



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276
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Patrick Lee-O'Halloran, Treasurer	Chris Vitale, Director
Katie Becker, Clerk	

BACK TO SCHOOL 2023-24

AROUND MINNETONKA

NEWS FROM MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINNETONKA SCHOOL BOARD SETS THE DISTRICT GOALS FOR 2023-2024

Earlier this month, the Minnetonka School Board set its 2023-24 goals for the Minnetonka Public School District, renewing the District's focus on excellence in how we live, lead and learn.

GOAL: Excellence in Well-being, Connection and Belonging

The District will foster and promote positive student well-being, connection and belonging, identify and remove barriers that have a detrimental effect on these areas and provide reports on progress and measures of success on these efforts. The District will strive for fair treatment, opportunity and advancement of all students to pursue their highest levels of academic and personal achievement. It will work to reduce bullying and increase bullying prevention awareness and will provide professional development to staff and the Board to assist in deepening the District's belonging initiatives. The Board's long-standing vision for child-centered excellence will be the foundation for these efforts.

GOAL: Excellence in Student Learning and Support

The District will work to deepen its efforts to provide exceptional academic opportunities for all students. To do this, it will further implement educational frameworks and strategic programs to support student learning and will place an enhanced emphasis on literacy. The District will also broaden the reach of the Minnetonka experience through the Tonka Online K-12 e-learning program and will assess the program's successes and challenges to make recommendations for future adjustments. And,

the District will utilize space strategically to accommodate its innovative programming, particularly in the VANTAGE Advanced Professional Studies and MOMENTUM Design and Skilled Trades programs. This work includes long-term facility planning for the programming needs in both academic and co-curricular programs.

GOAL: Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support

The District administration and School Board strive for excellence in all aspects of leadership and fiscal management. Building even stronger community trust through increased information and engagement opportunities for all stakeholders is a key part of this work. Additionally, the District will take steps to further maximize long-term financial stability and sustainability. It will also implement the recently-approved state-funded meal legislation, providing free breakfast and lunch to students at every school. And, there will be an enhanced focus on recruitment and retention of exceptional teachers and staff.

Staying Up-to-Date on Goal Progress

Throughout the year, the District administration will update the School Board and community at School Board meetings, on the District website and in District publications, on the efforts made to achieve these pursuits.

If you'd like to sign up to receive monthly School Board News emails, which summarize the content of the School Board's regular meetings, scan the QR code to the right and fill out the contact form.





96% of parent survey respondents rate the education provided by the Minnetonka Public School District as **excellent or good**.

PARENT & COMMUNITY SURVEYS SHOW SUPPORT FOR MINNETONKA SCHOOLS

Each year, Minnetonka Public Schools surveys current parents about their family's educational experience in our schools. This spring, the District also partnered with the research firm Morris Leatherman to conduct a resident community survey, as it does every few years. Overall, the community survey results show high confidence in the District's programs, schools, teachers and leadership.

View the presentations of the parent and community survey results from the August 3 School Board meeting by visiting bit.ly/mtka-surveys-2023

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Ahoy, Minnetonka!

A PODCAST FROM MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Listen in with your favorite podcast app
or find us online at
minnetonkaschools.org/ahoy

Through the *Ahoy, Minnetonka!* podcast, Minnetonka Schools has launched a new way for the community to hear stories from our District.

We hope you will listen in and join us for these chats with teachers, staff, students, parents, volunteers, Board members, alumni and administrators – the people who make Minnetonka Schools such a special place to live, lead and learn.

A MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Back to school time is nearly here! I've always felt fall is an exciting season. It brings new beginnings, new opportunities for our students and the chance for us all to come together to guide our students to another year of success and growth. Whether you have a student in the district or not, please know you play an enormously important role in ensuring our students receive a top tier education. We are grateful for this support and investment in helping to shape the future.

Minnetonka Schools has built a reputation locally and nationally for exceptional teaching and learning. Our focus continues to be on excellence in how we live, lead and learn. As you see in this publication, our School Board has set the goals for the year ahead, mirroring this theme, and we are all committed to working together to empower students to achieve amazing academic outcomes. We will also continue to ensure every student feels welcome and a sense of belonging in our school community. This has been a School Board goal for several years and will continue to be an area of focus for our leaders and staff. Supporting student well-being and providing a bully-free environment are efforts that underscore this goal.

Literacy, and specifically reading proficiency, has long been a top priority in Minnetonka. Increasingly, it is a focus area state- and nationwide. The Minnesota legislature recently passed the READ Act, a measure to ensure school districts are following research in instruction and classroom materials. We continue to implement the most effective instructional and intervention strategies so our students are meeting or exceeding expected growth in reading, and we remain a leader among school districts in Minnesota and across the nation.

Consistent with the School Board goal of Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support, Minnetonka Schools takes pride in its ability to

innovate as a method for continuous improvement. Over the past 15+ years, this innovation has led to language immersion programming starting in preschool, coding education beginning in Kindergarten and enhanced opportunities for advanced learning at all levels (including our AP, IB and Minnetonka Research programs at the high school). Additional paths for career exploration have launched through our VANTAGE Advanced Professional Studies program and our MOMENTUM Design and Skilled Trades program, as well as in our Students Achieving Independent Life (SAIL) program for 18-21-year-old students with special needs.

Innovation will continue to be our pathway for providing students with unique and cutting-edge opportunities, for meeting the needs of all of our learners and for ensuring the District's continued strength.

The District's long-term financial stability remains key to all we do and all we provide to students. This fall, there will be a capital projects levy (also called a "tech levy") renewal on the ballot for residents to consider. The funding provided by the current capital projects levy supports the resources and staff for school safety and security initiatives, cyber security for student data and the technology utilized every day in every classroom to enhance learning and the technology infrastructure, software, hardware and staffing critical to the District's operations. On August 17, the School Board made the decision to put a ballot question about renewing this levy to voters in November. Please note, this will be a replacement of our currently-existing capital projects levy, not an increase in tax rate. Information about this ballot question is on the Minnetonka Schools website at minnetonkaschools.org/tech-levy. Additionally, there are four School Board seats up this year. You can learn more about that on the District website, as well. We encourage all residents to be informed and to vote in November!

Thank you for your commitment to our students, tomorrow's leaders. We look forward to another amazing year.

David Law, JD · Superintendent of Schools

Scan for Capital Projects "Tech Levy" Information



DISTRICT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 5.....First Day of School, Gr. 1-12+
- 7.....First Day of School, Kindergarten
- 7.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 12.....School Board Candidate Forum (hosted by the League of Women Voters Minnesota), 7 p.m., MHS Arts Center
- 22.....Homecoming Parade, 4pm, Water Street
- 22.....Homecoming Game, 7pm, MHS
- 28.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC

OCTOBER 2023

- 3.....Second Annual Community & Resource Night, 5-8 p.m., MME
- 5.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 12.....P/T Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 13.....No School K-12, P/T Conferences, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 19-20...No School K-12+, Statewide Teacher Meetings
- 23.....K-5 No School (Practice E-learning) and 6-12+ Required E-learning, Staff Professional Learning
- 26.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC

NOVEMBER 2023

- 2.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7p.m., DSC
- 6.....Celebration of Service, 6:30 p.m., MHS
- 7.....Election Day
- 9.....Quarter 1 Ends
- 10.....No School, Gr K-12+, Planning and Grading/PLC
- 13.....Quarter 2 Begins
- 16.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 22.....No School K-12+, Staff Professional Learning Option
- 23-24.No School K-12+, District Offices Closed, Thanksgiving Break

Find more upcoming calendar events, district updates and feature stories online at minnetonkaschools.org

