

# Welcome to Elementary School



WHERE DREAMS SET SAIL



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Welcome to Minnetonka Schools!

In Minnetonka, we know that each child is as unique as each parents' hopes and dreams for their child. That is why we offer a variety of educational programs to pull out the best in each child. Minnetonka takes pride in its six equally excellent elementary schools, each of which offer an outstanding education for all children. Our District is unlike any other in the state or the nation. From the front door, our schools may appear to be similar, but walk down the halls and you will quickly discover that each school is a collection of specialized educational programs designed to meet the learning needs and interests of each child.

Each elementary school houses both an English program and a Language Immersion program, which provides an opportunity for English speaking children to become fluent in a second language. Four of our schools offer Spanish Immersion and two schools offer Chinese Immersion. Families elect either the Language Immersion or English program beginning in Kindergarten. About half of our families select English and half select Spanish or Chinese. The unique school-within-a-school program brings a rich bilingual culture to each of our schools and enhances the global awareness of all students.

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## **IGNITING A LOVE OF LEARNING**

A typical day in all Minnetonka elementary schools is dedicated to sparking children's curiosity and igniting their imaginations to develop a lifelong love of learning. We are dedicated to understanding 21st century students and committed to providing them with the skills they will need to thrive in a diverse and changing world. Using the latest brain research, technology, educational methods, student data and best practices, our teachers inspire in children a passion to wonder, discover, create and excel.

Visit our classrooms and find highly-qualified, energetic teachers with a passion for helping children learn. Walk into an English classroom and you will see books, math manipulatives, SMARTboards and learning resources (all in English). Walk into an Immersion classroom and you will see the same materials, but hear the teacher and older students speaking only in their second language. In Immersion classrooms, all subjects (math, science, language arts, etc.) are taught in the Immersion language. Visit the common areas and see children from both programs speaking English and building a strong welcoming community.

## **A TRANSFORMATION**

When kindergarten students enter Minnetonka Schools, they arrive with a wide range of abilities, similar to kindergartners nationwide. But, over the next six years, something truly transformational occurs. By the end of 5th grade, Minnetonka students are reading at an 11th grade level. As

parents, you should expect a year's growth in a year's time; but in Minnetonka, the learning curve accelerates. On average, Minnetonka students grow eleven grade levels in six years time. This is truly a unique educational program, with outstanding educators serving eager students in a community that values its schools.

Visit our schools. Meet our highly qualified teachers and staff who are among the best in the state. Ask about your child's unique gifts, interests and abilities. You want the best education for your child. So do we! We look forward to welcoming you into our world-class, child-centered elementary schools.



# Wonder. Discover.

## CURRICULUM

During elementary school, children have instruction in:

- Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Art
- Health
- Media, Technology, Computer Coding
- Music, Band, Choir, Orchestra
- Physical Education
- World Language (option)

Each subject covers standards-based content, with an emphasis on cultivating student's 21st century skills such as creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and innovation.

Differentiated learning is important to personalizing education and meeting children "where they are" to move them to the next level. All classroom teachers use a variety of approaches to respond to the individual learning needs, interests and readiness of students.

### Social Studies

Our History Alive social studies curriculum seeks to develop informed individuals prepared for effective citizenship in our increasingly complex world. Students learn basic research skills in the study of economics, geography, history, political science, sociology and American government.

## LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Minnetonka offers a Language Immersion option at each of our neighborhood schools for children starting Kindergarten. Two schools offer Chinese Immersion. Four schools offer Spanish Immersion. These options provide English-speaking children the opportunity to acquire fluency in a second language while still in elementary school. Approximately 50 percent of our elementary students enroll in Immersion.

Having an Immersion program at each school benefits all children. Building-wide special events, classroom guest speakers and enrichment opportunities allow all students to gain further understanding of and first-hand exposure to other cultures. Furthermore, students who enroll in the English program have the opportunity to explore Chinese or Spanish language in an afterschool program two or three days a week.

