



**Teacher
Turn the
Key**

Harley Braun

Highland Park Senior High
Saint Paul Public Schools

“Ultimately, my goal as a teacher is to empower my students to think critically, recognize their greatness, and strive for justice in all that they do. By creating a positive and inclusive classroom culture, utilizing a range of teaching strategies and valuing the cultural experiences and perspectives of my students.”

Overview

- Highland park AFNR department began over 10 years ago
- Have incorporated 5 new courses over the past 3 years
- Expanded the program to a two person department
- The program has over 720 students enrolled in the program each year
- Transitioned the program to affiliate FFA membership model

Experiential Learning

- Implemented an “SAE for all” model to ensure all students were exploring potential career pathways and gaining experience
- Incorporated the “Earn as you Learn” program for students to earn certifications in OSHA agriculture, automotive, culinary, Microsoft and are paid for their time to complete their certifications
- Developed a Floral Design School Based Enterprise

Professional Growth

- Active in MAAE, NAAE, MnACTE, and ACTE
- NAAE: FAST attendee and National Convention Attendee
- MAAE: Ideas Unlimited participant, AET Training, TIP Program and the IDEAS program
- State Proficiency Judge, Germinate Winter Conference, Biotechnology Bootcamp PD, Minnesota Council for Economic Education Workshop

FFA Highlights

- Over 45 individuals have competed in 15 CDE's and LDE's with over 30 students to the State FFA Convention
- Some “firsts” for Highland Park FFA include their first state degree, first Region IV Officer, First team placing in the top three at state and first team to compete at the National level

Partnerships

- Secured over \$80,000 in grant funds from organizations to fund new lab equipment for biotechnology, update kitchen equipment for sustainable food production and general classroom upgrades
- Strong partnerships through the SPPS AFNR Advisory Board
- Additional partnerships include A. Johnson and Sons Floral shop, Happy Land Christmas tree lot, Canine inspired change and best prep

“Harley is an inclusive and culturally responsive instructor who provides and equitable classroom where all students thrive. The curriculum is culturally relevant and engaging and she encourages her students to strive for justice and make a positive impact on their communities.”

– Dr. Winston H. Tucker, SPPS Highland Park Principal

2023 MAAE Award Winner