



Quarterly Meeting

April 23, 2026

Benton Economic Partnership, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting Agenda
April 23, 2026

7:30 –7:45 Breakfast & Networking

7:45-7:55 Introductions

8:00-8:10 Taste of Benton County Event: July 22, 2026

8:10-8:20 Breakfast Sponsor: Saldana Excavating & Aggregates Inc

8:20-8:50 Guest Speakers: Sauk Rapids Public School

8:50–9:00 Questions and Adjourn

*BEP Board Meeting to Follow

BEP Quarterly Meeting

Breakfast Provided By:

D&L Catering

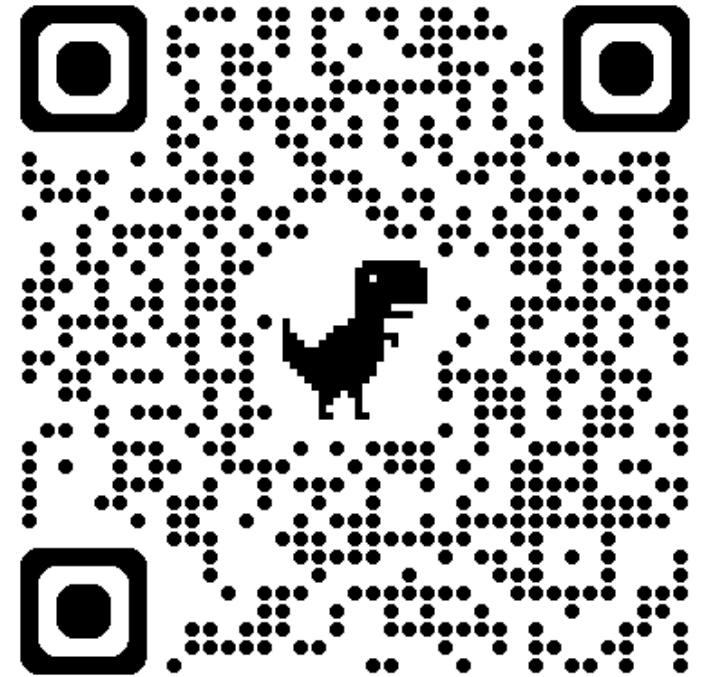




Introductions



Excellence Sponsors



Scan the QR code for
Tickets to the event

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
5:00 PM-8:00 PM
Sports Arena East
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

SALDANA

EXCAVATING  AGGREGATES INC.



Allen Saldana



Sandra Saldana



Andrew Saldana

SALDANA
EXCAVATING & AGGREGATES INC.

History of Our Family-Owned Business

Family-Owned Since 1969

Over 55 years of trusted service, quality workmanship, and community commitment in Central Minnesota.



Saldana Excavating & Aggregates Inc. was founded in 1969 by John Saldana Sr. in Rice, Minnesota.

The business grew when his sons, Allen and John Jr., joined after high school, helping build a strong reputation for dependable service and honest work.

We have now moved into our 3rd generation of ownership, with Andrew as part-owner with Allen and Sandra.



Growth Through Generations

What We Do

We proudly provide a wide range of professional services and quality materials to meet residential, commercial, and agricultural needs.

Our Services

Excavating Services
Septic System Installation & Maintenance
Backfilling Basements

Aggregate Products

Black Sand
Washed Sand
Fill Dirt

New Division: Crushing & Recycling Services

Crushing Services
Recycled Concrete
Recycled Asphalt
Class 5 Gravel

Providing dependable solutions with the quality and service our customers have trusted for generations.



