



Dear New Millennium Academy Families,

I am thrilled to announce that New Millennium Academy (NMA), in partnership with the Community School of Excellence and Prairie Seeds Academy, has been designated an Innovation Research Zone by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). NMA's educational collaborative is one of only six selected Innovation Research Zones in Minnesota. Beginning this year, NMA will implement two new educational models aimed at accelerating academic achievement.

First, Swivl Robotic Technology will be installed in classrooms throughout the school. A Swivl is a rotating video robot that follows teachers within their classrooms to record lessons. The purpose of a Swivl is to capture highly-effective instructional practices that will then be shared with teachers across the school. All teachers will learn how to implement research-based best practices, thereby increasing student-success outcomes.

Second, NMA has partnered with UW-Whitewater to certify teachers fluent in Hmong language and culture to build NMA's Hmong Language and Culture instructional program. As NMA strengthens its language and culture instruction, students will increase their Hmong fluency and will continually improve their performance on Minnesota's Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

NMA is a proud leader of instructional innovation. We are committed to providing high-quality education and look forward to creatively meeting each learner's needs as we implement Swivl professional development with teachers and world-class Hmong Language and Culture programming for students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie L. Steen'.

Stephanie Steen

Principal, New Millennium Academy

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