



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INSPIRING IN EVERYONE A PASSION TO EXCEL



Welcome to  
Minnetonka  
High School

INSPIRING IN EVERYONE A PASSION TO EXCEL

**MINNETONKA**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**NAMED AMONG**  
**THE TOP**  
**HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**IN AMERICA**  
**BY U.S. NEWS AND**  
**WORLD REPORT**

# Dear Parents,

Thank you for considering Minnetonka High School for your teen. As principal, I am confident we have exactly what you are looking for in a high school.

At MHS, our students develop and grow within a safe and effective learning environment. This is the product of a deep commitment to world-class, child-centered excellence by teachers, staff, parents, our community and District leadership; and the results are clear.

Minnetonka High School is ranked among the Best High Schools in America, by *U.S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*, *Niche.com* and *The Washington Post*. Minnetonka student achievement is consistently among the best in the state of Minnesota. More than 90 percent of our students pursue higher education and each year our students are recognized with national honors and distinctions.

The success goes beyond academics. Our students excel in each of the four A's: academics, activities, arts and athletics, while also developing a moral compass that will guide them after high school—in college, their career and life.

In our classrooms you will find a challenging, college-preparatory curriculum, highly qualified and caring teachers, innovative teaching and leading technology.

In fact, Minnetonka has been recognized as a national leader in classroom technology. Our school is fully wireless, and all students in grades 9-12 are issued an iPad for school work.

As a parent, your choice of high school for your teen is the result of careful research and planning. I invite you to use this guide as an introduction to all that Minnetonka High School has to offer.



We also invite you to visit. Our doors are always open, especially my door. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions at 952-401-5702.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Jeff Erickson  
Minnetonka High School Principal  
jeffrey.erickson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
@tonkaprincipal

## TONKA BY THE NUMBERS

**Built:** 1952

**Renovated:** 2009-13, 2016

**District:** Minnetonka  
Public Schools #276

**Contact:**  
18301 Highway 7  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-401-5700

**School Colors:**  
Blue, white and black

**Mascot:**  
The Skippers

**Enrollment:**  
3,068 (grades 9-12)

**Average Class  
Size:** 26.4

**Student-to-  
Teacher Ratio:** 15:1

**Average ACT:** 26.9

**Number of  
Faculty:** 197

**Percent Faculty with  
Advanced Degree:** 82%

**College-level Curriculum:**  
Advanced Placement (AP)  
International Baccalaureate (IB)  
Project Lead The Way (PLTW)  
Science Research Center  
VANTAGE

**Open Enrollment:**  
Yes. Please apply  
by January 15.

# Academics

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**“EARNING A MINNETONKA DIPLOMA MEANS MORE THAN COMPLETING A REQUIRED COURSE OF STUDY OR FULFILLING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF HOURS AND COURSE CREDITS. A MINNETONKA DIPLOMA SIGNIFIES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.” — MINNETONKA SCHOOL BOARD VISION**

Minnetonka High School operates a six-period day and offers more than 200 courses in 15 programs and departments:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Family and Consumer Science
- Music
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Project Lead the Way
- World Languages
  - American Sign Language
  - Chinese
  - French
  - German
  - Spanish
- VANTAGE
- Tonka Online

Writing is emphasized across the curriculum and students have access to the Writing Center where they can discuss their ideas and bring clarity to their writing.

Our vast selection of courses and high-quality resources allow students to pursue their passions. If a student wants to explore engineering or architecture, for example, Project Lead the Way will expose them to industry-standard technology and offer opportunities for real-world application.

## AP AND IB COURSES

We encourage students to maximize their learning and take advantage of a complete college-preparatory course load including numerous accelerated, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, including the full IB Diploma Programme. Minnetonka is also preparing to offer the IB Bilingual Diploma to immersion students beginning in 2017.

Minnetonka has a long tradition of encouraging students to challenge themselves beyond their own expectations. In fact, 70 percent of seniors take at least one AP or IB course and most students earn college credits through our advanced course offerings.

Minnetonka is one of the few high schools in the metro area offering a traditional high school math sequence including: geometry, advanced algebra II (trigonometry), pre-calculus, calculus, statistics and multivariable calculus.

We are the only high school in the state with an “embedded” health education model. With this approach, students do not register for a semester health class. Instead, health classes are spread out over four years and taught in a special-topics seminar approach, supported by online learning activities. Families are encouraged to play an active role in discussing physical and emotional health and wellness with their teen.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Semester course = 0.5 credit

Course	Required Credits
English	4.0
Social Studies	3.5
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0*
Physical Education	1.0**
Health (Embedded)	0.5
Electives	6.5
The Arts	1.0
Credits Required for Diploma	22.5

\*1.0 credit must be a biology credit and 1.0 credit must be earned in chemistry or physics.

\*\*Students with 24 credits or more may apply for a waiver from 0.5 credit of physical education.

## STUDENT HONORS

Our students are recognized for academic achievement through honor roll and academic lettering opportunities. At graduation, the *Laude* Latin model is used to recognize and celebrate academic excellence:

### Summa Cum Laude “with highest distinction”

Cumulative GPA average of 4.000 and above

### Magna Cum Laude “with great distinction”

Cumulative GPA average of 3.850 to 3.999

### Cum Laude “with distinction”

Cumulative GPA average of 3.667 to 3.849

## THE WRITING CENTER

Writing is a fundamental skill in expressing one’s self throughout life.

Strong writing skills are instrumental for future success. The Writing

Center at Minnetonka

High School is a place

where students can discuss

their ideas and bring clarity

to their writing. If you’re trying to craft a thesis, integrate

or analyze quotations, organize body paragraphs, cite source

material, draft college essays or revise sentences, coaches at

the Writing Center are ready to help.



Endowed by the Minnetonka  
Public Schools Foundation

## AVERAGE CLASS SIZES

The Minnetonka School District places a high value on maintaining appropriate class sizes. More than 80 percent of the District’s budget is focused on the classroom, including maintaining small class sizes. Class sizes reflect the average number of students assigned to one teacher in one classroom.

Subject	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Language Arts	24.9	26.1	27.8	27.3
Math	27.2	25.9	28.3	27.0
Science	26.0	29.0	29.0	27.4
Social Studies	27.5	27.5	30.6	28.2



VANTAGE, Minnetonka’s Advanced Professional Studies program, provides college-bound junior and senior students with real-world experiences, working with and learning from leading professionals in high-skill, high-demand fields.

Transforming the high school experience, this innovative program offers interdisciplinary courses of study where students learn through partner-directed projects. VANTAGE provides students with opportunities to explore a variety of professional careers. Students can select VANTAGE Business in a Global Economy, Business Analytics, Healthcare and Sports Science, Graphic and Product Design and Broadcast & Digital Journalism.

# AP & IB

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**OFFERING BOTH AP AND IB AT MINNETONKA ALLOWS OUR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSEWORK AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO RAISE THEIR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THEIR OWN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.**

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides an opportunity to take college-level courses. Courses use college-level textbooks and teach students how to read and write at the college level. During the last school year, 1,285 MHS students enrolled in AP courses, taking 2,565 exams with an 84.4 percent passing rate.

for IB) are considered for college credit at most universities and colleges. (Please visit specific university websites for AP and IB credit policies.)

## **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme provides an international standard of excellence and intellectual rigor for college-bound students. Its aim is to develop a student's individual talents and teach them to relate their experiences in the classroom to the outside world. Students become critical thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs.

For highly motivated students, the IB Diploma requires students to complete coursework and pass exams in all six academic areas, complete the Theory of Knowledge course, 150 hours of creativity, action and service activities and write an Extended Essay (or thesis). For bilingual and immersion students, the IB Bilingual Diploma will also be a possibility beginning with the class of 2019. Last year, MHS students took 968 IB exams; 90% of scores were 4 or higher.