Our Values

For more than five decades, our company has been built on:

- Honesty
 - Hard Work
 - Fair Prices
 - Attention to Detail
 - Treating Customers Like Neighbors
-



BEP's Guest Speaker



Brad Bergstrom
Superintendent
Sauk Rapids-Rice School



Adam Johnson
Assistant Principal
Sauk Rapids-Rice School

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS





ONE STORM

ONE FUTURE

Benton Economic Partnership Presentation

BUILDING REFERENDUM UPDATE | APRIL 23, 2026

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



AGENDA

- » Preliminary Work and Results
- » Joint Project with City
- » Overview of Referendum Scope and Timeline
 - *Planning Process & Participants*
- » Design Development Update
 - *Early Childhood / City Collaboration*
 - *Outdoor Activity Complex*

Preliminary Work

Prior to Election

PRELIMINARY WORK

- » **Facilities Plan:** Developed back in 2018
 - » Identified Priorities
 - » Early Childhood & Activities were on list
- » **Sought Feedback:** Survey in July, 2024
 - » Were the priorities still there – They were!
- » **Election:** February 11, 2025
 - » Both projects approved

Joint Project w/City

Partnership

JOINT PROJECT WITH CITY

- » **Location:** Where to build
 - » After much conversation, two locations selected
 - » ECC: North of HS & OAC: West of HS
 - » Exchanged land with City; East of high school
- » **Survey Feedback:** Without solicitation, 2.5 pages of comments
 - » Shared with City officials
- » **City Approval:** Space attached to Early Childhood Center
 - » Community Space
 - » Community Education Space (Rec and Community Education)
 - » Two gyms have been approved

