

Congratulations to the Minnetonka Class of 2018

"To say that you are our future is not an empty cliché. You *are* our future, and what you make of it will impact all of us," said Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson as he addressed 820 students in the Class of 2018. Each student is ready to take on unlimited opportunities in college, career and service. After all, this group has already reached great heights. Here are just a few of their accomplishments:

SHOWING DEPTH AND BREADTH OF SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS

The Class of 2018 posted an average ACT score of 27.7, the highest in Minnetonka history. The ACT average for the top 400 students is an astounding 30.9. Nine students earned an ACT score of 36, the highest possible. Seventy-nine students pursued the International Baccalaureate (IB) full diploma, the largest cohort in school history. Sixteen students were named National Merit Finalists and 31 were Commended. At the end of junior year, 206 had already been named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars. The *Summa Cum Laude* designation was earned by 158 students. The Class of 2018 was filled with true trailblazers, taking advantage of new high school opportunities through Tonka Online, VANTAGE, and Minnetonka Research—all developed to help students build 21st Century skills in unique learning environments.

ACHIEVING IN THE ARTS

Seniors upheld our strong Minnetonka theatre tradition, earning record numbers of *Spotlight* awards for the 2017-18 musicals, "On the Town" and "Mary Poppins." The Competition One Act play, "Master Class," earned the state's highest honors. Nineteen seniors and several performing groups earned superior ratings this year in band, orchestra and vocal solo/ensemble contests. Ten seniors earned Scholastic Gold Key awards in fine arts and poetry.

LEAVING A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Each class adopts a legacy service project freshman year. The Class of 2018 focused on the environment. They implemented ways to improve recycling in the MHS cafeteria, delivered presentations on recycling to elementary classrooms, cleaned the Excelsior beach and more. On June 5-6, Minnetonka seniors continued the "Seniors Serve" tradition, volunteering around the community before they



I stand before you tonight in awe of what you've achieved, and more so, how you achieved it—with such humility, an unwavering work ethic and a quiet confidence.

Jeff Erickson, Principal, Minnetonka High School

said goodbye June 7. Five seniors earned Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and 43 students earned community service cords for their volunteer efforts.

LEADING IN ATHLETICS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Senior year equaled tremendous success for our athletic teams with state championship honors for Boys Swimming and Diving, Girls Track and Field, Varsity Cheer, Boys Alpine Skiing, Boys Hockey and Boys Rugby. State second-place honors went to Football, Baseball and Girls Swimming and Diving. Boys Lacrosse earned third place at state. Wrestling and Girls Tennis teams also represented us well at state-level competition. Many more seniors from our athletic teams qualified for state competition as individuals.



MHS Boys Swimming and Diving: back-to-back state champions

Message

from the Superintendent

The Class of 2018 was the fifth class to go all the way through the Minnetonka school system since I became Superintendent. I am very proud of their accomplishments and their preparation for the future. I also fully realize the responsibility that comes with their development. Our priority is to be sure we are providing learning opportunities for every student that will best prepare them for the future. With the rapid evolution of technology and changing social values, that is an even greater challenge today.

This was the largest Minnetonka class, and their accomplishments were incredible. Some of those achievements are noted in this publication, but there are far more to be acknowledged. Because we emphasize the development of the whole student, these students not only excelled in academics but also in music, drama and athletics.

We have developed an outstanding program for our students, and we have hired many outstanding teachers to deliver the excellence we must have to enable our students to be ready for the intense competition the world presents to them.

Enrollment growth has enabled the District to accomplish much of what has been done over the past ten years, but we are now at the point where we must stop growing and focus on maintaining our enrollment. This is probably the only school district in Minnesota that has not had to reduce its budget over the past thirteen years. That situation has enabled our community to remain stable and our students to thrive.