Students take AP and IB exams in May. Passing scores (3 or higher for AP and 4 or higher



## GPA AND COLLEGE CREDIT

AP and IB courses receive additional weighting in all GPA calculations. Students who successfully complete an AP or IB course and pass the AP or IB exam receive an additional 1.0 in GPA calculations (i.e., A=5.0).

If a student scores well on AP or IB exams, colleges may award credit and allow them to move to an advanced level in those subject areas. Students should be sure of specific policies at colleges they are interested in attending.

.....  
Research is clear. Students who take college-level courses [AP/IB] while still in high school are more likely to complete their college degree.  
.....

## STUDENT PROFILE: NINA

- National Honor Society, Minnetonka Honor Society
- Backpack Tutoring, People to People, Teens Taking Action
- Chamber Singers
- IB—Diploma Candidate
- Minnetonka Breezes

### What is your favorite class?

“My favorite class is IB European/Middle Eastern History. I’ve always been really interested in history, and I like how we go in depth on topics such as the French Revolution and WWI. We look at multiple perspectives of the events, which I find really interesting.”

### What is your IB Extended Essay about?

“Recently I developed an interest in the Rwandan Genocide, so I chose to write my extended essay on international interference during the Rwandan

Genocide. I researched how the U.S. government and the United Nations failed to take action. It was really eye-opening to learn more about foreign policy and government decision making.”

### What do you like best about IB?

“I enjoy the opportunity to go beyond the facts and get into higher-level thinking. I get to engage in discussions with my classmates on a wide variety of topics which is really interesting and exciting. The IB diploma is a really great way to have a different high school experience without being too isolated from the rest of the school. I take classes with a close, small group of people, but I also have students from other programs in my classes. It’s a great way to form a close group of friends.”

## ACCELERATED COURSES

- American Studies Honors
- Bible as Literature & Philosophy Honors
- Chemistry Honors
- English 9 Honors
- English 10 Honors
- English 12 Honors
- French II, III, IV Honors
- Geometry Honors
- Higher Algebra Honors
- Integrated Physical Science Honors
- Precalculus Honors
- Science Research
- Spanish II, III, IV Honors

## AP COURSES

- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus (AB & BC)
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language
- Comparative Government
- Computer Science
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature
- European History
- French Language
- Human Geography
- Language & Composition
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Music Theory
- Physics 1, 2, C-Mech, C-E&M
- Psychology
- Spanish Language
- Statistics
- Studio Art
- U.S. Government & Politics
- U.S. History

## IB COURSES

- Biology SL, HL
- Business and Management SL
- Chinese (Mandarin) SL, HL
- Computer Science HL
- Economics SL
- Further Mathematics HL
- French SL, HL
- German SL, HL
- History of Europe & Middle East HL
- Language & Literature SL
- Literature HL
- Literature & Performance SL
- Math Studies SL
- Mathematics SL, HL
- Music SL
- Physics SL
- Psychology SL
- Spanish SL, HL
- Sports, Exercise & Health Science SL
- Theory of Knowledge
- Visual Arts SL, HL

# Results

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 THE TOP PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

## NATIONAL MERIT

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic scholarship competition for recognition and university scholarships. These students performed among the best in the nation on the PSAT exam taken in the fall of their junior year.

Year	Semi-Finalists	Commended
2015	9	18
2014	13	31
2013	13*	35
2012	12*	24
2011	14*	19
2010	12	21
2009	18	32
2008	15	24

\*Includes National Achievement Semi-Finalists

## AP SCHOLARS

The College Board recognizes students who earn a score of 3 or higher on multiple exams as AP Scholars. In 2015, MHS had 503 AP Scholars (see chart on next page), including a school record of 43 National AP Scholars.

Year	National	Distinction	Honor	Scholars
2015	43	192	99	169
2014	42	175	64	165
2013	38	154	80	141
2012	37	122	69	137
2011	28	104	51	88
2010	25	106	55	98
2009	23	83	49	99
2008	8	59	40	65

AP Scholars Award Levels





## ACT SCORES

Minnetonka High School's Class of 2015 posted an ACT average score of 26.9, which far exceeds state and national averages. Minnetonka scores are among the highest in the state and are competitive with top public and private schools throughout the nation. (See charts below.)

## MCA—MINNESOTA STATE ASSESSMENTS

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are the state tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards.

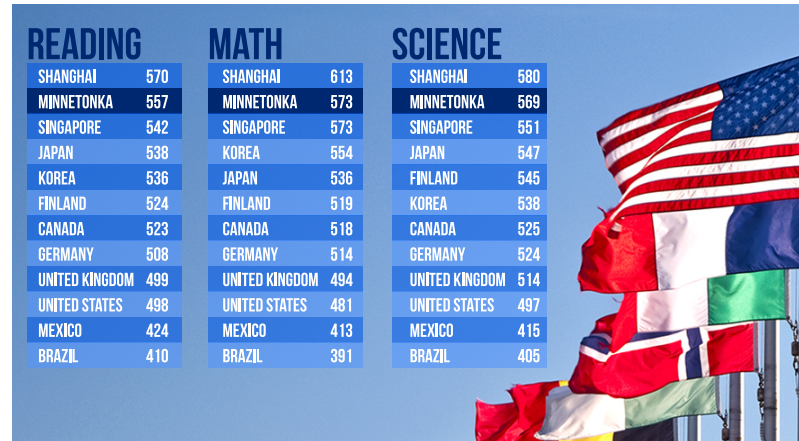
## 2015 MCA RESULTS

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standards

	Minnetonka	Minnesota
<b>Math, Grade 11</b>	70.9%	48.7%
<b>Reading, Grade 10</b>	80.8%	57.0%
<b>Science</b>	80.7%	54.6%

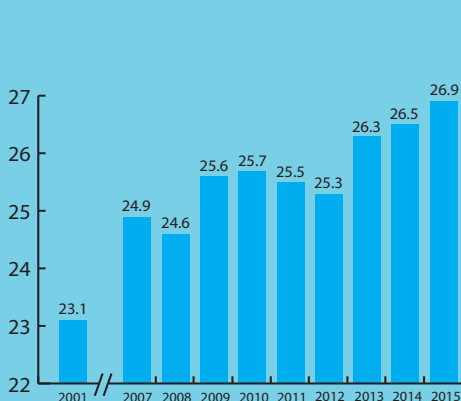
## INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT

In March 2015, Minnetonka participated in The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which administers the exam, selected a random sample of sophomores from Minnetonka High School for the study. Minnetonka students scored among the top in the world—second only to Shanghai. (See chart below.)



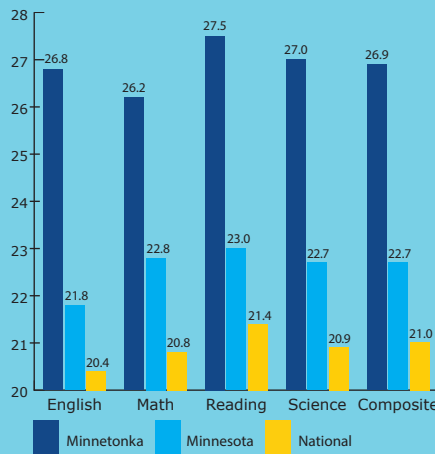
## ACT AVERAGE SCORES

(test scores by graduating class)

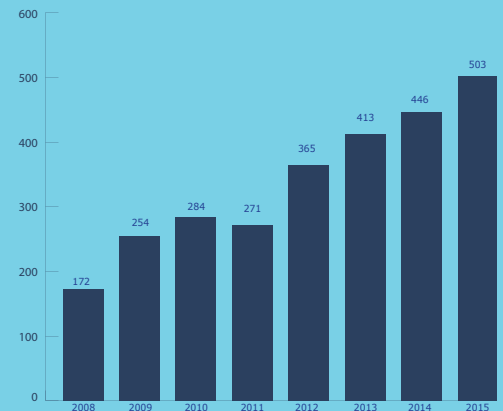


## ACT TEST SCORES BY SUBJECT

(scores for 2015 graduates)



## MINNETONKA AP SCHOLARS



# Inspiration

STUDENTS AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL 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.