Referendum Scope and Timeline

Planning Process & Participants

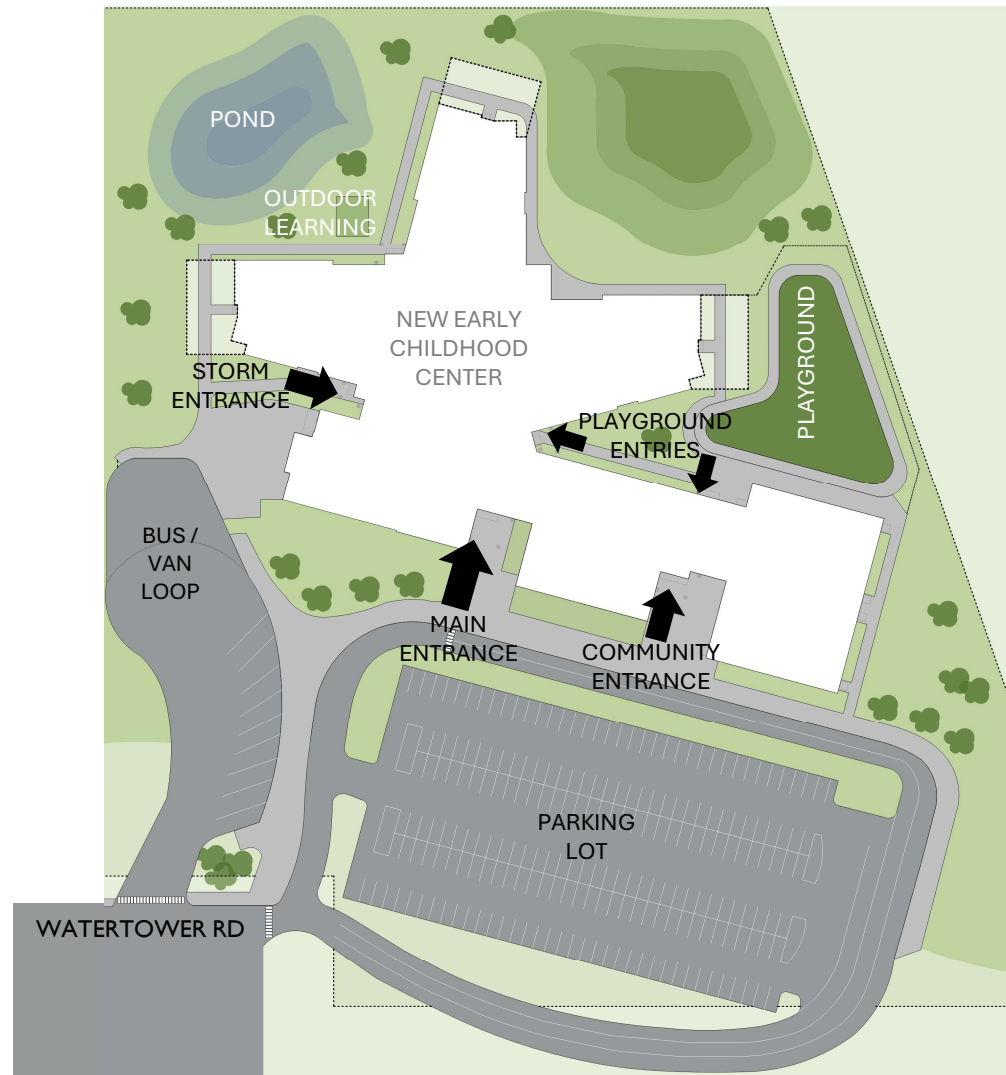
PLANNING PROCESS – TIMELINE

- » **Schematic Design:** March through end of May 2025
 - » Core Planning Groups
- » **Design Development:** June through December 2025
 - » User Groups
 - » Submittal to City
 - » 3D Renderings and Materials
- » **Construction Documents:** projects slightly staggered, February 2026
 - » Submittal to State for Plan / Plumbing Review
 - » Bidding and permits, materials procurement
- » **Construction:** Spring 2026 through Summer 2027

Early Childhood Center
Design Development Update

SITE DIAGRAM

BEP MEETING UPDATE



BEP MEETING OVERALL EXTERIOR VIEW



Strong Foundation = “Heavier and darker base”

Growth = stacked horizontal elements of varying density/ spacing

Hierarchy of spaces through quantity of daylight

BEP MEETING COMMUNITY ENTRANCE



BEP MEETING
MAIN ENTRY



BEP MEETING COMMUNITY/ MEDIA ROOM



BEP MEETING COMMUNITY CLASSROOMS



BEP MEETING CAFETERIA



BEP MEETING TYPICAL CLASSROOM



BEP MEETING EARLY CHILDHOOD GYM



BEP MEETING
COMMUNITY GYM – INCLUDING ALTERNATE



Outdoor Activities Complex

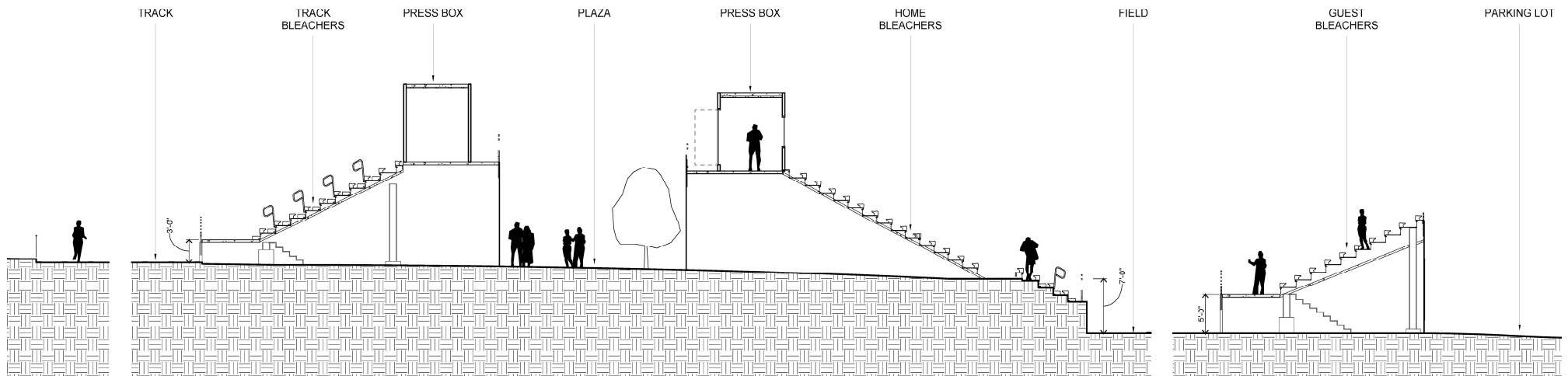
Design Development Update

BEP MEETING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES COMPLEX SITE DIAGRAM