### Reading and Language Arts

Reading and writing are the foundation for all other learning, so in Minnetonka 120 minutes of elementary instructional time is dedicated to language arts each day. Learning to love reading and gaining proficiency in early elementary school is essential to making the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. The language arts curriculum uses a balanced literacy model and incorporates a variety of approaches to turn students into proficient readers. Teachers use Houghton Mifflin Reading, Pearson's Words Their Way, Education Northwest's Six Traits of Writing and Being a Writer curriculum to develop students' reading, thinking, listening, speaking and writing skills. Daily activities include modeled, shared, guided and independent reading and writing exercises. Direct instruction in vocabulary and spelling helps students develop a profound command of the English language. Families are asked to read with or to their child for 30 minutes each day outside of school.

### Media and Technology

Media Center specialists teach students information literacy once per five-day cycle. Students use print and online resources to develop a love of reading, computer skills, evaluation and ethical use of information, and the inquiry process.

### Computer Programming

Minnetonka is the first school district in Minnesota to offer elementary computer programming. Students learn coding skills through a strategic, standards-based integration in English, math, science and art, ensuring that all students leave fifth grade with an understanding of logic, creativity and problem solving within their toolkit of computer programming knowledge and skills.



# er. Create.

## Mathematics

Our math program strives to maintain a high level of interest while developing strong computation and problem-solving skills. Teachers follow the standards-based Houghton Mifflin Every Day Math curriculum that teaches real-life math use and challenges students to explain reasoning and justify thinking. Teachers are also trained in Singapore math strategies. Web-based resources support math learning and acceleration at home and at school. Mathematically gifted students may test into Accelerated Math beginning in fourth grade.

## Science

The elementary science program is a blend of hands-on experiments and traditional science units. Lessons focus on learning the scientific method: ask a question, do research, form and test a hypothesis, make observations, gather and evaluate data and communicate results. Teachers use the FOSS curriculum which encourages exploration and collaboration during scientific investigations. Daily activities are infused with math, engineering and technology (STEM) concepts to broaden students' understanding of the scientific process and its application in real-world situations.

## Fine Arts

Art specialists teach students visual arts instruction once per five-day cycle. Visual arts balances art production with concepts of design, appreciation and history, studying art masters from around the world.

Students enjoy music with a licensed music teacher three times per five-day cycle, in first through fourth grades. Music includes singing, playing instruments, listening, movement and note reading. String lessons may begin in fourth grade. In fifth grade, students may elect to focus their music instruction in band, orchestra, choir or classroom music. Beyond traditional instrumental group lessons, students who elect to specialize have a full band, orchestra or choir experience three times a week with multiple performance opportunities through the year. This model has proven to accelerate musical achievement beyond most elementary level music programs.

## Health and Physical Education

The Great Body Shop health curriculum teaches students skills to increase physical, mental and social health. Physical education class (twice each five-day cycle) teaches the importance of regular physical activity and life-long teamwork and fitness skills. Health education is a responsibility shared between home and school.



## CLASS SIZES

The Minnetonka School District places a high value on maintaining appropriate class sizes and our students in K-12 enjoy the lowest class sizes in the Metro area.

### Elementary Class Size Average: 20.9

	K	1	2	3	4	5
2015	19.9	20.1	20.4	21.1	23.8	25.3
2014	18.3	19.9	20.1	22.4	23.4	24.7
2013	19.3	20.0	20.9	22.5	23.5	25.4
2012	19.5	19.7	20.9	20.7	24.0	26.4
2011	17.3	19.8	20.6	22.3	24.4	25.4
2010	17.9	18.6	20.2	21.1	23.4	25.7

*Because children do not move into a neighborhood or enroll in school in evenly divided sets, class sizes will vary among schools and grade levels.*

