

School Board Recognition: Spring Sports

Good evening, members of the board and community. Tonight, we have the distinct privilege of honoring our outstanding student-athletes and activity participants from this spring.

To pull off what these students accomplished takes an immense amount of dedication, late-night practices, and resilience.

Every student we are recognizing tonight qualified for a Minnesota State High School League state tournament or meet. Whether they competed individually or as an entire team they represented our district with pride.

Tonight is about celebrating our spring state qualifiers.

And, instead of traditional certificates, we are presenting each qualifier with a custom 'State Qualifier' sticker designed specifically for their school.

I would like to invite our coaches and students forward as I read through the list of these exceptional individuals and teams. Please join me in celebrating their hard work.

Duluth East Track and Field Qualifiers:

- Mia Eberth, Long Jump and 4x200 Relay
- Sasha Wahman, 4x800 Relay
- Samantha Kohlts, 4x800 Relay
- Stella Powell, 4x800 Relay
- Lydia Eaton, 4x800 Relay and 800 Meter Run
- Owen Blazcyk, 4x800 Relay
- Ben Thorson, 4x800 Relay
- Will Johnson, 4x800 Relay
- Joey Gustafson, 4x800 Relay
- Lily Kuettel, 4x200 Relay
- Ellen Mauer Jones, 4x200 Relay
- Mackenzie Werner, 4x200 Relay
- Alaina Westholm, 300 Meter hurdles
- Charlie Capshaw, Discus

Duluth East Golf State Qualifier:

- Grant Faherty

Denfeld Track State Qualifiers:

- Thomas Oppelt, 400 meters and 4x200
 - Bryce Lien, Long Lump
 - Christian LaVine, 4x200 Relay
 - Trenton LaVine, 4x200 Relay
 - Isaiah Tanui, 4x200 Relay
 - Tristan Williams, 4x200 Relay
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School Board Recognition: Marlon Grant

Tonight, I am honored to recognize an exceptional educator who embodies the very heart of our district's mission. Please join me in celebrating Mr. Marlon Grant from Residentials/Therapeutics.

Mr. Grant was named this year's Gold-fine Gold Star Teacher of the Year.

Established by Manley and Lillian Gold-fine, this prestigious honor recognizes educators who ignite curiosity and provide a rock-solid foundation for our students' lifelong success.

Mr. Grant does exactly that every single day through what his colleagues admire as "radical empathy."

He goes above and beyond to ensure our students' basic needs are met, even keeping his own office stocked with food so that no student ever has to try to learn on an empty stomach.

Mr. Grant's "Guys with Ties" program is a brilliant testament to his dedication. By providing mentorship, guidance, and a deep sense of belonging, the Guy with Ties program has achieved an incredible 99% graduation rate.

He has proven that when students truly feel seen, valued, and supported, they can overcome any obstacle and soar to new heights.

Mr. Grant's, your compassion, creativity, and unwavering commitment changes student's lives daily. We are immensely proud to have you in our district.

Board members, please join me in congratulating and thanking Mr. Marlon Grant for his outstanding service and dedication to our students.

Sincerely,

Anthony Bonds
Assistant Superintendent