneota Public School
Minneota
October 11, 2001**

It's a fresh start in Minneota, where both the high school principal and the superintendent are new this year.

There are 500 students in the elementary and high schools, and the student population has been holding steady. One reason is because Minneota is a bedroom community for Marshall, with many residents commuting to the bigger city, but enjoying the benefits of a small town.

After I talked with a number of fourth through twelfth graders in the school gym, we had a chance to see an excellent hands-on project. Industrial arts students are helping to expand a garage at a nearby trailer park. We watched them flip tresses, hammer and build. Like any students, they don't mind getting a break from the classroom, and they love learning skills they could be using the rest of their lives.

Industrial Arts teacher Ron Mann ran a small business for many years, and now he's having the time of his life teaching kids how to build things. The trailer park owners buying the materials from a local company and they are getting a break on



labor costs. In return they'll make a donation to the school. Everybody wins in this project!

Minneota students get hands-on construction experience



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Dawson-Boyd District 378*



Principal Loren Hacker, Lt. Governor Schunk and CFL representative Bob Kutter stand in front of Dawson-Boyd's old school bell

Dawson-Boyd Public School Dawson October 11, 2001

The enthusiasm at Dawson-Boyd rings as clear and bold as the marching band that welcomed me to the school. The entire high school student body and most of the elementary students converged in the auditorium for a forum. Many of the students were from farms, but their questions showed they have global concerns. They asked about the war against terrorism, about Governor Ventura's values and about my opinions of small schools.

This new greenhouse will serve as a place to learn botany and to grow flowers to beautify the city



Principal Loren Hacker took us out on the tour of several service learning sites. He explained that students are involved in several ways to help beautify the city. He pointed out flowers planted by students along a city boulevard, a green house to grow plants for future plantings and a shelter house in the park, which also serves as an outdoor classroom. The park is the former site of many homes that were lost in the flood of '97.

State Representative Doug Peterson joined us for



the forum and for a special lunch.

Representative Peterson is an artist as well as a former teacher. One of his paintings graces the halls of the school.

Our stay at Dawson-Boyd was extended so we could participate in a very pleasant experiment. It turns out that the staff and student are exploring the possibility of operating a student-run frozen pizza business. We had the delightful chore of taste-testing the product! How did they know it's my favorite food? I thought the pizza was delicious!

Student entrepreneurs/pizza cooks (l to r) Jared Anderson, Jessica Stabb, Jackie Schueller and Lindsey Quick serve Lt. Governor Schunk and State Representative Doug Peterson

[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lac Qui Parle District 2853

**Lac Qui Parle High School
October 11, 2001**



It is an amazing site to travel along the windswept prairie and see this modern high school emerge from the middle of a cornfield, with a lone windmill as a landmark. A compromise during consolidation led to building this school in between the various towns served, at a central point in a district that spans 760 square miles. A statue of a majestic eagle in flight greets visitors outside the school.

It was homecoming week for the 600 high school students, and spirits were soaring like that eagle. I chatted with some students, staff and community members in the auditorium to listen to their concerns. Despite a shrinking enrollment (of about 3% a year) Lac Qui Parle boasts of success in academics, music, arts and the "Knowledge Bowl." Among the top issues is an imminent need for more teachers, because 60-70% in the district plan to retire by 2010. The superintendent wants to know how he can hire enough teachers to fill the vacancies, while competing with metro districts

To compensate for its remote location and limited resources, the school relies on distance learning technology, like interactive television. The school has offered French and German language courses via ITV since the 1970s.

One natural resource that has become an object of study is ducks! When I walked into a science room, all eyes were focused on the dissection of a duck. The teacher explained that he went hunting the previous day in order to facilitate a research study on duck gizzards. This and other efforts at the school help to keep track of environmental factors affecting



This biology teacher went duck hunting in

water quality of the Minnesota River from Big Stone to Monticello

order to demonstrate how to analyze duck gizzards



Biology student Patricia Omland served samples of sugar beets so visitors could gauge the sweetness of this major money crop

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Bellingham District 371*



**Bellingham Elementary School
October 11, 2001**

Big energy comes in small packages at Bellingham. This P-6 school has only 75 students, but the degree of creativity, energy and community involvement is off the charts. After visiting schools for several days I was getting rather fatigued, but these kids, all dressed in green, were so cheerful and exciting that I was totally revived.

Their cheerleaders revved up the school spirit, and then I was serenaded by the creative percussion of Miss Weness' Elementary School Band in their rendition of "Wild About School." The various exotic instruments were obtained through "Pepsi notes," without costing the district a cent!



Sixth graders Tabitha Heinrich and Daniel Spors present Lt. Governor Schunk with one of her favorite foods: dill pickles!



In small towns the school is always the center of the community, and in Bellingham it is clear it is also the heart of the community. I say this because of the many service-learning projects that connect the kids with the townspeople. For example, I've learned that students help bake cookies and distribute them to senior

citizens.

In such a small district, every penny counts. After 6th grade the district's students are tuitioned to a high school in a different district. A change in funding policy a few years ago has apparently switched money from the resident district to the server district, and Superintendent Raymon Seiler is doing his best to find out if that could be reversed.

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Kelliher District 36*

**Kelliher Public School
October 22, 2001**



Student artists and staff with some of their sculptures created from found objects

One of the greatest lessons I have learned in my job as Lieutenant Governor is the ability to improvise, because in the hectic world of politics one never knows what to expect. (Especially when you work for Governor Ventura!) At Kelliher the art students also learned how to improvise in a very creative way. The students collected junk, including items donated from local farmers, in order to create metal sculptures.

The students assembled the junk metal in unique ways, and local welders came in to fix the designs in place. The art class applied paint, and the result was a variety of "found art" that is used to decorate the school.

Other art projects evolved as ways of understanding the cultures of different countries. Students created baskets and other art objects that exemplified the cultures being studied. I'm glad that the teachers at Kelliher understand the power of art as an integral component of academic knowledge.

One of the messages I was asked to bring back to the Capitol concerned a teacher shortage - especially in math and English. They said there are plenty of teachers in general, but not enough who teach in their areas of specialty.

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *South Koochiching District 363*

**Indus Public School
October 22, 2001**



I was greeted by Aaron Steele, the president of the student council. We got going right away with an interesting question from a student: Does Governor Ventura speak more than one language? I wasn't sure about that one, but my best guess was that the governor speaks only English, although his roots are Slovak and German.

We saw a very interesting technology demonstration. (above photo) This school has two "smart boards." Smart boards look like a white, dry erase board, but they are much more. They're connected to a computer, so teachers can run the computer just by writing on the white board, or even tracing with a finger. Moments after a teacher writes notes on the board, those notes can be printed out and given right to the student. (That way a student who lapsed into a short daydream can still recover what he missed).

The boards are being used in two classes at Indus, including a shop class, where the students were using the board to create things. Today's shop classes sure look different than the ones of my youth!

Students in younger classes also had a fantastic project to show off. They created a huge American flag using watercolors and handprints. (below)



[Return to Top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lake of the Woods District 390

**Baudette Public School
October 22, 2001**



Lt. Governor Schunk addresses 8th grade technology students after they presented PowerPoint presentations on career goals

The 8th grade technology students in Baudette have a pretty good idea of what they're going to be when they grow up. Each student researched a specific career and then showed off his or her findings in a PowerPoint presentation. I had the pleasure of seeing four presentations and was very impressed with the kids' skills. What's more, their research satisfied some Graduation Standards, which gives them that important hands-on learning.

There are 800 students in this K-12 school, and many of them had excellent questions for me. One student asked if I thought school would be better year 'round. I said there is some value to that kind of setup, but it's also difficult to expand from an existing situation.

Another question concerned my favorite part of my job. That was an easy one: visiting schools!

I have found that an isolated district like Baudette really needs good technology to keep up. Having state-of-the-art technology lets them hook into remote areas, and bring more students together. Unfortunately, this district has been losing people because of the economy, and enrollment has been dropping.

The students at Baudette had a number of provocative questions



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Cass Lake District 115*



**Cass Lake Public School
Cass Lake Area Learning Center
October 23, 2001**

We made two stops in Cass Lake, one at the Area Learning Center (ALC), which is for older students, (above photo) and one at the elementary school.

Kids learn at their own pace in the ALC--they're not overwhelmed by a big high school experience. And it's not just local residents who benefit: last year the ALC served 549 students from 16 districts. Students who complete the program get a diploma, not a GED certificate, and the diploma comes from the student's home district or from Cass Lake.

Kids at risk to drop out get a chance to stay in school through job counseling, training, leadership development and community service programs. Some kids work part time and then come to school, but all get to learn in a non-traditional environment, concentrating on smaller classes. One of the community service programs involves building houses for low income people.

At Cass Lake elementary, we stopped by Mrs. Alto and Mrs. Solheim's first grade class, where I got to do one of my favorite things: read to students. And it was a very receptive crowd!

Administrators at the elementary school want to increase students' reading ability, so they're using a program called Fast Forward. The program is auditory-based, which helps kids learn through listening.



A display of domestic science projects created by ALC students

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Bagley District 162*



**Bagley Public School
October 23, 2001**

When we went into the school in Bagley, we were greeted by millionaires! (above photo) Actually, they were members of the millionaire reading club, 4th through 6th graders who have read more than one million words. How did they count the words? They used tracking software on the computers in the school's media center. The computer tracks the students on reading and comprehension, assigns them reading, and then provides quizzes to test their comprehension. The computer constantly pushes the kids to read slightly ahead of their level.

The top reader so far is a young man named Jacob Dunn. Jacob is a 5th grader who has read more than 4 million words since the program started! Overall, the students have passed 35,792 quizzes, with an average of 70 books read per child, since the program began. The students receive trophies, the size of which are based on the number of words read. The program came out of a grant from the department of Children, Families and Learning.

This is a very diverse school, with one



quarter of the students being Anishinabe from the White Earth Reservation. Overall, there are 650 students at the school, which is proud of its excellent parent support and strong, experienced staff.

The reading recovery program is already paying off. Even though more than half of the kids in the district have fewer opportunities and advantages, their average reading scores continue to exceed the goals set by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.



Third graders gave a musical presentation for the Lt. Governor

Return to Top



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Laporte District 306*



**Laporte Public School
October 23, 2001**

I was impressed right away when I visited Laporte. The wonderful welcoming banner made me feel at home, but I could also tell that change was in the air. The school is in the midst of a major construction project in order to better serve the 358 K-12 students. Even so, the district is facing declining enrollment, and the loss of resources that comes with it.

I was encouraged by the many parent volunteers who were working with the students. Perhaps it is this kind of involvement that prompted twenty parents to enroll their children in the early childhood program at the school.

Knowledge is ready to explode in Steve Booth's 3rd grade class: the students are busy building rockets! (above photo)

At every school I visit there is always something unique. One student asked me a question I had never heard before.

"Are you running for president?"

I had to smile a little when I answered,

"No."



Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura.](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Isle School District 473



Isle kindergartner LeAnn reads to Lt. Governor Schunk while classmate Luke practices reading to himself

**Isle Public School
Isle
May 9, 2001**

I quickly learned that the Isle district is packed with support, encouragement and innovation. Superintendent Novak spent all morning sharing with me his programs to increase reading test scores, engage students in challenging, creative classes, and provide elements I find necessary for a successful education. Things like all-day, everyday kindergarten, which has been a move in the right direction towards improving reading scores for third and eighth graders.



Mrs. Christensen's kindergarten class

I had the pleasure of sitting in on Mr. Brian Christensen's advanced history of music course. Joining me and the Isle students were classes from two other rural communities, through Interactive Television (ITV).



I also visited a greenhouse with four seniors who learn about horticulture from teachers and community members. I truly appreciated Isle's drive to honor students' interests while meeting their needs. Plus, a recent reform grant will provide necessary funds to develop new ideas. As Superintendent Novak said, "We've turned a corner on having our focus on children."

Right now, the number one issue here is teacher recruitment and retention. Isle is experiencing a "revolving door" of teachers; this prohibits students from developing strong relationships with teachers. The district has increased its base wage for new teachers and uses ITV to expand classroom possibilities.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Onamia School District 480



**Onamia Public School
Onamia
May 9, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk is joined by Elementary Principal Larry Jallen, High School Principal Dennis Heitzman and Superintendent Connie Johnson

All 200+ Onamis high school students met with me in the school's gymnasium to discuss such issues as the Graduation Standards, teacher reductions, and funding for athletic programs.

I also spent some time in a vocational classroom with Gary Lipski and his welding class students. Mr. Lipski has obviously worked hard to develop his welding and car engine curricula; he was very kind to stop working to meet with me. The class represents a true Minnesota success story, with many students on the verge of ending their education prematurely before finding themselves in the care of Mr. Lipski and his vocational skills.

I was thrilled by the newly-built facility for early childhood development; a community referendum helped to create a wonderful facility for young children and their parents. It is time-tested, well funded, and community supported. This program will do wonders for upcoming Onamia students.

Unfortunately, Onamia has a surprisingly high percentage of student drop-outs, as well as a low number of students continuing on to higher education. Superintendent Johnson and her staff have been addressing the problems by seeking student-interest courses. I think their plans to develop

courses within the Interactive Television system will make a difference.



Vocational instructor Gary Lipski discusses his successful program with Lt. Governor Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Pierz School District 484*



**Pierz High School
Pierz
May 9, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk discusses the importance of technology and other topics with Pierz High School students

Congratulations to the Pierz school district for receiving a Technology and Literacy Challenge Grant. Technology teachers and their students have some exciting plans for the money, including wireless computer labs, 70 new desktop computers, and intensive teacher training. Teachers will even be able to practice at home on the new machines this summer before their training begins in August. By allowing this, the district is addressing a common concern among Minnesota school districts - time for teacher development. Pierz will become a model for other districts in the future.

This district focuses on providing its students with mobile technology, one-on-one education from trained teachers, and new opportunities for knowledge, such as the television studio. It's an approach that really helps motivate students.

Right now the district is struggling with recent decisions made by the Minnesota Legislature, such as a requirement to start classes after Labor Day. Officials here would like to see more local control rather than state-sanctioned laws. Some faculty members feel the sales tax rebate should be saved for education funding.



Student council members Stacy Britz and Gwen Matlock visit with Lt. Governor Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Pequot Lakes District 186*



**Pequot Lakes Public School
Pequot Lakes
May 10, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk with Kathie Harman's multi-age class of third and fourth graders

On my way to the Governor's Fishing Opener I enjoyed stopping by the school of the host community. This is in the middle of a delightful tourism area, and the economic vitality has resulted in a growing population. The schools are seeing a 4% annual growth in students. This means the district is facing growing pains and needs to build new facilities. Right now there is no excess levy, so the district is seeking to pass a referendum to help pay for expansion.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that one of my former colleagues is now a teacher at Pequot Lakes. I last saw Kim Johnson when we worked together at the J.J. Hill School in St. Paul.

Pequot Lakes is doing their part to promote student participation in government and in the community. They've just established a student chamber of commerce and they also have a seventh/eighth grade combined student council. I believe that such positive activities become life-long habits for the young people who participate in these organizations.



Lt. Governor Schunk presents two books to Pequot Lakes Superintendent Jim Oraskovich



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Crosby-Ironton District 182*



**Crosby-Ironton High School
Crosby
May 10, 2001**

Lt. Governor Schunk speaks to students, educators and community members at Crosby-Ironton High School

Leave it to the resilient folks on the Cayuna Range to face the future with long range solutions. The shifting economy and the subsequent decline in students creates a major challenge - in the short run. How does the school district respond? By planning the Cayuna Range Technology Center, an educational facility for information technology. I can't wait to see it become a reality. The 21st century will require technological literacy for success in both education and business.

Crosby-Ironton is definitely moving in the right direction. Another example is Mr. Lendobeja's CISCO systems computer lab. He is training students to develop and maintain the school's computer systems. The students gain computer skills and the school gets help with its budgets. I applaud your efforts.



These high school students are trained in CISCO programming and can handle all the technical support needs for the Crosby-Ironton School District

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155



Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Pillager District 116*



**Pillager Public School
Pillager
May 10, 2001**

This greenhouse is a partnership between Pillager Public Schools and a local resort. Students study horticulture and help to grow plants and flowers for both the resort and the community

Pillager School District was a wonderful place for me to spend my last school visit before summer vacation begins for Minnesota students. Superintendent Phil Johnson and his assistant, Marianne, assisted me through several exciting programs within their school. I visited a beautiful greenhouse, learned about the physics of award-winning solar boats, and listened to kindergartners sing to their families during a Parents Day celebration. I also participated in an interesting and informative discussion with school board members and parents. The dedication to innovation and progressive educational tools is evident in Pillager.



Pillager students get hands-on experience with biosystems in the course of growing flowers and plants

In the face of the challenge of declining enrollment, voters recently passed a school referendum, allowing Pillager to build classrooms and improve technology

services. As a result, a student at Pillager can spend the morning taking a flight simulation course and spend the afternoon growing beautiful plants and flowers. Pillager is taking the extra steps to ensure their students achieve success in the 21st century.

Congratulations!



Kindergartners Logan, Danielle and Alex present their floral contributions to Parents Day



Superintendent Phil Johnson, Lt. Governor Schunk and vocational instructor John Lindquist admire this award-winning solar regatta, which was designed and built by students



This student-built high mileage car is a work in progress. The goal is to get 500 miles per gallon



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lake Benton District 404



**Lake Benton School
Lake Benton
April 10, 2001**

*Lt. Governor Schunk outside of the
Lake Benton School with Principal
Dany Castor*

I began my visit to Lake Benton by asking the 220 students what they are most proud of about their school. The replies came quickly: safety and class size.

School board chair Paul Fehrman urged me to take a message back to the governor: this is a district doing more with less. Test scores and other achievement measures are excellent, yet declining enrollment means budget cuts.

One teacher asked me if I agreed with the governor's position on making teachers essential employees. I said it is important that teachers work more closely with administrators and district members to avoid overextending the district's resources. It's about everyone knowing what the limits are and how to best educate students with the budget available.

The board chair and superintendent discussed other school aids that in theory are designed to benefit districts like Lake Benton, but come up short in the real world test.

For instance, Lake Benton does not qualify for sparsity even though the area is sparsely populated. The



Lt. Governor Schunk addresses students and educators in a forum

reason: in order to qualify for sparsity aid a district must be at least 15 miles from another district, which is not the case here.

The discussion closed with a plea for the state to address the "open border" initiative, which allows for reciprocity between South Dakota and Minnesota. Many Lake Benton parents are choosing to send their children to South Dakota schools, and this creates another fiscal disparity for the district. The per pupil funding formula is less in South Dakota than for students in Minnesota.

I finished my visit by stopping by to visit with a group of second graders who were rehearsing their school play. "Do you have a message for Governor Ventura about your school?" I asked them. The reply was unanimous: "We all like our school."



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Tyler School District 458



Lt. Governor with student council president Scott Bush

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton High School

Tyler

April 10, 2001

Student council president Scott Bush led me on a tour, taking me first to Mr. Thomas's English class. After giving the class a brief overview of the purpose of my visit, I attended an all-school assembly, to talk with more than 200 students.

The students were a bit shy at first, but they warmed up quickly. One student noted that the county is one of the poorest in the state and asked what Governor Ventura is doing to help. I told him the governor's property tax reform and relief will put money in everyone's pocket.



Another student wanted to know how extra curricular activities can be expected to survive budget cuts. I told him that's the challenge: declining enrollment forces districts like Russell-Tyler-Ruthton to really come up with creative funding solutions.

