

# Personalizing Learning for Every Student

By providing additional access to teachers and support programs, students gain confidence and a stronger academic foundation for future learning

In Minnetonka Public Schools, we believe every child is as unique as every parent's hopes and dreams for that child. We offer personalized instruction, a variety of opportunities and support programs that address each student's just-right learning level.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Our elementary schools are filled with lively students who bring a myriad of strengths to the classroom. Teachers inspire students to excel as they move through the curriculum. By carefully monitoring progress, teachers can provide extra assistance in reading or more challenging assignments in math, for example. Minnetonka's multi-tiered system of support can include long-term, short-term or even project-based strategies depending on the student's level of need. Our goal is to engage every student and build a strong foundation for future learning.

In Deephaven's after-school BLAST program, teachers, parents, and high school volunteers assist students with homework, goal setting and organization skills (see the BLAST video at <https://vimeo.com/188718282>).

Last spring at Minnewashta, a small group of students practiced geometry concepts by measuring, planning and creating paper prototypes for the school's GroVert™ plant gallery.

## THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Differentiated learning is a highlight of middle school as students explore

interests and expand their abilities by choosing courses with varying levels of rigor. Many courses are personalized to give students a "voice and choice" in how they then demonstrate their learning. For example, a student may research a topic of interest in history and then create a multimedia project to show what they know.

Personalized learning changes the support students need from teachers and staff. When doors open at MME and MMW before and after school, students are just as likely to consult with teachers on a project plan as they are to work with dedicated math specialists on an algebra concept.

Each student has a school counselor who monitors academic and social/emotional growth. They connect students with convenient support resources to help them stay on track, gain confidence and excel.

## AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL

Academic choice and rigor is a hallmark of our high school, giving students flexibility in what they learn and how they set a course for the future. To help students achieve their highest aspirations, staff at MHS are focused on building exceptional relationships and delivering exceptional learning experiences. Academic support is an important part of building this culture.

Before 7:00 a.m., students pour into the high school to meet with teachers or work with other students on group

projects. One day a week, every student follows a modified schedule that provides additional access to teachers during the first 40 minutes of the day.

Peer tutoring is also available through the Writing Center (now in its tenth academic year), Math Center and Academic Anchors tutoring. These programs match students with specially trained peers to provide guidance and support in any academic area.

Every day, district students benefit from making personal connections with caring individuals at school. It's that care and attention to personalized learning that makes a difference and helps our students succeed.



*In Deephaven's BLAST program, volunteers help with homework, goal setting and organization skills that can impact student success and confidence for years to come.*

# Message

from the Superintendent

Enrollment planning in Minnetonka is a year around process, as we have used enrollment over the past ten years to assure stability in funding during some of the most challenging years in recent history. The use of Open Enrollment under Minnesota statutes has brought in over \$100,000,000 to support all students in the District. We have used about \$35,000,000 of that for the new students, but the rest of it has gone to support the high quality opportunities afforded to Minnetonka students and to keep all of our schools open.

In fact, enrollment today is more than 4,300 students above what was projected for 2016 just ten years ago. Furthermore, this year's Kindergarten class is the largest class of any grade in Minnetonka's history at 874. Families clamor to get their five-year-olds in the next class each year at this time. In each of the last two years, we have had about 1,000 applications for approximately 870 positions.

It is a wonderful experience to anticipate the excitement in each family as they seek to have their Kindergartener become a Skipper and for us to build a relationship that will last for thirteen years. Some families apply when the child is a baby to assure a place five years hence, and others move into the District to assure a place. As noted in this card, it is time to finalize enrollment for 2017!

Dennis Peterson

## It's Time to Enroll!

Minnetonka offers a variety of kindergarten options that will ignite the love of learning in your child.

Each of our kindergarten teachers inspires in children a passion to wonder, discover, create and excel that burns brightly through the years. This passion helps students achieve more than a year's growth in a year's time so that by the end of fifth grade, the average Minnetonka student is beyond the 11<sup>th</sup> grade level in reading and math. This is only one reason why Minnetonka is a district of choice. We invite you to learn more!

### IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Beginning in December, families are invited to visit and learn about the tremendous opportunities for children in Minnetonka Schools. We welcome open enrollment students.