## FACULTY AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- **Charley Barniskis** — National Endowment for the Humanities John Steinbeck Institute participant, 2007
- **Mike Cutshall** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **Kim Hoehne** — SMART Technologies Regional Finalist, 2007; Teckne Award Finalist for Innovation in Teaching, 2004; National Board Certified Teacher
- **Paula Holmberg** — President-Elect, Minnesota Choral Director's Association

## FACULTY PROFILE: BRENT VENINGA

- Instructor, VANTAGE Program
- AP Micro and Macroeconomics, IB Business
- Faculty at MHS since 2009
- College and Degree(s):  
BA, Luther College;  
MA, University of St. Thomas

### What experience do you bring to the Minnetonka faculty?

"As teaching is my second career, I love to share the business perspective gained in my prior roles outside of education. I believe that these experiences add to the traditional, content-based materials offered to my students."



- **Sonia Labs** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **Melanie Mozingo** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **Dave Nelson** — MN Minnesota Football Coaches Hall of Fame, 2014
- **Dawn Norton** — MN Department of Education MCA II Science Review Panel; Minnesota Association for Human Genetics president; SMART Technologies Exemplary Educator, 2004; National Board Certified Teacher
- **Emily Rosengren** — 3M Innovative Economic Educator Award, 2008
- **Dr. Tim Sauer** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **David Surver** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **Nathan Van Dyke** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **Gwynneth Wacker** — Siemens STEM Institute Program participant, 2010; National Board Certified Teacher
- **Mary Beth Wiig** — Lake Area Region Counselor of the Year, 2006
- **Merlin Zimmerman** — National Board Certified Teacher
- **Phil Trout** — President of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, 2015-16
- **Principal Jeff Erickson** — Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year, 2012; Harvard Principals Institute

### What motivated you to go into education?

“The energy and excitement that the students possess! It is my goal to enable the students to perform at their highest level possible and give them the tools to succeed in high school, college, their career and beyond.”

### What do you most enjoy about teaching at Minnetonka High School?

“Working with students first and foremost—seeing them grow as young adults. A close second is the tremendous amount of support by the District, the Administration and the wonderful, dedicated and hard-working staff of Minnetonka Schools.”

### How do you adapt your teaching style to help students succeed?

“The VANTAGE model has allowed me to create multiple avenues for success with my students. Not only do they receive education in a college level/preparedness class, they have access to business professionals, mentors, post-secondary institutions, internships, clinical experiences, site visits and real business projects. These opportunities enhance the learning experience and create greater personal success.”

## MINNETONKA STAFF BY THE NUMBERS

# 197

Number of faculty at  
Minnetonka High School

# 20%

of the District’s teaching  
staff has international work  
or study experience

# 75%

of MHS teachers hold an  
advanced degree

# 63%

of MHS teachers have at  
least 10 or more years of  
teaching experience

# 37

Number of Minnetonka  
National Board Certified  
teachers, more than any  
neighboring school district

# Technology

**GIVE TEACHERS EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TOOLS AND THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS—ACCELERATED LEARNING, IMPROVED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, FEWER DISTRACTIONS AND MORE ENGAGED STUDENTS.**



## **MINNETONKA IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Technology has been an essential component in the great increases in Minnetonka student achievement since 2001 and is central to the processes of teaching, learning and preparing students for the world they will face tomorrow.

Our District has received numerous awards for technology innovation, including year-over-year recognition as an Apple® Distinguished Program for the 1:1 iPad implementation. The District has hosted state and national technology site visits since 2005 and summer technology institutes since 2011, inviting educators from around the country to experience and learn from Minnetonka teachers.

## **MHS STUDENTS ARE CONNECTED TO LEARNING ANYWHERE, ANY TIME**

All students in grades 9-12 are issued an iPad for learning and to support paperless, digital workflow. It provides access to instructional materials: literature, textbooks, class notes, teachers' slides, dictionary, maps, Internet, productivity and creativity tools. Minnetonka schools have robust wireless networks to support the iPad program. With a single, personalized login for students, family and staff, all instructional tools and applications are easily accessible.

With digital curriculum and 120 educational apps literally at their fingertips (including Google apps for collaboration), students dig deeper, approach problems more creatively, think more critically, collaborate more skillfully and communicate with higher levels of precision in every subject, from math to music.



## SKILLED TEACHERS PERSONALIZE LEARNING

Minnetonka teachers are continuously trained to use technology to adjust the content, pace and approach to learning based on individual student needs. They incorporate relevant online resources into their lessons and facilitate online testing and assessment to gain immediate feedback regarding progress and mastery of material. It is this approach that accelerates learning for all students.

## SECURITY AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

With more than 10,000 user accounts belonging to minors, security is a top priority. Filters on all District devices block inappropriate sites whether the device is on or off campus, and only District-approved apps may be downloaded.

To help students understand their role in the proper use of technology and the permanence of their digital footprint, Minnetonka focuses on digital health, safety and wellness in all grades, guiding students toward making good choices, avoiding inappropriate content and preventing cyber bullying.

## TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

**Tonka Online** was developed to give students additional access to coursework to meet their unique needs: preparing for rigorous courses to come, accelerating of their math or science sequence, or maximizing their high school experience by freeing space in the schedule for elective courses that suit interests and passions. Tonka Online courses are taught by Minnetonka staff who use familiar technology tools to deliver curriculum. The program has seen increased enrollment each year. During the 2014-15 academic year, 98% of enrolled students completed course requirements.

Minnetonka is also providing students the opportunity to be creators—not just consumers—of technology through **Tonka <CODES>** and co-curricular activities that support interests in computer programming. MHS offers an introduction to computer science course and both AP and IB Computer Science courses for students who want to explore this topic at a higher level.

The integration of technology with learning is visible throughout MHS. For example, students meet in **“The Port,”** a reimagined media center with common, quiet workspaces, computer workstations, small group meeting areas, flexible seating and device-charging stations that support the way students learn in today’s immersive, collaborative educational environment.

## DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS

**10,000**  
devices supported

**6,500 iPads**  
1:1 grades 5-12

**25,000**  
System User Accounts  
(students, staff and parents)

**100%**  
fiber-optic-connected  
buildings

**A**  
security rating from  
IT security audit

**100%**  
access to District applications  
through single sign-on

# Connect!

**GET CONNECTED IS A PROGRAM AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL WHICH STRIVES TO CREATE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE AND BUILD CONNECTIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS.**

## **THE GET CONNECTED PROGRAM**

Get Connected activities occur throughout the year, at all grade levels within the Ninth Grade Transition, Sophomore Service Project, Junior and Senior Assemblies and Senior First Mates Programs.

Program goals:

- Ensure all students are known and know they belong
- Build student character and class unity
- Empower students to serve, be leaders and pursue a variety of co-curricular activities
- Encourage students to leave a legacy at MHS

## **NINTH GRADE TRANSITION PROGRAM**

The Ninth Grade Transition Program eases the transition to high school. Counselor meetings begin in eighth grade and activities extend through the Freshman Ignite Retreat, breakfast sessions and a spring assembly.

Spring of eighth grade:

- Parents attend sessions to hear about class registration and student transition.
- Ninth grade schedules are distributed.
- MHS student leaders visit Minnetonka Middle Schools to talk about high school.
- MHS is open all summer for students to visit.

August before ninth grade:

- Senior First Mates lead the 9th Grade Retreat. Freshmen spend a half-day getting to know each other, their leaders and exploring MHS.

- An Orientation Night offers students and parents a glimpse into a typical school day. Students follow their class schedule to find their classes and meet their teachers. Parents attend break-out sessions to learn more about MHS.

