

# OUTSTANDING MIDDLE/SECONDARY AGED PROGRAM



**STEPHEN FUNK, AMBER SEIBERT  
AND ASHLEY SCHMITZ**  
PARK RAPIDS

## OVERVIEW

The Park Rapids Program was re-established in 2019 with Stephen Funk and then continued to grow with the hiring of Amber Seibert and Ashley Schmitz. Park Rapids was a pilot program in the Agricultural Diversity and Leadership/Technical Skill Challenge (ADLTS) grant which allowed the program to establish an affiliated membership structure, offering all students participation in FFA and SAEs. This past year, the high school agriculture program saw 290 students grades 9-12 in 15 courses and the middle school program saw about 475 students each year in grades 4-8. These numbers translate to a 410% growth over the past five years.

Since re-chartering, Park Rapids has sent 50 CDE/LDE teams to the state FFA competition, with 11 teams in the Top 5, 4 national competitors and two teams placing 2nd at Nationals. Park Rapids has also had 6 State Proficiency award finalists and 3 State winners, 17 State Degrees, 7 American Degrees and a State Star Finalist in Agriscience. The FFA chapter is home to over 70 highly active members. Their students have completed hundreds of community service hours, thousands of hours on their work-based learning projects and have seen great success within their FFA. For such a young program, Park Rapids has shown immense growth in success.

*The Middle and Secondary Agricultural Education Program exemplifies excellence in agricultural education, leadership development, and community engagement. The dedication of the staff, the outstanding achievements of the students, and the program's impact on both school and community make this program truly deserving.*

*~Jeff Johnson, Park Rapids Principal*

**2025 MAAE AWARD WINNER**

Banners Donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union

