

MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICES



“These are children whose potential can be realized through differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program.”



DEAR PARENTS

Welcome to Minnetonka Public Schools High Potential Services. This brochure provides a comprehensive overview of the services available to high potential students in the Minnetonka School District. We offer HP services at all grade levels—elementary, middle school and high school. In addition, we offer the Navigator Program for exceptionally gifted students in grades 3-5 at two elementary schools (Scenic Heights Elementary and Excelsior Elementary).

For the past several years, the nature of Minnetonka High Potential Services has grown from a few basic offerings to a more comprehensive program with services at each school building. Today, the High Potential Program is as strong as it has ever been. As other districts cut these programs, Minnetonka's commitment has only grown stronger.

As the coordinator of the High Potential Program I am committed to its continued growth and excellence. It is my desire and that of the entire High Potential department to offer the most comprehensive program possible that will properly meet the educational needs of each and every one of our students. Through excellence in gifted and talented educational programming, we intend to become the very best in Minnesota and one of the best in the nation.

We look forward to inspiring in your child the passion to excel with the confidence needed to achieve his or her full potential.

Sincerely,
Michael Postma
Minnetonka High Potential Services Coordinator

Michael Postma High Potential Services Coordinator



- Bachelor's Degree in Classical Studies, McMaster University (Hamilton, ON)
- Teacher Certification, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
- Master's Degree in Gifted & Talented Education, University of St. Thomas
- Doctoral Candidate in Education, Critical Pedagogy & Educational Leadership, University of St. Thomas
- AP Certification, Carleton College
- Has written several articles and regularly presents at workshops and conferences including the annual National Association for Gifted Children conference
- More than 10 years in Gifted and Talented education

Each time I meet another high potential child, it is as if I am starting anew: the depth, breadth and wonderful uniqueness of each individual child energizes my resolve to continue fighting, to continue advocating, to continue campaigning for Gifted and Talented children everywhere.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mike Postma – High Potential Services Coordinator
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Principal Lee Drolet
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Groveland Elementary
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Minnewashta Elementary
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Scenic Heights Elementary
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MINNETONKA HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICES

HIGH POTENTIAL CHILDREN

...children who by virtue of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance, including those with demonstrated achievement or potential ability in any of the following areas, singularly or in combination: general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, creative or productive thinking, leadership ability, visual and performing arts.

Some students have academic, cognitive, leadership and/or creative talents beyond their classmates. Children with outstanding talent relative to their age, experience or environment require appropriate learning experiences and intellectual challenge to stimulate continuous academic growth. These children have the right to an educational environment where their unique affective and education needs are planned for and respected.

Minnetonka High Potential Services are designed to meet the unique needs of these students. Our mission is

- To provide programs and opportunities for students to discover, develop and realize their potential as individuals and as contributing, responsible members of the community and
- To encourage achievement at a level commensurate with the student's ability.

IDENTIFICATION

High Potential students are identified through a screening process that is multi-dimensional, including teacher observation, parent input, student input, classroom performance, and standardized test information. Parents/guardians who have questions or concerns about their child and services should call their school or the District high potential coordinator.



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The Minnetonka High Potential Parent Organization (MHPPO) promotes understanding and educational services for gifted and talented children.

MHPPO is the local chapter of the Minnesota Council for the Gifted & Talented (MCGT). Your MHPPO membership lends your support to high potential education in Minnetonka and throughout Minnesota. Membership dues cover both MHPPO and MCGT.

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT)

<http://www.mcgt.net/>

Minnetonka High Potential Parent Organization (MHPPO)

mhppo@mchsi.com

SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) Parent Groups

Each Minnetonka elementary school has a SENNG group for parents of HP students. These groups are led by the HP teachers at the school and offer an opportunity for HP parents to participate in a book study and discussions. To get involved contact your school's HP teacher.