JOINT MEETING UPDATE

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES COMPLEX SITE SECTION



SITE SECTION

BEP MEETING
AERIAL – LOOKING NORTHWEST



BEP MEETING
MAIN ENTRY



BEP MEETING

WEST FIELD (WITH TRACK)



BEP MEETING
EAST FIELD



Next Steps:

- Construction Documents & Bidding
 - *Bidding was done in February 2026*
 - *Bids approved March 9, 2026*
 - *Construction: Spring 2026 to Fall 2027*

THANK YOU!



Advisory and Career Pathways at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School

Benton Economic Partnership Meeting

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS





What is Connections?

- Advisory period dedicated to building relationships, academic support, and time to learn about:
 - School logistics
 - Emergency Response Protocols
- Storm Study: Monday / Tuesday / Thursday / Friday
 - Last 20 minutes of the day
 - Academic Intervention
 - Coursework time
- Grade Checks (Monitoring): Wednesday





What is Extended Connections?

- Extended Connections Activities (1-2 times a month - 33 Minutes)
 - Portrait of a Graduate - POG
 - Personal Learning Plan - PLP
 - MCIS (Minnesota Career Information System)
 - SRR Code Values Activities (PBIS)
 - School Engagement
 - Respect
 - Responsibility

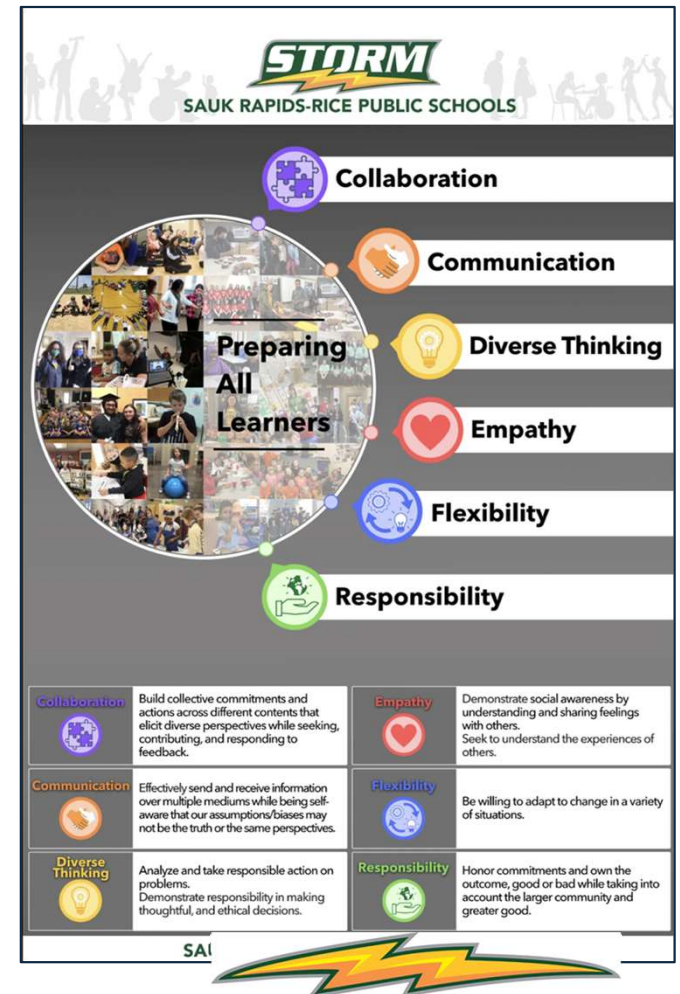


Portrait of a Graduate in Connections



District Wide Journey:

- Represents the community's shared dreams and aspirations for our students
- Content & Activities which stem from Early childhood through grade 12
- 1-2 POG Attribute Activities each month
- Students house their growth in a document
- Plans to implement a portfolio in 2026-2027