First semester of ninth grade:

- Senior First Mates connect with ninth graders monthly to talk about everything from academics to activities.
- An Activities Fair is held to expose students to the many co-curricular opportunities at MHS.

Second semester of ninth grade:

- The class comes together for several assemblies. Students hear motivational messages about respect, leadership, character and leaving a legacy.

## **CLASS LEGACY SERVICE PROJECTS**

Every freshman class chooses a local and global cause that they will focus on during their four years at MHS. Students participate in class-wide service activities to benefit their cause. Working with advisors, a student leadership group meets regularly to plan fundraising events and service projects.

## **JUNIOR ASSEMBLY**

The junior year is a busy one for students as they begin post-high school planning. The Junior Assembly program offers a "pulse check" early in second semester. A professional speaker challenges students to question and if needed, change their courses, academic performance, selection of friends and behaviors.

## SENIOR ASSEMBLY

Each year the senior class gathers to hear from a professional speaker, as a capstone to their high school career. The assembly is an opportunity for seniors to reflect on their time at MHS and give thanks to the Minnetonka community.

## TRANSFER STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12

Students who are new to the District or who enroll at MHS after attending a private school may find themselves transitioning to a new school in grades 10-12. To ease this transition, students meet regularly with their school counselor and connect with other students to help them navigate the school. Students report a smooth transition thanks to all the support they receive.

## STUDENT PROFILE: NAGU

- National AP Scholar as a junior
- National Honor Society
- Senior First Mates
- Boys Soccer Team/Captain
- Nordic Skiing
- Boys Track and Field
- Backpack Tutoring
- Project Life-Cycle

### What do you like best about MHS?

"I like the collaborative and supportive nature of the students. They will go out of their way to help and make sure others succeed and feel connected."

### What advice would you give to a new student?

"High school is great place to find yourself and grow. Anyone can find a group or create a group to fit into. Relationships, connections, and learning skills are the most important parts of high school. Also, never underestimate your academic abilities. Take the classes you want to take no matter how hard because you will find a way to do well and you will not regret it later."

### What are the teachers like at MHS?

"MHS teachers are very passionate. Don't be afraid to ask questions after class to make sure you fully understand the material. The more you engage and build relationships with teachers, the more you will get out of the class."



# School Counselor

**OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF WORK HARD TO ENSURE STUDENT NEEDS ARE MET BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM. THEREFORE, SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN EVERYTHING FROM STUDYING TO COLLEGE PLANNING.**

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING**

School Counseling Services at MHS are focused on personalization and planning. A proactive model includes 3-4 small group and individual meetings each year between students and their school counselor. School counselors facilitate:

- The transition to high school
- Involvement in co-curricular activities
- Personal education planning
- Academic assessments
- Career development and post-high school planning
- Personal/social development (support and counseling)

Our school counselors are also the first point of contact for transferring students. Counselors meet one-on-one with students after they have enrolled to discuss academic credits and ensure a successful transition to a new school.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the MHS curriculum to explore their interests and strengths. To help them, each student receives a Skipper Log the first time they register for classes at MHS. This course catalog is the tool students use to navigate and plan out their high school career. Students are encouraged to consult school counselors, teachers, staff and their parents as they chart a course toward graduation and achieving their educational goals.



LAURA HERBST  
ADVANCED LEARNING COORDINATOR  
laura.herbst@minnetonka.k12.mn.us  
(952) 401-5897

## **ADVANCED LEARNING**

In the past several years, Minnetonka High School has seen tremendous growth in enrollment in the International Baccalaureate Programme, Advancement Placement courses and accelerated courses for advanced learners.

The Advanced Learning Coordinator plays a key role at MHS in helping students identify their academic strengths, pursue their passions and plan an advanced academic program that best fits their goals and learning style. Today, more than 70% of MHS seniors are enrolled in at least one AP or IB course.



## MEET OUR COUNSELORS



BRAD BURNHAM (A-Bur)  
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# College Search

**THE COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER STAFF, INCLUDING A FULL-TIME COLLEGE COUNSELOR AND TRAINED PARENT VOLUNTEERS, ASSIST STUDENTS IN ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY RESOURCES.**

## **COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER:**

- Classroom visits to educate students about occupations and college options
- A personalized junior year college search
- A junior year field trip to the National College Fair in Minneapolis
- The “College Forum,” when recent MHS graduates return to share their first semester college experiences
- Visits from more than 200 college and university representatives
- A lecture series on college-related issues

## **FAMILY CONNECTION**

In the fall of junior year, students and parents receive a unique user name and password to Family Connection, an interactive, online guidance tool for post-high school planning.

On Family Connection, students and parents can:

- View upcoming events and news bulletins
- Access the College Visit schedule
- Research colleges and scholarship opportunities
- Explore careers, majors and colleges related to their personality and interests
- Keep track of the deadlines, e-mails and websites of the institutions that interest them
- Create a list of jobs, co-curricular involvement and achievements to reference during the college application process
- Manage the college application process



Phil Trout  
College Counselor  
952-401-5746  
collegeguy@  
minnetonka.k12.mn.us

## **THE COLLEGE GUY**

Minnetonka High School’s full-time College Counselor, Phil Trout (a.k.a. “The College Guy”), assists students and families with their college search. In addition to offering support and guidance to families, each year Phil hosts a lecture and webinar series on college-related topics.

### **Topics include:**

- College Admissions 101 and Using the Common App
- Admissions in the Big Ten
- College Admission for Visual/Performing Arts Students
- Highly Selective College Admissions
- College Admissions and the Student Athlete
- A Closer Look at Community and Technical Colleges
- Financial Aid

# Our Grads

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MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL PROVIDES RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO PREPARE OUR GRADUATES FOR COLLEGE, THEIR CAREER AND LIFE.

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"I'm writing many lab reports for pre-med classes. Both the IB and VANTAGE program have prepared me so well in this area." —Kelsey, Class of 2015

"Tonka's rigorous academic standards and environment of success led me to get a 50% scholarship and make the dream come true." —Matthew, Class of 2015

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## OUR 2015 GRADS



**91%**  
felt fully prepared for their transition after high school

**94%**  
had enough advanced options at MHS to meet their needs

**90%**  
said they plan to attend a two- or four-year college after graduation

**15%**  
attending the University of Minnesota (all campuses)

**40%**  
attending other Minnesota colleges and universities

**50%**  
attending out-of-state colleges and universities

# Finding Your

**“ATTITUDES, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES NURTURED IN CO-CURRICULARS ENHANCE, RATHER THAN COMPETE WITH, THE ACADEMIC MISSION OF OUR SCHOOLS. THEY ARE NECESSARY FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS.” — MINNETONKA SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION**

In Minnetonka, we believe that participation in activities plays an important role in the academic, social and emotional growth and development of students. Research shows that students who are involved in high school activities do better in school and have a higher grade point average. Our goal is to provide a variety of opportunities to meet the varied interests and abilities of our students.

Approximately 81 percent of Minnetonka students participate in co-curricular activities.

Visit our website—[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mhs](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mhs)—or call 952-401-5904 to learn more about athletics and activities and to find coach and advisor contact information.