# Excel. Nurture.

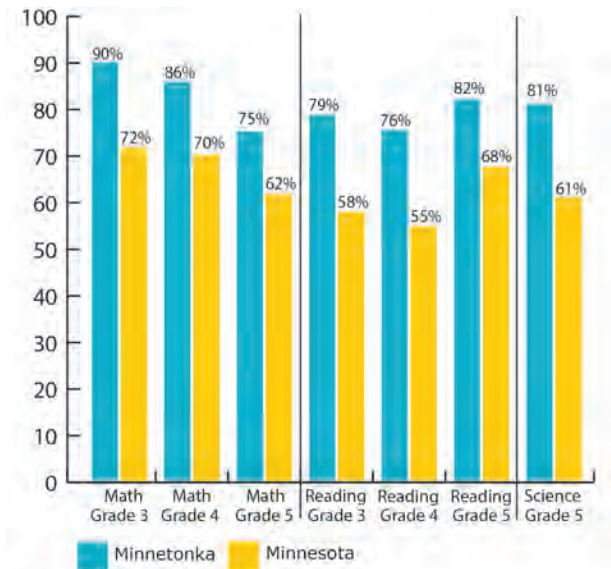
## ASSESSMENT

Our teachers and staff strive to achieve world-class, child-centered excellence in everything they do, and the results are clear. Minnetonka test scores are among the highest in the state and are very competitive with top public and private schools in the nation. In 2014, Minnetonka ranked #1 in the Metro area in science and in the top three for reading and math proficiency on state MCA tests.

### MCA: Minnesota State Assessments

The MCAs are state tests in reading, mathematics and science and meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). These tests are given every year to measure student performance on the Minnesota Academic Standards, which define what our students should know and are able to do in a particular grade. Elementary students are assessed in math and reading in grades 3-5 and in science in grade 5. Tests are designed to become increasingly more challenging relative to the grade level each year.

**2014 MCA Results** (Percent of Students Scoring Proficient)



## MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The NWEA, an assessment developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association, is a diagnostic measure of achievement in math and reading for students in grades K–8. Administered in the fall and spring, the tests pinpoint students’ strengths and areas for growth. Students take the tests on a computer, and the questions automatically adjust to the child’s appropriate level of learning, based on the child’s responses. In essence, each test is customized to the student. The data allows teachers to immediately adjust instruction to meet children where they are, and move each child to the next level of learning. These measures indicate that the longer a student is enrolled in Minnetonka, the more learning accelerates. Our kindergarten students begin school close to the national average, by the end of 4th grade, students achieve at the same level as 7th graders nationally and by the end of fifth grade, at the same level as 11th graders nationally (six grade levels ahead).

If a student is not meeting academic benchmarks for their grade level, our teachers initiate the Response to Intervention (RtI) instructional program and use assessment data to match instruction to an individual student’s level of need. Progress is then monitored for effectiveness and the results influence future educational decisions.

## NWEA SPRING 2014 TEST RESULTS

Minnetonka Students in Grade:	Minnetonka Reading Performance Equals National Average at:	Minnetonka Math Performance Equals National Average at:
Kindergarten	Early 1st Grade	Middle of 1st Grade
1st Grade	Middle of 2nd Grade	Early 3rd Grade
2nd Grade	Early 4th Grade	Early 4th Grade
3rd Grade	Middle of 5th Grade	Middle of 5th Grade
4th Grade	Middle of 7th Grade	Middle of 7th Grade
5th Grade	Early 11th Grade	Beyond 11th Grade

# Develop.

## **RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM**

Minnetonka Schools believes that children learn best when they have both academic and social-emotional skills. Therefore, the District has implemented the principles of Responsive Classroom® in each elementary school.

This approach to elementary teaching emphasizes social, emotional and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. Backed by evidence from independent research, the Responsive Classroom approach consists of classroom and schoolwide practices and has seven guiding principles.

### **Seven Guiding Principles:**

- How children learn is as important as what they learn: Process and content go hand in hand.
- The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
- The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
- To be successful academically and socially, children need a set of social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.
- Knowing the children we teach—individually, culturally and developmentally—is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- Knowing the families of the children we teach and working with them as partners is essential to children's education.
- How the adults at school work together is as important as their individual competence: Lasting change begins with the adult community.

Nationwide, educators using Responsive Classroom practices report increases in student learning, motivation and responsibility, and decreases in problem behaviors.

## **OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Minnetonka students, staff and teachers work hard to promote positive social and academic environments in each of our schools.

Routine monitoring has consistently shown that Minnetonka schools provide the culture of caring and respect that is essential to student success. In order to help maintain that environment, Minnetonka elementary schools adopted the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program® in 2010.

Used worldwide, the Olweus (pronounced ol-va-us) program addresses bullying school-wide and gives children and adults a common language designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop.



# Support. Inspire

## OUR FACULTY

**386**

Number of faculty in our Elementary Schools

**68%**

of Minnetonka elementary teachers hold an advanced degree

**21**

Number of Minnetonka elementary National Board Certified teachers

## TEACHERS

Students in our elementary schools are inspired by the passion and enthusiasm of highly qualified instructors who push them to wonder, discover, create and excel. Our students develop a love of learning because our teachers have a love of teaching.