Portrait of a Graduate in Connections



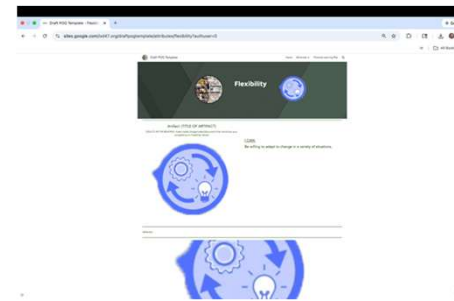
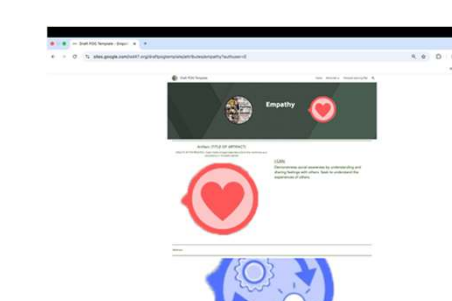
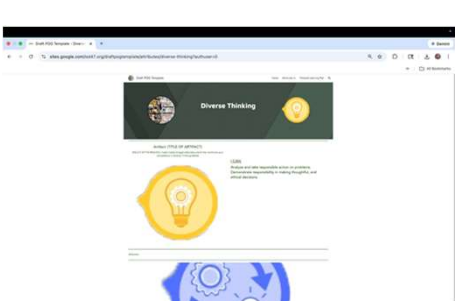
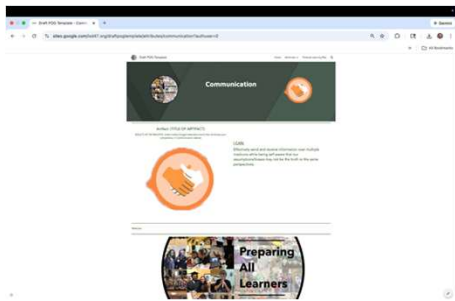
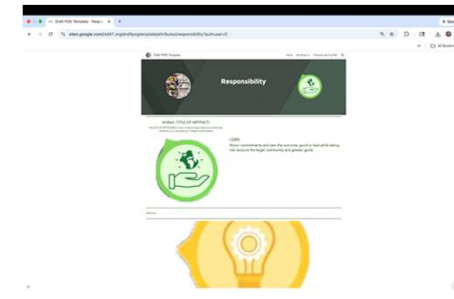
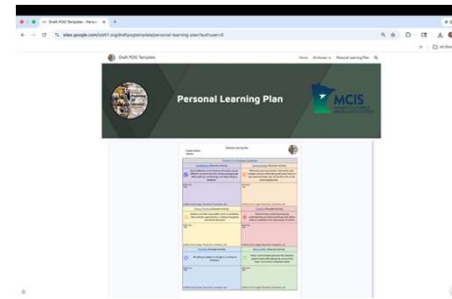
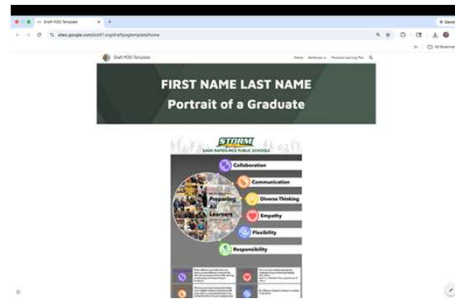
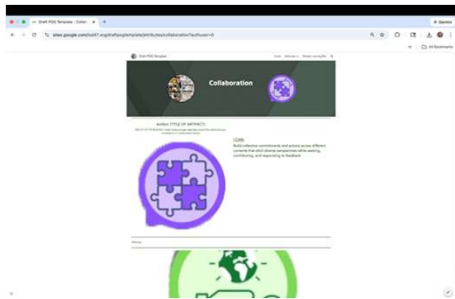
- Activities that provide support, opportunities to grow, and develop in each of the attributes:
 - Collaboration
 - Communication
 - Diverse Thinking
 - Empathy
 - Flexibility
 - Responsibility
- Opportunities to discuss and reflect following each activity