## SPORTS

### Fall Sports

Boys and Girls  
Cross Country  
Boys and Girls Soccer  
Girls Swimming  
and Diving  
Cheerleading  
Football  
Adapted Soccer  
Girls Tennis  
Volleyball

### Winter Sports

Boys and Girls  
Alpine Skiing  
Boys and Girls  
Basketball  
Dance (Competition)  
Adapted Floor Hockey  
Girls Gymnastics  
Boys and Girls  
Hockey  
Boys and Girls  
Nordic Skiing  
Boys Swimming  
and Diving  
Wrestling

### Spring Sports

Baseball  
Adapted Bowling  
Boys and Girls Golf  
Boys and Girls  
Lacrosse  
Adapted Softball  
Fast Pitch Softball  
Boys and Girls  
Track and Field  
Boys Tennis

## ACTIVITIES

Art Honor Society  
(national)  
Backpack Tutoring  
Be the Change  
Bowling  
Captains and  
Leadership Council  
Class Advisors  
Coffeeshouse Concerts  
Dance (Performance)  
Dare to Know Club  
Debate  
DECA  
Diversity Club  
Drama/Musicals  
Earth Club  
Equestrian Club  
Explorers Club  
Field Biology Club  
Foreign Language  
Clubs — French,  
German, Russian  
and Spanish  
Geekery Club  
Interact (Rotary)  
Intramural Football  
Intramural Soccer  
Instrumental Music  
• Jazz Ensemble  
• Jazz Too  
• Marching Band  
• Pep Band  
• Percussion Ensemble  
Jewish Student Union  
Knowledge Bowl  
Legacy Projects (service)  
Literary Magazine  
Magician's Guild  
Math Team  
Men of Color  
Minnetonka Honor  
Society  
Mock Trial  
Model UN  
National American Sign  
Language Honor Society

## MHS BOYS SOCCER CELEBRATES ANOTHER SECTION TITLE



# Place



## ACTIVITIES

- National Honor Society
- Newspaper (*Breezes*)
- OFFENSE
- Optimist Club
- Otakis Club (anime)
- Playwriting Club
- Quiz Bowl
- Riveters Club
- Robotics
- Sailing Team
- Science Bowl
- Science Olympiad
- Girls Slow Pitch Softball
- Sparklers (adapted cheer)
- Speech
- Student Government
- Supermileage (engineering)
- Tech Challenges (architecture and engineering)
- Teens Taking Action
- Tonka Leadership Challenge
- Tonka Rube Team
- Trap/Skeet Shooting Club
- Ultimate Frisbee Club
- Video Production Club
- Vocal Music
  - Chamber Singers
  - Donna Voce
  - Varsity Madrigal Singers
- We Act
- Women of Color
- Yearbook (*Voyager*)
- Youth Development Council (YDC)



## FACULTY PROFILE : PAULA HOLMBERG

- **Choir Director**
- **President-Elect, American Choral Directors Association**
- **Minnetonka Teacher of the Year, 2012**
- **2005 Minn. Choral Director of the Year, ACDA**

### How do students benefit from being in choir?

“Performing in a choir engages all parts of your brain. Literally, there is no other activity that uses such a great portion of your brain during one activity. Singing is a physical activity and a soulful activity. When body, mind and spirit are all engaged, a person simply feels great! There is immense satisfaction knowing that everyone contributes to the final artistic product. My students would say that they enjoy the “community” they’ve found in the choral music department. Most choir students make lifelong friends.”

### What are some of the opportunities choir students have beyond the classroom?

“The classroom is where a good portion of our ‘journey’ takes place, but we perform on stage each quarter. Additionally, the choirs perform with students from other Lake Conference schools in festival venues, where our music-making is collaborative, not competitive. Our Treble and Concert Choirs travel annually, performing in cities such as Chicago, New York City, San Diego, and internationally in Canada, Scandinavia, Italy, England and Ireland.

Chamber Singers and Donna Voce (a co-curricular women’s ensemble) perform often in the community. During the holiday season, they can be heard at area restaurants, community events and celebrations. It’s a busy season, but also very fun!

# Fine Arts

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THE FINE ARTS PROGRAMS AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL ENABLE STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR TALENTS AND FIND THEIR CREATIVE NICHE WHETHER IT IS ACTING, SINGING, PLAYING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OR PARTICIPATING IN THE VISUAL ARTS.

“We’re absolutely blessed to have a grand theatre program at Minnetonka, but the magic isn’t in the lights or sounds or large-scale productions. The magic comes from the genuine interpretation of emotion on stage and the relationships that form throughout the productions. Theatre gives you the freedom to express yourself on a stage and meet some of the best friends of your life.” —Scottie, student

## THEATER

Each year our award-winning Theatre Arts department produces two musicals, a non-musical drama or comedy and a competition one-act play. Many students have additional chances to perform, as MHS Theatre shares the Arts Center on 7 with Minnetonka Community Theatre. The programs continually offer groundbreaking dramatic opportunities to students, such as premiering high school productions of *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Nice Work if You Can Get It!*

## STUDENT PROFILE : SCOTTIE

- AP Scholar
- National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society
- Minnetonka Theatre, Chamber Choir and Choir Ambassador
- Spotlight Award for Lead Role
- MPR’s Varsity Showcase Artist
- Be the Change, Riveters Club, French Club

### What is your favorite class at MHS?

“IB Literature and Performance is a class that combines literary analysis and on stage performance—two of my favorite things. It’s a hands-on learning experience, and the class is always moving and discussing. You don’t just study the plays and the language, but you delve into the lives of the characters and study the world through a brand new perspective.”

### What advice do you have for new students?

“Spend your time with people who make you genuinely happy. Don’t confine yourself to ‘friend groups’—surround yourself with people who share similar interests and make you want to be a better person. Be yourself boldly and the friendships will follow.”



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### Recently Honored Productions:

- *Evita* earned 16 SpotLight Awards in spring 2014
- *Urinetown* garnered 31 SpotLight Awards from the Hennepin Theatre Trust in fall 2014, the most for any musical in Minnetonka history
- The spring 2015 musical, *Brigadoon*, won 21 SpotLight awards

### BAND

Nearly 250 students participate in ensembles and co-curricular activities within our band program, including:

- Five Concert Bands
- Two Jazz Ensembles
- Percussion Ensemble
- Pep Band (co-curricular)
- Marching Band (co-curricular)

The bands make more than 30 community appearances annually at events and competitions. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band have traveled to music festivals in California, Hawaii, Washington, D.C., Austria, Norway and China. Our successful Jazz Band has been featured on Minnesota jazz radio, made appearances at the Dakota Jazz Club and has received invitations to perform with college and professional musicians.

### ORCHESTRA

Our award-winning orchestra program has almost 200 students, four orchestras, and extra-curricular activities. We have been awarded the Meritorious Orchestra Program for the state of Minnesota, and our high school orchestras participate in music festivals around the country. Our high school groups have toured to music festivals in locations such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Orlando, and San Diego in the United States. Our top ensemble has toured internationally to destinations such as Germany, Czech Republic, Austria and Puerto Rico. In 2015, they toured to Beijing and Shanghai, China, with the MHS Wind Ensemble. In 2017 they plan to tour to Spain with the MHS Wind Ensemble performing a full orchestra tour. Our co-curricular Chamber Orchestra consistently receives Superior ratings and is often labeled the Best-in-Site performance.

### VISUAL ARTS

Our visual arts courses nurture innovative thinking and creativity. Our teachers help students learn artistic expression through three disciplines of the visual arts: art production, art history and aesthetics. Our art students consistently win Regional Scholastic Art Awards and in 2015, one student won a National Scholastic Art Award, awarded to student artists judged to have the most outstanding works in the nation.



### CHOIR

Approximately 240 students are involved in ensembles and co-curricular activities within our choir program, including:

- Five Choirs
- Chamber Singers (co-curricular)
- Varsity Madrigal Singers (co-curricular)
- Donna Voce (co-curricular)

Like our bands and orchestras, the top choirs perform and compete locally, nationally and internationally. The Concert Choir toured Ireland in 2012, New York in 2013, Chicago in 2014, and began the three-destination cycle again with a trip to Central Italy and the Amalfi Coast in spring 2015. On previous trips, they have performed in Rome and London.

# Leadership & S

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THE MISSION OF THE MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS 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.

## LEADERSHIP

### **Student Advisory Council**

The Student Advisory Council meets quarterly with Principal Erickson. The group's focus is the social and academic atmosphere at MHS and it serves as a liaison between students and administrators on building culture and climate.

