INTRODUCTIONS

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INTRODUCTIONS

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HISTORY OF RIVER WATCH

- Began in 1995 with 4 schools
- Currently 26 schools in MN and ND
  - (plus 22 in Manitoba)
- Over 10,000 river visits
- Red River Basin focus
HISTORY OF RIVER WATCH

- River Watch pilot project (1995)
- River of Dreams developed (2003)
- River Explorers (2012)
- Stream tables & Groundwater models (2014)
- River of Dreams updates & expansion (2015)
- Macroinvertebrate sampling (2016)
- Continuous monitoring stations (2017)
- River Watch Summer Camp (2018)
WHY RIVER WATCH?

• CHALLENGING participants to collect and think critically about scientific data

• CREATING a sense of responsibility and stewardship for local waterways

• CONNECTING students to their local rivers through experiential learning opportunities

• CULTIVATING interest and appreciation for watershed science careers and opportunities
WHY RIVER WATCH?

“It’s nice to be outside, even when it’s cold, it’s better to be outside cold and learning than sitting in the classroom and trying to learn the same thing.”

"We just turn on our water, and we don't care, but we need to think about where it's coming from--that's why River Watch is important."

"It's fun, it's educational, and it's needed. I love it."
WATERSHED ED PROGRAMS

- River Watch
  - Water quality monitoring
  - RW Forum
  - River Explorers
  - Macroinvertebrates
  - Snow and frost study
- River of Dreams
- Community Paddle Events
Complex problem: Grow interest in STEM over 15-year time span

- Hands-on STEM
- Meet role models
- STEM outside of classroom
- Elective courses
- Broader employment options and earnings

Middle elementary → Early senior high → Late senior high → Community Technical college → 4-year institution

Grow Passion
Build Knowledge
Explore Careers
SNAPCHAT/INSTA-WORTHY
SNAPCHAT/INSTA-WORTHY
SNAPCHAT/INSTA-WORTHY
SNAPCHAT/INSTA-WORTHY
QUESTIONS ABOUT RIVER WATCH BEFORE WE PROCEED?