I asked the audience to join me in lobbying the U.S. Congress to deliver on a very important promise it made: funding 40% of the states' cost of providing special education.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Russell District 418

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Middle School

Russell

April 10, 2001

My visit began with a lively question and answer session with the student body. What follows are some of the topics I was asked about, and my responses.

My vision for education: "equal opportunity for all students taught by quality teachers."

This spring's flooding in western Minnesota: "I'm very concerned, but I also know that state government treats flooding as an emergency situation, as it does with tornados and other natural disasters."

What the state is doing to prevent violence in schools: "Commissioner Jax and Children, Families and Learning help administrators form violence prevention plans in every district. Do your part and report any disturbing behavior to an adult."

Hoof and mouth and mad cow disease: "I'm very concerned, because there is so little we know about these diseases and they are easily transmitted."

I concluded my tour by listening to a presentation from five 8th graders in a Life Skills class. One of the more popular activities in this class involves the students working with pre-school ECFE students one day a week.

Virtually all the students said this class



has taught them a great deal about the responsibility associated with caring for children. It's nice to see the future parents of the world getting a head start on what will be their most important job: rearing and educating children.



"Life Skills" students show off their quilts

Driving along Buffalo Ridge, I was impressed with the wind mills generating electricity. This is one sign of how farming has changed from the days I grew up on the farm. In those days, we used wind to pump water from a well. When the wind didn't blow I had to pump the water by hand!



Lt. Governor Schunk with school staff member Pamela Bush and Board Chairman Curt Friese



A wind farm near Balaton



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Balaton District 411

**Balaton Public School
Balaton
April 11, 2001**

The students at Balaton are the proudest of their athletic teams, which I found out while talking to the entire student body of 114 K-8th graders.

After answering a number of questions about what it's like to be lieutenant governor, I met with several adults to talk about the challenges the district is facing.

A question came up about loan forgiveness for teachers who agree to teach in rural districts. I was pointing out the advantages of the program when one person spoke up in disagreement, saying the program does nothing to increase the number of students in the district. "On the contrary," replied one of the other adults, "teachers have



Lt. Gov. Schunk meets with the Balaton student council in the school gym

babies." An excellent point: everybody wins when teachers settle in rural areas.

This is obviously a tight-knit community and a tight-knit school. Right now a prime concern is "preserving our school." I sensed a



Signing library donations with Kristina and Kelsey Lee

strong enthusiasm that the school is the center of action in this community.



With Deb Anderson, Balaton School Team Leader



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



<



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Ruthton District 584

**Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Elementary
School
Ruthton
April 11, 2001**

Our visit to Ruthton began with the student body serenading me with their own composition, "RTR Learning Train." ([Click here if you'd like to see the song's lyrics.](#))

Later at a forum, I received a question I don't get too often: "How much money do you make?" "Not enough," I responded. I told the students that people don't pursue elected office because of the amount of money they can make, they do it because they care about improving people's lives. No one ever got rich working for state government!



A musical greeting in the gym



Lt. Gov. Schunk with "Showcase" students

Another example came in the form of the making of dioramas, in which students use three dimensional paper

After the question and answer portion I was treated to a presentation of profile projects from 4th and 5th graders as part of the school's Showcase program. It's a learning activity where students are encouraged to be creative. For example, the kids used timeline charts to compare how events in their personal lives run parallel with historical events. High technology was evident in this project.

models combined with picture diaries to illustrate stories from their reading assignments.

This project reminded me of the story boards and 3-D models that screen writers and story consultants use as a prelude to making a movie or commercial. Maybe I was meeting some future Hollywood moguls!



Dioramas illustrate students' reading assignments



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Murray County Central District 2169

Murray County Central Public School

Slayton

April 11, 2001



After being greeted by superintendent Corny Smith, and the school's elementary students, three teachers told me about their intergenerational program.

The teachers' power point demonstration showcased the work of students with senior citizens. Once a month the third graders visit an independent living center for seniors. One of the objectives is to young children overcome a fear of relating to the elderly. Judging by the photos and testimonials, it's been a big hit with both the kids and their adopted friends.

For the fifth graders, the program is a little more advanced. They hook up with a senior partner for the entire school year, making weekly visits in what turns out to be very beneficial for both young and old.



Talking with Murray County Central Elementary School administrators and staff

Congratulations to the Math Masters Team for its outstanding performance. Go math!

The kids want me to deliver the message that they "like their teachers and to

get them more money." They know who counts!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Fulda District 505

**Fulda Elementary School
Fulda
April 11, 2001**



Lt. Governor Schunk meets students and teachers at Fulda Elementary School

Superintendent Doug Froke, Principal Betty Abrahamson and two 6th graders greeted me at Fulda. Before talking with students, I got to see a video about all the interesting things the district and its students are doing.

There is definitely high morale among the student body here. I asked them what message they'd like me to take back to Governor Ventura. They told me to tell him they "are smart, get good grades are good thinkers and like to have fun."

After visiting a couple of kindergarten classes, I went to the library for a question and answer session with students and adults.

One of the questions was about school prayer. My feeling is that it's a private



Visiting a kindergarten class

matter and nothing prevents a student from silent prayer in school.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Westbrook-Walnut Grove District 175

Westbrook-Walnut Grove School

Westbrook

April 12, 2001

What a welcome! My visit began with the high school band greeting us with "Ruffles and Flourishes" as we entered the building. Principal Bill Richards and Superintendent Steve Kjorness greeted me, and escorted me past a receiving line of staff and students.



Lt. Governor Schunk takes questions from students

After a question and answer period, I heard about some excellent projects going on at the school. They include the Big Brother-Big Sister program which pairs students in grades 9-12 with students in the K-6 grades. The program is a huge hit with both groups.

Principal Richards then showed part of a video highlighting the school's activities as an arts magnet school.

We also heard from students in the BOLT program. That's the school's student entrepreneur program, the centerpiece of which is the manufacture of "Prairie Smoke Barbeque Sauce."

The sauce is made at the school in the lunchroom kitchen. Final handling, including bottling is done in the kitchen.

The commercial response has been nothing short of overwhelming. Cabela's sporting goods stores now stock Prairie Smoke, as do many smaller retail stores. They would like



to expand to the larger retail chains like Cub, but the instructor said that the cost of "slot placement" remains prohibitive.

The vat where the barbeque sauce turns into a taste-tempting delicacy

I did get a chance to taste the sauce, and it certainly merits my endorsement. Delicious! I also received a short tour of the barbeque sauce facility, to see firsthand where it all begins. A fantastic example of hands-on learning and a Profile project!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Tracy District 417

Tracy Area High School

Tracy

April 12, 2001

I've been on a lot of media outlets the past two years, but this was my first appearance on Panther Television. That's the school's own TV station, which taped my 30-minute questions and answer session.

The students gave some very impressive presentations on their work with Mr. Jones's media production class. We were treated to a student journalist's television report on the flooding in Granite Falls, as well as a student-produced documentary on the Tracy football team. A classmate said the producer spent more than 60 hours putting together the documentary! These students will be ready for a high-profile TV job.

Instructor Steve Jones remarked that the young woman began the year with no confidence whatsoever and even had to be talked out of dropping the class. Shows what education can do for self-esteem.

I also dropped in at a Spanish classes to sample of the Spanish cuisine the kids were making. Muy bueno!

One question that came up at the forum asked for my opinion on which offers a better educational experience, larger or smaller schools.

Lt. Governor Schunk talks with students at Tracy Area High School. One question concerned the education experience of larger schools vs.



smaller schools

I said students who have attended smaller schools with smaller classes often report a better school experience, but that isn't always the case. I have also talked with plenty of students in large schools with larger class sizes who report favorable experiences.

Smaller schools have a strong teacher/student relationship. In a large school some students can get lost among the numbers. Large schools can offer more learning opportunities for students. The numbers are there to afford the staff for diversity of subjects and activities. Size of schools has a lot to do with population in a particular community.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Pipestone-Jasper District 2689

Pipestone-Jasper Central School

Pipestone

April 12, 2001

You know you're in a grand old school when the auditorium has a balcony. That's where the school band performed in welcoming me to a school assembly. What a thrill!

When you think of law classes, you think about older students, but here in Pipestone, the 5th graders are part of a fairly involved mock trial program! A local attorney teaches the class. We viewed a video of portions of the trial. It was gratifying to see young students learning confidence and how to think on their feet.

I was then presented with an authentic peace pipe by Travis Erickson, a member of the Sisseton Sioux tribe. Travis has worked in the local Pipestone quarries and has been carving pipes for about 20 years. I was quite touched to receive this gift. I hope to return to visit the Pipestone Monument National Park.



I visited Pipestone on a day that happened to be my 43rd wedding anniversary. The staff, students and cooks marked the occasion by presenting me with a wedding anniversary cake and a floral arrangement. Who told them this was my special day? It also was that long ago that I started my teaching career.

I stayed two nights at the Historic Calumet Hotel. A comfortable stay with great food and friendly folks.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Moorhead District 152



**Moorhead
April 23, 2001**

Moorhead Superintendent Larry Nybladh presented Lt. Governor Schunk with a Moorhead mug, and told her he wanted to be sure to see it in her office when he visits the Capitol!

My visit to Moorhead was disrupted by Mother Nature. In an area that has been fighting floods all spring, my journey to the Red River Valley coincided with a late April snowstorm. More than six inches of heavy, wet snow forced the closing of a number of schools, including the Moorhead district. I missed out on watching examples of student art and performance. Instead, Superintendent Larry Nybladh used his creativity to improvise a meeting in the evening just before the School Board met.

More than thirty educators, students, board members and people from the community gathered in the boardroom to discuss school issues with me for about an hour. I was pleasantly surprised to meet the elementary school principal, whom I had recently seen at the Destination Imagination award program in the Twin Cities. Moorhead is to be congratulated for its winning team!

Our discussion centered on school financing, because declining enrollment and increased health insurance costs are combining to squeeze the district's budget. One student complained that the district is laying off his favorite and most productive teachers, while it is keeping the ones that he doesn't learn as much from. Another student criticized the Graduation Standards as repetitive. Our traveling companion, Barbara Hexum from CFL, explained that it will take some time for schools to successfully integrate the Graduation Standards into their

curricula. I emphasized the need for Minnesota students to compete globally. I have seen students in other countries who are held to much higher expectations, and the result is higher achievement. We must use our creativity to be the best.



Lt. Governor Schunk met with educators and community members before the school board meeting. Barbara Hexum, a MEEP coordinator from CFL helped to answer questions about the Graduation Standards



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura.](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton District 2164



**Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
High School
Glyndon
April 23, 2001**

We were greeted with 6" of snow as we headed into Northwestern Minnesota, meaning Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton became our first stop after Moorhead closed its schools.

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton started two hours late, so they were just eating breakfast as we arrived around 11:00. The welcoming scents of French toast and maple syrup filled the air as we walked down the halls.

At least one teacher at the school is intimately familiar with state government: State Rep. Paul Marquart teaches social studies here. He made sure his students had good questions for me concerning education funding while he was down in St. Paul.

Those were among the many questions I answered in a forum, before going to the elementary part of the school to hear about a successful guided reading program. The program pairs students who are at similar reading levels and have them help each other. They go through program books by looking at the pictures first, then they go



Superintendent Bernie Lipp welcomed Lt. Governor Schunk to the high school

through and read the story to each other. A similar "reading recovery" program pairs a teacher with a student who is a lower-level reader. The program works--all the first graders in the school know how to read.

A first grade teacher works individually with a student on a reading recovery program



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Norman County West District 2527



**Norman County West
Elementary School
Hendrum
April 23, 2001**

The students at the school seemed especially savvy when it comes to meeting a state official, and I found out why. Last year Governor Ventura stopped here as part of his Tour 2000 trips across the state. These kids were right on top of all the current topics and it reflected in their excellent and educated questions.

Our tour included the West Adventure Center, which is a preschool program put together by three partners: the school district, the Headstart program and the Tri-county Opportunity Council. It's for all 3-to-5 year-olds, including those with special needs, and involves reading programs, songs, hands-on learning with materials like clay and much more. A great example of providing learning readiness.



Many of the 5th and 6th graders in the forum wanted the Lt. Governor's autograph



Lt. Governor Schunk visited a program for preschoolers



Sandbags near the school were ready in case the Red River crested higher than expected



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Hawley District 150



Hawley Elementary School

Hawley

April 24, 2001

Governor Jesse Ventura doesn't meet with lobbyists, but he probably won't mind that I met the world's cheapest lobbyist in Hawley: a \$6.95 tadpole who was part of testimony earlier this legislative session at the Capitol. His name is Clipper, because students measured him by paper clips as they studied his lifecycle from tadpole on up as part of their Graduation Standards science project. Clipper made his trip to St. Paul with a teacher who testified on declining enrollment.

This school is doing a good job of staying on top of the Graduation Standards, including making good use of state money from a program that helps bring in expert teachers.

The school's motto, "Building a better world, one child at a time," is certainly reflected throughout the faculty, staff and students.

There are many parent volunteers at the school, as well as 15 local businesses who pair with



Teacher Loni Anderson holds "Clipper" - the only tadpole who is both a student project and a lobbyist

classrooms. The businesses provide money for projects and the kids provide high-quality artwork for the businesses. Each partnership lasts for one year.



5th graders Courtney, Ann and Taylor guided Lt. Governor Schunk through the school

In addition to having strong reading, integrated technology and music programs, there is the 30-acre Prairie Nature Center next to the school. It's available for study by the elementary students, college students, the DNR and the community.

Collaboration is popular in Hawley. Mayor Joe Pederson brought me downtown after the school visit to show me a partnership called the Apple Tree Dental Clinic. It's a collaboration using state money, city money and medical foundation money to provide dental services for low-income people. It even has a Headstart program on site, and a mobile van that brings dental services to county residents.

Hawley Mayor Joe Pederson is proud of the Apple Tree Dental Clinic, which serves low-income people throughout the county



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lake Park - Audubon District 2889

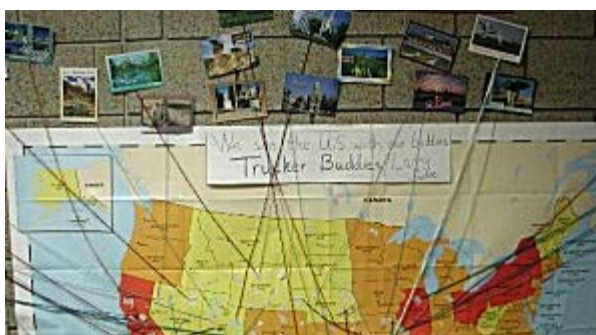
Lake Park - Audubon
Elementary School
Audubon
April 24, 2001

This is a school that is looking to the future: every student learns Spanish. Teacher Stephanie Sodahl works with all the 1st through 6th graders for 20 minutes every day.

The 3rd graders have a unique, hands-on way of studying geography.

They have a couple of "trucker buddies," named Larry and June. Every time Larry and June go somewhere new, they send the students a postcard.

The kids put the postcard on a big map of the United States and then learn all about that location. It makes for an educational map!



The 3rd graders' "trucker buddy" map

Volunteerism is very strong in this community. I attended a special ceremony recognizing volunteers who spend their time in the schools. That includes some retired teachers as well



as lots of other folks, many of whom help out as a way to give back to the community. The ceremony was aptly named "Volunteers are shining stars." In our discussion, I heard from some cabin owners upset about high property taxes. Governor Ventura's tax reform plan addresses that, yet some people in the district feel it's better to have the property owners have a stake in local schools.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Pelican Rapids District 548

**Viking Elementary School
Pelican Rapids
April 24, 2001**



Superintendent Keith Klein joins Lt. Gov. Schunk and Barbara Hexum of Children, Families and Learning

They could also use more English as a Second Language funding, because at least 30% of the students don't speak English as their first language.

That's due in large part to the presence of a turkey plant in town, which employs many recent immigrants.

Usually my first stop is the gym or the library, so it was a nice change-of-pace to meet in the band room. The 5th and 6th graders, parents, superintendent and teachers brought up a number of issues, including all-day, everyday kindergarten. Right now it's all day, every other day, and they would like to get the additional funding to fill in those missing days.



On a less serious note, the 6th graders told me they are taking a field trip to the Capitol in a few weeks, and really want to meet the governor. I said I would do what I can to make it happen.



A giant pelican and the flowing rapids: a sure sign you are in Pelican Rapids

Among the questions I received: How do you feel about the political process?

My answer points out just how crucial hands-on learning is. I said, "The political process is definitely not the way I taught it in the books."



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Barnesville District 146

**Barnesville High School
Barnesville
April 25, 2001**

This is one school that was not hit by last winter's outrageous heating bills, because they don't rely on fossil fuels. The heating plant in the school uses sunflower pellets, beet seeds and other natural elements, including waste products. Instead of throwing their waste in a landfill, they burn it and heat the school. Sounds like a smart idea to me.

We heard about a couple of interesting Graduation Standards projects.



Mr. Holmes had three of his 7th graders talk about their history project on immigration.

The students used the Internet for their research, and said they feel like they learned more because of the Graduation Standards.



Two high school students from Mr. Anderson's class reported on their research for the physical education Graduation Standard. They looked at

ways to exercise outside of phy ed class
and also felt it was quite beneficial to
take that approach.

Two more good examples of just how
important the Graduation Standards are.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Rothsay District 850

**Rothsay Public School
Rothsay
April 25, 2001**



Where would you find the world's largest prairie chicken? Try Rothsay, Prairie Chicken Capitol of the World. The extra-large fowl greeted us as we pulled into town.

As we visited the school, we decided to stop at the store. We could do that because there is a store in the school, a terrific hands-on learning tool. Back in 1988, teachers decided the best way for students to learn about business was to open one.



The big prairie chicken stands watch

There's a hardware store, video rental, snacks, and coming soon, a grocery department. Students learn accounting, stocking shelves and pretty much everything else that goes with running a business. Plus it's real experience they put to use in future jobs.

The 5th grade class is working on a social studies Graduation Standard related to

community service. They planned and put on a senior citizen appreciation dinner. Parents helped cook, while the students took care of everything from decorations

to coat check and escorting guests to tables. The kids said they learned how to be good citizens and how to communicate with other people, not to mention working on their manners and just having fun.



The store where the hands-on learning happens



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits: *Breckenridge District 846*



**Breckenridge Elementary School
Breckenridge
April 25, 2001**

My visit to the elementary school came on the heels of the Governor Ventura's visit to help with potential flooding a few weeks earlier. Fortunately, the floods never materialized, but the folks here told me how much the governor's visit picked up everyone's spirits.

In 1997, five feet of water crept into the school's basement, putting several classrooms underwater. They've since renovated and put on an addition so all the classrooms are now above the water level. But it never hurts to protect your investment, so this year the kids helped sandbag around the school.



Superintendent Richard Link and Elementary Principal Don Schill welcome Lt. Governor Schunk

One of the concerns here is the loss of state funding when students enter the post-secondary options while finishing high school. The growth in home schooling is also costing the district, since many of the home-schooled students use the district's resources, but the state doesn't consider them when

it comes to per-pupil funding.

Before I left, I watched a kindergarten class do a show and tell presentation, and I helped first graders out by doing some reading. In addition to working on their reading, they were becoming familiar with journal writing.

By the way, those kindergartners know their history. They told me they thought I might be the president, because my hair was "presidential."
"Which president?" I asked. Their answer: George Washington!