### **Senior First Mates**

The Senior First Mates lead the Get Connected program. The group welcomes new students and promotes a positive school culture through the Ninth Grade Transition program, Junior Assembly Day and many other activities.

### **Tonka Leadership Challenge (TLC)**

The Tonka Leadership Challenge is a group of more than 100 students who have pledged to live chemically free. These students are role models within the high school and community and work with younger students to help them make good choices and build character.

### **Youth Development Council (YDC)**

The Youth Development Council is the student advisory board for Minnetonka Community Education. The group meets once a month and participates in at least six community events and service projects each year.

### **Minnetonka Honor Society**

The Minnetonka Honor Society provides recognition to juniors and seniors who have shown outstanding performance in scholarship, leadership and service.

### **National Honor Society**

The Minnetonka chapter of the National Honor Society is made up of juniors and seniors who have maintained a 3.5 GPA and exemplify outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service.

### **Academic Lettering**

A student may be recognized for their academic achievement and leadership through academic letters. To become eligible, students must average a 3.85 GPA and successfully complete an accelerated or AP class.





# ervice

## SERVICE

### Senior Serve

Members of each graduating class spend the last two days of high school engaged in community service. Projects range from spreading mulch for our cities to visiting local senior residences.

### Rake-a-Thon

Each year, Minnetonka students and community members rake dozens of yards for local homeowners who otherwise may not be able to.

### Heart Week Every February

Heart Week raises money for Minnetonka families in need of financial assistance. Fundraisers include a dinner, silent auction and other activities.

### President's Volunteer Service Award

Minnetonka Public Schools is a certifying agent for the United States President's Volunteer Service Award program. Our students earn service hours through activities completed at school and in the community.

### TonkaServes.org

Tonka Serves is a website where individual students and student groups search for volunteer opportunities and service project ideas in our community and beyond.

MHS students raised \$34,500 during this year's Heart Week.



## STUDENT PROFILE: LYDIA

- Founder, MHS Women of Color
- AP, IB and VANTAGE Classes
- Rugby
- Theatre and Speech Team
- Youth Teaching Youth Leader
- People Serving People
- Marie Sandvik Center (volunteer)
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis

### What do you like best about Minnetonka High School?

"Being a leader for the Minnetonka Women of Color group has really helped me demonstrate my leadership skills as an individual and within the school. When entering the doors at MHS, you feel the acceptance and you get the sense of belonging. People here are willing to learn about their peers and the different cultures they come from."

### How do you give back to your community through service?

"Giving back to the community is very important to me due to how much the community is always giving to me. I give back by volunteering at different centers around the Twin Cities. I also mentor younger girls and teach them leadership skills and how to be confident in their skin."

# Connecting to

MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH AND ACTIVELY INVOLVES PARENTS IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR TEEN. WE FEEL PARENTS ARE THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS AND WHEN PARENTS ARE INVOLVED, STUDENTS DO BETTER IN SCHOOL.

"MHS has a small, community feel. Everyone is involved and invested in the high school—from students to teachers to parents." — Sheila, student

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

MHS teachers, principals and staff communicate and interact with parents through parent-principal meetings; parent-teacher conferences; online tools such as e-mail, e-newsletters, online grade access and Schoology; the Friendly Presence Program; and frequent phone messaging.

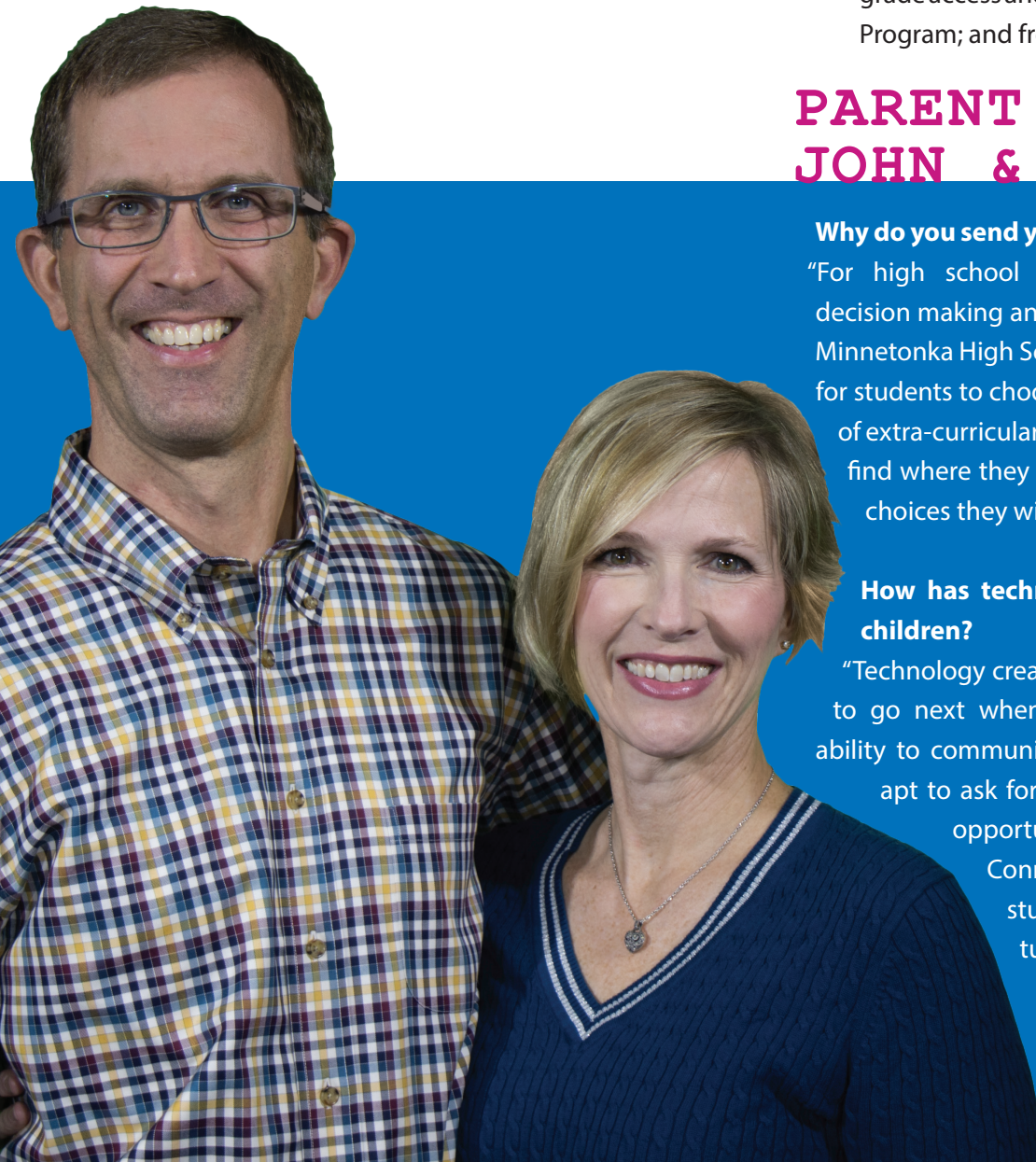
## PARENT PROFILE : JOHN & ANNE GROTON

### Why do you send your children to Minnetonka Schools?

"For high school students, having choices promotes decision making and awareness of interests and strengths. Minnetonka High School has a tremendous array of classes for students to choose from as well as an impressive roster of extra-curriculars. Through these offerings, our children find where they thrive and are better equipped for the choices they will make after high school."

### How has technology in Minnetonka helped your children?

"Technology creates accessibility. Our kids know where to go next when working on assignments. With an ability to communicate electronically, our kids are more apt to ask for help in real time and not wait for an opportune moment during the next class. Connectivity through technology gives students independence and resources to turn information into knowledge."