### Professional Learning Communities and Q-Comp

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and building Quality Compensation (Q-Comp) goals are designed to increase student achievement and positively affect student learning.

Through their PLCs, teachers have the opportunity to dive deep into student data, share common lessons and assessments and intentionally design learning opportunities to meet their students' needs. Q-Comp is a voluntary performance-pay program for Minnesota teachers. In Minnetonka, it provides our teachers with a focus on measurable objectives, improves the level of instruction and assessment, and increases efficiency and accuracy of instruction.

### National Board Certification

The National Board Certified Teacher program recognizes highly accomplished teachers in America and sets high standards for excellence among experienced teachers. The extensive evaluation process requires a teacher to pass written exams, submit video examples of their class and teaching, and present a portfolio of their work.

The Minnetonka School District encourages teachers to pursue this professional growth opportunity. We are proud to have 21 National Board Certified elementary teachers on staff (35 teachers K-12), more than any neighboring or comparable District in the state.

## Minnetonka National Board Certified Elementary Teachers

Tarah Cummings, Excelsior

Joy Curran, Minnewashta

Diane Daniels, Scenic Heights

Niki Danou, Groveland

Deb Drexler, Clear Springs

Jeremy Engebretson, Groveland

Brent Frank, Groveland

Dawn Johnson, Clear Springs

Kelly Kautz, Groveland

Timothy Ketel, Excelsior

Kathryn Larson, Minnewashta

Delette Lemon, Clear Springs

Andy Lundheim, Clear Springs

Mary Jane Narog, Clear Springs

Julie Jo Nawrocki, Scenic Heights

Kelly Pederson, Groveland

Katie Regenscheid, Minnewashta

Colleen Small, Groveland

Nicole Snedden, Clear Springs

Heather Stowman, Excelsior

Kelli Whiteside, Deephaven





# Enrich.

## PARENTS

Minnetonka elementary schools partner with and actively involve parents in the education of their child. We believe families have the primary responsibility for ensuring the education of their child and feel parents are their child's first and most important teachers.

When parents are involved, students do better in school. Minnetonka parents and teachers communicate via e-mails, phone calls, conferences, report cards and more throughout the school year.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year. Parents are invited to sit down with their child's teacher and have a conversation about curriculum, academic progress and class expectations.

### Curriculum Nights

Held in September of each year, parents are invited to school to follow their child's schedule, meet their teacher and learn about curricular expectations for the year.

### Online Tools

District web tools allow parents and students access to school 24/7. Password protected sites, such as Schoology and Skyward Family Access, contain homework assignments, interactive lessons, class notes, online discussions, safe search engines, grades and report cards. Parents can monitor student progress from home or anywhere the parent may be traveling.

### Parent-Teacher Organizations/Associations (PTOs/PTAs)

The PTOs/PTAs work on behalf of parents, teachers and the community for the common good of all students at their school. These groups of active and dedicated individuals are a first point of reference for all parents and help them get involved in our schools. During the elementary school years, PTOs and PTAs coordinate school fundraisers, support parent education programs and bring volunteers into our classrooms.

### Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation, founded in 1986, provides resources that enrich curriculum and support innovation in Minnetonka Schools. Money raised through events, like the annual Dream Makers Dinner, goes directly into Minnetonka classrooms. For the 2015-2016 school year, the Foundation awarded more than \$95,000 in teacher grants.

### Tonka Pride

Tonka Pride is a community-led initiative to celebrate pride in the students, staff, families and all 10 communities within the Minnetonka School District. [www.TonkaPride.com](http://www.TonkaPride.com)

## 2014 PARENT SURVEY

**99%**

of district parents rate the education provided by Minnetonka Schools as excellent (74%) or good (25%)

**98%**

of elementary parents believe their school provides a safe learning environment

**98%**

of elementary parents feel teachers really care about their child

**96%**

of elementary parents believe their child enjoys school

**97%**

of parents would recommend their elementary school to a friend or neighbor

**97%**

say their school provides meaningful opportunities for parent involvement

# Imagine. Explor

## **SERVING THE GREATER GOOD**

The mission of the Minnetonka Public Schools is, in part, to ensure all students envision and pursue their highest aspirations while serving the greater good. As future leaders and citizens, our students have a deep commitment to giving back to the community.