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)

www.sengifted.org

ELEMENTARY HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICES

The Minnetonka School District employs a full-time high potential (HP) specialist at every elementary school. The HP teacher leads the *Wings* and *Independent Investigations* programs in addition to team teaching and serving as a resource for regular classroom teachers.

HP students set annual goals with the HP teacher and will continue to work on the goal for the year.

Minnetonka High Potential Services offers three levels of service to elementary students and teachers.

Level 1

Level 1 service is designed to provide differentiated experiences for intellectually gifted students, grades 1-5. Small groups of identified students meet once a week for *Wings*. The interdisciplinary curriculum focuses on creative and critical thinking and 21st century skills. *Wings* also provides a safe environment where students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and ideas.

Level 2

Level 2 service is designed to offer enrichment to any student with specific talents and/or interests. High Potential paraprofessionals, under the supervision of HP staff, run this portion of the programming. Students participate in *Independent Investigations*, an enrichment program designed to provide opportunities for students to investigate a special interest area. Students develop a project and share their findings.

Level 3

Level 3 service is available to all teachers and students. Critical and creative thinking skills may be taught by the HP teacher in the mainstream classroom and enrichment materials may be supplied to classroom teachers for use with students.

Accelerated Math

Beginning in fourth grade, students who demonstrate high performance in math (based on NWEA Tests) may join an accelerated math class which completes the fourth, fifth and sixth grade math curriculum during fourth and fifth grade. A small number of fourth and fifth grade students whose abilities exceed accelerated math may work with the HP teacher on more advanced math curriculum in Extreme Math.

Accelerated Reading

Advanced reading opportunities are also available to students who demonstrate high performance in reading (based on NWEA Tests). Students may participate in Literature Circles including Jr. Great Books and The Classics. Literature circles provide individualized reading support and opportunities for students to read above grade level and discuss projects. This is provided as part of Level 3 services.

World Language

Minnetonka offers a language immersion option beginning in kindergarten at each neighborhood elementary school. Four schools offer Spanish and two schools offer Chinese. In an immersion classroom, teachers provide all instruction in the target language; direct instruction in English begins in third grade. If learning a second language during elementary school is an important value for your family, consider enrollment in language immersion. For more information, visit www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/immersion.

“The accelerated math in elementary really prepared my daughter for middle school advanced math. She was challenged to work at her own pace in fifth-grade math and had the skills necessary to get through the summer preparation for Algebra in sixth grade.”

- Lisa Wagner, Middle School Parent

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities include Continental Math League, Young Scientists, Destination ImagiNation and Imagination Fair.

ELEMENTARY HP SPECIALISTS

Cathy Arriola High Potential Specialist (Half-time) Minnewashta Elementary



- Bachelor's Degrees in Vocal Music Performance and Elementary Education, Bemidji State University
- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, U.S. International University
- Twenty-five years elementary experience
- Provides K-3 students academic challenge in reading and math

It is important to catch gifted children early and give them the challenge they need, to keep them from underachieving. My role is to support students and teachers by helping differentiate learning to meet their special needs.

Joy Curran
High Potential Specialist
Minnewashta Elementary

- Bachelor's Degrees in Elementary Education and Bible, North Central University – Minneapolis
- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, MN State University
- Certificate in Gifted/Talented Education, St. Thomas University
- Previously taught kindergarten, second, third and fifth grades in Minnetonka Schools
- Gifted and talented specialist since 2001



As a gifted and talented specialist, I enjoy ensuring that my gifted students are appropriately challenged, helping each child reach his or her full potential and develop a life long love of learning.

Mary Kenealy-Bredice
High Potential Specialist
Scenic Heights Elementary

- Bachelor's Degree in Education, University of Minnesota
- Master's Degree in Education, University of Wisconsin
- Attends numerous educational conferences
- Has experience as an elementary and middle school classroom teacher, Title I director and as a gifted education teacher



The strong commitment of the Minnetonka Public Schools to meet the needs of their gifted population is what drew me to Minnetonka. I take pleasure in the challenge of helping to prepare our gifted students to face the 21st century head on. I enjoy gifted children and the element of surprise and wonder they bring to class each day.