These kindergarten students seemed to mistake Lt. Governor Schunk for President George Washington



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lyle School District 497

**Lyle Elementary School, Lyle
March 6, 2001**

All 252 students in the Lyle district are in one building, so they're making the most of an excellent opportunity to serve the community and prepare children for school. They have started a day-care facility in the school. This lets children be introduced to the environment where they will spend twelve years, and allows the school to identify potential problems at an earlier age, where intervention and assistance may have a greater impact.

The district is also addressing the needs of its students with a block schedule. There are two 89-minute blocks in the morning and two in the afternoon, with no study halls. Students take four different classes each semester, for total of eight in the year.

The last block of the day, which is split into two periods of 45 minutes each, is tailored to meet the unique needs of the school. These are elective classes in a more traditional schedule format. It allows music students to take both band and choir and meet every day, and allows other students to pick other electives.

School administrators feel this system is more conducive to improved learning, and the numbers bear them out. Overall, student grades have improved significantly this year since the inception of this system.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Chatfield School District 227

**Chosen Valley High School, Chatfield
March 7, 2001**



Alex Koran and Andrew Brevig explain how they separated colors for a science experiment

I began my visit by looking at chemistry projects done by 9th grade students. The students learned how to separate colors and then graphed the results on a computer. After an impressive performance by the high school cheerleading team, members of Future Leaders of America (FLA) gave the speeches they will be performing in an upcoming competition.

The speeches covered a wide variety of topics, from being the best possible babysitter to the dangers of drinking and driving. That particular speech was extremely educational and quite moving.

Following the FLA presentations, we heard a short, but excellent performance by the Chatfield Varsity Choir. There are some impressive voices at this school!

My visit ended with a brief panel discussion involving the student senate president, a student representative, the city administrator, the band instructor, and the school board chair. As diverse as the group was, there were common concerns, focusing on the budget. This district is currently in statutory operating debt, so it is obviously dealing with a serious financial situation.



Students from FLA give an effective presentation on the dangers of drinking and driving

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!**



130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Dover - Eyota School District 533

**Dover - Eyota Elementary School, Eyota
March 7, 2001**



I got a fresh look at history, as 6th graders presented their history projects in a wide variety of forms. In the project, which fulfills a grad standard, students have the option of doing a computer project/documentary, an exhibit project,

a research paper or a drama/play presentation. The project also serves as part of a competition, the winners of which go on to a state history project competition for sixth graders. Students Ashley Franke and Sarah Brandt presented their computer/documentary project on swing dancing.

It made me want to kick my shoes off and hit the dance floor!

The district has a new teacher orientation program every fall, which sounds quite helpful. They invited me to next fall's program--I'd love to make it if my schedule allows.

As in almost all the districts, there are budget concerns here, but they're also dealing with utility costs, teacher retention, unfunded mandates, special ed and inequality of funding for all-day, everyday kindergarten.



Ashley Franke and Sarah Brandt present their computer project on swing dancing



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

St. Charles School District 858

**St. Charles Elementary School, St. Charles
March 7, 2001**

I offered my congratulations to the administrators at St. Charles for the job they've done in reducing class sizes. This is a good example of the accountability Governor Ventura is looking for. St. Charles has focused its money completely on the classroom. The class sizes here are smaller than the other schools in the area and the teacher salary range is \$32,000-\$48,000.

I checked out many of the smaller classes, including the 3rd grade class, where students played instruments that they had made, and the first grade class, which had made helicopters as part of their study of motion.



Third graders show off their hand-made musical instruments



St. Charles student Brad Burt poses a question

Then it was time for the 4th, 5th and 6th graders to ask me questions at an assembly.

They wanted to know about everything from exactly what I do, to what I like best about being lieutenant governor.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)



For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)



Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lewiston - Altura School District 857

**Lewiston - Altura Secondary School, Lewiston
March 8, 2001**

My stop at the school in Lewiston included a visit to a 9th grade math connections class in progress. Brian Menk teaches the applied math class, which gives students real life mathematical situations that they must solve using algebra and graphs. They were doing cooperative learning when I stopped by, so I had a chance to sit on in on one of the groups.



Working on a problem in applied math class

I saw some excellent hands-on learning. Anyone who thinks you don't need to use math in "real life" should see these kids at work!



Jonathan Resietter, the student body president, gave me a very nice introduction at a forum later in my visit. We had a good exchange of ideas, with the students telling me about the successful speech and dramatic programs they're a part of.

One issue that came up concerned all day, everyday kindergarten. Specifically, why some districts get money for it and others don't. I heard more about this issue after I got back to the office through an e-mail from the district's superintendent, who

also included information about the school's first grade readiness program. I appreciate the instant feedback and the ability to stay in touch with

administrators.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Plainview School District 810

**Plainview School, Plainview
March 8, 2001**

After an all-school assembly featuring some musical 5th graders, we headed for the media center where 5th and 6th graders presented their footsteps to freedom project, an Internet research project on slavery.

The students studied slavery, wrote down what they knew beforehand, what they wanted to learn and, in the end, what they actually had learned. They studied maps, drew their own maps, made quilt patches in memory of slavery and kept thought diaries.



Fifth graders explain their "Footsteps to Freedom" project to Lt. Governor Schunk

The sixth graders also did a similar slavery Internet research project. They researched and wrote biographies of people in the era and included pictures they scanned from the Internet. This fulfilled a 6th grade technology and research grad standard. The money for this technology project came from a TAG grant.



Here is the 6th graders' killer whale art project. They still have to paint it and add an ocean background

I then saw even more impressive work from the 6th graders. I am told these elaborate projects are a tradition at Plainview, and take most of the school year to complete. This year the students have constructed an actual size killer whale from a metal wheel, chicken wire and paper mache. When it's all done, the whale will be painted and an ocean background will be added. The art projects are always based on themes the 6th graders are studying or choose to study that year. Last year they made an actual size polar bear!

The school has a number of other reasons to be proud: there are some sparkling new renovations, including a new Mac lab, a new media center and an ag placement program that offers valuable vocational classes.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Elgin - Millville School District 806

**Elgin - Millville Community School, Elgin
March 8, 2001**

The teachers and students of Elgin-Millville demonstrated some of their more successful programs for me. Each year the seniors do a large community service project on their way to graduation, and this year's is called Trees for the Trail. A few years ago the seniors made a trail in the area and this year they planted trees and did quite a bit of landscaping. Science teacher Richard Swanson presented a hands-on learning project with Whitewater State Park, where 7th and 8th graders use this watershed to study, measure and test water.

Every year this district chooses a theme to carry and promote throughout the year. This year the theme is Respect. The students come up with a logo and create a respect display window in the lobby.

Each month, a different class makes an advertisement for respect, with the art done by students on their own time.



Lt. Gov. Schunk receives feedback at a library forum

Another successful program is the career horizon class, which is quite popular, as well as being part of the 9th grade grad standards package. Students research careers, figure out their personal skills, share their knowledge with other students and job shadow someone with a career that interests them.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Kasson - Mantorville School District 204

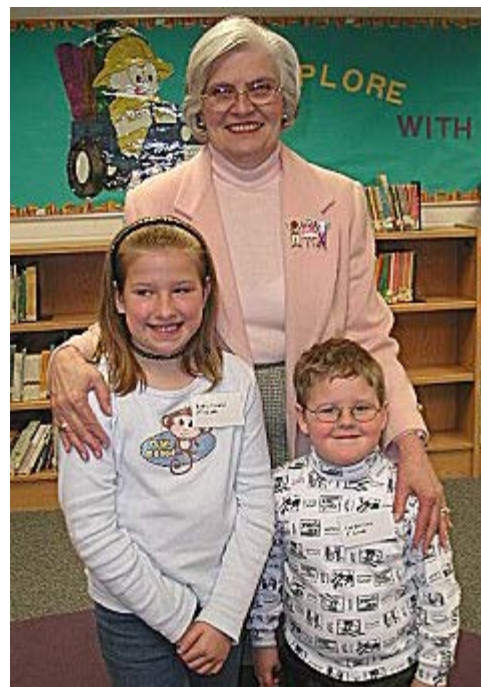


**Kasson - Mantorville
Elementary School
Kasson
March 19, 2001**

Students, teachers, parents and school board members gathered in the library of the elementary school to watch a multi-media presentation on their all-day, everyday kindergarten program. A video condensed the activities of a day into a few minutes, so we could get a sense of their adventures in learning. Part of the advantage of all-day, everyday kindergarten is a strong emphasis on developing reading skills. Every Friday high school students come to read to the kindergarten kids, an activity that is rewarding for both the younger and older students. The kindergarten kids also participate in such activities as group reading and keeping journals. A novel idea to learn spelling is a little game called "color cheers." The teachers, playing the role of cheerleaders, have the kids spell out color words, such as B - L - U - E, as if they were the names of star football players. Some students even demonstrated their literary skills by reading stories to me.

When the forum portion of the visit began, parents and educators emphasized the importance of their all-day, everyday kindergarten program, and asked for greater funding from the state to ensure that it stays. Another financial challenge is that the higher salaries in nearby Rochester are attracting teachers from Kasson - Mantorville.

Superintendent Michael Smith told me they lost five teachers to Rochester last year - from the high demand fields of special education, science and math.



Lt. Governor Schunk relied on fourth grader Kelsie Gansen and first grader Gordon Law to guide her around the school



Classic culture fills the hallways of K - M, such as this display of fourth grade representations of Da Vinci's Mona Lisa



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Hayfield School District 203



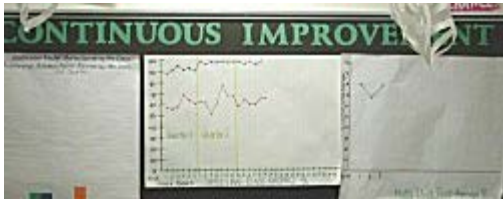
**Hayfield Public School
Hayfield
March 19, 2001**

The Vikings of Hayfield are doing better than some other Vikings I know. The crowded shelves filled with sports trophies in the hallways may have some new additions, depending on how the boys basketball team does at the state tournament. And Hayfield graduate Brad Pike is one of the U of M Gophers that won the Big Ten wrestling championship!



Superintendent Larry Shay emphasized the importance of developing a school-wide attitude of caring. That is a very important approach in a K-12 school that serves 900 students. This caring attitude was made clear in a visit to their special education learning area. This unit includes small classrooms, as well as a functional kitchen and laundry area. This is designed to teach not only academic skills, but also the sorts of practical skills that are needed to live independently. To make their point vivid, they presented me with a plate of brownies they had baked. They also showed me a history project they were working on that depicted images from the Renaissance.

I also visited a 6th grade class that is gauging their learning according to a continuous improvement plan. Students have individual charts showing their progress in learning, and class averages are posted on the wall. This way, students can keep in mind their



accountability.

level of achievement, and they can aim high to do their best. The class even created a mission statement! It's all about expectations and



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Stewartville District 534

**Stewartville
Middle/High School
March 20, 2001**

Lt. Gov. Schunk enjoys lunch with 4th graders from Stewartville Central Intermediate School



It was entirely appropriate that my visit to Stewartville was on the first day of spring. This district is filled with innovative and motivated programs and technology--a spring-like rebirth in education.



The kitchen area in the learning center created with the help of the Jade Foundation

At Stewartville High School, they have used a grant from The Jade Foundation, (First Lady Terry Ventura's foundation) to create a learning center for severely disabled students. A full-fledged kitchen, living room, bedroom, and laundry area, along with computers and teachers, create a hands-on education environment that allows for life skills development.

I also spent time learning how to use Stewartville's voice-activated computer technology. The power of grant writing is evident throughout the district. Volunteers and teachers work together to raise funds for the purpose of helping students, and their efforts have been well rewarded.

There is a nice sense of teamwork here. The principals seem to work very closely together and the superintendent's office and facilities are right between the high school and middle school. As a result, all the administrators work in sync rather than separately; this has had a positive impact on their programs and the community.



Teacher Lori Rademacher shows Lieutenant Governor Schunk the voice-activated computer



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Pine Island District 255

**Pine Island School
Pine Island
March 20, 2001**



Lieutenant Governor Schunk meets with Early Childhood Family Education teachers

Pine Island School District has developed a wonderful Early Childhood Family Education program. The idea is to bring teachers into the homes of newborns to three-year-olds and teach families how they can prepare their children for a successful education.

The program has been in place a year and already has more than 100 families involved. Classes for families are provided outside of the home on a bi-monthly and monthly basis. Teachers have found this program to be very helpful in a child's ability to learn skills and work with others.

Pine Island also prides itself on providing opportunities typically unavailable to young students, such as the 5th grade orchestra class and various special ed programs. As a result, Pine Island has a very high number of open enrolled students, not to mention plenty of proud parents.

Unfortunately, the high number of open-enrolled students can lead to financial problems. Funds received from these students do not compensate for district costs of expanding school size, increased need of supplies, etc. It all has to do with the financial disparity between rural and urban school districts.

**Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not**



Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Medelia District 837



**Medelia Elementary School
Medelia
March 26, 2001**

Elementary principal Mary Hanson and high school principal Allan Beyer greeted me as we began a pleasant visit to the Medelia Elementary School

One of the reasons my visit to Medelia was so pleasant was the optimism that runs throughout the district. The town has recently passed a referendum to remodel the elementary school, so pretty soon it will be out with the old and in with the new. The district is stable and growing, and administrators feel much luckier compared to some other districts.

Medelia has a lot of new immigrants, so there is a strong Latino presence in the schools. In fact, as many as 40% of the elementary students and 22% of the high school students are Hispanic. The district has adapted well to the influx, employing translators and English as a Second Language teachers in both schools.



Thanks to a new referendum Medelia has plans to renovate its elementary school

After answering some excellent questions from members of the elementary school

student council, I had some questions for them. "What makes your school the best?" I asked. I heard everything from field trips to technology to math!

They raise money for their field trips through special fundraisers, like the Rock-a-Thon, in which students collected pledges for marathon rocking in a rocking chair. One other important note about the field trips: students have to meet 100% of their reading goal to qualify. Recent trips include a 3-day trek to Deep Portage near Hackensack, Minnesota, and an outing at Valleyfair.

Another strong suit here is the amazing technology. Matt Hillmann, the technology director, says they have technology facilities and classes to match anything in the state. That includes the CCC Computer Lab, in which every student gets at least a half hour a day to work on math and reading. The computer provides instant analysis of a student's level, to keep teachers informed of progress.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lake Crystal - Wellcome Memorial District 2071



**Lake Crystal - Wellcome Memorial High School
Lake Crystal
March 26, 2001**

This was the first district in Minnesota to consolidate, and it has consolidated several more times since. As a result, there are a number of different schools.

However, for six consecutive years, the area has failed to pass a referendum. That sent the district plunging into statutory operating debt, and it plans to close two of its schools to try to get back in the black.

Nevertheless, there is very high academic excellence in this district. I met the academic decathlon team (picture to the right), which happens to be the 2001 Class A State Champions. They will be going to Alaska in April to compete for the national title. Team members have to take seven tests, study 10 different subjects, write an essay and complete an interview. Student Marcus Matzke received a perfect score of 1000 in his interview, something that hasn't been done in years! The team has been State Class A champs six times, and is the only team from Minnesota to travel to the nationals.



Alyssa Anderson, who is on the decathlon team, is also trying for a national science presentation trip. She recently won a \$4000 scholarship for a project on examining water quality, which she has been working on for four years.



Alyssa Anderson amazed us with a presentation of her four year scientific study on how to conduct water quality research



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Butterfield - Odin District 836



Butterfield - Odin Public School
Butterfield
March 26, 2001

This is a small school, with K-12 under one roof, but I've never seen such expressive students! The walls are filled with excellent artwork, the band and vocal group beautifully expressed themselves musically, and even the cafeteria food is excellent (although I probably can't give the students too much credit for that).



It was also one of the most participatory groups I've seen, with kids from all the grades asking thoughtful questions. The younger students wanted to know the basics, like what state I live in, and whether I arrived in a limousine, and the older students had questions about education policy and funding.

One student asked me what I thought about a new Twins stadium. My response drew cheers: "I'm not going to talk stadiums when we still need new schools."

There is a strong emphasis on technology, especially with the opening of a CCC Computer Lab. Unlike most schools, which use a Macintosh, this lab has laptop PCs. The lab just opened in January, but by next year, the school plans to purchase desktop computers so the students can do work at home on the laptops. The program focuses on reading and math, and provides instant assessment of a student's progress.



Lt. Governor Schunk was escorted by Natasha Hanson, the student council vice president and Kelly Saunders, the student council president



Students use laptop computers to work on reading and math in the CCC lab



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155

Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Nicollet District 507



**Nicollet Public School
Nicollet
March 27, 2001**

They start them early in Nicollet. There is a daycare right in the school! Right now there are eleven preschool kids enrolled, kids who are already working on things like colors and shapes. They have a lot of fun, they get used to being in school and they have all the resources of the school available.

For the next age group, there's all-day, everyday kindergarten. A new idea? Not in this district. It's been around for 25 years here! All-day, everyday kindergarten really eases the strain for families in which both parents work outside the home.

Our discussion of education policy at this K-12 school brought out businesspeople as well as educators. In fact, two of the more outspoken attendees were business leaders, both of whom argued passionately that education is the number one priority and the government should not be doing rebates. One of the business owners pointed out that he has had to raise wages for his employees 30-40%



recently, just to retain workers. He said there's no reason schools shouldn't receive the necessary money to do the same.



Lt. Governor Schunk congratulates Ryan Rosin, the new state wrestling champ of the heavyweight class



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

St. James District 840



**Armstrong Middle School
St. James
March 27, 2001**

I became very well acquainted with St. James because we stayed two nights there during my three-day visit to this area. I was struck by the strong sense of community involvement. In addition to visiting Armstrong Middle School, I also spoke at the local Rotary Club and met with the St. James Sertoma group (*sertoma* stands for "service to mankind").

The Rotary and Sertoma members expressed the highest regard for their school system, and they let me know that education is a top priority among all sectors of the community. They stressed that the children represent the future of their community, and they want the best education possible for them.

This sense of involvement obviously begins at school, because the vast majority of middle school students participate in the band and choir. And 78 students tried out for the school play, so they created parts for everyone.

The students demonstrated their theatrical flair by donning their costumes and reciting their favorite lines from the play, "Lion, Witch and Wardrobe" by C. S. Lewis. Their vivid sense of imagination was refreshing, not to mention the band's call for summer; they played "Surfin' Safari" by the Beach Boys!

I answered many questions and heard many comments at a student forum, a chat



*Superintendent Keith Togstad
and School Board Chair Jim
Branstad hosted Lt. Governor
Schunk's visit to Armstrong
Middle School in St. James*

with educators in the art room, as well as in the meetings with the Rotary Club and Sertoma. I learned that the enrollment in the district has been level for the past ten years, but the composition of the students has changed dramatically. There has been a big influx of Hispanic students, numbering about 250 out of the district's student population of 1300. In younger grades it's more pronounced - 40% of the entering kindergartners are Hispanic. This means the district has to become bilingual by providing translators, hiring more ESL teachers and recording their answering machine greetings in both English and Spanish.



St. James Mayor Gary Sturm presents Lt. Governor Schunk with a key to the city



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Truman District 458



**Truman Public School
Truman
March 27, 2001**

The spirit I saw at Truman lives up to its motto: "Proud Past, Promising Future." Principal Lyle Hammerschmidt welcomed me to the school and led a lively student forum. In addition to questions about the budget and the Graduation Standards, students stressed the great thing about their school is that the small size enables all the teachers to get to know all the students. This was exemplified by the easy rapport the principal had with his students.