# Parents

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## **Parent-Principal Meetings**

Parent-principal meetings, which occur every semester, bring parents together with our principal in a group setting to discuss topics and have their questions/concerns addressed. The principal also shares current news and important information with parents.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

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

## **Friendly Presence Program**

The Friendly Presence Program helps parents and community members become acquainted with the school. Friendly Presence volunteers walk the halls of our school and provide an additional adult presence for our students, showing them that their community cares about them and is interested in their education.

## **Online Tools/Minnetonka App**

Web access allows parents and students access to the school 24/7. Password-protected sites contain homework assignments, interactive lessons, class notes, online discussions, safe search engines, grades and report cards. Parents can monitor student progress anytime from anywhere from a single login.

## **Tonka CARES**

Tonka CARES is a coalition of community agencies, law enforcement, parents, youth, faith communities and District representatives who work together to support students in making healthy choices and refraining from using drugs and alcohol. In addition, the program, which is funded through a federal grant, offers resources to parents that address a wide range of topics helpful to caring adults with children of all ages.

## **2015 PARENT SURVEY**

# 99%

of District parents rate the education provided by Minnetonka Schools as excellent (77%) or good (22%)

# 95%

of MHS parents believe Minnetonka High School offers a challenging curriculum

# 96%

of MHS parents believe Minnetonka Schools provides a safe learning environment

# 97%

of MHS parents would recommend the school to a friend or neighbor

# 95%

of high school parents believe the School District adequately prepares students for the next grade level

# Connecting to

MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR VISION OF WORLD-CLASS, CHILD-CENTERED EXCELLENCE.

## PARENT- AND COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS

Parents and the Minnetonka community connect to MHS through involvement in organizations like the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club, Tonka Pride and more. In addition, every varsity athletic team is supported by its own booster club.

### **Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club**

The Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club supports all MHS co-curricular activities. Through fundraisers and operating the Booster Store, the club awarded more than \$71,000 to 56 co-curricular athletic and enrichment groups for 2014-2015.

[www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/schools/minnetonkahighschool/booster](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/schools/minnetonkahighschool/booster)

### **Curtain Call Club**

The Curtain Call Club supports the growth and quality of theater in Minnetonka. Their support makes it possible to enjoy great productions and talent on a local stage.

[www.minnetonkatheatre.com](http://www.minnetonkatheatre.com)

### **Vocal Support**

Vocal Support provides support for the Minnetonka Choir Program, including the five choirs that meet during the school day and the Chamber Singers, Donna Voce and Varsity Madrigal Singers.

[www.minnetonkachoir.org](http://www.minnetonkachoir.org)

### **Minnetonka Band Boosters**

The Minnetonka Band Boosters are dedicated to promoting and supporting all Minnetonka High School bands.

[www.minnetonkabandboosters.org](http://www.minnetonkabandboosters.org)

### **Minnetonka Orchestra Boosters**

The Minnetonka Orchestra Boosters are dedicated to promoting and supporting all Minnetonka High School orchestras.

[www.mtkaorchboosters.com](http://www.mtkaorchboosters.com)

### **Touchdown Club**

The Touchdown Club supports football and was a primary funding partner for both the Tonka Dome and Veterans Field.

[www.minnetonkafootball.org](http://www.minnetonkafootball.org)

### **Diamond Club**

The Diamond Club unifies all “diamond” sports in the community, including the MHS Baseball and Softball Teams. This club funded both Veterans and Legacy Fields projects.

[www.minnetonkadiamondclub.org](http://www.minnetonkadiamondclub.org)

### **Buckets Club**

The Buckets Club supports the high school Girls Basketball program and all girls in the Minnetonka community who enjoy the game of basketball.

[www.tonkabuckets.org](http://www.tonkabuckets.org)

### **Tonka Hoops**

Tonka Hoops supports the high school Boys Basketball program and all boys in the Minnetonka community who enjoy the game of basketball.

[www.minnetonkabball.com](http://www.minnetonkabball.com)

# Community

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## **Striker Club**

Supports the Minnetonka High School girls and boys soccer programs, coaches and teams, and promotes soccer in the community.

[www.minnetonkastrokerclub.com](http://www.minnetonkastrokerclub.com)

## **Track & Field and Cross Country Association**

The association supports the boys and girls cross country and track & field programs at MHS.

[www.tonkatrack.org](http://www.tonkatrack.org)

## **Volleyball Booster Club**

The Volleyball Booster Club supports the MHS volleyball program, teams, players and coaches.

[www.minnetonkavb.org](http://www.minnetonkavb.org)

## **Anchor Club**

The Anchor Club supports all of the District's aquatics programs including the high school Swim & Dive Teams and the Minnetonka Swim Club. The Aquatics Center was made possible, in part, by funds raised by the Anchor Club.

[www.minnetonkaaquatics.org](http://www.minnetonkaaquatics.org)

## **Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation**

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation was founded in 1986 to provide resources that enrich academic curriculum. The Foundation created its first major endowment project—The Writing Center at MHS—in 2008 and awarded more than \$95,000 for teacher grants in 2015.

[www.minnetonkafoundation.com](http://www.minnetonkafoundation.com)

## **Tonka Pride**

Tonka Pride is a community-led initiative to celebrate pride in the students, staff, families and all 10 communities within the School District.

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

## **Minnetonka Alumni Association**

The Minnetonka Alumni Association is the link between graduates and Minnetonka High School. The group organizes alumni activities, supports class reunions, hosts an all-school reunion block party and gives back to MHS through their Fine Arts Endowment Fund.

[www.minnetonkaalumni.com](http://www.minnetonkaalumni.com)



# Our Campus

**OUR BEAUTIFUL ATHLETIC FACILITIES WERE PRIVATELY FUNDED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF COUNTLESS VOLUNTEERS, ENDLESS ENTHUSIASM AND UNWAVERING DETERMINATION FROM PARENT AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.**

## **MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL**

Step inside our modern high school classrooms, Arts Center, or fitness center and you'll never believe MHS was opened in 1952. Recent renovation projects included a secure main entrance, new science classrooms, student union, and a reimagined media center called "The Port." All are modern, safe and effective environments for learning.

## **THE ARTS CENTER ON 7**

The Arts Center on 7 is a performing arts facility, opened in 2001 and was renovated in 2010 and 2011. There are two performance spaces—a Main Stage and a Studio Theatre—rehearsal rooms for choirs, bands and orchestras, and video-recording facilities. The Arts Center is a joint effort between the City of Minnetonka and Minnetonka Schools.

## **MINNETONKA AQUATICS CENTER**

The Minnetonka Aquatics Center is home to the MHS Boys and Girls Swim & Dive Teams and the Minnetonka Swim Club. The Aquatics Center is located at Minnetonka Middle School East.

The \$6.1 million facility features an eight-lane, "fast" competition pool with a separate competition-standard diving well and two diving boards. There is bleacher seating for 370, a swimmer's balcony, a state-of-the-art timing system and a scoreboard. A high-tech filtration and ventilation system reduces chemical use and improves swimmer comfort. Construction was funded, in part, by the Minnetonka Anchor Club.

## **VETERANS FIELD**

Veterans Field opened in 2007 as a state-of-the-art baseball stadium featuring synthetic turf and a 600-seat grandstand. The \$3.5 million project was initiated by the Minnetonka Diamond Club and Minnetonka Football groups. It is used by youth, high school and community baseball and football programs, as well as physical education classes.

## **LEGACY FIELDS**

Legacy Fields is a \$1 million, four-field softball facility. The complex features a batting cage, commons area and a small park. A product of the Minnetonka Diamond Club's Facilities Improvement Plan, it is the first girls-only athletic complex in Minnetonka.

## **TONKA DOME**

Each year between November and March, an inflatable dome is placed over Minnetonka High School's turf stadium field. Installed in 2004, the dome is funded completely through rental fees and hosts soccer, baseball, lacrosse and football camps.

