

Greetings to the students and staff of South St. Paul High School!

I am proud to be here for this very special news conference.

Usually we hold them back at our office.

But today we are honoring the hardest working member of my administration – a woman who is often out of the office.

I hate it when people have the audacity to ask, “Where’s Mae?”

The answer is obvious.

She’s probably in a school, visiting with students, teachers, staff and community members.

That’s why we are in a school today.

Mae Schunk is the strongest advocate for public schools in Minnesota.

After every trip out to the schools, she makes another trip into my office.

She tells me what’s going on in the schools - the successes, the issues, the questions.

Plus she’s kind of like John Wodele – she tells them what I *meant* to say.

Let me tell you this about our Lieutenant Governor:

You can thank Mae for teaching me about the value of small class size.

You can thank Mae for teaching me about the importance of the Graduation Standards.

You can thank Mae for encouraging me to give schools as much money as possible.

Do I always agree with her?

Let me say this: Here’s a woman from Wisconsin, who chooses for her finale a school with a team named “The Packers.”

She doesn’t know that I know – but every Sunday in the fall she and her husband point their satellite dish toward Green Bay.

No – we don’t always agree on everything. For one thing – I’m loyal to the Vikings.

But we do have the same philosophy.

We are people who believe in honesty, hard work and common sense.

When we make a promise – we keep it.

During our campaign she promised to visit every school district in Minnesota.

I am very happy to report that today she has fulfilled that promise!

Let me now introduce my Ambassador to Education, Lt. Governor Mae Schunk!

(LT. GOV ENTERS – BAND PLAYS “ROCKY THEME” – WHEN APPLAUSE DIES
DOWN – GIVE HER THE PLAQUE AND READ IT)