Declining enrollment is forcing that small size to get even smaller, and the budget tighter. The principal explained that fewer students means less revenue, but not necessarily smaller operating costs. For example, a bus route must continue even if there are fewer students to pick up. That's why the principal would prefer to see transportation costs stabilized in a categorical budget item, and not fluctuating in the general fund, which varies according to the number of enrolled students.

Another intriguing question concerned the logistics of the new Graduation Standards: if students will earn a high school degree based on the results of the Basic Tests and the Profile of Learning, then why should students still be required to attend school 170 days a year?

After the forum I had a chance to peek in on the after-school program. It began years ago as a Title One program, serving low-income students, but it became so popular it now is open to all. For two hours, four afternoons a week, students stay at school, play in the gym



for a bit, have a snack, and then do their homework - with supervision, and even a little guidance. The after-school program gives the kids a place to be and something to do, which is a big help to working parents. After all, in small towns like Truman, the schools often have to double as the community center.



Artistic license generated this doctored photo of Lt. Governor Schunk with a milk moustache. It was part of a hallway display with the dairy - motivated question: Got Milk?



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Martin County West District 255



**Martin County West High School
Sherburne
March 28, 2001**

Martin County is the largest pig producing area in the state, so it was no surprise to be welcomed by a portly greeter.

Agriculture is the dominant theme at Martin County West High School in Sherburne, where there is a high-quality three-part program.

For starters, the school offers several agriculture classes. They've covered 16 different topics over the years, and enrollment in the classes keeps rising. In fact, nearly half of the 330 students at the high school take part in the ag education classes. Many of them even get credit at the University of Minnesota. These extraordinary classes require special equipment, which is making them more and more difficult to fund.



The school also has a strong participation (80 students) in FFA. FFA provides excellent opportunities to learn leadership and public speaking, not to mention hands-on agriculture education. Students may enter competitions in 16 different areas, such as learning how to judge cows, forestry, and fish and wildlife. Several of the students are going to this year's national convention in Kentucky. The FFA is responsible for its own funding, which is done through a big fruit sale each fall as well as concession stands at the high school games.

The third part of the program is SAE, which stands for Supervised Agricultural

Experience. Students do hands-on work in caring for animals, as well as a number of other projects. They may earn a proficiency license in 30 different areas and compete for awards. It's a great chance to check out a potential career.

This three-pronged approach to agriculture education is unique, and administrators want to make sure they can maintain it. It helps enhance the workforce development for one of Minnesota's major industries: agri - business.

Unfortunately, after years of creative budgeting, this is the first year the district has to look at cutting programs. Declining enrollment is costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding.



The versatile students at Martin County West High School had many questions for Lt. Governor Schunk on education policy and funding



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Comfrey District 81



**Comfrey Public School
Comfrey
March 28, 2001**

*In Comfrey the public library is
part of the public school*

During my forum with students and community members, someone asked me whether I would want my child to attend the Comfrey Public School. I did not hesitate to say, "Yes." The more I saw of the school, the more I was sure about my answer. This school is a great place for students to learn.

In Comfrey the folks know how to make the best of a bad situation. Nearly three years ago to the date of our visit a tornado swept through Comfrey and destroyed many buildings in town, including the school. The board made some excellent decisions when they put the pieces back together. For one thing they built the public library into the school, so that it also serves as the school library. This is a very efficient move. The community is also served by the presence of a daycare facility in the school. Also, the school installed a geothermal heating and air conditioning unit, which costs a lot up front, but it saves money in the long run.



*School board chair Wendell Fredin gave
Lt. Governor Schunk a tour of the school's
state-of-the-art geothermal heating and
cooling system*

The beauty of this modern, rebuilt school is overshadowed by declining enrollment and the town's stagnant economy. School Superintendent Robert Meyer explained

that the town needs to develop local industry along with affordable housing in order to attract families. The school is an attraction, but enrollment has been declining by about 4% a year.

The high point of the visit was the exuberant display of student talent and spirit. First the marching band energized the auditorium with some powerful drumming and playing. Later the "Rising Rockets" - composed of elementary students - exploded into the gym with a kinesthetic parade of delight.



Movement was everywhere. Kids were building human pyramids, making fabric art designs with a parachute and performing with tinkling boards. This dynamic presentation filled me with an optimism and a faith that this district can defeat any obstacle.



Superintendent Robert Meyer gives an example of the winning spirit at Comfrey: a trophy declaring the speech team to be "2001 Subsection 6 Champions"



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Mountain Lake District 173



**Mountain Lake Public School
Mountain Lake
March 28, 2001**

I always expect to see new things when I enter a school, but Mountain Lake gave me a double surprise right away. When I entered the library it appeared that my boss, Governor Ventura, was there waiting for me! It turned out that the town's mayor is a dead ringer for the governor - when you see him from behind. The second surprise was a song composed just for me, and performed by Mrs. Carlson's first grade class.

*Lt. Governor Schunk and
(Ventura look-alike) Mayor
Howard Bouchie applaud the
special song presented by Mrs.
Carlson's first graders*



Mayor Howard Bouchie mentioned that the people of Mountain Lake tend to resist change, but when it comes to maintaining a quality education for their kids, who can blame them? The forum at Mountain Lake consisted primarily of students, teachers and others giving testimonials about their pride in the school and their hope that it continues to deliver a quality education. Several people mentioned that a small school allows greater opportunities for student participation. For example, at a large urban school, only a select few get to become cheerleaders, but in a small school that opportunity is usually available to anyone interested in it. The same holds true for sports, theater and other extracurricular activities. On the academic side, teachers tend to have more time to spend with each student.

One local businessman was dismayed that the school lacked some of the basic

equipment to learn auto mechanics in the school's shop class. Several former graduates recalled that years ago the school had a broader array of course offerings, as well as more administrators. Current school leaders proudly report that they did not exceed their budgets during contract negotiations with teachers, and that they want the governor to get the message that they need to be respected for that. Consider the message delivered!



Sixth grader Jennie Thammavongkeo gave a special welcome to Lt. Governor Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Shoreview School District 621

**Turtle Lake Elementary School, Shoreview
February 15, 2001**



Turtle Lake Elementary School in Shoreview

The sole purpose of my visit to Turtle Lake Elementary was to view their innovative project which they call Parallel Block Scheduling or PBS. It is an intriguing and cost-effective program that may achieve the goals of smaller class sizes without hiring a lot of new teachers. Instead, Principal Richard Skinner and his staff have

implemented a scheduling strategy that begins with ordinary class sizes of 20-24, but uses instructional groupings of students of 15 or less per licensed teacher. This way the students receive individualized attention several times each week in reading and math. This is the first year of PBS at Turtle Lake, but the teachers and staff report seeing an increase in student achievement and behavior. The program involves 11 first and second grade teachers and about 240 students from those grades. The students in each class are divided into instructional groups, based on ability; one group stays in the class with the teacher while the other group goes to the Extension Center.

The true benefits of small class size depend upon the ability of teachers learning how to work on a more individual basis with students. Staff development is critical to the success of this program. Teachers should learn how to differentiate and compact curriculum, work with students on individual needs and must work cooperatively with their co-workers. The



Lt. Governor Schunk examines the work of a student preparing to interview another student

PBS teachers at Turtle Lake prepared for their new roles in the summer, plus they meet each week to share what they have learned. Teachers say they have indeed learned much about how to differentiate curriculum at various achieve-

ment levels and about the learning styles of their students. Teachers are also learning how to collaborate with each other in creative ways, keeping in mind what is best for the students.

Principal Skinner borrowed these ideas from the research of Robert Lynn Canady and modified them to meet the needs of his school. Skinner says the restructuring of the schedule and teaching styles required a great deal of planning, but the results are so exciting that they are eager to share their findings with other schools. I, too, am excited about what I saw at Turtle Lake Elementary. It makes me want to be a teacher there.



Before visiting classrooms and the Extension Center, Lt. Governor Schunk watched a power point presentation and discussed PBS with teachers and administrators



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Carlton School District 93

Carlton High School

February 21, 2001



Carlton High School

The high school in Carlton is proud of a very special program called the Indian Center, which is funded in part by the state. The program includes 127 kids, mostly from the nearby Fond du Lac reservation. The kids focus on technology and traditional Indian culture, as well as general academics.

I heard from many members of the Carlton community, as well as students, teachers and parents at a forum in the school library.

A nursing home administrator asked why nursing homes are not getting funding increases in Governor Ventura's budget. I answered that it is indeed a lean budget for everyone, and we are focusing on home health care, which is what a lot of people want these days.



Superintendent Scott Hoch and Lt. Gov. Schunk

Superintendent Scott Hoch raised a number of issues, including declining enrollment, rising special ed and health care costs, and the fact the governor is not providing any new money in these areas. The result, he says, is that the district is getting squeezed just about everywhere it turns. He also expressed concern about where future money will come from if the funding system is changed.

As for recent funding, Superintendent Hoch would like to see money put back in categorical, rather than a general fund, for things like transportation.

Lt. Gov. Schunk learns about the Indian Center from Sandra Shabiash, Director of Indian Education (right), as two parents look on.



And one woman had an excellent idea for people who would rather see their sales tax rebate go to education.

She suggested having a checkoff on state tax forms, so people can let government spend the money if they choose.

She pointed out that it's a lot easier to do it that way than to cash the rebate check and send a new one back to the state.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Cloquet School District 94

**Cloquet Senior High School
February 21, 2001**

The folks in Cloquet greeted me with a very well-organized presentation that highlighted their impressive program, The Cloquet Community Learning Center Afterschool Program.

Its director, Annette Bringe, led a very effective slide presentation on the great opportunities for the 200 kids who take part in the program.

The idea is to make the program available to all students. Students are part of fun clubs, like the Pyramid (for food pyramid) Cafe, where they learn about cooking while working on their other academic skills.

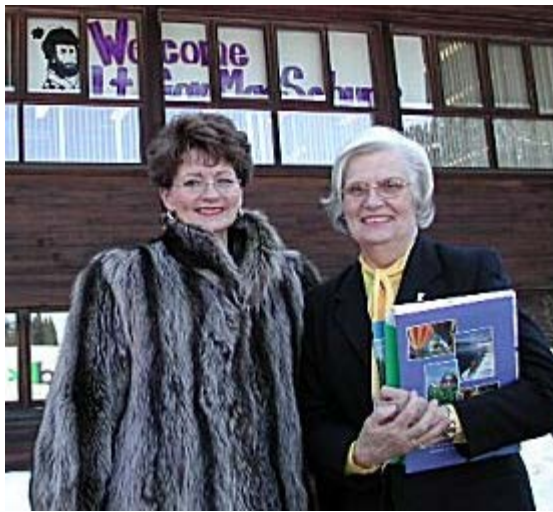


Lt. Gov. Schunk speaks with students at Cloquet High

Working on reading and math is only one of the goals of the program. It also wants to lower crime, increase youth awareness of technology and improve attendance.

In each club, teachers find inventive ways to bring reading and math into the students' lives, such as working on writing skills while putting together a cookbook and working on math by using fractions in recipes. The same is true in all the other clubs, including ceramics, foreign languages, art and many others.

And it's working! 50% of afterschool kids showed improvement in their academic scores and 48% showed improvement in their classroom



Lt. Gov. Schunk receives a warm welcome from Lorna Mangan, Coordinator of Community and School Resources

behavior.

The program is completely voluntary, running from 3-5pm Monday through Thursday, and students say they're having a blast and building friendships.

The program began with state funding, and now it needs more. But since it produces results and has accountability, increased funding is definitely something we'll look into.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Cromwell School District 95

**Cromwell-Wright High School
February 21, 2001**



*Student Council President Billy Asp
and Michael Jobe welcome Lt.
Governor Schunk to Cromwell-Wright*

There are 229 people in Cromwell, but that number swells to about 4400 when the cabin owners owners make the summer charge north.

Unlike the situation in a lot of districts, enrollment here is not declining.

In our visit, students and teachers showcased two Profile of Learning projects. The kindergarten project featured "star words" that helps kids learn to read.

The kids read together in small groups, and learn to identify particular words that are key and repeat them often. As a result, many kids can read by the end of kindergarten.

The other project is run by Laura Anderson, the school's music director, who has quite an undertaking on her hands.

She's putting on a musical with all the 7 and 8 graders, nearly 50 students in all, as her Profile of Learning project.

Everyone has a job in the production of "Treasure Island." The students

research the 19th century era, looking into events, costumes and history of the time. For art projects, they make posters for the musical, and there's obviously plenty to do in the music



arena. Teachers say the kids are really involved, and are having a great time while they're learning.

Lt. Governor Schunk learns about the school production of Treasure Island from some of the students who make it happen

At a forum with students, staff and community members, people asked tough questions about our proposed budget, the Profile of Learning and college tuition costs.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Floodwood School District 698

**Floodwood Public School
February 21, 2001**



Student Body President April Ruzynski and Superintendent Rob Benson welcomed Lt. Governor Schunk

The students in Floodwood can take a field trip every day if they wish. They've grown a school forest right next to the school. It's 105 acres of learning opportunities. In addition to studying science and nature, students of other disciplines, like English theme-writers, can make use of the bucolic surroundings.

Students can also work on their motor skills in the forest, as they did when they cleared out a trail, hauled chips and even built a bridge. They also held Earth Day events there, featuring displays on all kinds of subjects, from birch bark canoes and owls to voyageurs and duck houses.

Because it was a tad chilly on the day I visited, the students told me all about their forest in a slide show, which they narrated.

There's another environmental-related responsibility for the students: their school is an official monitoring station for the U.S. Riverwatch program. Because four rivers run through the town, it is a prime spot for studying the waterways. Students keep an eye on things like contamination and vegetation.

*Historic buildings and images
enliven the hallways at Floodwood,
including a depiction of the*



namesake of the town, Chief Tom Floodwood



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Hibbing School District 701

**Hibbing Senior High School
February 22, 2001**



Hibbing High School

The high school in Hibbing is a testament to the glory days of the mining industry. It's massive, and very ornate, the type of school most students probably won't really appreciate until they get older. It reminded me of our State Capitol, with its imported chandeliers and beautiful statues.

There's a certain irony to the fact that the school's auditorium is built to hold 1800 people, yet the school population is now less than 1000.

We began our visit in the graphic arts center, which was very impressive and featured several high-powered Macintoshes. The students were practicing making logos for local businesses as part of a grad standard focusing on marketing. They've worked on magazine covers, brochures, and prototype products for which they create a simulated marketing plan. Some of the students are art students, but others are computer-types, so they help each other out. Art teacher Marva Harms has to make sure she's also an expert in technology. That's probably a good idea anyway, because that seems to be the direction in which art is heading.

*Graphic Arts teacher
Marva Harms has learned
to combine art and
technology, and now
teaches that skill to both
artists and computer-
proficient students*



When I met with staff, students, community people and administration, a kindergarten teacher raised a concern about all-day kindergarten funding. She wondered if the state could pick up more of the funding. I told her there are lots of creative financing options for these types of programs. In some cases, parents pay, in others, parents get tax credit for it.

This was the first of our Iron Range visits and it was sadly clear how hard-hit the area is. It's not just laid-off mine workers either. When a mine like LTV shuts down, there's a domino effect with all the other providers in the area. Here in Hibbing, they say "we're bleeding now, and we need some help right away." They have a big school to maintain and things aren't getting any easier.

The superintendent said there's simply not enough money in the budget. They have made cuts every spring in his ten years on the job, but operating expenses go up and state increases don't keep up.

The students in the Hibbing High School library are inspired by fine art, statues and murals



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Chisholm School District 695

**Chisholm Senior High School
February 22, 2001**



Chisholm Senior High School

The superintendent in Chisholm made an excellent presentation, complete with a pamphlet, on why the district needs money.

This is a district Governor Ventura would like: they're very disciplined, and they have lots of accountability.

What's more, they say they understand the governor's position regarding his budget, but they are still pretty devastated. They are trying to get by on a .1% increase, which doesn't come close to their more than \$500,000 increase in general costs.

One of the worries here is consolidation. Right now there is a personal, caring environment, and the kids get a good deal of attention. Educators don't want the kids to become anonymous because of consolidation.

And this is a community that cares. Residents passed a referendum by a two-to-one margin to raise money for education. And the auditorium, where we met, was renovated by the community without any state aid.



Lieutenant Governor Schunk received an excellent briefing on the status of the

Chisholm School District from (left to right) Student Body President Shannon Fitzgerald, Business Manager Kristen Zupetz, Board member Darcy Lucas, Superintendent Bob Kaiser, and Board member Clarice Sever



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Mesabi East School District 2711

**Mesabi East High School, Aurora
February 22, 2001**

This is the Iron Range school district most devastated by the LTV shutdown, and my visit was an emotional one. As the principal put it, "we're distressed here."

The district has always relied on taconite money to help out with the school budget, last year to the tune of more than \$700,000 . Administrators have never had to go to property owners for bonding. Now that taconite money isn't there, and the property owners can't help because they're out of jobs.

Because things are tight, many students are going to the local community college so they can start their education early, and save some money. That can be great for the kids, but the school loses out, because they lose that per-pupil funding, while still providing services.



Lt. Gov. Schunk with Principal Jorma Rahkola in front of a welcoming banner

One of our stops was at a science room, where teacher Tom Klabecheck said he's been teaching Profile of Learning-type projects for years. His students are part of Riverwatch, so they keep an eye on the St. Louis River right at the mouth, before there's any contamination. Their checks of the water quality are the benchmarks.

And in case we needed any reminders that we're in Northern Minnesota, we learned of biology students who received a deer carcass from a butcher and proceeded to learn about its physiology by boiling, bleaching, lacquering and reassembling it.



East Mesabi science teacher Tom Klabecheck advances the cause of science despite the antiquated state of some of his equipment, such as this laboratory shower unit



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Moose Lake District 701

**Moose Lake Elementary School
February 23, 2001**



Lt. Governor Schunk with award-winning Principal Tim Caroline

This was the second time I've been to Moose Lake Elementary. The first was to watch Principal Tim Caroline accept a \$25,000 award from the Milken Foundation.

This time Principal Caroline was among the administrators, teachers and students greeting us at a forum in the school library.

Among the issues that came up: teacher shortages and how to promote young students' interest in the teaching profession. I reminded them of the governor's loan forgiveness program for new teachers who teach in areas of shortages and have several thousand dollars worth of loans forgiven.

The governor's budget was also on everyone's mind, with the district superintendent saying his proposal is unrealistic for his school, which is already losing its infrastructure. The school is trying to catch up as its enrollment declines (the district lost \$450,000 last year because of declining enrollment and other factors).

They've already had to cut a shop teacher, a language teacher and a special ed teacher. They say they're "cut" down to the bone! And in Moose Lake,

88% of the property is not taxable, so it's hard to raise money.

As we toured the school, we saw a very interesting computer lab, in which:
2nd graders were making Web site

videos;
3rd graders were making Web pages;
4th graders were making an
instructional video on how to use the
Web for research;
and 6th graders were doing a variety of
activities on the Web.



