

# KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT



## FOLLOW THE STEPS TO ENROLL FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

**Did you know?** Even if you have other children attending school in Minnetonka, you must complete the steps to enroll your child in Kindergarten. Begin with the online form at [minnetonkaschools.org/enroll-now](http://minnetonkaschools.org/enroll-now).

### IMPORTANT DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 2021

**Resident families:** The priority deadline for resident online enrollment is January 15, 2021. *What does priority mean?* Families must make an important decision for their Kindergartener: English language instruction (all elementary schools), Chinese language Immersion (Excelsior and Scenic Heights elementary schools) or Spanish language Immersion (Deephaven, Clear Springs, Groveland and Minnewashta elementary schools). Your first choice of language and school are given **priority** when you register by January 15. After that date, your first-choice schools or programs may be filled.

**Open-enrolled families:** The state deadline for Open Enrollment applications is January 15, 2021. There are several steps in the approval process outlined at [minnetonkaschools.org/oe-checklist](http://minnetonkaschools.org/oe-checklist). Families that submit an Open Enrollment application will be notified by February 15; at that time, they will be asked to complete the online approved Open Enrollment registration from.

### DISTRICT OF CHOICE

Minnetonka Public Schools is among the best-performing school districts, not just in Minnesota, but across the nation. Starting in Kindergarten, our primary goal is to inspire the love of learning in

children through academic, social and emotional teaching strategies. Our curriculum balances active, playful, hands-on learning with individual, small- and large-group instruction designed to nurture early academic skills and promote social development. Throughout the grade levels, our innovative programs and extensive supports help each student succeed:

- Personalized, child-centered education
- Caring support to promote student well-being
- K-5 computer coding
- Unique programs for advanced learners in elementary school: Navigators, Wings, project-based learning and accelerated math and reading
- Before- and after-school childcare in our Explorers Program: [minnetonkaschools.org/explorers](http://minnetonkaschools.org/explorers)

### INFORMATION NIGHTS - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

*Minnetonka Schools is hosting virtual and in-person Kindergarten Information Nights this fall. Register online to let us know you'll join us: [minnetonkaschools.org/info-night](http://minnetonkaschools.org/info-night)*

Location	Events in November & December 2020
Clear Springs Elementary 952-401-6950	November 11: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m. November 12: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m. December 9: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m.
Deephaven Elementary 952-401-6900	November 11: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m. November 12: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m. December 9: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m.
Excelsior Elementary 952-401-5650	November 11: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m. November 12: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m. December 9: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m.
Groveland Elementary 952-401-5600	November 11: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m. November 12: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m. December 9: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m.
Minnewashta Elementary 952-401-5500	November 11: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m. November 12: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m. December 9: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m.
Scenic Heights Elementary 952-401-5400	November 11: Virtual Information Night, 6:30 p.m. November 12: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m. December 8: In-Person Information Night, 6:30 p.m.

## MESSAGE from the Superintendent

We are entering the new student enrollment period for 2021-22, and it starts with our Kindergarten class for the coming year. We work closely with resident families and non-resident applicants for Open Enrollment under Minnesota Statutes. Enrollment each year is the lifeblood of Minnesota school districts because enrollment drives almost all of the formulas for providing the funds to educate all of the students in a district. Over 70% of school districts in Minnesota are experiencing declining enrollment, which means those districts are losing revenue at a faster rate than they are reducing expenses, as the first level of student loss makes little difference on the expense side but a one-for-one loss on the revenue side.

Minnetonka has been on the other side of that scenario for many years, as the District has gained revenue at a faster rate than it has increased expenses. That began to change this year because we now have a cap on enrollment at 11,100. Although we were able to stay very close to the 2019-20 enrollment by not accepting all open-enrollment applicants, the District needs to be as close to 11,100 each year as possible in order to not lose more revenue than the District can shed expenses.