Student Name: _____
 Advisor: _____

Personal Learning Plan 

Portrait of a Graduate Attributes	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Collaboration</u> (Example Activity)</p> <p>Build collective commitments and actions across different contents that elicit diverse perspectives while seeking, contributing, and responding to feedback.</p> <p>Reflection: 9th 10th 11th 12th</p> <p>Artifacts (Links, Images, Documents, Coursework, etc)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Communication</u> (Example Activity)</p> <p>Effectively send and receive information over multiple mediums while being self-aware that our assumptions/biases may not be the truth or the same perspectives.</p> <p>Reflection: 9th 10th 11th 12th</p> <p>Artifacts (Links, Images, Documents, Coursework, etc)</p>
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Portrait of a Graduate Portfolio



Personal Learning Plan in Connections



Social Emotional Learning - About Me	
Personality Type	Extroverted
Learning Style	In person, and hands-on activities
Interests	I enjoy hanging out with my family and friends. I am also interested in sports. I also really enjoy hiking.
Strengths	I am outgoing, creative, a problem solver, and I enjoy helping others any chance I can.

Work & Experience	
Extracurricular	Football, Soccer, National Honor Society, Yearbook
Volunteer	I have spent time volunteering at my church. I have also volunteered at the humane society.
Work Activities	Busing tables, dishwashing, cooking at a family restaurant Retail

Post Secondary & Career Readiness Plan	
Careers of Interest	Nursing
Education Required	High School Diploma: Focus on courses in biology, chemistry, and health sciences. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN): Typically a 4-year degree from a college or university. This is the most common route for those aiming to become a registered nurse.

If Applicable: College I Will Attend	St Cloud Technical College and St Cloud State University
How I learned About This Career	My mom was a nurse and I have also enjoyed going to doctor visits. My interactions with nurses have increased my interest in this career.
Why This Career Interests Me	This career is something I feel I'll enjoy and feel rewarded by. I've always wanted to feel like I am not forced to go to a job that I would not enjoy.
My Skills/Strengths That Match This Career	Communication skills, calmness, kind, caring, and outgoing.
Average Salary	Typically between \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually.

- Requirement to Graduate (MN Statute)
 - [Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125](#)
- Document which houses the work that students complete in the area of their Postsecondary readiness Plan
- Updated numerous times throughout the school year.
- Google Document and Google Form

Personal Learning Plan in Connections



SRRHS Plans after High School (PLP Summary)

SRRHS utilizes Senior PLP information to guide our school's programming and to enhance the overall student experience for future students. Submitting your PLP is a Requirement to Graduate and it is also a MN State Statute (section 120B.125). Students will submit their PLP/POG Document (to Schoology) in addition to answering this PLP Summary Survey (2 Questions). Thank you for fulfilling your graduating requirements!

* Indicates required question

Email *
 Record adam.johnson@isd47.org as the email to be included with my response

First Name *
Your answer _____

Last Name *
Your answer _____

Graduation Year *
Your answer _____

Anticipated Career After High School *
If entering the Armed Forces, please list the branch you have enlisted with or plan to enlist with.
Your answer _____

What Section of the Career Wheel does this Career Fit Into? *

- Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
- Arts, Communications, & Information Systems
- Business Management, and Administration
- Engineering's Manufacturing, and Technology
- Health Science Technology
- Human Services
- Not Applicable (Military, or Not Listed)

If Applicable: Post Secondary Institution I Will Attend *
If attending College, please enter school name. If earning a certificate / on site job training, please list the organization you will be obtaining the credentials from.

- Contains important information about:
 - **Social Emotional Learning / About Me:**
 - **Personality Type**
 - **Learning Style**
 - **Interests**
 - **Strengths**
 - **Work, Experience, and Volunteering:**
 - **Extracurriculars**
 - **Volunteering**
 - **Job information**
 - **Post Secondary & Career Readiness Plan**
 - **Career of Interest**
 - **If applicable - College Plans**



What will we do with this data?