*Lt. Governor Schunk with second grade
computer students Jackie, Taylor and Brittany*

Technician Scott Anderson and teacher Sue Caroline have a lot to be proud of.
And all this student work on the Web site means families thinking about moving
to the area can take a look at the school's impressive work from anywhere in the
world. If you'd like to take a look, go to: www.mooselake.k12.mn.us/.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
**Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

McGregor District 4

**McGregor Public School
February 23, 2001**



Superintendent Lynette Maas and the President of the National Honor Society, Gina Haugse, welcomed Lt. Governor Schunk to McGregor School

There are 560 students in the McGregor district, but in terms of square miles, the district is the size of Rhode Island!

This is a district that knows about comebacks. Five years ago two embezzlers and an incompetent business manager left the district \$5 million in the red. Within three years, administrators had "righted the ship" and were showing a positive balance. The past few years have been a lesson in frugality.

The area has lost students to open enrollment, but there are 73 kids from the Mille Lacs reservation who go to the school.

We learned all this during an excellent presentation, led by McGregor's honor students. They highlighted the local economy, the school's special programs and more.

This school could give lessons on how to get grants, having been very successful in that area. One hundred computers are the result of a national grant program through the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. Other grants have resulted in special reading and math computer-related learning programs that let students study at all different levels. There is one computer

for every four students at the school. (The state goal is one computer for every five students).

We saw another effective use of computers when we visited a high school history class. Students were making the most of multi-media opportunities through the computers to do research on the post-World War II era. There were eight workstations set up, each corresponding to one of Gardner's multiple intelligences.



We also stopped in at the Indian Education program, which is affiliated with the Rice Lake band of Ojibwe. The program emphasizes academics and culture, and also helps students work on building their self-esteem.



The school's Director of Indian Education, Winnie LaPrairie, presented the Lt. Governor with wild rice and other gifts to give her the "taste" of McGregor



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

St. Michael-Albertville District 885

**St. Michael-Albertville Senior High School, Albertville
February 27, 2001**

Student groups, teachers, school board members, and parents greeted me at the St. Michael-Albertville high school auditorium. Members of the Business Professionals of America group presented details of a successful "e-mentoring" program they have been working on. Local businesses mentor high school students and teach them "real life" skills that are needed in the workforce.



Lt. Gov. Schunk talks with teacher Steve Scherber, a former co-worker, and Albertville Mayor John Olson

It's all part of a school-to-work program and a Tech prep program. I'm all for instruction that gives high school students hands-on learning experiences to prepare them for the real world!

We next heard from the Environmental Club, whose members described their club, along with something they're doing called "The Becker Big Woods Project." The club and community members are trying to preserve a nearby forest and use it for hands-on learning. That's exactly what teachers are doing in Floodwood, which I had just visited the previous week.

In Albertville, they call it their outdoor ecology classroom and showed us an example of how the math, literature, science and history could be taught hands-on, using the Big Woods. They have received a grant from the DNR for this project and are looking for some other means of additional funding. Once they get the woods preserved, the community can also use it for things like hiking, skiing, bird watching and much more.

Our forum discussion revolved around the issues of attracting young people to

the field of education; loan forgiveness; mentoring for young teachers; staff development; and respect for the teaching profession and for teachers by students.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Rockford District 883

Rockford Middle School

February 28, 2001



This mosaic of Minnesota, created by students in art class, hangs in the school's stairway

Students are busy with an environmental education program in Rockford, called Environment and Integrating Context. EIC is a cooperative program with Deep Portage.

Rockford received a grant through the Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center and funding from the Blandin Paper Company to bring the environment and community into the classroom for hands-on learning. This is school and community involved in meaningful education.

The middle school students create their own "outdoor laboratories," which are then integrated into other subject areas. The program itself has been integrated into the Grad Standards requirements.

After the presentation, the school invited me to a forum, which included teachers, students and administrators. A number of different topics were discussed, but a running theme focused on fully-funding special ed and lobbying President Bush to do the same.



Lt. Gov. Schunk answers questions and asks some of her own at a roundtable discussion with students, faculty and administrators at Rockford Middle School

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Maple Lake District 881

**Maple Lake School
February 28, 2001**

The teachers, administrators, students and parents of the Maple Lake school district should be extremely proud. They have built great community support and are a good example of the accountability Governor



Lt. Gov. Schunk speaks in the Maple Lake school library

Ventura says he wants to see. Their presentation told me about many of their school and community programs from pre-kindergarten to community ed. The presentation began with the ECCE program and how it has been extremely important for involving parents at the early stages of their child's life and keeping them involved throughout the school years.

The elementary school programs have also been quite successful, because community and parents play a major role. Other important programs that have been serving the students: special ed programs, high school programs relating to the grad standards, summer programs for at-risk students, and community ed programs that involve young people and their families.

The Community Care program involves more than 600 volunteers every year at the school. The parents also sponsor a Parent Involvement program that raises money for the school. You can see some of the results with the elementary school's brand new playground. The community group gathered more than 1000 volunteers to build the playground, with the money

raised over two years.



Lt. Gov. Schunk with high school principal Mary James and elementary school principal Dan O'Berg

of the box" and their accountability. The presentation lasted almost an hour and ended with two first graders involved in the Reading Recovery program displaying aloud their improvement, by reading.



Lieutenant Governor Schunk listens to Maple Lake students read

There is also a program which helps senior citizens form relationships with high school students.

I received the message loud and clear: this is a well-bonded community, and the result is a very effective school system.

They encouraged me to tell the governor about their "thinking outside



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Litchfield District 465

Litchfield Middle School

February 28, 2001



Lt. Gov. Schunk and Pat Devine, principal of Litchfield Middle School

Students work on math problems, fill out answers on scan-tron forms and run them through the scanner.

They find out the correct answers, as well as their scores within seconds.

The instant feedback is a huge aid to learning. Students use this math program three times a week.

Litchfield students are learning how to use technology in their math classes.

The school received an in-house grant for technology and has integrated a math program into 4th grade classrooms.

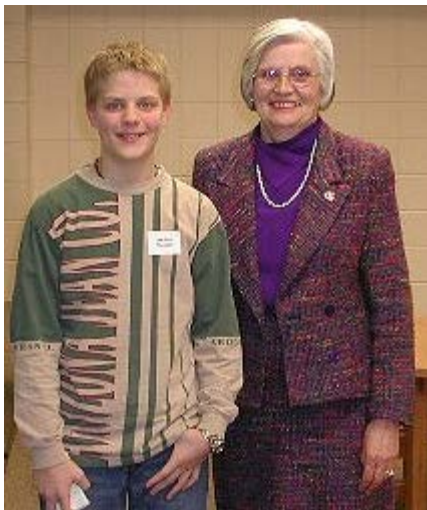


Lt. Gov. Schunk listens to an explanation of the math program

As is the case in all districts, funding is a concern in Litchfield.

But many of their worries center on busing and transportation costs, which are especially high in this district.

Administrators said they must use the general fund to cover costs.



*Lt. Gov. Schunk with Jordan
Monson, editor of the 8th grade
yearbook*



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
**Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not
Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

LaCrescent Hokah School District 300



**LaCrescent
December 12, 2000**

*LaCrescent - Hokah Superintendent
Connie Hayes met Lt. Governor Schunk
in front of the Middle and High School*

LaCrescent's Middle and High School was built in the 1960s, but they've recently added a beautiful auditorium, and that's where I was greeted by students and faculty. The new auditorium was funded through a levy and an anonymous donor, and it looks like both the donor and the taxpayers really got their money's worth.

To help show off the facility's capabilities, the students performed a few scenes from their production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." The performers showed great energy, and great enthusiasm! I can see why they packed the auditorium all four nights of the full performance. Director Tami Weiss, who also teaches art, has a lot to be proud of, as do her students.



*The Peanuts gang is alive
and well onstage at
LaCrescent's production
of "You're a Good Man
Charlie Brown"*

One of the questions that came up during our forum regarded changing the school districts. I told them I think it's important to make the districts more equitable, and make sure teacher pay relates to the cost of living. I also expressed my interest in extended teacher contracts, an idea well received by the audience.

Another question concerned reducing drug use in schools. I said education is the key, and perhaps anti-drug programs like D.A.R.E. should be expanded, so kids get the necessary education at a younger age.

And there was a question about reducing class sizes. I stressed that lowering the student/teacher ratio is one of the Ventura administration's top priorities. We've already taken big steps in K-3, but I'd like to see class sizes reduced all the way through grade 12.



These are some of the LaCrescent-Hokah students who posed questions of Lt. Governor Schunk during a public forum on education



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Houston School District 294

Houston
December 12, 2000



Lt. Governor Schunk poses in front of Houston Public Schools with Superintendent Kim Ross, local attorney Terry Chiglo, and Marilyn Frauenkron Bayer, Director of Communication and Education Services

If you want to learn about business, Houston is the place for you. The K-12 school we visited has a great program for budding businesspeople. There are two real-life businesses in the school, which are run by students and used by teachers as an educational tool. One is called Printworks, a print shop that prints just about anything. We saw examples of brochures, invitations and much more, all done very professionally. I was able to get a close-up look at the actual production, and talk with the students about the program.

Mary Scheu, Kathlene Loken, Zeb Baumann, Devin Ray and Marc Nelson are students and employees of PrintWorks, a student business and learning opportunity



The other student-run business made me want to hop on a bike and take a trip across southern Minnesota (as soon as the snow melts). It's a bike shop, where students are learning two skills:



Lt. Governor Schunk learns about the operation of the student business, Class Cycle Bikes

how to repair bikes and, not surprisingly, how to run a bike shop. It's great, hands-on learning, something every school can emulate.

Our question and answer session in the media center raised some interesting questions. One student wanted to know my educational goals for Minnesota. I have several. I'd like to see teachers contracted for performance, (under a system that still has to be worked out), incentives for younger teachers and reduced class sizes.

Another question wondered why I'm in government. I said this job is the perfect "topper" to my teaching career. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference to Minnesota's kids, something I've been striving to do my entire career.

There were lots of concerns about open enrollment in this community. Many think there's not as much pride in the community, and wonder if people are doing it for the right reasons, that is, the child's education. Sometimes, they say, it seems like a winning sports team comes first.



Lt. Governor Schunk addresses students, teachers, parents and community members in a forum in the library at Houston Public Schools



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Spring Grove School District 297



**Spring Grove
December 12, 2000**

In our meeting with the principal, superintendent and other administrators, I received some good news right away about Spring Grove: there is almost 100% attendance at parent teacher conferences for elementary students, and more than 80% for secondary students. That's the kind of parent involvement every school needs!

Spring Grove also has an excellent afterschool homework program from grades 3-12, called "Each One, Teach One." A teacher and two peer tutors help students out Monday through Thursday. The program receives funding from a grant. Money well spent!

This school is quite strong in foreign language education. All 450 students in the schools are offered a chance to study a foreign language, including Latin. This is the sort of thing schools need to do for Minnesota to achieve maximum success as a global competitor.

Lt. Governor Schunk discusses questions and concerns of Spring Grove Schools with Kindergarten teacher Carol Hines



This is definitely a 21st century school. Every classroom is wired for computer accessibility, giving students (and teachers) a chance to take full advantage of today's technology.

But not everything is optimum in Spring Grove. Among the concerns here are decreasing enrollment, which leads to fears of consolidation. They also have trouble recruiting and retaining top personnel, partly due to low funding. They could also use better funding to keep up their modern technology. It goes out of date pretty quickly!



Lt. Governor Schunk with Spring Grove kindergartners Maddie Thompson, Kayla Hahn, Taylor Borreson, and Joshua Olerud



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
 For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Mabel - Canton School District 238



**Mabel
December 13, 2000**

*Lt. Governor Schunk addresses student body
questions at Mabel-Canton School*

Superintendent Rick Nance and several school board members welcomed us to Mabel-Canton, and State Representative Greg Davids joined us for our visit.

The students presented the projects they have been working on, and they were all quite impressive. The 3rd graders read books to senior citizens weekly. The kids improve their reading skills and the seniors love it. The 4th graders entertained us with a "Who wants to be a Millionaire" skit. But I'll bet these questions were a little harder than those on the game show. The questions were about voting history, the electoral college and Minnesota. Those 4th graders are pretty sharp when it comes to our state!

The 5th graders are learning about geography, with a pigskin touch. Each week they study the home city of the Minnesota Vikings' opponent. In addition to learning about the city, they hone their Internet research skills. They call it Gridiron Graphing.

The older students are into business. Future Farmers of America students talked about the benefits of that program. They're learning real-life skills like job hunting, fundraising and, of course, agriculture. And there is a student-run corporation called "The Healthy Pot

Company," a school-to-work program in which students make decorative pots and ornaments.



Students in the Healthy Pot Company presented Lt. Governor Schunk with a sample

Finally, a group of high school students performed a Renaissance-era dance, in costume. Methinks I witnessed some true talent!



Renaissance dancers performed a delightful and artistic dance



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Rushford - Peterson School District 239



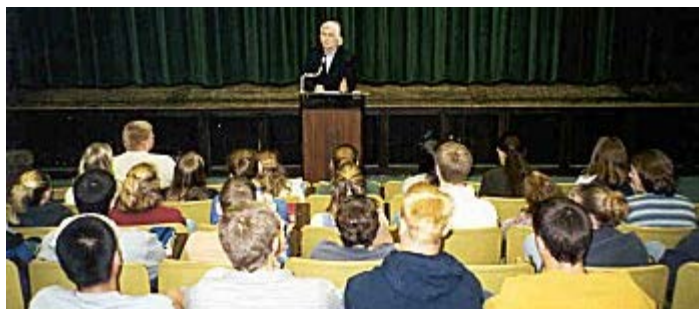
**Rushford
December 13, 2000**

You've got to like a school that presents you with fresh lefsa! Makes me proud to be a Minnesotan.

The folks at Rushford-Peterson High School chose to use the entire hour of my visit as a question/answer forum. A major topic was the school itself, which was built in 1906, and has been renovated a number of times. One of the concerns that came up regarded the financial burden of making continual renovations and improvements. The alternative would be a new school, a pricey dilemma.

Rushford-Peterson is also dealing with teacher shortages, and tough competition from bigger cities when it comes to teacher salaries. Combine that with declining enrollment and you can see that they are facing some difficult education issues.

*Lt. Governor Schunk
addresses students,
teachers and
community members
in a question/answer
forum*



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Fillmore Central School District 2198



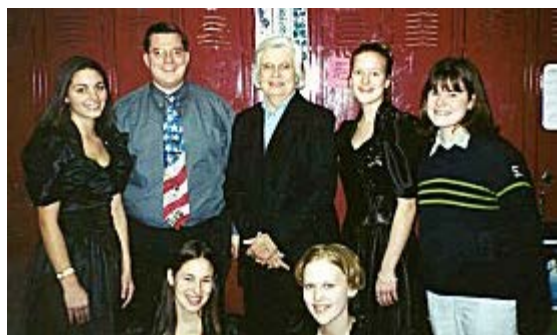
**Harmony
December 13, 2000**

State Representative Greg Davids and the mayors of Harmony, Preston and Fountain joined us for our visit to Fillmore Central.

The school's top choir, the Tapestry, put on a wonderful holiday performance to get things rolling. That was followed by students presenting their technology projects, which included a professional-quality video. It was a compilation of the school's favorite holiday moments, shot and edited by students. Technology is a big part of the curriculum at the school, and it shows. I was very impressed with not only the program, but also the persistence to get grants and donations.

The students also presented a nursing home email project that they started, called The Techmasters program. The program was started through a grant and donations and allowed the school to purchase laptop computers. The local phone company donated services so students and seniors can use email, and the students take it from there. Some of them went to the nursing home and helped seniors email their family members. And they used their digital camera to take pictures of the seniors and teach them how to send the pictures electronically. The program is so successful, it is being extended to the middle school students.

Each student at Fillmore Central is also taught how to make his or her own Web site. I was very impressed overall by the technology curriculum. Not surprisingly, school officials told me they could use more technology funding. That's a common lament that I've heard at many districts!



*Student Council Executives
Serena Pierson Steuart, Laura
Nethercut, Mandy Whalen,
Andrew Scheevel and other
student council members
greeted Lt. Governor Schunk*

My official visit ended in the afternoon, but I returned to Fillmore Central High School in the evening to watch a holiday music program, thanks to an invitation from Representative Davids. The talent of the student performers was magnificent, and the town of Harmony really lived up to its name!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Lanesboro School District 229



**Lanesboro
December 13, 2000**

We began our visit to Lanesboro in the school's woodshop, where students were making elaborate projects such as desks, shelves and dressers. It's amazing what you get when you provide enterprising kids with some lathes and saws!



Projects made by Lanesboro students in woodshop class

Our next stop on the tour was the Lanesboro Child Care Center (LCCC). It's right in the school and gets its funding through the school district and grants within the community. The LCCC was established in 1988 and staffs four full time and five part time employees.

It seems like quite an innovative center, providing learning opportunities above and beyond most regular daycares because of its location in the public school. The daycare children have access to a gym and all kinds of equipment. The children are also invited to attend special events in the school such as plays and concerts. And the LCCC helps new kindergartners make a quicker adjustment to school since the surroundings are already familiar.



Lt. Governor Schunk sings Holiday carols with kids at the Lanesboro Child Care Center

In our question and answer forum, I got the message that the community here does not want to consolidate with other schools. That seems to be a common refrain in rural Minnesota. In Lanesboro, they've fought hard to stay independent, and so far, they have been able to come up with enough money to do so.

Additional concerns common to rural communities also come up here, including a lack of sufficient funding and challenges in recruiting and retaining talented young teachers.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Kingsland School District 2137



Kingsland Middle School

**Wykoff
December 16, 2000**

For the second day in a row, a school welcomed us with a presentation of fresh lefsa. It's great to be in Minnesota!

Kingsland Middle School in Wykoff also presented me with a gift of music, as music teacher Bill Nelson performed a wonderful song he wrote about Minnesota.



Kingsland music instructor Bill Nelson performs a song he wrote about Minnesota for the Lt. Governor



Sixth grader Kala Jensen with Lt. Governor Schunk and State Representative Greg Davids, who visited several schools on the itinerary

Kingsland 6th graders presented their Minnesota History Projects. The projects included biographies of famous Minnesotans such as the Mayo Brothers, Charles Schultz, Charles Lindbergh, Governor Ventura and even me! It's quite an honor to be a subject of such a sophisticated history project.



Although they're battling the same issues as most rural school districts, such as declining enrollment and a struggling local economy, the students in Wykoff are definitely getting a top-notch education.



Lt. Governor Schunk listens to the concerns of students, teachers and community members in a public forum on education issues



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Le Roy - Ostrander School District 499



**Le Roy
December 14, 2000**

LeRoy-Ostrander Public School

The LeRoy-Ostrander student council greeted State Representative Greg Davids and me as we entered their school, and they promptly led us on a tour.



Among my stops: the school's new greenhouse, which was filled with red poinsettias. Students in Mr. Richard Schaufler's horticulture/agriculture class made it a project to plant and harvest the flowers to sell in the community. These were the first plants the students grew in the new greenhouse. They're getting instruction from the best--Richard Schaufler has been honored as Agriculture Teacher of the Year. All in all, a very impressive agriculture program.

We then toured the shop area, where students are busy building various projects and studying meats. Some of the kids are involved in a yearly Future Farmers of America competition that involves identifying meats and their properties, such as cuts, species and rank.

Then, a special highlight of the day was lunch with the 6th graders!

At our question and answer forum, students expressed concern that there are not a lot of choices in classes and opportunities because their school is so small. They also said they find the grad standards confusing and don't understand why we need them. That led to a fruitful discussion on the standards and their benefits.



