



## News and Notes from Dr. Emerson

YOUR CHILDREN  
NEED YOUR  
PRESENCE  
MORE THAN YOUR  
PRESENTS.

-Jesse Jackson

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### This Week at a Glance:

- Monday, February 20:** No School—Presidents’ Day
- Tuesday, February 21:** AM Strategy JAMs
- Wednesday, February 22:** AM Strategy JAMs
- Thursday, February 23:** **Black History Month Celebration**  
**Families Welcome**  
**2:30-3:45 - Cafetorium**
- Friday, February 24:** AM Strategy Jams

**Student-Involved Conferences:** It was great to see so many parents as we work in partnership to maximize the brilliance of your children. Thank you for attending conferences.

**Sinfonia:** Last week, your students received a special treat. The classical music orchestra known as the Minnesota Sinfonia came to Olson to put on a concert. Conductor Jay Fishman explained to students that each song they played had a

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thematic connection to water. The students told Mr. Fishman they had been doing some water related activities to prepare for the Sinfonia's visit. It was great to see how our teachers were able to connect the music to lessons in their classrooms and make the concert an academic, as well as, artistic event.

**Academic Recognition for Quarter 2:** This is one of my favorite things to do at school—celebrate students and their accomplishments. I was excited to see all of the parents and family members come to celebrate student success.

I apologize for not being at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ceremonies. I was called to a budget meeting at the Davis Center. I want to give a big shout out to Assistant Principal Ms. Kimble for stepping in for those events. I also want to recognize Ms. White, Family Liaison, for organizing the events.

Thank you to all of you who were able to come and celebrate with us.

**African-American Family Involvement Day:** Another big shout out to Ms. White for bringing guests and role models to Olson. Students were able to interact with highly successful African-American adults and learn their success stories.

Especially popular were current Atlanta Falcon, Minneapolis Washburn, and U of M graduate, Rasheed Hageman; and former U of M star, former Viking and two-time Super Bowl champion with the Steelers, Tyrone Carter. Several students received autographs from both players.

**Budget 2017-18:** Our budget allocation for the 2017-2018 school year is being delayed until after March 1. Because of this, our Site Council meeting is postponed until March 9.

Superintendent Graff will be releasing school allocations after he meets with the School Board. He did say that costs have risen, but the dollar amounts to schools are likely to stay flat. We will know more in a couple of weeks. Stay tuned.

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**2017-2018 Schedule:** I am working with my leadership team to develop a master schedule for next year that includes more IB MYP course offerings as we continue on our IB journey.

You will see next year's courses framed around the eight IB subject areas - Language and Literacy, Individuals and Societies, Math, Science, Art, PE/Health, Language Acquisition and Design. The courses also meet the district requirements for middle school students.



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