

Focus on Student Well-being



Minnetonka Public Schools has increased its efforts to educate the whole child with a focus on student well-being. The District's School Board set this as its top goal for Minnetonka Schools for the past two years. Well-being is the positive sense of self and belonging felt when cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are met. In the school setting, it means helping students to be resilient and self-aware, better equipping them to make positive choices that support their learning and achievement.

"Empowering district families with connections and resources to build confidence, safety and support is something the School Board firmly believes in. We have seen the increasing needs surrounding student well-being that exist and have encouraged District leaders to strengthen the internal supports and develop a hub of resources for families," said Lisa Wagner, School Board Chairwoman.

This has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive well-being guide and website for families, filled with school and community resources. The District also held a series of parent events, including a well-being resources fair, developed additional support and training for teachers and counselors and now provides additional screening for students to identify need early on.

Academically, Minnetonka Schools provides comprehensive health curriculum in middle through

high school that is aligned with the National Health Education Standards, focusing on relationship skills, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management and self-awareness.

Well-being Resources

Website

Learn more about Minnetonka Schools' Well-being website and Well-being Guide at www.minnetonkaschools.org/wellbeing

Resources

To suggest a resource for the District website, please contact Michelle Ferris at michelle.ferris@minnetonkaschools.org.

Well-being Speaker Series

Who are your people ... in your home?

April 9, 2019 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Minnetonka High School Forum

Come hear from experts in the healthcare field on the importance of parents, parenting and how to cope with stress when you are worried about your own child's stress and well-being!



Message

from Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson

The School Board has given major emphasis to the importance of student well-being during the past two years, as more parents and teachers began to describe specific challenges their students were facing beyond academic work. It became clear that several factors were impacting today's students that had not revealed themselves as much with previous students. Although we still have a firm commitment to parents having responsibility for their children's mental health, the District can be very supportive of students and parents in areas where there are multiple students facing specific challenges.

There are emotional skills and social skills that all students need in order to be successful that schools can reinforce. It is important to keep academic development as the top priority, but sufficient time can be devoted to the development of social skills and emotional skills to enable students to be even more successful academically. The lack of emotional skills and some social skills can actually hinder the academic development of students. So, that balance is important and can be managed by teachers, counselors and principals.

We have developed important tools for parents to utilize in their interaction with their children, and we have provided lists of organizations and mental health providers for parents to use in managing specific mental health issues that their children may be facing.

As today's students seek to replicate or surpass the academic achievements of past students, they will face challenges that were not an issue in the past. The District needs to continue to assure that staff are prepared to be true partners with parents in providing the various resources necessary for appropriate student development.

First Group of Immersion Students Eyes Graduation

Minnetonka Schools launched its Chinese and Spanish Language Immersion options for students in Kindergarten and first grade in September 2008.

Today, as those first Immersion students complete their senior year, the program has grown to the largest in the state, and our students have consistently exceeded expectations in oral and written language proficiency and cultural competency. Not only have Immersion students become highly proficient in Spanish or Mandarin, the entire program has generated far more revenue than it has cost to have the program.

Most of these students entered high school in fall 2015 prepared to take the Chinese or Spanish AP Language and Culture exam. In spring 2017, 100% of those testing earned a score of 3 or higher, eligible for college credit.

"Our first group of Immersion students are leaving here with a rich experience," said Principal Jeff Erickson, who was an MHS Spanish instructor when the Immersion program began. "They have not only continued to meet expectations in rigorous coursework, but have also become strong leaders, working alongside us through the Student Advisory

Board for Immersion. They have given us feedback on courses as we've grown, and their insight has made the program stronger. This spring, we are celebrating their accomplishment—*12 years in one focused area of study*. The fact that they have stuck with it, and they've excelled, is truly amazing."

Senior Jing McIntosh-Yee is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Bilingual Diploma Candidate in Chinese. "I am part of the MHS Chinese Exchange Club that helps elementary Immersion students with their schoolwork. This experience has been extremely rewarding because, as one of the first Immersion students, it is amazing to see how much the program has changed and how fluent the kids are at such a young age. It's also rewarding to give back to the Immersion community and hope that it continues to grow as the years go on."

Jodi Siegel, MHS Immersion Lead says, "Our first group of Immersion students and their parents have made this wonderful program possible, with their dedication, their curiosity and their flexibility. We're very proud of our students, the skills they have built and the program they helped create. We are excited to see how they apply their language skills in their future lives."



Student teachers from the Universidad de Concepción in Chile bring language, culture and enthusiasm to Minnetonka's Spanish Immersion students.