Visit [www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll](http://www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll) to learn more. Please mark your calendar with the following important dates and deadlines:



**Join us for a  
 Preschool  
 Story Hour  
 and Open House!**

**Tour an elementary  
 school, meet the  
 principal and  
 see your child  
 dream about the  
 kindergarten  
 journey!**

**Tuesday, December 6**

**Clear Springs – 10am**      **Groveland – 10am**  
**Deephaven – 9am**      **Minnewashta – 9:30am**  
**Excelsior – 9:30am**      **Scenic Heights – 9:30am**

- Preschool Story Hours: December 6
- Kindergarten Information Nights January 5, 10 or 12 (see calendar below)
- Open enrollment applications due: January 15
- Kindergarten registrations due: January 26



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276  
 Dennis Peterson, PhD, Superintendent  
 5621 County Road 101  
 Minnetonka, MN 55345

School Board  
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MINNETONKA THEATRE PRESENTS  
 Disney **THE LITTLE MERMAID**



December 3, 9, 10 16 & 17 (7:30 p.m.)  
 Prince & Princess Day Matinees  
 December 4, 11 & 18 (2:00 p.m.)  
[minnetonkatheatre.com](http://minnetonkatheatre.com)

# Minnetonka Schools Calendar

## December

- 3-18 MHS Holiday Show, *The Little Mermaid*, Arts Center
- 5 Gr 8 Band/MHS Wind Ensemble, Arts Center, 7-9pm
- 6 Preschool Story Hour (see above right for start times)
- 6 MME Gr 6 Choir Concert, Cafetorium, 7pm
- 6 MHS Band Concert, Arts Center, 7-9pm
- 7 Navigator Open House for Prospective Applicants, Scenic Heights, 1-3pm
- 8 Navigator Open House for Prospective Applicants, Excelsior, 10am-12pm
- 8 MHS Pizza with the Principal, The Port. Two sessions: 5-5:45pm (pizza/program); 5:45-6:30pm (tour) OR 5:45-6:30pm (pizza/program); 6:30-7:15pm (tour)
- 8 Deephaven Winter Choir Concert, 7-9pm
- 12 Scenic Heights Gr 4 & 5 Orchestra Concert, MHS West Gym 7-8pm
- 12 Groveland Gr 4 & 5 Winter Concert, Excelsior Aud, 7-8pm
- 12, 13 MHS Choir Concert, Arts Center, 7-9pm
- 13 Clear Springs Orchestra Concerts, Back Gym, Gr 4, 6pm; Gr 5, 7pm
- 13 Minnewashta Gr 5 Choir Performance, 6pm

- 13 Excelsior Gr 4 & 5 Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm
- 13 Deephaven Gr 4 & 5 Winter Concert, 7pm
- 14 MHS NHS Induction, Arts Center, 7-9pm
- 15 Excelsior Gr 5 Choir Concert, Auditorium, 6:30pm
- 15 MMW Gr 7 Choir Concert, Cafetorium, 6:45pm
- 15 MMW Gr 8 Choir Concert, Cafetorium, 8pm
- 15 MHS Orchestra Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 16 Minnewashta Gr 4 & 5 Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm
- 19 Groveland Music & Lyrics Concert, West Gym, 7pm
- 20 MME Gr 8 Choir Concert, 6:30pm & 7:30pm
- 20 Gr 7 & 8/MHS Orchestra, Arts Center, 7pm
- 22 Excelsior Winter Sing Along, Auditorium, 1:30pm
- 23-30 No School, Winter Break
- 23, 26 District Office Closed

## January

- 2 No School, District Office Closed
- 3 Classes Resume
- 5 Deephaven Kindergarten Info. Night, 6pm
- 6 Minnewashta Movie Night, 6pm
- 10 Groveland Kindergarten Info. Night, 6pm
- 10 Scenic Heights Kindergarten Info. Night, 6pm
- 10 Minnewashta Kindergarten Info. Night, 6pm

- 10 MME Gr 7 Choir Concert, Cafetorium, 6:30pm & 7:30pm
- 12 Clear Springs Kindergarten Info. Night, 6pm
- 12 Excelsior Kindergarten Info. Night, 6:00pm
- 12 MME & MMW Gr 6 Philharmonic Orchestra Concert, Arts Center, 7pm

**2017**



**DREAM MAKERS**  
 FUN • FRIENDS • FUNDING

Saturday, February 4, 2017 • 5:00 p.m.  
 After Party 9:00 p.m.  
 U.S. Bank Stadium • Tickets on sale January 4  
[minnetonkafoundation.org](http://minnetonkafoundation.org)

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