*LeRoy Ostrander Student Council officers
join Lt. Governor Schunk*



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

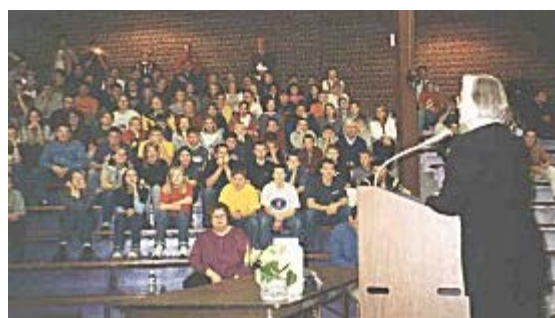
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

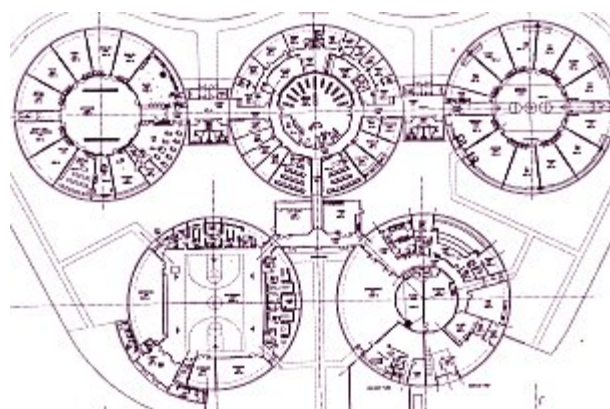
Grand Meadow School District 495



**Grand Meadow
December 14, 2000**

Lt. Governor Schunk addresses the student body at Grand Meadow Public School

In Grand Meadow, everybody's talking about it: the new 81,000 square foot K-12 school that will be built. This school will be unlike any other in the state. It will have five monolithic domes, which will keep construction and operating costs down, and increase safety. Grand Meadow leaders researched the dome structure, informed the public and the Legislature what they'd learned, and secured \$8 million in a bond to build the new school. Along with all the latest designs in classrooms, a gymnasium and a cafeteria, the new school will have a multipurpose center with a stage. I was presented with floor plans and I can see why everyone is so excited about it. Groundbreaking is scheduled for October.



These are the architectural plans for the new and very modern Grand Meadow school with five domes

After hearing a lovely song from the Grand Meadow Senior Choir, I was able to observe some of the special projects students are working on. Elementary students collected food and clothing for people who can really use them during the harsh winter months. This teaches the students a great lesson about the

importance of community service.

Grand Meadow students who were involved in a Salvation Army collection join State Representative Greg Davids and Lt. Governor Schunk



Some sixth graders I visited were busy constructing gingerbread houses with a little help from their parents. I was pleased to see a high degree of parent involvement in the school's programs.



A sixth grader at Grand Meadow ponders how to use an ice cream cone as part of a gingerbread house



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Southland School District 500



**Adams
December 14, 2000**

Southland Middle and High School

It was a decidedly adult theme at the secondary school in Adams. The visit was devoted to a question and answer forum with only grown - ups present.

Questions centered on issues in rural education, from teacher retention to teacher salaries and consolidation of schools. Some teachers were concerned with the Graduation Standards and the amount of time required to do all the paperwork involved. The teachers who teach more than one subject were especially concerned.

I learned all about the F.A.S.T. program: Families and Schools Together: Building Relationships. This program, for Southland 6th through 8th graders and their families, strives to build strong relationships within families. Families gather weekly and participate in research-based activities aimed at strengthening family life in the community. The F.A.S.T program at Southland Public Schools is coordinated through The Parenting Resource Center, Inc.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk visits: *Intermediate School District 917*

**Rosemount
November 14, 2000**



Superintendent Bill Larson, Senator Pat Pariseau & Representative Dennis Ozment join Lt. Governor Schunk in front of District 917's headquarters.

The Intermediate School District 917 is devoted to providing vocational and technical education, along with other services and programs, to more than a dozen independent school districts. I met with Superintendent Bill Larson whom I've known for a long time, because he used to work for my former district in St. Paul. When I first knew him he was teaching industrial arts. He taught me the importance of hands on learning as a grounding mechanism for theoretical knowledge. I applied this lesson in my years as an elementary school teacher, and I am convinced that it improves student comprehension and achievement. It is part of the reason I support Minnesota's performance-based Graduation Standards, because of the emphasis on hands on learning. Superintendent Larson went on to become the Assistant Superintendent of St. Paul. He tells me he left that job to return to his first love, vocational and technical education.

District 917 operates in more than 20

locations, but the headquarters is in a facility shared with the Dakota County Technical Center. This unique partnership provides remarkable opportunities, certain challenges and a bit of uncertainty. The main advantage is that the 1000 or so secondary students at the school have the opportunity to take college level courses and graduate from high school with as many as 15 post-secondary credits in hand.



TESA student Nick Buhta created gifts for Lieutenant Governor Schunk and Governor Ventura



In addition to high school students seeking advanced technology courses, District 917 hosts an area learning center and a special education program called Transitional Education Services Alternative (T.E.S.A.). I had the opportunity to meet many of the T.E.S.A. students, and I was impressed by their eagerness to learn and create. Several students presented me with gifts they had made, including a wooden birdfeeder and wall decorations.

At a forum with students and faculty many expressed concern that District 917's partnership with the Dakota County Technical College is coming to an end. In 1995, when MnSCU was formed, the Technical College split from 917 to become part of the consortium of community and technical colleges. As it stands, both entities need more room, and District 917 is scheduled to move out of the facility by 2010. Superintendent Larson told me he is working with the president of the technical college to form a solution, but ultimately it will be up to the Legislature. I hope that this partnership is given every chance to continue. Other concerns expressed by students and teachers included funding for special education, funding for technical education, a shortage of technology teachers, my working relationship with CFL, and our legislative initiatives for the next session.



*Lt. Governor Schunk with some of the District 917 students
who earlier attended a forum on educational issues*



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Oak Hill Community School ISD 742



The school symbol of Oak Hill is an acorn, and the motto is, "Great oaks from little acorns grow." Lt. Governor Schunk pleased the crowd when she admitted she was "nuts for the students" at Oak Hill

**Saint Cloud
November 16, 2000**



We were fortunate to attend the grand opening ceremony of the new addition at Oak Hill Community School in St. Paul. The new wing will hold the sixth grade class. The theme of the ceremony was "Watch Us Grow, We're Nuts About Oak Hill." Naturally, the kids were quite pleased when I told them that I too am nuts about Oak Hill.

The dedication ceremony was inspiring. A marvelous artwork was unveiled depicting an acorn and an oak leaf. The image will hang next to a picture of the first sixth grade class in the new wing.



The students also presented a time capsule that will be displayed next to the original time capsule started 10 years ago when school first opened.

Oak Hill Principal Paula Foley, School Psychologist Deb Forstner, Lt. Governor Schunk, Assistant Principal Stacie Vos and 6th Grade Teacher Dale Freese pose in front of the acorn picture that will be placed in the new wing of the school

The new capsule contains Legos, a bookmark, a math journal, a book, flashcards, a student planner, a ruler, a dream catcher, a school T-shirt and photos of the construction of the new wing.

We watched an impressive slide show of the construction process, historical pictures of Oak Hill and a snapshot of each teacher. It was great to see how enthusiastic the students were during the entire presentation.

Finally the board members, faculty and students made it all official by cutting a ribbon for the new wing. I'll never forget this exciting day, but just to make sure the students presented me with some thoughtful souvenirs.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Mississippi Heights Middle School IDS 47

Sauk Rapids
November 16, 2000



*Student Ambassadors
welcome Lt. Governor
Schunk to the
Mississippi Heights
Middle School*



We began with an education discussion forum that included school board representatives, city council members, Chamber of Commerce members, students and other dignitaries. I received a number of interesting questions. One was quite broad, asking if the Ventura Administration was making any big changes within the state education system, specifically the Graduation Standards.

As a recent independent analysis suggests, we are going in the right direction with our Graduation Standards, but we need to make adjustments to improve them. Some revisions are already underway on the tenth grade tests. When such tests are used in the proper way, they are important tools for teachers to clarify their teaching methodology. At their best, tests stimulate teachers to develop new ideas and to try new methods.

A school board member asked how I feel about linking test scores to teacher compensation. I think the best way to judge teacher performance is to look at student progress from the beginning to the end of the year. It's not accurate to use selective tests to judge the negative, but they can be used to judge the positive.

My visit also included a stop at an unconventional classroom, made up of students learning in non-traditional ways. In just the few minutes we were there, we saw them working on a project that involved graphing the points of phone numbers. They used the phone numbers of their friends, or just random numbers out of the phone book. They mapped the numbers into constellations on their graphs. It was a pretty original approach to the concept of graphing!



Brian Aschenbrenner and Josh Roles explain their constellation graphing assignments to the Lt. Governor



Sauk Rapids Mayor Jerry Leese, School Superintendent Greg Vandal and members of the Sauk Rapids Chamber of Commerce join Lt. Governor Schunk



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





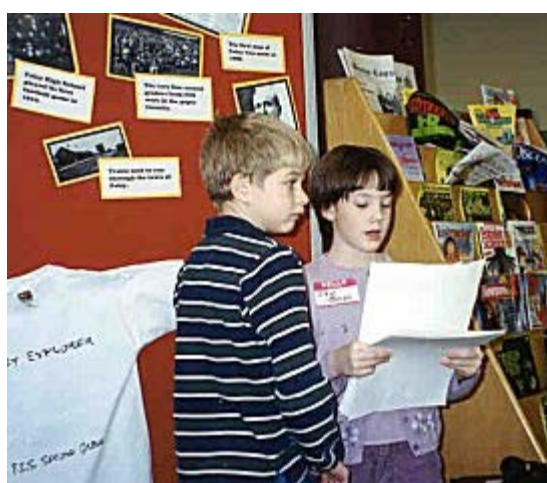
Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk Visits:

Foley Intermediate School District 51



*Second grade students
present their project on
Peoples and Culture*

**Foley
November 16, 2000**



In Foley, I was welcomed into a brand new intermediate school. It replaced a "classic" that was built in 1901.

Our opening forum of board members, parents, locally elected officials, teachers and students included a wonderful presentation of a second grade people and culture grad standards project. Before the kids filled me in on the project, teachers Jan Thompson and Jane Miller went through a brief history of teaching the standards in Foley. Faculty members here appreciate the standards because they don't come out of a textbook, and they put everyone on the same footing. At the same time, they found aspects of the Profiles to be unrealistic and unattainable.

The 2nd grade teachers applied for and were awarded a partial



Second grade teachers Jan Thompson and Jane Miller, creators of a new graduation standards package for Peoples and Culture, are joined by their students Steven Dotzler and Joy Hansmeier and by Lt. Governor Schunk

grant for staff development to work on people and culture standard package, and they put the money to good use! Their students were quite thorough, from map-making, to historical research, to studying the makeup of the people of Foley. And best of all, they presented me with a copy of the project, so I'll get to really savor their efforts.

I expressed my pride in the dedication of the teachers and students, and how impressed I am with their work.

We then had a fruitful question and answer session. One question had to do with whether new teachers are learning about the grad standards. I told them that there is some discussion of it in college teacher programs, which I think is very important. They need instruction, and the young teachers already working must have mentors and continuous staff development to help them keep up.

Another question gave me the opportunity to talk about one of our main initiatives, reducing class sizes. The Ventura Administration has already taken big steps to help reduce class sizes, but to make it work we also have to think outside of the box and be creative. It really does take more than money. The money part is our budget, but that's just the beginning.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
 For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 516 Round Lake Senior High

October 25, 2000

This is the senior high half of the school district pairing with Brewster, which hosts the elementary school. We may have been in Round Lake City, but it felt like we were a lot farther away than that. That's because we made a culinary visit to Russia. Teacher Paula Miller and her class welcomed us with a veritable Russian smorgasbord. The students had just finished making a full Russian Meal. How could anyone say *Nyet* to stroganoff, kisel, straw potatoes, sirniki and compot? Representative Ted Winter, who has been on the banquet circuit while running for re-election this fall, was delighted to help sample the exotic fare.



Making and eating exotic food -- like this Russian meal -- is a rewarding and nutritional learning experience for Desiree Wendling, Jericka Miller, Becky Vetsch and Amber Spartz.



Student Council President Leah Kroger and Vice President Jericka Miller honor Lt. Governor Schunk with a special plaque.

Our public forum at the school included mostly adults, with a few students

joining in. When the Profile of Learning came up, our Children, Families and Learning standards technician, Deb Hoyme, answered questions on what the state is doing to help with specific problem solving on a local level. Now that the legislature has granted some flexibility to school districts on the number of standards required of students, the next step is for teachers to develop creative ways to integrate the standards into their curriculum. If the standards are considered an addition to the regular class work, then of course it will be too big of a burden for the kids.

There were lots of questions on the Big Plan, and skepticism on the idea of countywide schools and the state taking over K-12 funding. The concerns centered on the possible loss of local control. We assured them that the governor wants local control whenever possible. (This is a place where the county line runs right down the middle of the town.) There were also concerns about special ed funding, and some said they wished the school board could raise the cap on the levy so local people could contribute more to schools. Representative Winter and I assured them that the state cap is designed for fairness and equity.

As if we hadn't had enough good food already, a visit that began with cake and included a Russian feast ended with homemade cookies.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 2895
Jackson County Central Middle School
Lake Field**

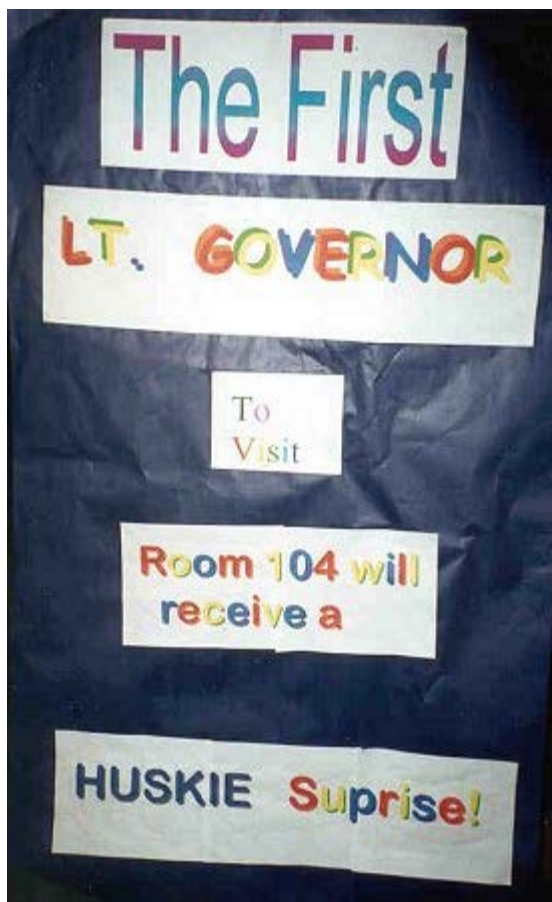
October 25, 2000

I love it when teachers take the initiative and come up with something completely different. That's what history teacher Julie Place did when she lured me off of my itinerary and into her classroom. A big sign made the offer: "The first lieutenant governor who enters classroom 104 gets a free husky," it said. How could I pass up that offer?



(Left to right) Principal Joe Hampl, Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk, Superintendent Gery Arndt and State Representative Elaine Harder.

Sure enough, Ms. Place's 7th
grade American History class



presented me with a beanie baby husky, the school's mascot. As I started talking with the kids about history and their participation in the online version of Kids Vote, I found out this was not scheduled to be part of my visit!

Returning to our scheduled itinerary, we also visited Tim Ruby's 6th grade class. Apparently the days of pounding metals in "shop" class are gone, because Mr. Ruby showed us a state-of-the-art educational technology class. The classroom features modules, where teams of students work on disciplines like engineering bridges, digital video, digital design and manufacturing robots. One of our guides, Kasey Wassenaar, demonstrated the careers module, while Mr. Ruby explained that you now need more than the three Rs to get kids ready for the workplace. You also need to teach technical literacy, thinking skills and teamwork. This program helps teacher do that.



Kasey Wassenaar demonstrates the digital career module in an educational technology class.

This school has other things to be proud of as well. The Huskies football team is marching hopefully toward a state football championship. And among the distinguished teaching alumni are Rep. Elaine Harder, who accompanied us on our tour, and Gene Hugoson, our current agriculture secretary. Agriculture is the main industry around here, and this school is a good place

to learn about it.

Declining enrollment is a problem--the district lost 48 people last year. Many residents work in nearby Iowa, and often families end up moving there.

Principal Hample said one of the reasons his school is so successful is because of the good behavior of the students--even the lunchroom is spotless. And that's *after* lunch!

Thanks to Representative Harder my visit to Lakefield was enriched by an extra stop. We had a little extra time after lunch, so we stopped by the Adult Developmental Center, a sheltered workshop for developmentally disabled adults. Workers were busy cutting up rags for a local industry, but they took time out to give us a tour of the facility. The front of the center is a thrift store that serves the community. I was inspired to see a good example of a public-private partnership that lives up to the principle that all Minnesotans deserve the opportunity to fulfill their potential as productive citizens.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Brewster is a paired district with Round Lake. Brewster houses the elementary school and the high school is at Round Lake.

Independent School District 513 Brewster Elementary School

October 25, 2000



They knew I was coming, so they baked a cake! The hospitality at Brewster was remarkable. The entire student body, along with a number of adults welcomed me at a forum in the school cafeteria.

I learned about the paired school arrangement in this community. Instead of becoming consolidated with another district, Brewster has a cooperative partnership with Round Lake City. The elementary school is in Brewster, but the high school is in Round Lake. The two districts serve the same communities and they share a superintendent, but they operate with different budgets and each has a school board.

Most of the students come from farm families, and with the state of agriculture being what it is, enrollment is declining along with the rural economy.

Still, the students are politically aware. You can tell by all the presidential campaign posters that adorn the walls, not to mention

the voting booth right in the cafeteria. And if that didn't convince you, just listen to the students' marching, flag-waving rendition of "You're a Grand Old Flag." It makes me proud to be a public servant!



Patriotism at Brewster includes flags, singing and dancing, but it also includes studying the political issues and learning how to vote.

I also stopped by a computer class and saw a sophisticated student project: each student designed a computerized slide show that incorporated audio and drawings. The topic was bus safety, and the bus driver himself testified to the accuracy and importance of the project. He said, "It has worked wonders with the students' behavior on the bus."

In meeting with school board members and the superintendent, I heard a refreshing plea: one board member said, "keep the graduation standards, don't abandon them." Do whatever tinkering is necessary, he said, but don't give up. The board members around him nodded in agreement.

There were also concerns about technology. Brewster's tech lab has nice new Macintosh computers, but teachers say they will be obsolete in three years. Where do they get the money to keep up with the latest technology?



Technology is a serious concern in schools like these because they rely so much on distance learning. It is much more cost efficient to arrange for a language class through

interactive television than to hire a full-time teacher.

Second grader Sara Hartzlen shares her slide show on bus safety with Lt. Governor Schunk and State Representative Ted Winter.



Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 330
Southwest Star Concept School
Okabena
October 25, 2000**

This Southwest Star Concept School, like the idea it houses, just keeps growing. The old part of the building dates to the early 1900s, but there was a major addition in the 1950s and another one just a few years ago. Also within the last few years, educators have developed the Southwest Star Concept. Working with the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute, they've come up with a novel way to run the school: they have a quarter system, much like a college, and only four classes per day for each 9-week period. That gives students a chance to really concentrate on a few classes, instead of spreading themselves too thin on several.