### **President's Volunteer Service Awards**

Minnetonka Public Schools is a certifying agent for the United States President's Volunteer Service Awards, designed to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to serve. There are three levels of awards based on hours served during the past year and age of the volunteer.

Each year, Minnetonka students and school groups hold scores of food drives, collecting thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars for ICA Food Shelf.

## **GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**

Today's students will need to succeed in a highly competitive, global workforce. Part of preparing students for that future involves giving them opportunities to make connections with people from other countries and learn about cultures different from their own.

Minnetonka students have a variety of opportunities to expand their world view through the elementary curriculum that focuses on global awareness as a 21st century skill. Children gain further understanding through special events, guest speakers, after-school enrichment opportunities, service projects and more.

The Minnetonka School District has also built relationships with schools in China and Chile to support the Chinese and Spanish Immersion programs in each of our schools. These ongoing sister-school collaborations benefit all students and offer them an opportunity to gain first-hand exposure to other cultures through programs that bring exchange teachers and students into our classrooms.

### **Annual Volunteer and Fundraising Activities:**

- Fall Rake-a-Thon
- Family Service Nights
- Full Bowls Fundraisers
- Holiday Family Giving
- Community Garage Sale
- Holiday Toy Drives

Children can find opportunities to volunteer through their school or through the District-sponsored program, TonkaServes. Visit [www.tonkaserves.org](http://www.tonkaserves.org) to learn more.

## **FINE ARTS**

The Minnetonka School District is committed to offering world-class fine arts programming to all students. Through performance and presentation (display/exhibit) opportunities, that expand each year, students can explore potential talents in music, drama and art.

General music and art instruction are incorporated into each child's day as part of the grades 1-5 curriculum. Concerts and art displays are held throughout the year to highlight student progress and accomplishments.

In third grade, music options expand. Those interested in vocal music may join one of three district-wide, after-school Children's Choirs. Students have the option to begin learning a musical instrument in 4th (orchestra) or 5th (band) grade.

Each elementary school presents an annual musical theater production that allows students to pursue their interest in acting and provides an additional performance opportunity.

To highlight student achievement and reinforce the District's commitment to fine arts education, Minnetonka holds an annual Celebration of the Arts festival in the spring. The week-long event, filled with visual and performing arts activities, is meant to enrich the lives of our students and our entire community.

# e. Serve.

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Enrichment activities are offered before and after school and all students are encouraged to participate. Some activities last a few weeks, while others last the whole year. Getting involved is not only a great way to make friends, but develops a foundation for middle school and high school activities. Research shows that older students who are involved in school activities outside of the classroom do better in school.

Minnetonka Community Education and several community youth sports organizations also run a broad range of recreational and competitive enrichment and sports programs. Visit [www.minnetonkacommunityed.org](http://www.minnetonkacommunityed.org) or Google "Minnetonka Youth" and your sport of interest to learn more.



## ENRICHMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

### School Sponsored

- Children's Choirs
- Continental Math League
- Environmental Clubs
- Imagination Fair
- Junior Great Books
- Leadership Clubs
- Lighthouse Publishing (Deephaven)
- Minnetonka Swim Club
- Science Olympiad
- World Language Classes (after school)

### Minnetonka Community Education

- Art Classes
- Chess
- Concordia Language Villages Classes
- Destination ImagiNation
- FIRST LEGO League
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Minnetonka Broadway Kids
- Minnetonka Music Academy
- Rec Basketball
- Ski & Snowboard Club
- T-Ball
- Tonka DanceWorks (Studio Dance)
- Tonka Tennis
- Tonka Tutoring
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Youth Triathlon

### Community Athletics

- Babe Ruth Baseball
- East Tonka Little League
- Minnetonka Football
- Minnetonka Lacrosse
- Minnetonka Skate Club
- Minnetonka Softball
- Minnetonka Youth Hockey
- South Tonka Little League
- Tonka United Soccer

# Innovate.

## DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS

**5,400**

Personal Computers

**22,000**

System User Accounts  
(students, staff and parents)