Dr. Dennis Peterson, Superintendent

News

from Minnetonka Schools
(952) 401-5000
www.minnetonkaschools.org



MHS Construction: Flexible Options for Classes & Collaboration

You may have noticed some construction activity at Minnetonka High School over the past few months. We're renovating 7,000 square feet of outdated, under-utilized Phy. Ed locker rooms on the upper floor of MHS and turning the area into instructional and collaboration space.

Previously, this upper floor functioned as varsity team locker rooms until new locker rooms were built in the lower level in 1996. Since then, the upper floor lockers have been very lightly used, and those that were used are being repurposed to the lower level so that sufficient Phy. Ed locker capacity remains.

The remodeled space will provide flexible options for classroom design and operation with five new classrooms and a collaboration space, better flow of foot traffic within the high school and additional restrooms. All classrooms will also have natural light from new outside windows. Existing resources are covering the costs of the

redesigned space, and therefore no new bonds were issued for this project. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-August.



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

School Board

Lisa Wagner, Chair
Katie Becker, Vice Chair
Lisa Sumner, Clerk
Chris Vitale, Treasurer
Mark Ambrosen, Director
John Holcomb, Director
Mike LeSage, Director

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Minnetonka Alumni Association

Join us on July 28!

All-School All-Class Reunion

It's time to reconnect! The Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) is excited to host the 5th All-School All-Class Reunion on Saturday, July 28 from 5-10 p.m. in the Excelsior Commons. Reconnect with classmates, enjoy music and dine on local food and beverages.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:
www.minnetonkaschools.org/reunion

Minnetonka Schools Calendar

August 2018

- 21 ... College Admissions 101, 7pm, Forum
- 21 ... Minnewashta Kindergarten & New Family Meet/Greet, 6pm
- 22 ... Deephaven Kindergarten Welcome Picnic, 5:30pm
- 23 ... Groveland Kindergarten Playground Night, 6:30pm
- 23 ... MHS: College Admissions 101, 3pm, Forum
- 23 ... Scenic Heights New Family Picnic, 6pm
- 25 ... Clear Springs Kindergarten Family Get-Together, 10am
- 27 ... MME Picture Day; Gr 7-8 Back-to-School Open House at 4pm
- 27 ... MHS: Selective College Admissions: 5 Important Tips, 7pm, Forum
- 27 ... MMW Gr 6 Student Orientation, 11:30am
- 28 ... Deephaven Kindergarten Curriculum Night & New Families Welcome Night 6pm; New Families Tech Orientation, 7pm
- 28 ... ECFE Preschool Parent Orientation, 6:30pm
- 28 ... Excelsior New Family Welcome, 6:30pm
- 28 ... MHS: College Admissions 101, 7pm, Forum
- 28 ... Minnewashta Kindergarten Parent Orientation Night, 5:30pm
- 29 ... Clear Springs: Kindergarten Practice Bus Ride, 2:30pm; Back-to-School Open House: Last Name A-L, 3pm; Last Name M-Z, 3:45pm
- 29 ... Deephaven Back-to-School Open House, 8am
- 29 ... Excelsior Back-to-School Open House, 8am
- 29 ... MHS Back-to-School Open House, 8am-4pm
- 29 ... MHS Grade 9 Parent Night, 6:30pm
- 29 ... MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 3pm, Forum
- 29 ... MHS Picture Day
- 29 ... Minnewashta Back-to-School Open House: Gr K, 1, 2, 8am; Gr 3, 4, 5, 8:45am; Kindergarten Practice Bus Ride, 9am
- 29 ... MME: Gr 6 Back-to-School Open House/Curr Night, 4pm
- 29 ... MME Picture Day
- 29 ... Preschool Teacher Meet & Greet, 5pm, MCEC
- 29 ... Scenic Heights Kindergarten Practice Bus Rides, 9am & 10am

- 29 ... Scenic Heights Back-to-School Open House: Last Name A-L, 8am; Last Name M-Z, 9am
- 30 ... Groveland Back to School Open House, 8am; Kindergarten Practice Bus Ride, 9:45am
- 30 ... MHS: Selective College Admissions: 5 Tips, 3pm, Forum
- 30 ... MMW Picture Day; Back-to-School Night begins 4:30pm