- Enhance Student Experience through Future Employment Data:
 - Allows for programming adjustments:
 - Tailor educational experiences in career interest areas
 - Sort students into “Cohorts” based on career interest areas for:
 - Employer Assemblies / Job Fairs
 - Facility Tours / Open Houses
 - Work Experience / Internships / Job Shadows

- Next slides represents the Career Plans for the 2024-2025 Graduating Class

In what field do you plan to work?

2024-2025 (301 Seniors - 312 Careers)		
Health Science Technology	76	24.36%
Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology	69	22.12%
Business Management, and Administration	55	17.63%
Human Services	51	16.35%
Arts, Communications, & Information Systems	21	6.73%
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	19	6.09%
TBD (Adult Education, Undecided, Etc)	14	4.49%
Military	7	2.24%

Health Science Technology



Health Science Technology (24.36%)	Careers Included	Total (76)	Percent
Nursing & Patient Care	RN, BSN, CNA, Nurse Practitioner, Specialty Nursing (NICU, L&D, Pediatrics)	27	34%
Therapy & Rehabilitation	Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Athletic Training, Speech Pathology	15	19%
Medical Imaging & Diagnostics	Sonography, Radiologic, Ultrasound Tech	13	16%
Physicians & Advanced Practice	Physician, Surgeon, Physician Assistant, Nurse Anesthetist	7	9%
Dental & Oral Health	Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant	4	5%
Mental Health / Psychology	Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist	5	6%
Allied Health / Other Medical	Pharmacist, Respiratory Therapist, Genetic Counselor, Dietician	5	6%

Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology



Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology (22.12%)	Careers Included	Total (69)	Percent
Skilled Trades	Electrician, Plumbing, Welding, HVAC, Carpenter, Cabinetry, Union Laborer	25	38%
Construction / Building	Construction, Framing, Roofing, Landscaping, Heavy Equipment	10	15%
Engineering / Technical Design	Mechanical, Aerospace, Robotics, CAD, Architectural Drafting	13	20%
Automotive / Mechanical Service	Automotive Technician, Diesel Mechanic	8	11%
Science / STEM	Biochemistry	4	6%
Design / Creative Fields	Architecture, Interior Design, Sign Technician	5	8%
Other Careers	Pilot, Train Engineer, CNC Programmer	4	6%

Business Management, and Administration



Business Management, and Administration (17.63%)	Careers Included	Total (55)	Percent
Business / Management	Business, Business Management, Operations Manager, HR, Manager, Business Owner	15	28%
Finance / Accounting	Accounting, Accountant, Finance, Financial Analyst, Financial Advisor, Wealth Management	13	25%
Marketing / Sales / Entrepreneurship	Marketing, Sales, Entrepreneurship, Insurance Sales	10	19%
Hospitality / Food Service	Hospitality, Tourism, Food Service, Bakery, Bartender, Golf Course Manager	7	13%
Real Estate	Realtor, Real Estate Agent	4	8%
Sports Industry	Sports Management, Sports Media	3	6%
Law / Legal	Corporate Law, Business Law, Bill Collecting	3	6%

Human Services



Human Services (16.35%)	Careers Included	Total (51)	Percent
Education / Teaching	Elementary Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, Music Teacher, Art Teacher, PE Teacher, Band Director, Choir Director	12	28%
Law / Legal / Politics	Lawyer, Politian, International Relations	9	21%
Human Services / Mental Health	Social Work, Behavioral Therapist, Case Manager, Psychologist, Human Services	8	19%
Public Safety / Criminal Justice	Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science	7	16%
Healthcare / Emergency Services	EMT, Paramedic, PCA, Mortician	6	12%
Personal Services	Cosmetology, Barber, Hair Stylist	6	12%
Arts / Humanities	Historian, Musician	3	7%