Joan Larson
High Potential Specialist
Clear Springs Elementary

- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education Grades K-6, University of MN-Morris
- Master's Degree in Gifted, Talented and Creative Instruction, University of St. Thomas
- Gifted and talented teacher in Minnetonka since 1991
- Taylors Falls *Teacher of the Year*
- 2009 Minnetonka Award for Child-Centered Excellence in Teaching



I understand the importance of reaching all learners, treating every person with dignity, and seeing the difference a teacher can make in the life a gifted child.

Amy Mullen O'Neill
High Potential Specialist
Excelsior Elementary

- Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, University of Colorado
- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, University of Minnesota
- Previous experience as elementary classroom teacher and gifted resource teacher



I love working with "outside the box" thinkers and challenging them to take responsibility for their own learning. I use technology and creative problem solving as my primary instructional tools to engage students and prepare them for their future.

Catherine Ost
High Potential Specialist
Deephaven Elementary

- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Art, St. Cloud State
- Master's Degree in Gifted, Creative and Talented Education, University of St. Thomas
- Education Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership and School Administration, University of St. Thomas
- Began teaching at the JFK International School in Berlin, Germany
- Experience as classroom teacher, gifted education resource specialist and gifted education program coordinator in Minnetonka since 1989



These experiences have fueled my passion and enthusiasm for working with gifted children. Minnetonka Schools has a very strong commitment to gifted education, and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Diane Rundquist
High Potential Specialist
Groveland Elementary

- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- Master's Degree in Education from St. Mary's University
- Has been a classroom teacher, teacher instructional coach and now a high potential teacher in Minnetonka Schools since 1991.
- Dedicated to addressing the unique cognitive, social and emotional needs of high ability learners.



High Potential students have a right to wonder and a need to belong. This, my mission statement of sorts, guides me daily in my work with the extraordinary students I am privileged to serve.



- Exceptionally Gifted Program
- Multi-age Classroom
- Ages 8-11 (grades 3-5)
- Offered at:
Scenic Heights and
Excelsior Elementary
Schools

www.minnetonka.k12.
mn.us/academics/
ExceptionallyGiftedProgram

Identifying Exceptionally Gifted Children

Exceptionally gifted students have an I.Q. at or above 145 and demonstrate the following behavior:

- Have well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis
- Read widely, quickly and intensely, have large vocabularies
- Commonly learn better, quicker and with less practice
- Often pick up and interpret nonverbal cues and draw inferences that other children need spelled out for them
- Can work independently at an earlier age and can concentrate for longer periods
- Tackle tasks in a well-organized, goal-directed and efficient manner
- Exhibit an intrinsic motivation to learn or explore, are highly inquisitive
- Quickly perceive similarities, differences and anomalies
- Take great pleasure in intellectual activity
- Readily see cause-effect relationships
- Often skeptical, critical, and evaluative
- Often have a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics, which they can recall quickly
- Show incredible intensity in energy, imagination, intellectual prowess, persistence, sensitivity, and emotion which are not typical in the general population

NAVIGATOR CURRICULUM

Affective Component

Exceptionally gifted children occasionally need direction in regards to appropriate interactions with the world around them as well as learning more about themselves

as students. The affective component complements each child's intellectual gifts in order to further develop the whole child.