Representative Elaine Harder welcomed Lt. Governor Schunk to the Southwest Star Concept School

Accompanied by State Representative Elaine Harder, I observed a child development class in which students were given pre-programmed mechanical babies that demanded attention. The "babies" cry for certain amounts of time, and need to be fed and changed, just like the real ones. Students take care of the surrogate babies 24 hours a day for a week. That means getting up in the middle of the night, and finding a babysitter if necessary. One student couldn't find anyone to sit for her, so she had to take her baby to work at a senior center. Fortunately, the senior residents were thrilled with the mechanical child, and not only helped out, but also wanted to know if they could buy one! This class teaches young people about the practical responsibility involved in taking care of a child. I would like to see all schools offer this kind of approach to the challenges of parenting.



Students in Mrs. Winghart's Child Development class must take care of surrogate babies that demand attention the same way real babies do



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits

**Independent School District 518
Worthington School District**

October 24, 2000



The TV studio at the school is open to the community for producing cable television programs.

They've recently expanded the school here, adding 43,000 square feet, including covering over a relatively unused courtyard. This school is another example of a community gathering place, in this case because the local cable television franchise is right in the school. Both students and citizens can learn about TV production. In fact, each week, students sign up for a course on TV production and then produce the Trojan News, the school newscast. The newscast is seen both within the school and out in the community on cable access TV.

I was interviewed by Lindsay "Scoop" Steffl, a 16-year-old junior who previously interviewed Governor Ventura when he stopped in Worthington.

State Representative Ted Winter communicates with his constituents by recording his capitol report here during the legislative session. And a



Interviewer Lindsay Steffl has enough poise and talent to become a professional.

church group uses it on Sunday! The entire TV project is also tied into the technical writing grad standard, so students get credit for becoming media literate.

In the school library, we heard from students, teachers, board members, and community people--the entire city was represented. (Fortunately, not a turkey in the bunch, despite the fact that this is the turkey capital of the world and they recently had their annual turkey festival).

We heard questions about the Big Plan, and concerns about money for all-day kindergarten. They're building a new elementary school here, but they need money for all-day kindergarten teachers. I always remind educators that this is more of a local issue, as opposed to a state issue, but we sure hear a lot about it as we travel the state.

One teacher asked for tips on more parent involvement--I told her you have to constantly work on it, because many parents mistakenly think it's not their place to be involved in their child's school. Nothing could be further from the truth. Get involved in your children's school as much as you possibly can!

Other topics included concerns about loss of local control in the governor's K-12 funding proposal, and questions about the availability of violence prevention plans. Everyone agreed the key is stopping violence before it starts, through aggressive youth development programs.



The Director of Community Education, Jerry Fiola, says that afterschool programs need more funding. He says successful programs are positive ways to prevent violence.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 671 Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary

October 24, 2000



Principal Kim Grengs and Superintendent Tom Knoll hosted Lt. Governor Schunk's visit to Hills-Beaver Creek.



The elementary school in Beaver Creek has an excellent computer lab, but for high speed Internet access it must share a line with the high school in Hills.

The Beaver Creek Elementary School is only a few years old, and has become something of a showcase for the community. It's not surprising, considering this is a community that has indicated that education is important: 80% backed a bond to build the school. It also helped that they did the building in the most economical ways possible. The cost was only \$1.9 million, but those dollars were stretched with lots of tradeouts and other money-saving ideas. They even raised money by selling the timber and furniture salvaged from the old school. It shows how a little brainpower can stretch your budget.

This school has something a lot of districts want: all-day kindergarten. You can see the results: lots of the kids know how to read already. They wanted me to bring Governor Ventura these messages: we can read, we can count by 5s and 10s and we're having fun in school. Considering the emphasis Governor Ventura puts on

having fun on the job, I think he'll be pretty pleased. By the way, the district paid for the all-day program through the general fund, the compensatory fund and Federal Title I money. Many schools want all-day everyday kindergarten, but they can't seem to find the money. They can take a lesson from Hill-Beaver Creek.



These students gave an excellent presentation on what it takes to be president.

A group of 4th graders performed an excellent poem with a timely theme. It's called "What does it take to be president of the U.S." The poem touched on some of the legal qualifications, but also addressed character traits, like honesty, respectfulness, truthfulness, and treating people fairly. It was very inspirational, and it ended with a worthy plea: "please vote." They all looked very presidential onstage in their Abraham Lincoln hats.

This town is only about 20 minutes from downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota, so it runs into problems when it comes to taxes and trying to connect with partnerships. Across the border there is no income tax, which proves to be an attraction to area residents. Citizens are kind of caught in the middle as far as which state they work with. Many parents commute to Sioux Falls.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits

Independent School District 514 Ellsworth Public School

October 24, 2000

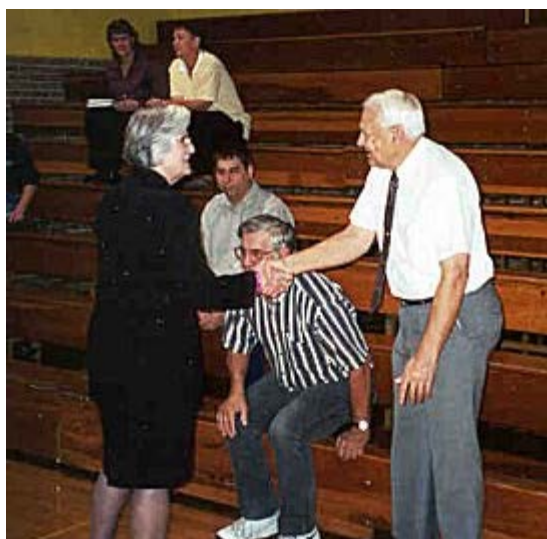


In Ellsworth, we met a man who does it all: George Berndt is the school's principal, the superintendent, the athletic director and probably the guy who puts chalk down on the baseball fields. He even has a boiler license. George and his fellow educators told us about their struggles to keep their small school. Things are a bit better now than they were a few years ago when it comes to enrollment, but there were some extremely hard times. Administrators and teachers say open enrollment is to blame, and they'd like to see some limits in the open enrollment process.

Student Council President Curt Chapas and versatile Principal/Superintendent George Berndt join Lt. Governor Schunk beside a traditional school bell in front of the Ellsworth Public School.

We took part in three separate forums: one with high school students, one with elementary school kids and one with adults. Lots of kids live on farms, so I really enjoyed trading life-on-the-farm stories with them. (I grew up on a farm in Wisconsin). We really related well to each other--

lots of common experiences, like milking cows and doing other chores.



Lt. Governor Schunk greets community members at a forum in the school gym.

A lot of farm kids get acquainted with trucks and tractors at an early age, so one boy asked me, "Why we do have to wait until we're 16 to get a driver's license?" "So you're big enough to see over the steering wheel," I told him.

There are a lot of impressive students at this school. People like student council president Curtis Chapa. Curtis is an excellent speaker who plans to become a jet pilot and study civil engineering through the Air Force ROTC. Actually, pretty much all of the students are impressive. Ninety-five percent of the school's graduates go on to higher education



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 2184
Luverne Middle School and High School**

October 25, 2000



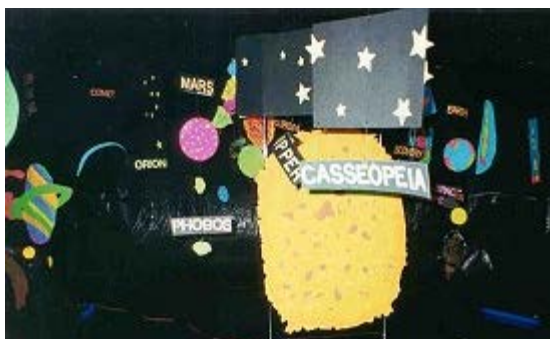
The modern facility at Luverne combines a positive education with common sense values.

They do a lot of character building in Luverne, and it shows. The school stresses values and virtues, which are epitomized by the homecoming king, Andrew Dooyma. Andrew's Down's syndrome doesn't slow him down in the least. His popularity in the school led to his royal position. I can attest to how likeable "King Andrew" is because he was the official greeter for my visit.

Close to 1000 students and adults filled the gym for a forum, where they gave us a close-up look at their values project, Building Character. The program stresses six key values, which are taught to 4th and 5th graders: respect, perseverance, friendship, kindness, responsibility and honesty.

The kids have come up with endless creative ways to convey the values, everything from a special pledge to a responsibility song with a Calypso beat. The Value Singers formed two lines on the gym floor, and equipped with straw hats and maracas, they sang about building community. The 20 students made the group after competing in an audition with dozens of others.

Next to the cafeteria the 4th graders had a huge tent made out of black plastic. Inside was quite a display: the solar system (in miniature, of course) illuminated by black lights.



This student-made universe is illuminated with black lights within a plastic tent near the school cafeteria.



Lt. Governor Schunk, a former elementary teacher, feels right at home with Diane Headrick's 4th grade class.

The entire student body filled the gym for a forum. I heard lots of insightful questions on topics as diverse as the violence in the Middle East, criminal punishment and the grad standards. But the most unusual concerned my boss. One student asked, "Has the governor ever put you in a headlock?" My answer: "No, he knows better than to mess with a teacher."



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 511 Adrian Elementary School

October 23, 2000

What a facility they have in Adrian! They built a beautiful elementary school, right next to the old St. Adrian's school, which had been used by the public schools since 1972. For about 50 years before that, St. Adrian's was a Catholic high school, and now it's at the center of a project by some energetic young entrepreneurs. A project called the Kids in Business Program lets students learn first-hand about business. Kids do everything a business would do, including picking a product and marketing it. This year they made items commemorating St. Adrian's. The students created mugs and t-shirts, and sell them at football games and other school events. Pretty savvy businesspeople!



Lt. Governor Schunk poses with the Adrian student council in the charming new open space of the new elementary school.

Our visit to Adrian was very well-organized, thanks to the officials here, including David Edwards, who is not only principal of the high school, but also the mayor of Adrian!

I met with teachers, administrators and student council representatives in the school's cafeteria/public meeting area, which is quite well-equipped, complete with balconies and a stage.



Peer helper Bobby Wineke says teaching math to special ed students has changed her life.

I heard about the peer helper program, in which students get credit for service to their community, or their school. One student helped organize the hospital fundraiser, another the school Halloween party. Students seem to love the program. Bobby Wineke, a 12th grade peer helper who works with special ed kids, says teaching math to the kids has changed her life.

There's also an emphasis on early literacy. Marlene Radeberg, who is a finalist for Teacher of the Year, focuses on a program that makes sure kids get a good start on learning to read.

Finally, Nicole Vastenhaute of the student council talked about the school's top five concerns: greater variety of classes, more extra curricular activities, greater variety of food at lunch, improved school security and more programs on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.



Student council secretary Nicole Vastenhaute is an articulate spokesperson for the issues faced by Adrian students.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits

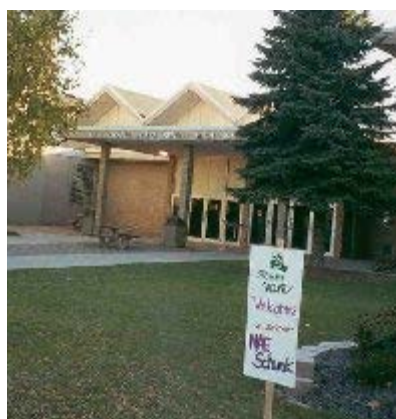


Independent School District 595 East Grand Forks Schools

October 10, 2000



East Grand Forks Superintendent Walt Aaneson and Student Council President Aaron Eckhoff present Lt. Governor Schunk with a very special "teacher's apple."



"East Grand Forks High School was the only school in town to survive the disastrous Red River flood in 1997, and that's because sandbagging around the school was effective."

Our visit to East Grand Forks Senior High was thought-provoking the minute we walked through the door. That's because this was the only school in the area that wasn't heavily damaged by the flood of 1997. The sandbags placed by volunteers to hold the water back did the job.

We visited a geography class, and then a student forum. The forum was led by Student Council President Aaron Eckhoff, who is also president of the

Northwest Division of Student Councils, which covers 40 districts in the region. East Grand Forks recently played host to a statewide conference of student councils (co-sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance with Youth) to discuss various issues. One topic kept coming up: concern about implementing the new graduation standards. They felt that the standards forced teachers to change their style of teaching, and forced students to take unwanted classes. I understand that a major educational change is difficult, because all change is difficult. But many teachers are adapting to the standards. It is important to keep the standards, as long as we fix the parts that don't work.

The student council representatives also felt the state should fund school districts in a more equitable way, and do more to try to bring jobs to rural areas -- high unemployment means lower enrollment. I very much agree that the local economy is a big factor influencing the quality of education.

Superintendent Walt Aanenson brought up a couple of additional issues his district is concerned about: having available funds to provide all-day Kindergarten and allowing school boards to levy for their transportation needs. Boards used to be able to deal with busing funding on their own, but they no longer have that power.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 2176 Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Schools

October 10, 2000

Our stop in the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo district took us to some of the area's brightest high school seniors. They're part of a college-level English class, in which they can complete up to a semester of college while they're still in high school, through the University of Minnesota-Crookston.



The members of this college level English class at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo are already earning higher education credits.

At the elementary school, we met Bob Miller, a teacher who has made the change and now teaches using grad standards. He told us it wasn't an easy transition to make, but now that he has, his students are really learning and he's happier than ever.



Elementary teacher Bob Miller



said he gradually became a support of the graduation standards. He was against the change until he gave it a try and saw how it improved student learning.

Elementary Principal Ron Leverington talked about how the local economy directly affects education. He said, "My problems are agricultural problems."

On the downside, this is another district suffering from declining enrollment, even with three cities feeding into it. As Ron Leverington, the elementary school principal put it, "My problems are agriculture problems." When farmers have problems, they may end up moving away to find other work, resulting in one less family in the school district. Declining enrollment creates problems like one they have in this district: not enough money for books.

In general, students had a lot of questions concerning the economy. Many of them live on farms, so they know how tough it is right now in the ag economy. Expenses keep climbing, but the price of goods is not. The students say their families could use subsidies from the states. We stressed that Governor Ventura is looking for long-range solutions rather than a short term handout. Let's get farmers on their feet for the long run and we'll see those enrollments slowly climb.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 2856 Stephen-Argyle Schools

October 10, 2000



Superintendent Chris Mills and school board members Wayne Bergeron and Jim Klitzke joined Lieutenant Governor Schunk in front of the school.

We visited the high school and elementary school in the Stephen-Argyle district where we had a forum in the library with students, school board members, city council members, teachers and the superintendent.

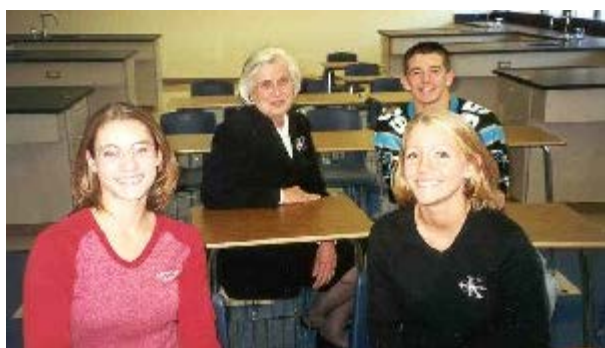
Students, board members and teachers gather with Lieutenant Governor Schunk for a forum in the school's library.



Once again, we received a lot of questions about the graduation standards. In that discussion, one junior mentioned that she had to change her schedule, because she didn't want to take economics, but I stressed how important that subject is, in fact in Croatia, where I had just spent a week, students are required to take economics.

Declining enrollment is a problem in this district. As family farms disappear, so do the family that operated them. They need to move elsewhere to find jobs. Of the families that remain, many are having fewer children than they did a generation ago, when lots of children were needed to help with the chores around the farm.

During our visit we saw truck after truck of sugar beets drive by, reminding us how important that crop is in this region. But we're told Mexico and Canada have been importing cheap molasses, which can be made into sugar. That hurts the sugar beet prices. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of other options when it comes to deciding which crops to grow.



These students are proud of the school's new science lab.

The school does have a new science lab, which was part of our tour. The lab is the result of some thoughtful long range planning by the school board, and an example of the positive changes going on in the district. Even so, the superintendent asked that we not forget his district when it comes to funding, because good ideas can only be taken so far without money.

All in all, I found the people of the Stephen-Argyle district to be very upbeat and positive -- great attitudes all around!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 2171
Kittson Central Schools**

October 10, 2000

Students shared their concerns with the Lieutenant Governor in the school's gymnasium.



In Hallock, we had a forum with students, parents, teachers, the superintendent and school board members. Some of the junior high kids had questions about the Profile of Learning. School Superintendent Curt Jensen expressed some frustration at the many pedagogical theories he's seen over the years--he stressed the importance of sticking to something and making it work, not constantly changing the education goals. I agree. That's why we want to stick with our Graduation Standards and make them work.

The people of this county made one thing clear to me: there is strong community support for education. They've repeatedly consolidated their district, but whenever an education referendum comes up, the citizens pass it.



The superintendent, a board member, the librarian and several teachers pose with Lt. Governor Schunk before a student-made quilt in the school's library.

There's an unconventional structure at two of the district's schools. The high school has two deans, but no principal. There's an academic dean and a dean of students in charge of discipline and athletics. The K-6 school also has no principal, but for a different reason. It's because the county is in such a remote part of the state, no one has applied for the position.

There is high student achievement here, perhaps because most of the students come from strong family structures with strong work ethics. There was 100 percent passage of the basic standards test and to promote literacy, a literacy council provides a reading kit to newborns. There is also a story lady who goes around to daycare centers and reads to kids, to insure that literacy starts young. Speaking of newborns, there are only about 20 babies born every year in the county, and that means a future decline in school enrollment.

The residents of Kittson county had one more message: call us Minnesota or Northwest Minnesota, but don't call us Greater Minnesota! It's hard enough getting all the North Dakota media -- we want everyone to know we're regular Minnesotans, through and through!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 676 Badger Public Schools

October 12, 2000



The entrepreneurial spirit of Badger is exemplified by owner/operators of the Twins Corner Cafe, Sandy and Sonia. You might have seen them on the David Letterman show.

The public school in Badger made a major league effort to get the most out of my visit. The entire school gathered in the gymnasium where students from each grade read prepared questions to me. The concerns of the students ranged from educational issues, such as teaching religion in school, to recreational pursuits, like hunting. Some asked political questions about the concept of a unicameral legislature, and asked advice on how to enter a political career. Several students were concerned about preventing violence in school and in the community. This diverse set of questions shows me that the students in Badger are creative, concerned and involved in the community.

I found more creativity and initiative in the technology class run by Clint Gilbertson, a first year teacher. He has his students engaged in a business -- like setting -- they punch a time clock, do market research, develop product ideas, and then actually make the product. They are making a unique kind of personalized ceramic mug, in which the wording on the mug is inscribed by sandblasting. Their plan is to perfect the process, sell the mugs, and reinvest the profits in their business. They proudly

presented me with personalized mugs for Governor Ventura and myself.

My visit at the school was capped off by a radio interview conducted by two students: Chrissie Hanson and Chassity Sanner. Our interview was transmitted by telephone to a nearby radio station, where it will be part of a regular Saturday program featuring news of Badger School. I think it is great that these two students are learning effective communication skills, and at the same time letting the general public know about the wonderful things happening at their school.