Minnetonka Schools Calendar*

April 2019

- 6..... Diamond Club Spring Breakfast, MHS, 8:30-9:30am
- 9..... Well-being Speaker Series, "Who are Your People ..."
MHS Forum, 6pm
- 9..... Clear Springs Family Service Night, Tile Gym, 6:30pm
- 11 .. Groveland Elementary Art Show, 5pm
- 12 .. Tonka Pride Spring Store, DSC, 3-7pm
- 12... MMW Fifth-Grade Finale, 6:30pm, <http://bit.ly/MMW-Finale>
- 13 .. Tonka Pride Spring Store, DSC, 8am-1pm
- 19 .. No School E-12, District Office Closed
- 22 .. 2-Hour Late-Start K-12, Professional Learning
- 25 .. Deephaven Elementary Art Exhibit, 5-7pm
- 26 .. MME Gr 6-7 Spring Party, MME, 4-6pm
- 27 .. Trash Into Treasure, MHS front parking lot, 10am-1pm
- 27-May 12...MHS Spring Musical, "Scarlet Pimpernel,"
various times, Arts Center, minnetonkatheatre.com
- 29 .. MHS Band Solo/Ensemble Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 30 .. MME Gr 6 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert, MHS, 6pm
- 30 .. MMW Gr 6 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert, MHS,
7:45pm

May 2019

- 1..... Minnewashta Gr 1 Music & Muffins, 7:30-8:30am
- 2..... Minnewashta Gr 1 Music & Muffins, 7:30-8:30am
- 2..... MHS Percussion Ensemble, MHS Studio Theatre, 6-9pm

- 3..... La Copa Minnetonka (open to all), MHS Football Field,
5:30-7:30pm minnetonkaschools.org/lacopa
- 3..... East Meets West (Gr 8), MHS West Gym, 7-8:30pm
- 4..... Youth Triathlon, MME, 8:30-10:30am
- 7..... MMW Band Concert and Jazz Ensemble,
MMW: Gr 7, 6:45-7:45pm; Gr 8, 8-9pm
- 7..... MME Band Concert and Jazz Ensemble, MME:
Gr 7, 6:45-7:30pm; Gr 8, 8-8:45pm
- 9-10.. Groveland Used Book Sale, Cove, 9am-3pm
- 9..... MME Gr 7 Spring Choir Concert, Cafeteria, 6:30pm and
7:30pm start times
- 10 .. MME Water Walk Event, MME, 9:15am-4pm
- 10...MME Fifth-Grade Finale, 6:30pm, <http://bit.ly/MME-Finale>
- 13...Elementary Children's Choir Concert, Arts Center, 8:30pm
- 14 .. MME Gr 8 Spring Choir Concert, Arts Center, 6:45pm
- 14 .. MMW Gr 8 Spring Choir Concert, Arts Center, 8pm
- 15 .. District Gr 5 Band Concerts, Arts Center, CS/SH, 5:30pm;
DH/MWTA, 6:45pm; EX/GRV, 8pm
- 16 .. District Celebration of Excellence, Arts Center, 6-8:30pm
- 18 .. Groveland Shred Event, Parking Lot, 10am-1pm
- 18 .. MHS Prom, 9-11pm
- 20....MME President's Academic Awards (A-L), Media Ctr, 8:15am
- 20 .. MMW Gr 7 Choir Concert, Minnewashta Gym, 6:45pm
- 20 .. MHS Choir Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 20 .. Groveland Music & Lyrics, North Gym, 7pm

- 21.... MMW President's Academic Awards (A-L), Media Ctr, 8:05am
- 21.... MME President's Academic Awards (M-Z), Media Ctr, 8:15am
- 21 .. MHS Choir Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 22 .. Minnetonka Preschool/ECFE PTO Spring Picnic/
Silent Auction, 5-7:30pm, Thorpe Park, Wayzata
- 22 .. Continental Math League Awards, Arts Center, 5:30pm
- 22 .. Minnetonka Scholar Awards, Arts Center, 7pm
- 23.... MMW President's Academic Awards (M-Z), Media Ctr, 8:05am
- 23 .. Gr 5 Track & Field Day, MHS Stadium Field
- 23 .. MHS Orchestra Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 27 .. No School K-12, District Office Closed, Memorial Day
- 28 .. MHS Band Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 29 .. Minnetonka Research Symposium, Commons, 6:30pm
- 29 .. Gr 7/8 Philharmonic Orchestra, Arts Center, 7pm
- 30 .. MHS Jazz Concert, Arts Center, 7pm

June 2019

- 3..... Scenic Heights Spring Fling, Playground, 5-7:30pm
- 4-5 Seniors Serve around the community
- 6..... Last day of school, End of 2nd semester
- 6..... MHS Graduation, U.S. Bank Stadium
www.minnetonkaschools.org/graduation

*Visit www.minnetonkaschools.org/calendar for all events,
including elementary school spring concerts

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