Tools for Addressing Social and Emotional Needs:

- Responsive Classroom: Morning Meeting; guided discovery; hopes and dreams; logical consequence
- SENG Parent Support Group and student lesson
- Lessons and activities—giftedness; positive self concept; goal setting; motivation; stress management; peer relations; transition and change; fitting in; perfectionism; learning styles and personality types; organization; responsibility; expectations; sensitivity; equity vs. equality
- "Habits of Mind": persisting; managing impulsivity; listening to others with understanding and empathy; thinking flexibly; thinking about our thinking; striving for accuracy and precision; questioning and posing problems; applying past knowledge to new situations; thinking and communicating with clarity and precision; gathering data through all senses; creating, imagining, and innovating; responding with wonderment and awe; taking responsible risks; finding humor; thinking inter-dependently; learning continuously

Navigator Theme

This theme will serve as the lens under which the core subjects will be taught:

Oceanography: Coastal Zone Redevelopment

Math - Project M³: Mentoring Mathematical Minds

Project M³ is a research-based mathematics program for gifted and talented students. Investigating, discovering, reasoning, explaining, and writing are components that are emphasized in each unit. Each math component is aligned to grade level standards as required by the state of Minnesota.

Science and Health: The Full Option Science System (FOSS)

The Full Option Science System (FOSS) springs from a philosophy of learning for more than 25 years. FOSS is a research-based, hands-on science curriculum for grades K–8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. All units are aligned to state standards.

REGISTRATION

If you believe your child is a fit for the Navigator Program, visit our website to download an application. Applications are due in January each year. (Note: The state open enrollment deadline is January 15.) Send completed applications to:

Minnetonka Public Schools, Attn: Mike Postma, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka 55345
or mike.postma@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

Minnetonka Schools will provide I.Q. testing to determine eligibility. We will not accept the results of any testing done outside the District.

Language Arts – Jr. Great Books

Jr. Great Books is a unique program that focuses on high-quality literature and student-centered discussion. The methodology of interpretive reading and discussion coupled with the inquiry process unlock challenging texts and move students toward excellence in reading comprehension, critical thinking and writing.

Word Study/Writing & Communication

Spelling, vocabulary, English and grammar, Greek and Latin stems, connotations, analogies, word structure, derivation, dictionary / thesaurus skills, interviews, data collection and representation, fiction and nonfiction, Life Books, speeches and presentations, persuasive, poetry, literary analysis and response, personal narrative, creative, figurative language, newsletters, feature articles, Six Traits, research, theatre and drama, *The Lady or the Tiger; The Bet; Shakespeare selections; The Diary of Anne Frank*

All units are aligned to district essential learnings which are reflected in the state standards.

Humanities – *Comprehension and Collaboration Inquiry Circles in Action*

by Stephanie Harvey and Harvey Daniels
Comprehension and Collaboration Inquiry Circles in Action develops skills of research, creative and critical thinking, and collaboration through real-world inquiry projects.

Specials

Students have their own personal schedule for specials including physical education, music, art and media. All specials, with the exception of media, will be taken with grade level peers.

Assessment

It is very important to track student progress on an ongoing basis in order to determine appropriate student growth and intervention (if necessary). The following assessments will be used to determine student growth: Math Assessments (weekly), Reading/Writing Responses, Seminar Engagement, Task Completion, Overall Classroom Interaction, Student Self-Assessment, Classroom Behavior, NWEAs, MCA-IIs, Oral Reading Fluency, Common Writing Assessment, Renzulli Learning / ILP and Application of taught skills.

Immersion

Immersion instruction is provided for students enrolling from current Immersion programs. Chinese instruction will be provided through a live online link with a native instructor, while Spanish will be provided daily within the Navigator classroom.

NAVIGATOR TEACHERS

Ali Alowonle Excelsior Elementary



- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Specialty in School Science, University of MN
- Master's Degree in Elementary Education, University of MN
- Gifted Education Certificate, Hamline University
- Previous experience as a third and fifth grade teacher at the Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet School, Vegas Verdas Elementary School and Clear Springs Elementary

I believe gifted children, like all children, deserve to learn and grow. A rigorous, challenging curriculum, an empathetic teacher, and a social emotional component nurture and cultivate gifted minds and souls.