**1:2**

Computer to  
student ratio

**100%**

Classrooms with  
SMART Boards, Sound  
Fields and Mounted  
Projectors

**4,972**

iDevices (iPads/iPods)

**100%**

Wireless Access in All  
Classrooms at All Schools

## TECHNOLOGY

Minnetonka is a national leader in using classroom technology to accelerate learning and to connect with all types of learning styles. Give a master teacher educational technology tools, and the possibilities are endless—from accelerated learning and improved student achievement, to reduced distractions and more engaged students. In Minnetonka, all classrooms are equipped with:

### SMART Boards

SMART Boards (interactive white boards) allow teachers to quickly project visual images from the computer and bring the world into the classroom. Much of the curriculum is digitized, providing easy online access for parents and students and enhancing collaboration among teachers.

### Sound Fields

Research shows that on any given day, students miss at least 25 percent of what their teachers say in a traditional classroom. Minnetonka teachers alleviate this problem by wearing wireless microphones, which gently amplify and distribute their voices to all four corners of the classroom, enhancing children's ability to hear new words and instructions and creating a calm, nurturing classroom.

### Student-Response Systems

Student-responders are handheld devices linked to SMART Boards through a wireless connection. Teachers display questions and students privately respond on their clickers, so they are free to participate without fearing judgement by peers. Answers tally immediately, ensuring 100 percent participation and providing immediate feedback for learning.

Beginning in 5th grade, students have 1:1 access to iPads which support paperless learning through high school. In addition, elementary school students have access to a wide variety of instructional software, wireless internet access and technology-based learning tools such as flip cams and flex cams.



# Differentiate.....

## HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICES

Some students have academic skills, cognitive abilities and creative talents beyond those of their classmates. High Potential (HP) services are designed to meet the needs of these students, who are identified through a screening process that includes teacher observation, parent and student input, classroom performance and standardized test information.

The District offers three levels of programming and employs a full-time HP (gifted/talented) specialist at every elementary school. The HP teacher leads the *Wings* and *Independent Investigations* programs in addition to serving as a resource for regular classroom teachers.

**Level 1:** Small groups of identified students meet once a week for *Wings*, which focuses on creative and critical thinking, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and 21st century skills.

**Level 2:** High-achieving students may participate in reading and math enrichment experiences. *Independent Investigations* is another enrichment program designed to provide learning extensions for students to investigate a special interest area. Students develop a project and share their findings.

**Level 3:** Critical and creative thinking skills are taught by the HP teacher to all students in a classroom, regardless of ability or special interest. Enrichment materials may be supplied to classroom teachers to support differentiated instruction.



## Navigator Program (Grades 2-5)

The Navigator Program serves a small, very unique group of exceptionally gifted learners with IQs of 140 and above. These students demonstrate high processing speeds, focus in interest areas, intellectual curiosity, intensity and big picture thinking.

Parent/guardians who have questions about High Potential Services or the Navigator Program should contact Diane Rundquist at 952-401-5100 or [diane.rundquist@minnetonka.k12.mn.us](mailto:diane.rundquist@minnetonka.k12.mn.us).

# School Services

## HEALTH SERVICES

Minnetonka Schools have licensed school nurses who supervise health office staff. If your child is ever required to take medication while at school, we ask that you follow the policies posted on our website at [www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/services/health](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/services/health). If your child has allergies or other chronic conditions, please record this important information on the Annual School Health Form included with our registration materials.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Minnetonka Schools provides a full continuum of special education and related services depending on each student's unique special education needs and the goals set by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) team. Services are provided in the least restrictive learning environment as appropriate for the individual student.

Related services available:

- Adaptive Physical Education Teacher
- Assistive Technology Specialist
- Autism Specialist
- Occupational Therapist
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Speech/Language Pathologist

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

The English Language Learner (ELL) program may sometimes be referred to as the English as a Second Language Program. ELL teachers provide instruction and support for students whose primary language is not English. Language is an essential tool for communication and the fulfillment of academic and personal needs. The staff of the ELL department fosters meaningful understanding of American English and respect for all languages and cultures by facilitating classroom and personal success.

## 504 SERVICES

Minnetonka Schools supports the aims of Section 504 of the Human Rights Act and is committed to providing accommodations for students in our schools.