I can't help but mention that the town of Badger has a special claim to fame. Several years ago a production crew from the David Letterman Show spent a few days there to create a humorous episode for the late night comedy program. I had the opportunity to visit two of the stars of the town -- Sandy Wyland and Sonia Lee, the twin sisters of the Twin Sisters Corner Cafe.



Clint Gilbertson's class is perfecting a sandblasting technique for selling personalized coffee mugs.



Student interviewers Chrissie Hanson and Chassity Sanner hooked us up to the local radio station via the telephone.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura **Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!**

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 682
Roseau Schools**

October 12, 2000



The Roseau school lives up to its name as a community center and a focal point for education.

The Roseau Community School lives up to its name -- it is truly the center of the community. The public and private sectors of the city converge in the school. The school hosts a swimming pool, a running track and other facilities that are used by community members. Even the uniquely modern K-12 library is open to the public at the Roseau Community School. The business presence in the school is huge, thanks to the fact that Roseau is blessed with a major hometown industry, Polaris. The maker of snowmobiles and other recreational sports vehicles provides a wide range of material assistance to the school, everything from computerized robotics for the industrial technology class to spare parts for the student-built high mileage vehicles. Currently an addition is being built next to the shop class, to house the new Polaris-funded plastics facility, which includes plastic injecting molding equipment.

The students benefit greatly from this hands-on learning with state-of-the-art

automated technology. On the welding unit they produce an item in high demand in Northwest Minnesota -- portable, folding deer stands for hunters!



Both the school and community are proud of the award-winning high mileage vehicle created by students. The extracurricular project won the top two prizes in 1999 -- best design and highest mileage. Mr. Miller is the teacher. The student members of the Super High Mileage Car Club are Kieth Severson, Chris Olson, Joey McDonnell, Jon Herseth and Ross Miller.

The partnership between the Roseau Community School and Polaris Industries is a two-way street. Polaris donates valuable resources, and it receives from the school valuable talent for its workforce. Many graduates are ready to enter Polaris' high tech factory, while students who go off to higher education return to become designers and managers.

One thing Roseau lacks is a nearby college or university. The closest one is Northland College in Thief River Falls, about 60 miles away. To compensate for this shortcoming, the school partners with Northland to set up college level courses at the Roseau School, with both students and adults from the community taking classes.

Roseau is fortunate to have a major business in town to provide prosperity for the community and a partnership with the school, but at a forum many expressed a need for more money from the state. Several people said they needed help with money for technology, extracurricular activities and general expenses.

The basic impression I received from my visit is that Roseau is a town that is very proud of its school. The school is beautiful and modern, the teachers and students display a strong streak of ingenuity, and the community is vital and growing.



Superintendent Herb Benz and school board member Teresa McDonnell showed the Lieutenant Governor the school's library. The beautiful and modern facility, complete with a tiny amphitheater for storytelling, is open to the community.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 441
Marshall County Central Schools**

October 11, 2000



Lieutenant Governor Schunk and
Superintendent Ron Pagen

In Newfolden, we met in the high school gym to take questions from both elementary and high school students. They asked some perceptive questions on everything from taxation and the farm economy to consolidation.

Students and officials all seem to agree that they don't want to do anymore consolidating. They say students travel far enough on buses as it is.

This was an inspirational place to visit. The school here burned down a few years ago, but the state did not want it rebuilt. Instead, state officials wanted more consolidation. In a somewhat ironic twist, the community became united against consolidation. Parents and students organized a grass roots movement to get the state to change its mind, and it worked! From the ashes rose a new, state-of-the-art school that is now a leader in technology. There's a Cisco Networking Academy (one of the only ones in this part of the state)

as well as an Arias computer technician program, which emphasizes distance learning.

Unlike many other districts in Northwestern Minnesota, this one isn't having problems with declining enrollment. However, there's a chance that could change as soon as next school year.



Superintendent Pagen saved all the newspaper stories that document the district's fight against the state to rebuild its school, which was demolished in a fire.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 2358 Tri-County Schools

October 11, 2000



School officials welcome Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk. Left to right: Corey Wickstrom, board member, Superintendent Ron Ruud, Lt. Governor, Barb Berg, board member, Dan Langehaug, board member, Kathy Thygeson, CFL.

At the Tri-County school in Karlstad, we met with 7-12th graders, who asked many excellent questions. Three student council leaders read the questions, which included such topics as my personal life, my professional life and, of course, school funding.

Three members of the student council read questions from the students to the Lieutenant Governor: Lindsay Stusynski (president), Jennifer Johnson (vice president), and Anne Schaffhauser (secretary/treasurer).



Two sixth graders then took us on a tour of elementary classrooms, and we heard questions from a different level. The kids wanted to know things like my favorite pet and favorite color. The fourth graders thought my boss might get a kick out of their game-like approach to arithmetic: "mathematical wrestling." We also met Elaine Ruud, the Christa McAuliffe Award-winning teacher.



Sixth graders Grant Sand and Gretchen Ruud guided the Lieutenant Governor on a tour of the elementary school.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 356 Lancaster Public Schools

October 11, 2000



No one can ever accuse me of not visiting every corner of this state! Lancaster is right on the Canadian border and practically touching North Dakota, but it's not some remote outback.

Members of the school's student council participated in a discussion with the Lieutenant Governor on educational issues.

There are 232 students in this school, and enrollment is growing. One of the reasons is that 25% of the students are there by way of open enrollment--they've chosen this school and they've chosen a good one. Lancaster students get excellent scores on the basic standards tests and there is an amazing technology center. Kids who learned how to produce Web sites when they were in 6th grade are now in high school, teaching the younger kids what they know. These high schoolers create and run the school's Web pages, which lets parents, teachers and students stay in touch with what's going on.



Embroidery goes high tech with the school's computerized system.

Another amazing technological teaching tool: a computerized high-tech embroidery system, part of the school's textiles program. I wish I could describe more about the system, but I'm not sure I understand it! (Let's just say it's quite an advancement from the 'home ec' classes they used to have when I was in school).

But Lancaster has some challenges as well, the biggest of which is getting and keeping teachers. It's hard to get them to come this far north, so the district would like to see the state provide some incentives to attract educators.

Superintendent Philip Dyrud had another question: why is the state licensing system so inflexible? The fact that he can't hire unlicensed instructors who have years and years of excellent experience costs him some good teachers. People like the man teaching Industrial Arts who quit recently despite having been in his profession for years. He had plenty of great knowledge to impart to his students, but he didn't have a teaching license. He went back to the private sector, and the students lost a fine educator.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
 Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



**Independent School District 2683
Greenbush-Middle River Schools**

October 11, 2000

We almost didn't see the kids in Greenbush. That's because it was camouflage day for Homecoming, and they were all dressed in green army fatigues. Fortunately, they came out of their foxholes to meet us in the cafeteria, where they expressed concern about testing and the graduation standards. This school opted for 22 grad standards, instead of 24. They had to drop two because they lost their Industrial Arts teacher to a better-paying job in the Twin Cities.



Greenbush-Middle River School is strong in body and mind.

This school is strong in both the mind and body. It has a highly-ranked wrestling team, the Gators, but is also hooked up to the latest in brain research. There is a neuro feedback center to help students with learning disabilities, behavior disorders and hearing problems. The equipment we saw promotes balancing out brain waves to help kids function better.



Principal Eldon Sparby explains how audio and visual patterns can promote more productive brain waves. The project results from a partnership with NewVisions: A Chance to Grow charter school in Minneapolis.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

School Visits



Independent School District 31 Bemidji Schools

October 4, 2000

Our first stop at J.W. Smith Elementary in Bemidji was the school's new technology center, which is quite impressive. The center was funded largely by a \$496,000 federal technology literacy grant won by the school in a statewide competition.

Here's how they're going to use the new technology: for starters, they'll place up-to-date computer equipment in the school's community multi-purpose room -- that will be for the students to use during the day and the community to use outside of school hours. The new technology will also be used as part of two popular programs already in place in the school: the Kids and Company after-school program, and the Sharing Computers program, where students share their computer knowledge and skills with about 100 grandparents, senior citizens and retirees each year. The Sharing Computers program focused on basic computer skills when it was started six years ago, but now it's evolving into teaching Internet skills as well.

After visiting the technology center, I was part of an all-school forum, where we talked about the privilege and responsibility of voting, answered student questions, and emphasized the importance of developing good reading skills.

Then it was on to an assembly of the school's fifth grade students, who are studying civics--and you can tell they know their stuff! But there's plenty more they want to learn. They asked questions about my work as Lieutenant Governor as well as my life away from the State Capitol.

Following the all-school forum, I read to 3 classes of first grade students. The students also asked many questions about my daily work and my family.

Our final stop was a forum for teachers, parents and administrators, where we had a 45-minute conversation focusing on everything from Governor Ventura's property tax proposal, to redrawing school district boundaries, to preserving and helping with the implementation of the statewide Graduation Standards, and many other issues. All in all, a very educational visit!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598

An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Conference of Lieutenant Governors

Washington, D.C. February 2-4, 2001

"The New Administration: Reaffirming State Federal Relations"

[Friday's Session:](#)
[Congressional](#)
[Briefing](#)

[Sunday's Sessions:](#)
[Tomb of the](#)
[Unknown Soldier](#)
[Prescription Drug](#)
[America's Promise](#)

Saturday, February 3, 2001

**Fighting Institutional
Racism**

Campaign Finance Reform
Education Reform



Fighting Institutional Racism: John David Maguire

Fighting institutional racism is a difficult task, according to John David Maguire, a senior fellow at the Institute for Democratic Renewal, Claremont College, because the people within the institution may have no intentions of doing anything racist. However, if the benefits of the organization decidedly fail to serve people of color, then Maguire says it is fair to consider the

institution to be racist. His solution is the development of a racism tool kit that groups can use to gain an understanding of the history of racism, as well as its social and economic ramifications. Maguire says that the big mistake of many diversity training sessions is that people advocate reconciliation before examining why reconciliation is needed in the first place. The tool kit is being used in weeklong seminars in communities around the country. You can find out more on April 4th, when Maguire makes an appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show, on the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Iowa Lieutenant Governor Sally Pederson, John David Maguire, Institute for Democratic Renewal, and Lieutenant Governor Schunk

Maguire had four pieces of advice for lieutenant governors:

- 1) Never lose sight of the reality of race issues, for it is the preeminent social disease of our time;
- 2) Vow not to exclude people due to their color, sex, race, gender, sexual preference, etc.; do not leave them behind;
- 3) Don't forget the resources of government, universities and other arms of the public sector;
- 4) Resist the temptation to be part of the "secession of the successful." Those who arise from conditions of poverty and racism should resolve to return and help others.

[click here to return to top](#)

Campaign Finance Reform: Larry Noble

Larry Noble, the Executive Director of the Center for Responsible Politics, raised many important questions about the influence of big money on politics. Noble discussed the record \$3 billion spent during the 1999/2000 federal campaigns for president and congress. The biggest increase was in the use of "soft" money, which is donated to political parties for the purpose of issue ads. While federal law puts a limit on the amount of money donated to an individual campaign, there is no limit on the money that can go toward issues. However, these ads are usually designed to help particular candidates. Thus, the system promotes a perpetual increase in fundraising.

These vast sums of money tend to diminish public confidence in our democracy, said Noble, because people suspect that the donors are buying influence and access to the politicians they support. This public cynicism leads to apathy in regard to efforts to pass campaign finance legislation. Another major problem to limiting soft money is the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Buckley vs. Valeo*, which gives first amendment protection to such money by equating it with free speech. Nevertheless, Noble says Congress ought to pursue campaign finance reform, whether it is the McCain/Feingold Bill or some other proposal.

[click here to return to top](#)

Prospects for Education Reform in the New Administration: Panel Discussion

Chester Finn: Educational Advisor for George W. Bush Transition Team

Michelle Stockwell: Legislative Assistant to Senator Joseph Lieberman

Don Soifer: Executive Vice President, Lexington Institute



President George W. Bush has made education reform one of his priorities, but what are his proposals and what do they mean to the various states? Chester Finn suggested that interested parties obtain a copy of "No

Lieutenant Governor Schunk, a lifelong teacher, was selected to introduce the members of the education panel

Child Left Behind," a 28-page synopsis of Bush's education proposals. It includes a suggested overhaul and consolidation of hundreds of ongoing federal education programs that would

give greater autonomy to the states to use and manage the money. Finn said many federal education programs are not proven to work, are micromanaged, merely redistribute federal dollars and have little regard for results. The centerpiece of the Bush plan is accountability, with goals established and tests given at each grade level. The six year plan calls for three years of implementation, followed by three years of consequences for schools which are unsuccessful in raising student achievement. After the first year of failure there would be intervention in the school; after the second year of failure the student could leave that school and choose another public school; after the third year of failure the student could leave for a private school. Since the student would bring along federal dollars upon moving to a private school, this is where the issue of vouchers enters the debate. Finn said it would be up to each state to determine whether these portable dollars could be applied to a private school, so it would be state policy, not federal policy, whether to establish vouchers for private schools. Other elements of Bush's education plan include an emphasis on early literacy, teacher quality, math & science, bilingual education, charter schools, school choice experiments, safe schools and advanced technology.

According to Michelle Stockwell, Senator Lieberman's 3 R's plan has a similar emphasis on accountability. The three R's stand for Reinvent, Reinvest and Responsibility. It proposes to overhaul federal programs, increase funding by \$35 Billion and increase accountability. There would be five points of emphasis:

- Close achievement gap
- Teacher/Principal quality
- English learning/ immigrants
- School choice
- Innovations at local level

Schools that fail would be dealt sanctions, such as cuts in administrative funds. The poorest communities would be targeted for additional spending, with Title I funds increased 50% or \$13 billion.

Don Soifer, the executive Vice President of the Lexington Institute, emphasized the importance of reforming bilingual education as one of the fastest moving public policy issues in the United States. Soifer said there are 4 million people in the U.S. who do not speak English; most of them speak Spanish. He said that since California passed Proposition 227, which mandates English language instruction, English reading skills have climbed 9% and writing skills have increased 14%. His conclusion is that English language immersion is a better pedagogical technique than teaching students in their native language. In those cases it can take three years to master English.

The panel engaged in a general discussion of federal funding for special education. The problem is that Congress mandated the states to provide educational services for special education students, but never lived up to its promised funding level of 40%. In Minnesota the federal funds cover only about 14% of the cost of providing special education. Finn pointed out that this unfunded mandate is exasperated by the definition of what constitutes special education. Originally the students targeted by the law were those with severe physical or cognitive disabilities, which applied to about 6% of the student population. But over time additional students were diagnosed with various sorts of learning disabilities, so that currently 12 to 18% of students now require special education services. This greater demand means that the overall costs are much higher than initial estimates.

[click here to return to top](#)



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





National Conference of Lieutenant Governors

Washington, D.C. February 2-4, 2001

"The New Administration: Reaffirming State Federal Relations"

[Friday's Session:](#)
[Congressional](#)
[Briefing](#)

[Saturday's Sessions:](#)
[Fighting Racism](#)
[Campaign Finance](#)
[Education reform](#)

Sunday, February 4, 2001

**Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Prescription Drugs
America's Promise**



Lieutenant Governor Schunk and her colleagues participated in a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery

Lt. Governor Stephen L. Henry, M.D. of Kentucky and Lt. Governor Gary Sherrer of Kansas escorted a memorial wreath to lie at the foot of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as part of a solemn Sunday morning ceremony. (below)



Prescription Drug Prices

One of the most prominent issues in last year's presidential election campaign is the soaring costs of prescription drugs. This complex issue was the theme of a discussion by Ed Corrigan, Legislative Director for Senator Bob Smith, New Hampshire and Dean Clancy, Senior Policy Advisor for House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas. The price of prescription drugs is a complicated issue. The dilemma is that many seniors on fixed incomes cannot easily afford to pay for the drugs they need. This results in not getting the drugs or taking smaller doses than prescribed. Unlike other items that fall within the purview of medical insurance, prescriptions drugs are not an item in which the many can subsidize the few, because sooner or later everyone uses prescription drugs. Therefore, discussions on the issue center on whether Medicare benefits should be expanded to include prescriptions drugs.

Lieutenant governors from various states discussed the federal and state roles regarding the price of prescription drugs



The discussants agreed that on a federal level strong bipartisan support is needed to make any major change in Medicare, but that the states are also significant players in the debate. Some states cooperate in bulk purchases of prescription drugs, so that the unit price is lower for consumers.

America's Promise

Many states participate in America's Promise, the national movement to encourage volunteer work with youth groups. The senior vice president of the organization, Gregg Petersmeyer, told the lieutenant governors that the movement



is still strong even though the founder has a new position in the Bush Administration: Colin Powell is now the Secretary of State. Petersmeyer said that Powell wants to stay involved as much as possible in America's Promise. Lieutenant Governor Schunk is the co-chair of Minnesota's affiliate of America's Promise, the [Minnesota Alliance with Youth](#).



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)
For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





HOLIDAY DRAWINGS by KIDS



When I was a little girl on our farm in Wisconsin, my father would go out into the woods and chop down a Christmas tree. To me it meant that the holidays were really here. Later I learned that the word "tree" is where we get the word "truth."

Lt. Governor Mae Schunk

Maya First Grade Randolph Heights, St. Paul



Charlotte First Grade Randolph Heights, St. Paul



Dana First Grade Randolph Heights, St. Paul

Kids and teachers: If you would like to submit a drawing to the
Lt. Governor's Web site contact [Steve LeBeau](#)

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer
[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





Patriotic Poetry from Lincoln HI Elementary School

Freedom

by Shelby Krier

Our country is great because it is free.
Our country is different from most others you see.
My country is very important to me.

In my country we are taught to respect others.
For instance like our sisters and brothers.
In my country you can do as you please.
And every night you can pray on your knees.

My Country

By Cody Ness

My country is very important to me.
When I look out I like what I see.

I like to see the children run and play,
While the farmers are out cutting hay.

We have freedom and other countries don't.
And that's why my country is important to me.

[Click here to go back to Lincoln HI Elementary visit](#)

Return toTop



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)





THE RTR LEARNING TRAIN

Chorus

Get on board, the Elementary learning train
The RTR Learning Train
Move those facts right into your brain
The RTR Learning Train
With nothing to lose and everything to gain
All aboard the RTR Learning Train

We've got Reading, Writing, Mathematics too
Don't you quit until you are through
Science, Music and Computer class
Riding this train we know we'll pass
Ph-Ed and Social Studies end the chain
of the RTR Learning Train

Chorus

We're chugging down the track, the Sun is gonna shine
No need to worry it'll work out fine
We'll be the winners, when we work real hard in school
We'll never give up, we'll obey the rules
We'll have success when we remain
on the RTR Learning Train

Chorus

Get on board, the Elementary learning train
The RTR Learning Train
Move those facts right into your brain
The RTR Learning Train
With nothing to lose and everything to gain
All aboard the RTR Learning Train
Come on board the RTR Learning Train

"R" "T" "R"

GIVE IT YOUR BEST!



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
Working Real Hard, Keeping Minnesotans First ... We Will Not Fail!

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
Voice (651) 296-3391 or (800)657-3717 * Fax: (651) 296-2089 * TDD: (651) 296-0075 or (800) 657-3598
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Contact Governor Ventura](#)

For question or comments about this web site, contact the [Webmaster](#)