Sandy Katkov Scenic Heights Elementary



- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education, St. Cloud State University
- Master's Degree in Education, St. Mary's University
- Gifted Certificate, Hamline University
- Sandy has taught first and third grade, special education, and gifted children in Minnetonka Schools.

I teach gifted children to awaken their natural curiosity and observe them later with satisfying smiles.

Janetta Gong Excelsior Elementary



- Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and French K-12 Education, Specializing in History and Mathematics, University of MN, Moorhead
- Master's Degree in Second Language Acquisition and Cultural Understanding, University of MN, Twin Cities
- Elementary Education Degree, University of St. Catherine
- Reading Specialist Endorsement, University of Concordia, St. Paul
- Previous experience teaching 6-8 grade French and Spanish as well as first and second grade in both French immersion and Spanish immersion settings.

I am inspired by the intense curiosity of our gifted learners. In turn, I aspire to feed their spirit of inquiry, provide them with the strategies and tools of analysis to think critically, and encourage them to follow their passions.

Sixth Grade – HP Seminar

High Potential Services continue to help meet the needs of sixth grade HP students at both Middle School East and Middle School West. The HP Seminar is designed to address both the intellectual and affective (social and emotional) needs of students. The seminar motto “Homo Faber” stresses the topic of nurture versus nature: the man who makes or creates, versus nature, where control is a random.

Students who elect to take the seminar will read, investigate and respond to some of the dilemmas that continue to characterize the human experience in relation to his/her world at a variety of levels. Each student will receive guided instruction on contemporary human response to themes including developing relationships, man/woman in the natural world and man versus man. Students will be expected to conduct an independent investigation on a topic of interest that has a direct correlation to the instruction.

The goal of the course is to have students understand the human condition and to apply those understandings in a practical, investigative manner that attains plausible results.

Rigorous Curriculum – Honors Classes

Minnetonka middle school students have the opportunity to challenge themselves with several advanced class options. Honors language arts and accelerated mathematics courses are available in grades 6-8. Seventh and eighth grade students may also choose Honors Science. In eighth grade, Pre-AP Social Studies offers accelerated learning experiences that require greater depth of knowledge and complexity.

Honors courses are designed to meet the needs of highly motivated students who are functioning at an abstract level, have a very high ability in one or more of these subjects, and have the work habits necessary to be successful. The curriculum provides more rigor and challenge than the general curriculum.

Midwest Academic Talent Search

The Midwest Academic Talent Search provides the opportunity for highly motivated and high achieving sev-

enth and eighth grade students to take the SAT test, typically taken by college-bound juniors and seniors in high school. Above grade level testing provides students a snapshot of their strength areas and may also be used to qualify for summer courses offered by various universities in the country.

Activities

High Potential students are also encouraged to participate in co-curricular academic competitions including the Minnesota State Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, Destination ImagiNation, Chess Club or Continental Math League.

Minnetonka HP teachers serve as advocates for HP students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HP SPECIALISTS

Margaret McDonald Middle School West



- Bachelor’s Degree in Education and Secondary Education Extended English
- Master’s Degree in Education-Counseling and School Counselor Certification, Arizona State University
- Graduate Studies in Marriage and Family Therapy, Alfred Adler Graduate School
- Parent Education License, University of Minnesota
- More than 20 years in teaching and counseling

Daily I am amazed, intrigued and astounded by our young people as they begin to share their talents, penchants and abilities. Our HP program empowers our students to understand themselves as talented learners while encouraging them to strengthen their abilities through active participation.

Deborah Zachman Middle School East



- Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education, College of St. Benedict
- Master’s Degree in Gifted Education, Mankato State University
- Has 32 years of experience; has been a gifted education specialist since 1984

Working with high ability students is challenging and rewarding. These students bring a wealth of knowledge, curiosity and unique social and emotional characteristics to their learning. I’m proud and excited to be a part of this profession.

“I am thrilled that the District is offering advanced math options for students who don’t fit into the traditional HP model. My son needed the additional challenge in math and he’s loving the class.”