## TRANSPORTATION

Families within District boundaries are eligible for bus service to Minnetonka Schools. The School District provides transportation at no charge for all students who reside more than two miles from the school. A transportation fee is assessed for bus service to resident students who reside within two miles of their school. Non-resident students may access our bus system through an existing stop within the District. Students must register annually for bus service to and from their elementary school.



## NUTRITION SERVICES

Minnetonka Public Schools Child Nutrition Services offer a wide variety of healthy breakfast and lunch choices that teach kids how to develop healthy eating habits. Current research reinforces the importance of fruits, vegetables and whole grains in the diet. Minnetonka Schools receive fresh bakery products with no trans fats or preservatives. Additionally, the District participates in a federal fresh produce program, helping the District defray costs and offering a wide variety of fruits and vegetables for lunch.

In mid-August, all families receive a food service personal identification number (PIN) and instructions for purchasing meals, making payments and checking balances online.

Visit the District website to:

- view lunch menus
- make payments
- check account balances
- see other information about Child Nutrition Services

[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/services/food](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/services/food)



## HEALTHY EATING HABITS FOR A LIFETIME

With generous support from Life Time Foundation that began in 2011 at Deephaven Elementary, an even healthier lunch program is now available at all six elementary schools. The program focuses on eliminating high-fructose corn syrup, artificial colors, added sugars and artificial sweeteners, bleached flour, artificial preservatives, trans fats, and hormones and antibiotics whenever possible.

# Experience. Cor

## SCHOOL TOURS

Visiting our schools is the best way to know if it is the right fit for your child. Meet the principal, experience the difference technology makes inside the classroom and receive answers to your questions about elementary school in Minnetonka.

## SCHEDULE A TOUR

### Clear Springs Elementary

Debbie Guido  
952-401-6950  
debbie.guido@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

### Deephaven Elementary

Stephanie Pearson  
952-401-6900  
stephanie.pearson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

### Excelsior Elementary

Sherry Sullivan  
952-401-5650  
sherry.sullivan@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

### Groveland Elementary

Charlie Wermerskirchen  
952-401-5600  
charlie.wermerskirchen@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

### Minnewashta Elementary

Carol Johnson  
952-401-5500  
carol.johnson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

### Scenic Heights Elementary

Christine Best  
952-401-5400  
christine.best@minnetonka.k12.mn.us





# Connect. Enroll.

## THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Minnetonka School District has six equally excellent elementary schools. Most children attend their neighborhood elementary school. The Parent Option Plan is available for families if they wish to send their child to a different school than their neighborhood school.

Minnetonka also welcomes open enrollment and non-resident families. The state deadline for applying for open enrollment is January 15. If space is available, Minnetonka may continue to accept Open Enrollment students after the January 15 deadline. Once enrolled as an Open Enrollment student, students have the right to stay in the District through graduation, providing they maintain continuous open enrollment and acceptable attendance rates.

Contact our enrollment office to receive a packet. Return completed forms (see checklist inside folder) to the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka 55345.

### Student Last Names A-L

Monica Clark  
952-401-5009, [monica.clark@minnetonka.k12.mn.us](mailto:monica.clark@minnetonka.k12.mn.us)

### Student Last Names M-Z

Lori Schwartz  
952-401-5012, [lori.schwartz@minnetonka.k12.mn.us](mailto:lori.schwartz@minnetonka.k12.mn.us)

## IMMUNIZATIONS

For the safety of all children, Minnesota law requires written proof that your child has been immunized against seven diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP), measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) and polio. We cannot allow your child to attend school until you provide a statement including the month, day and year of each of these immunizations. Since this can become a difficult issue, we encourage you to get these immunizations completed immediately. If your child has a medical reason for not receiving immunizations, a signed statement from your physician or clinic is needed. Families who object to the immunization must provide a notarized declination form. If you have any questions, please contact your school health office.

## EXPLORERS CLUB

Explorers Club is flexible, high quality before- and after-school childcare for boys and girls, preschool age to grade 5. Provided through Minnetonka Community Education, Explorers has experienced, creative professionals providing individualized care throughout the school year, on non-school days and in the summer.

On school days, children spend time with friends working on art and science projects, doing homework, reading, playing games and participating in outdoor activities. Non-school days are filled with fun events and field trips. Our qualified staff ensures all activities are age-appropriate and provide a balance between structured and non-structured play.