September 2018

- 3 ... No School K-12, Labor Day, District Office Closed
- 4 ... Kindergarten Assessments
- 4 ... Scenic Heights Back-to-School Coffee, 9am
- 4 ... School Begins, Full Day (Gr 1-12), Begin 1st Quarter
- 6 ... School Begins, Kindergarten
- 6 ... MHS Curriculum Night, Gr 9-12, 6:30-8:30pm
- 6 ... MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 7:15am, Forum
- 7 ... Selective College Admissions: 5 Important Tips (Webinar), 12pm, minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor
- 7 ... MHS Picture Day, All Seniors
- 8 ... Minnewashta Back-to-School Social, 11am
- 10 ... ECFE Classes Begin
- 10 ... Preschool Classes Begin, 8:30am
- 11 ... MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 3:15pm, Forum
- 12 ... ECFE Coffee and Play, 11am
- 13 ... Clear Springs Curriculum Night: Ready Start K, 5:30pm; Kindergarten, 6pm; Gr 2, 6:40pm; Gr 4, 7:20pm
- 13 ... Deephaven Curriculum Night: Gr 1-2, 6pm; Technology Orientation, Kindergarten, 7pm
- 13 ... Excelsior Curriculum Night: Gr 5, 4:30pm; Gr 1 and NAV 2/3, 5:30pm; Gr 3, 6:30pm
- 13 ... Groveland Curriculum Night: Gr K, 2, 4 at 6pm
- 13 ... Minnewashta Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 6pm; Gr 2, 6:45pm
- 13 ... Scenic Heights Curriculum Night: Gr K, 2, 4 & Navigator 4-5, 5:30pm

- 14 ... Deadline: Presidents Volunteer Service Award Applications
- 17 ... Groveland Picture Day
- 17 ... MHS Senior Parent Program, 7pm
- 17 ... ECFE Classes Begin, 9am
- 18 ... Clear Springs Picture Day
- 18 ... MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 7pm, Forum
- 20 ... Clear Springs Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 6pm; Gr 3, 6:40pm; Gr 5, 7:20pm
- 20 ... Deephaven Curriculum Night: Gr 3-5, 6pm; Technology Orientation Gr 3-5, 7pm
- 20 ... Excelsior Curriculum Night: Grade 4 & NAV 4/5, 4:30pm; Kindergarten, 5:30pm; Gr 2, 6:30pm
- 20 ... Groveland Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 3, 5 at 6pm
- 20 ... MHS: Admission to Big Public Flagship Universities, 7pm
- 20 ... Minnewashta Curriculum Night: Gr 4, 6pm; Gr 5, 6:45pm; Gr 3, 7:30pm
- 20 ... MME Curriculum Night, Gr 7-8, 6pm
- 20 ... Scenic Heights Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 3, 5 & Navigator 2-3, 5:30pm
- 20 ... Scenic Heights Picture Day, 8:40am
- 21 ... Tonka Pride Fall Store, 3-7pm, DSC
- 21 ... Admission to Big Public Flagship Universities-Webinar, 12pm, minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor
- 22 ... Groveland Tonka Trot Run/Walk, 8:30am
- 22 ... Tonka Pride Fall Sale, 8am-1pm, DSC
- 22 ... Distance for Deephaven, 8am
- 24-28 ... Homecoming Week
- 24 ... MHS: Admission to Big Public Flagship Universities, 3:15pm, Forum
- 25 ... Clear Springs New Family Welcome, 6:45pm
- 28 ... Deephaven New Families Event, 6pm
- 28 ... Scenic Heights Boosterthon Fun Run
- 28 ... 2-Hour Early-Release K-12, Professional Learning
- 29 ... MHS Homecoming Dance, 9pm

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1287
Hopkins, Minnesota