- Joanne Olds,
Middle School Parent

HIGH SCHOOL HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICES

Minnetonka High School provides a broad array of accelerated, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma courses. Students self-select enrollment in these classes.

Accelerated Courses

- English 9 X
- English 10 X
- English 11 X
- Literature as in the Bible and Philosophy X (12th grade)
- Integrated Physical Science X (9th grade)
- Chemistry X (10th grade)
- Principles of US Government, Geography and Economics X (9th grade)
- Levels 1 X through 4 X of Chinese, French, Spanish

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement courses allow high school students to explore the world from a variety of perspectives, study subjects in greater depth and detail and assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing and understanding. It also helps students improve their writing skills, sharpen problem-solving techniques and develop study habits necessary for college-level course work.

Students who take AP courses have the opportunity to take AP Exams and earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's top colleges and universities.

Minnetonka High School offers 21 college-level Advanced Placement courses in calculus, economics, literature, composition, psychology, history, government, fine arts, statistics, chemistry, physics and biology. Students self-select these courses based on interest and motivation. A strong curiosity about the subject and a willingness to work hard are required for success in AP classes.

International Baccalaureate Programme

The IB Diploma Programme is a comprehensive two-year (13 courses) curriculum which provides a deep, thought-provoking program of study in six areas during the junior and senior year. The strengths of the program are its academic rigor and well-rounded traditional liberal arts curriculum enhanced with an extended essay, inquiry into the theory of knowledge, research, creativity, action and service.

Students in tenth grade are invited to apply for the IB program at the same time that they register for their junior year classes. IB is a demanding college-level course of study that leads to examinations and potentially college credit. It is ideally suited for a highly motivated student who enjoys pondering the question, Why? Many advanced courses of study accelerate students through a curriculum. IB courses move at a different pace, encouraging in-depth research, inquiry, analysis, critical thinking and connections across the curriculum. The well-rounded curriculum requires students to deal with their weaknesses in subject areas as well as their strengths.

The IB Diploma Programme has earned a reputation for rigorous assessment, giving IB Diploma-holders access to the leading American and international universities and college credit. IB Diploma graduates are among the top-tier college recruits in America and the world.

For more information, contact IB/AP/HP Coordinator Ann Swanson at ann.swanson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us or 952.401.5897.

“The AP and IB teachers really care. They want to see their students succeed and they work really hard to prepare them.”

- Kristin Gerton, MHS Parent

AP, IB, AND HP COORDINATOR

Ann Swanson, PhD
AP, IB, and HP Coordinator
Minnetonka High School



- Bachelor's Degree in English and Education, University of Minnesota
- Master's Degree in English Literature and Language, University of Minnesota
- Doctorate in Literacy Education, University of Minnesota
- Taught English at MHS since 1986 prior to becoming the MHS IB, AP and HP Coordinator in 2004

Teaching English at Minnetonka High School allowed me to realize my dream of making sure every day of my career matters. Now I have the privilege of serving students and their families, especially as they choose the IB and AP programs to cap their high school years.

Lisa Wagner
Parent of HP Sixth-Grader

“The District elementary and middle school HP programs have really challenged and motivated my daughter. Right now, she’s enjoying her first HP seminar focusing on brain development.

It’s helpful that at the middle school level, HP students get a full class period devoted to an HP class. The students really enjoy the focused time with their peers and this model allows the HP teachers to create a unique learning environment for their students. When I walk into my daughter’s HP Seminar room, it’s got a very different look and feel from a traditional classroom. It’s a space where HP kids feel comfortable to be themselves.

The District HP teachers are extremely talented in what they do. They really serve as advisors to their students and do a great job challenging them. My sixth-grader has had great opportunities to participate in some fascinating, hands-on experiments that come back to us from time-to-time in real-world situations.”