Explorers Club is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each weekday and requires a minimum of two days of care.

Explorers Club registration information and fee schedules can be found at:

[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/explorers](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/explorers)



# Our Schools



5701 County Road 101  
Minnetonka 55345

Hours: 8:40 a.m.–3:20 p.m.  
Phone: 952-401-6950

Immersion Language:  
Spanish

**Curt Carpenter**, Principal  
curt.carpenter@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/cse](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/cse)

## Clear Springs

**Building Features:**

Outdoor Running Track, International Peace Site, Butterfly Garden, Courtyard Pond

**Annual Events:**

Full Bowls Fundraiser, Talent Show, Family Service Night, Community Garage Sale, Holiday Toy Drive, Pancake Breakfast, Tonka Trot Run, Fifth Grade Spelling Bee, Grandfriends Day

## Deephaven

**Building Features:**

Outdoor Classroom, Remodeled Media Center (2010), Tonka Green, Recipient of Lifetime Fitness Foundation lunch program grant

**Annual Events:**

World Cultures Week, Writing & Math Challenge, Veteran's Day Program, Imagination Fair, Lighthouse Publishing, Kindness Day, Geography Bee, Talent Show, Student Art Exhibit, Distance 4 Deephaven Fun Run



4452 Vine Hill Road  
Deephaven 55331

Hours: 8 a.m.-2:40 p.m.  
Phone: 952-401-6900

Immersion Language:  
Spanish

**Bryan McGinley**, Principal  
bryan.mcginley@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/dhe](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/dhe)



441 Oak Street  
Excelsior 55331

Hours: 8 a.m.-2:40 p.m.  
Phone: 952-401-5650

Immersion Language:  
Chinese

**Stacy DeCorsey**, Principal  
stacy.decorsey@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/exc](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/exc)

## Excelsior

**Building Features:**

Auditorium, Chinese Sister School, International Peace Site, Outdoor Classroom

**Annual Events:**

Art Crawl, Book Fair, Family Culture Fest, Family Service Pancake Breakfast, Hunger Packathon, Imagination/ Inventor's Fair, VIP Day, Summer Reading Challenge, Dash for Dollars, Veteran's Day Program



17310 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka 55345

Hours: 8:40 a.m.-3:20 p.m.  
Phone: 952-401-5600

Immersion Language:  
Spanish

**Dave Parker, Principal**  
david.parker@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/grv](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/grv)

## Groveland

**Building Features:**

Butterfly Garden, Green. Fit. Fun. Playground with KidPower, Outdoor Classroom, Tonka Green, Outdoor Track

**Annual Events:**

Dad's Spaghetti Dinner, Full Bowls Fundraiser, Tonka Trot Run, World Cultures Week, Imagination Fair, Penguin Publishing, Groveland Gala, Art Show, Solar Car Race, Talent Show, Fifth Grade Spelling Bee, Character Counts Field Day

## Minnewashta

**Building Features:**

International Peace Site, Outdoor Classroom, Wetlands - Naturalist Program, Tonka Green

**Annual Events:**

Collaborative Art Project, Full Bowls Fundraiser, Family Service Night, Grandfriends Day, Tonka Trot Run, Family Fun Run, Imagination Fair, Music performances in all grades



26350 Smithtown Road  
Excelsior 55331

Hours: 8:40 a.m.-3:20 p.m.  
Phone: 952-401-5500

Immersion Language:  
Spanish

**Cindy Andress, Principal**  
cindy.andress@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mwa](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mwa)



5650 Scenic Heights Drive  
Minnetonka 55345

Hours: 8:40 a.m.-3:20 p.m.  
Phone: 952-401-5400

Immersion Language:  
Chinese

**Joe Wacker, Principal**  
joe.wacker@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/she](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/she)

## Scenic Heights

**Building Features:**

Outdoor Learning Center, School Forest, International Peace Site, Tonka Green

**Annual Events:**

Full Bowls Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Kids Against Hunger Food Packing Event, Scenic Heights Fun Run



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5621 County Road 101  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

952.401.5000  
[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us)  
[www.facebook.com/minnetonkaschools](http://www.facebook.com/minnetonkaschools)