## **PAGEL ACTIVITY CENTER**

The Pagel Activity Center was built in 2001 through a partnership with the Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association. The multi-use facility is home to the MHS Boys and Girls Hockey Teams, several Minnetonka Youth Hockey and community teams and the Minnetonka Community Strength/Fitness Program. Minnetonka Youth Hockey is currently working to add a second practice rink at Pagel.

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### **EINER ANDERSON STADIUM**

Built in 1954, Einer Anderson Stadium is home to the Football and Boys and Girls Soccer, Lacrosse, and Track Teams. In 2004, with generous gifts from several booster and youth athletic associations, the stadium was upgraded with a new track, synthetic turf, bleachers, a brick patio and the Tonka Dome, which covers the playing field in the winter months.

### **MHS UPPER FIELD**

The fourth synthetic turf field was installed on an upper field at MHS in summer 2013. Made possible through a Hennepin County Youth Sports Program grant and a partnership with Tonka United Soccer, the field is used for soccer and lacrosse.

### **MHS PHYSICAL HEALTH CENTER**

A new physical health center opened in fall 2013. Students and staff can use this space for cardio fitness and workouts. Equipment was donated by Life Time Fitness.



# Visiting & Regi

VISITING MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL IS THE BEST WAY TO KNOW IF IT IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOUR TEEN. THERE ARE A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AN MHS SKIPPER.

## CAMPUS TOURS

Call now to set up your tour of Minnetonka High School. See our world-class facilities, meet current students and teachers, experience the difference technology makes inside the classroom and have your questions answered by our staff.

Tours are customized for each family based on the interests of each student.

Campus tours are 30-45 minutes and are available each weekday, with a few exceptions. Contact our Student Life Coordinator at 952-401-5846 or amy.livorsi@minnetonka.k12.mn.us to find a date and time that works best for your family.

## CURRENT STUDENT SHADOWING

Once you have taken the campus tour, shadowing opportunities are available for those teens who are still undecided and wish to get the full Minnetonka experience. Students may schedule a half-day with a current student and attend their classes, talk to their teachers and experience the personal attention given to each MHS student.

Current student shadowing days are Tuesday-Thursday each week, except the week of final exams and other testing dates. Contact our Student Life Coordinator at 952-401-5846 to find a date and time that works best for your family.

## PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Minnetonka High School holds an Open House each December for students transferring from private high schools. Principal Erickson hosts a pizza party for students and parents to discuss all that Minnetonka High School has to offer.

## REGISTRATION

### 1 Complete the Enrollment Process

(New residents, open enrollment and transfer students ONLY)

Contact our enrollment office to receive an enrollment packet. Return all 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  
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#### Student Last Names M-Z

Lori Schwartz  
952-401-5012  
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# stration



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[www.facebook.com/minnetonkaschools](http://www.facebook.com/minnetonkaschools)

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Minnetonka participates in the No Shots, No School program. Your child's immunization record must be on file at Minnetonka High School before your child may attend. Please complete the immunization form included in your registration packet and mail it to MHS before August 1.

## MINNESOTA OPEN ENROLLMENT

Minnetonka High School welcomes open enrollment and non-resident families if space is available. The state deadline for applying for open enrollment is January 15. Minnetonka may continue to accept Open Enrollment students after the January 15 deadline. Mid-year open enrollment

transfers are only allowed at semester break in late January. Once enrolled, Open Enrollment students have the right to stay in the District through graduation, providing they maintain continuous open enrollment and acceptable attendance rates.

The Minnesota State High School League has strict guidelines and rules. A student athlete transferring schools under the state open enrollment option should contact the MHS Activities Office at 952-401-5904 or visit [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org) for more information and the necessary forms.

For more information on open enrollment, call the District Office at 952-401-5000.

## 2 Attend the Eighth Grade Parent Information Night in February

Learn about the educational opportunities and course registration at MHS, as well as tips for a successful transition to high school.

## 3 Attend the Curriculum Fair in February

Speak directly with teachers and explore the academic departments, wide variety of electives and specialized courses offered at MHS.

## 4 Register for classes online

MHS students in grades 10-12 have the opportunity to select the courses they would like to take and create the schedule that will work best for their learning style.

All students register for classes online through Skyward Student Access in February. New students will receive log-in information via email.

Students who enroll after February 1 should call School Counseling Services at 952-401-5811 to register for classes with their school counselor.

## 5 Make the most of your summer!

Many students in honors, AP and IB courses are assigned summer reading and other coursework to prepare for the year ahead. Students registered for these courses will be notified of their specific requirements.

Tonka Online also offers several summer "preparation" courses taught by Minnetonka teachers.

The High School is open all summer if your teen wants to become better acquainted with the building.

# Student Service

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**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL MANAGE THE HEALTH, WELLNESS AND DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF MHS STUDENTS. WHILE OFTEN BEHIND-THE-SCENES, THESE OFFICES ARE DEDICATED TO ENRICHING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF YOUR TEEN.**



## **HEALTH SERVICES**

Minnetonka Schools have licensed school nurses on staff who supervise health office staff. If your teen 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.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING**

Families within District boundaries are eligible for bus service to Minnetonka High School. The District provides transportation at no charge for all students

who reside more than two miles from the school. A \$100 transportation fee is assessed for bus service to resident students who reside within two miles of MHS. 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 Minnetonka High School.

During high school all teens will turn 16 and become eligible for a driver's license. In fact, driver education classes are held right at the High School through our Community Education program. Register for classes online at [www.minnetonkacommunityed.org](http://www.minnetonkacommunityed.org).

If you and your teen decide they will provide their own transportation to and from school, they may purchase a \$300 carpool parking pass for the year. VANTAGE permits are \$225. Parking at the High School is limited, therefore two licensed drivers share one pass and split the cost of the parking permit. This program not only saves space, it's cost effective and eco-friendly.

## **NUTRITION SERVICES**

A variety of dining options are available for students at Minnetonka High School from traditional lunch choices in The Harbor Café to healthy à la carte options from The Lighthouse.

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



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Minnetonka High School provides a full continuum of special education and related services depending on each student's unique special education needs and the goals determined 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

## 504 SERVICES

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

## 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.

## HOW TO SPEAK LIKE A SKIPPER

### ARTS CENTER ON 7

The high school's auditorium and the location of all high school plays and concerts

### BREEZES

The weekly student-produced school newspaper

### CURRICULUM NIGHT

Held in September each year, parents follow their student's schedule to meet teachers and learn about courses

### FIRST MATE

A senior who welcomes new students to MHS through the Get Connected program

### SKIPPER

The school mascot

### SKIPPER LOG

A student course catalog

### SKIPPER SPLASH

The monthly school e-Newsletter for parents

### SUPER FAN

Those with the highest level of support and enthusiasm for any Minnetonka activity

### TONKA CARES

Partnership to reduce underage substance use in the Minnetonka School District community.

### TONKA PRIDE

A community-led initiative to celebrate pride in all 10 Minnetonka School District communities

### TONKASERVES.ORG

A website where students can find information on volunteer opportunities and service projects

### VANTAGE

Advanced Professional Studies interdisciplinary program where students work collaboratively on professional projects

### VOYAGER

The annual school yearbook

MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL  
**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Information	(952) 401-5700
Main Office	(952) 401-5706
Activities Office	(952) 401-5904
Attendance Office	(952) 401-5800
Health Office	(952) 401-5771
Open Enrollment Questions	(952) 401-5000
School Counseling Services	(952) 401-5811
Student Life Coordinator (Visits)	(952) 401-5846
Transportation	(952) 401-5023

**HOURS**

Office Hours	7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Student Hours	8 a.m.–2:40 p.m.

**CALENDARS**

MHS Google Calendar	<a href="http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mhs">www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mhs</a>
View/Download District Calendars	<a href="http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/calendar">www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/calendar</a>



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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