As we start accepting new Kindergarten students for 2021-22, it is critical for the District to be close to 900 students for that class in order to maintain the finances needed for all students. There will be a much smaller resident enrollment this coming year, so we will need to fill those vacancies with non-resident students so revenue will be available to sustain the program.

Dr. Dennis Peterson, Superintendent



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276  
 Dennis Peterson, Ph.D., Superintendent  
 5621 County Road 101  
 Minnetonka, MN 55345  
[www.minnetonkaschools.org](http://www.minnetonkaschools.org)  
 952-401-5000

MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**School Board**

Katie Becker, Chair	Mark Ambrosen, Director
Chris Vrale, Vice Chair	Christine Ritchie, Director
John Holcomb, Clerk	Lisa Wagner, Director
Mike Lesage, Treasurer	

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

# AROUND MINNETONKA

FALL 2020

The 2020-21 school year is underway, and despite social distancing, Minnetonka students and staff have found ways to connect with each other and with the wider community. **Catch up on what's happening in Minnetonka Schools!**



**CHECKING TEMPS AND CHECKING IN**

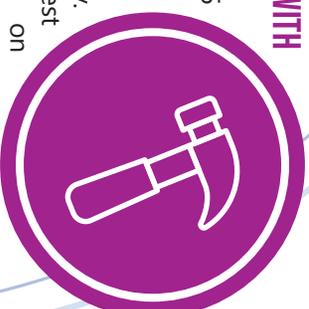
Minnetonka Schools' COVID-19 safety protocols, such as morning temperature checks as students enter school buildings, have become a point of community connection. At Clear Springs Elementary, staff members welcome each student individually as they complete their checks. "We value relationships when greeting every student," shared Curt Carpenter, Clear Springs Principal.

**COLLABORATING IN VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS**

Melinda Barry, a Minnetonka Schools media specialist, used Flipgrid to meet her K-8 e-learning students. Flipgrid allows students to record videos and post them to a private "grid" viewable only by their teachers and classmates. Barry's assignment asked students to introduce themselves to the class. Once posted, Barry and other students



responded to each other's videos with new ones. "I was surprised at the amazing talents and vast interests our students have! We have coin collectors, poets, drummers and gymnasts," said Barry. "It's important to me to give students a voice, create community and let them know I care about them."

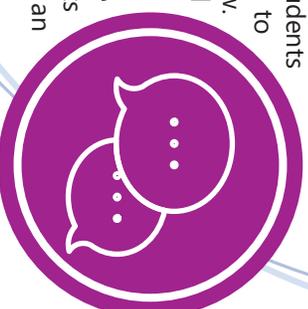


**SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

In late September, more than 35 MOMENTUM students in the Physics of Home Renovation course volunteered with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. MOMENTUM is MHS's newest signature program, focused on design and skilled trades. At four different sites, students worked together to insulate a basement, frame walls, install windows and complete multiple home repairs. "It was nice to be able to get out and do something while helping the community," shared one student. Volunteering also gave students the chance to see education applied in real world experiences and to work as a team. The Habitat for Humanity project is just one of many hands-on opportunities MOMENTUM students will take part in during the fall semester.

**EXPLORING EXTRACURRICULARS**

Sixty-three student clubs participated in the MHS Fall Sidewalk Activities Fair. At socially-distanced booths around the MHS parking lot, students shared about opportunities to learn, serve, connect and grow. The fair also had a virtual component, with 58 clubs submitting videos to share with their classmates. So far, more than 500 high school students have registered to be part of an extracurricular activity.



**STAY CONNECTED**

For more stories from around Minnetonka, follow us on social media and read news at [minnetonkaschools.org](http://minnetonkaschools.org).



**FACEBOOK**  
[/minnetonkaschools](https://www.facebook.com/minnetonkaschools)



**TWITTER**  
[@tonkaschools](https://twitter.com/tonkaschools)



**INSTAGRAM**  
[@mtkcaschools](https://www.instagram.com/mtkcaschools)