Kristin Gerton
Parent of Four HP Students (grades 5, 7, 8, 11)

“At each level, I have been really impressed with the opportunities my kids have had in the Minnetonka School District HP Programs. My 11th grader is taking AP and IB courses that are very rigorous. The teachers in the programs really care about their students and want to see them succeed. I think these classes will really give my daughter an edge as we start the college search.

I am also impressed by the variety of options at each level. There’s definitely more challenge for those students who want it.

At the elementary level, my daughter is in *Wings* and really enjoys the unique learning opportunities and extra challenge. It’s fun to see her learning in different ways from the traditional classroom (building and drawing projects). For all of my kids, it’s been neat to watch them achieve because once they’ve done it, they know that they can do it again.”



Rebbeka Trippett
Parent of Navigator Student

“When my daughter came home yesterday, we asked her how her day went. She said “great” and had a great big smile on her face. That is so wonderful to hear and see after years of her response usually being “fine” with no smile. She is so excited and energized.”

Joanne Olds
Parent of HP Sixth-Grader

“My son always narrowly missed the scores necessary to be included in the traditional HP programs like *Wings*, but he’s very advanced and needed more challenge in math. I was thrilled when the District began offering advanced math at the middle schools. This was a big step in providing more challenge for the kids who need it in specific areas, but are not necessarily in the other HP programs. My son loves this class and is feeling really awesome about himself.”

Navigator Program Students

“It is really fun and you get to learn a lot more. I’m glad that my math is going to be harder.”

“There is nothing that I don’t like. I like the teachers, the clubhouse, the classroom, the kids and the high potential fun.”

“School is fun!”

The Minnetonka Public School District is a high performing school district proudly serving families in all or part of 10 communities: Minnetonka, Chanhassen, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, Tonka Bay, Victoria and Woodland. Together the ten communities have provided incredible levels of support for the children and programs in the Minnetonka Public Schools. Minnetonka also welcomes open enrollment students from around the Metro area.

Approximately 8,500 students are enrolled in grades K-12. Students attend one of six elementary schools, one of two middle schools and one high school. In addition, our birth-to-age five Early Childhood Family Education Program serves families and children during the most critical early developmental years. In all, more than 20,000 learners of all ages take advantage of educational opportunities offered through our community education and recreation programs. Our relatively small size and commitment to quality means we can personalize each child's education to meet his or her unique needs.

Minnetonka Schools have earned national recognition for using technology as an accelerator of learning. All classrooms are equipped with SMARTBoards (interactive whiteboards), LCD projectors and teacher microphones/surround sound systems so that all children can easily see and hear instruction. Extensive professional development has provided teachers the training and the tools to bring the world into the classroom and the classroom into the world with enhanced curriculum and instructional methods. Today, students' brains are wired differently than previous generations, and Minnetonka is focused on providing the skills and abilities students will need to thrive in the 21st century.



FAST FACTS

Graduation Rate	99.2%
College-Bound Rate	92%
Average ACT	25.7
Average SAT.....	641(R), 644(M), 624(W)
Parent Satisfaction Rate.....	98%

POINTS OF PRIDE

- The Minnetonka School Board was awarded a 2009 Magna Award by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for innovative programs that advance student learning.
- Three 2010 graduates—Greg Dryke, Raj Katti and Michael Malloy—earned perfect scores on the ACT.
- The Minnetonka Architecture team swept the Architecture Division of the 2010 State Architecture/ Engineering Technology Challenge and received three Superior ratings.
- Minnetonka's 2010 Supermileage team took first in state in the experimental category. Students engineered, designed and fabricated vehicles to achieve the best gas mileage possible.
- The 2010 Minnetonka Middle School West Science Bowl team took first place at the Regional Science Bowl and earned a trip to nationals in Washington D.C.
- The 2010 MHS Quiz Bowl team advanced to the national finals for the seventh consecutive year.
- Minnetonka students won 20 Scholastic Art Awards in 2010 including three Gold Key, nine Silver Key and eight Merit Awards.



MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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