

principal, Mitch Peterson, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Century Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Century Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Century Elementary School in Park Rapids for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

WATERTOWN-MAYER HIGH SCHOOL, WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Watertown-Mayer High School, in Watertown, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Watertown-Mayer High School is truly a model of educational success. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum in a four-period block schedule. College in the Schools, an honors program sponsored by the University of Minnesota, is offered in writing, fiction, American government, U.S. history, and German. Advanced math and science courses include advanced placement calculus I and II, advanced placement physics, chemistry, and advanced biology, ecology, and meteorology. Excellent vocational programs include industrial technical education, family and consumer science, business education, work experience, and agriculture/horticulture education.

As part of their academic program, highly motivated seniors can enroll in a comprehensive professional mentorship program, which offers real-life experiences, including mentorships with surgeons, physicians, nurses, business professionals, theater professionals, undercover law enforcement personnel, and teachers. These opportunities have helped many students explore their professional goals.

This year, carpentry students from Watertown-Mayer are building a model house, intended for sale at a public auction this spring. Proceeds of the sale will be used to buy tools and supplies to help continue these opportunities for future students.

The academic successes of Watertown-Mayer are reflected in students' test scores. Last year, Watertown-Mayer High School received five star ratings in both math and reading. Fewer than 7 percent of all Minnesota schools have rated so well in both math and reading.

Watertown-Mayer High School's goal is to "invest in the life of each and every student and to make a difference one child at a time." It is not the curriculum that resonates for graduates of

Watertown-Mayer but, rather, their personal experiences with the dedicated people who guided their learning and who truly make the school one of Minnesota's finest.

Much of the credit for Watertown-Mayer High School's success belongs to its principal, Scott Gengler, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Watertown-Mayer High School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Watertown-Mayer High School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Watertown-Mayer High School in Watertown for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

GRAND RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL, GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Grand Rapids High School, in Grand Rapids, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Grand Rapids High School is truly a model of educational success. With 1,240 students, the school is one of only 13 Minnesota high schools to offer the International Baccalaureate Program, which is distinguished in the field of international education and helps students to be active learners, well-rounded people, and engaged world citizens. The founding organization works with 1,742 schools in 122 countries to develop and offer three challenging programs to over 200,000 young people ages 3 to 19. Grand Rapids High School participates in the Diploma Program.

Grand Rapids High School offers a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on meeting students' wide range of needs. The school has embraced the national education reform effort known as Breaking Ranks II, which outlines the need for high schools to engage in the process of change that will ensure success for every high school student. Breaking Ranks II includes tools and recommendations in the areas of leadership for change, development of professional learning communities, the need to provide every student with meaningful adult relationships, and the development of personalized learning, to show students the meaning and relevancy of learning.

The Grand Rapids High School focuses on literacy and personalization of environment. The literacy team has coordinated the training of all staff to offer common reading strategies throughout the curriculum. Within 1 year, test scores in all areas have reflected students' progress.

The personalization of environment is designed to ensure that every stu-

dent feels welcome, safe, and cared for. The school's BRAVE Team, Building Respect and Valuing Everyone, of students and staff take action to create an atmosphere of respect with the purpose of helping reduce stress caused by differences in levels of achievement.

Much of the credit for Grand Rapids High School's success belongs to its principal, Jim Smokrovich, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Grand Rapids High School understand that in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Grand Rapids High School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Grand Rapids High School in Grand Rapids for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CLOQUET, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Churchill Elementary School, in Cloquet, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Churchill Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school has recognized the vital need to nurture children's love for reading. At the same time, the school has taken the initiative to find new, creative ways to improve children's reading academically. For "I Love To Read Month" in February, every classroom at Churchill Elementary established a goal for the amount of reading the students would collectively complete during the month. The children met every goal.

At Churchill Elementary, many planned activities help motivate pupils to read. On Valentine's Day, the school hosted a "Books for Breakfast." Families came to school to share a breakfast and reading time together. Earlier in the month, Churchill hosted a family reading night, for which families congregated in the media center to read books together.

These and other activities emphasize the importance of reading for each child's life. This year, during one week of the month, different mystery readers, including the police chief, the superintendent, and the Cloquet mayor, were invited to read a story over the school intercom. All events culminated with a celebration on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday.

The success of these initiatives is reflected in the reading test scores at Churchill Elementary. Last year, Churchill Elementary received four out of five possible stars from the Minnesota Department of Education for both reading and mathematics. Fewer