Arts, Communications, & Information Systems



Arts, Communications, & Information Systems (6.73%)	Careers Included	Total (21)	Percent
Technology / IT	Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity, Software Developer, Software Engineer, Network Administration, Management Information Systems	6	35.29%
Media / Film / Communications	Sports Broadcaster, Film Producer/Director, Movie Theater Work, Journalism, Audio/Visual Tech	5	29.41%
Visual Arts / Creative Design	Graphic Design, Artist, Storyboard Artist	4	23.53%
Photography	Photography, Camera Equipment Repair	4	17.65%
Business / Marketing	Marketing, Digital Marketing	2	11.76%



Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources



Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources (6.09%)	Careers Included	Total (19)	Percent
Environmental / Conservation	Environmental Science, Conservation Officer, Park Ranger	7	36.84%
Animal Care / Veterinary	Veterinarian, Large Animal Vet, Humane Society Assistant, Equine & Dairy	6	31.58%
Culinary / Food Service	Chef / Baker	3	33.33%
Agriculture / Food Production	Agriculture, Aquaculturist	2	10.53%
Outdoor Recreation	Fishing Guide	1	5.26%



Military



Military (2.24%)	Careers Included	Total (7)	Percent
Military Service	Military, National Guard Mechanic, Marines Aircraft Technician, Military Aerospace	6	86%
Government / Public Service	U.S. Diplomat	1	14%

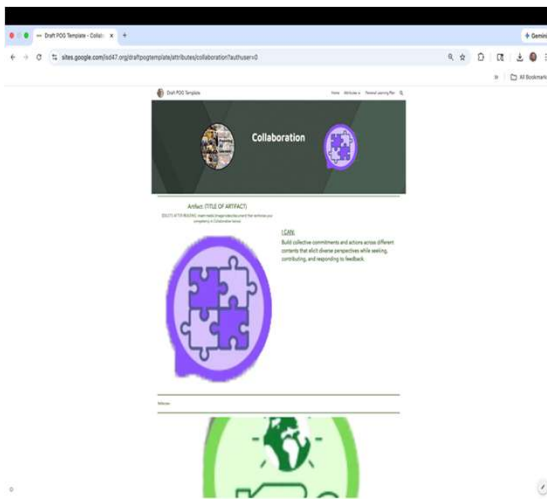
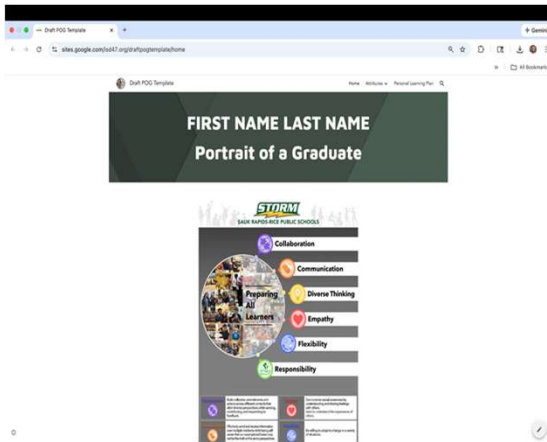


YST - Career Pathway Exploration



- Youth Skills Training opportunities (YST)
 - SRRHS YST Approved in Advanced Manufacturing as of 2026
 - Strengthening partnerships with local businesses such as:
 - Pinnacle Climate Technologies - YST Approved Employer
 - Park Industries
 - More to come!
 - YST is a paid work program
 - Develops a future talent pipeline
 - Designed for students ages 16 and older who are interested in a career pathway within manufacturing
 - YST blends academic instruction with industry-recognized training:
 - Industry level certifications
 - Builds both technical skills and workplace readiness prior to graduation

Questions?



SAUK RAPIDS-RICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SAUK RAPIDS-RICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Name: _____
 Advisor: _____

Portrait of a Graduate Attributes

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Benton Economic Partnership Inc. Founding Members





Amanda Othoudt
Executive Director
320-968-6197

Mark Your Calendar



July 22, 2026
Sports Arena East
Sauk Rapids, MN



Pamela Vizenor
Executive Assistant
320-818-1111

