

# ELEMENTARY HIGH POTENTIAL SERVICES



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 results.

A full-time high potential (HP) specialist is on staff 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.

## NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

- Unique learners with IQs of 140 and above
- Specialized learning environment; classrooms with grades 2-3 and 4-5
- Programs at Excelsior and Scenic Heights elementary schools serve district students

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## WINGS

- Small groups of identified students meet weekly with HP teacher
- Differentiated experiences and interdisciplinary curriculum (STEM, critical thinking, etc.)
- Safe environment where students feel comfortable expressing thoughts and ideas

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## ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES | INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

- Stimulating enrichment/learning extensions for students with specific talents or interests
- Led by HP teachers and paraprofessionals
- Reading and math enrichment, Independent Investigations, ProjectThink

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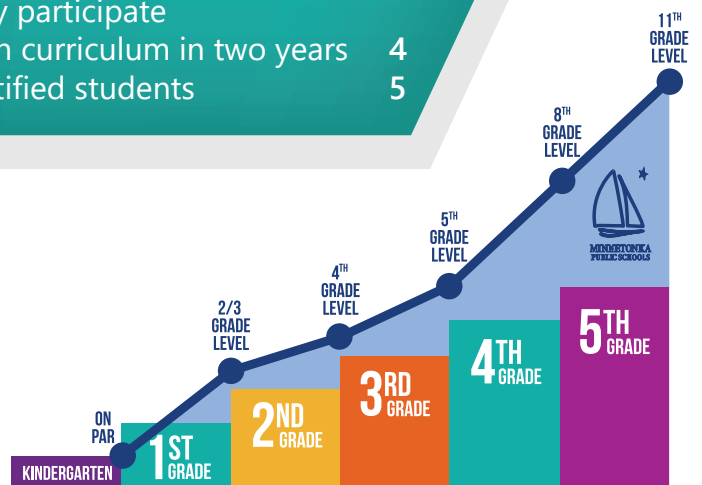
## ACCELERATED MATH

- Students with exceptional math achievement history participate
- Students complete fourth, fifth and sixth grade math curriculum in two years
- Math curriculum in pre-algebra is available for identified students

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## MINNETONKA STUDENTS ACHIEVE!

At the end of each elementary grade, the average Minnetonka student is performing many grade levels ahead of peers nationally in reading and math based on the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### OPTIONS

High potential services continue to help meet the needs of sixth-grade HP students. In grades 6-8, students can challenge themselves with several advanced course options. The middle school course catalog and website explain placement criteria for honors and accelerated science courses.

#### HP SEMINAR

- Weekly, year-long course designed to address intellectual, social and emotional needs 6
- Activities and investigations designed in three thematic units by grade level 7
- Integrates student interests and capitalizes on reasoning strengths 8

#### RIGOROUS HONORS AND ACCELERATED SCIENCE COURSES

- Honors language arts and accelerated math courses available in grades 6-8 6
- Honors science, grades 7-8; Honors global studies, grade 8 7
- Accelerated science series in grades 6-8 prepares students for AP Physics in grade 9 8

## HIGH SCHOOL

### OPTIONS

Minnetonka High School (MHS) students self-select from a broad array of honors curriculum or college-level **AP** and **IB** courses. MHS also offers the two-year IB Diploma and IB Bilingual Diploma. **Tonka Online** offers pre-AP (summer) and AP courses to help students “do more in four.” **Minnetonka Research** provides an authentic learning experience for highly gifted students.

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

- AP course offerings begin in grade 9, from history to psychology, calculus to chemistry 9
- A strong curiosity about the subject and willingness to work hard are required for success 10
- Students who take AP exams can earn credit at most of the nation’s colleges/universities 11

#### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- Students can incorporate individual IB courses into their four-year plan 10
- The IB/IB Bilingual Diploma is a demanding, two-year program junior and senior years 11
- IB courses encourage in-depth research, inquiry, analysis, critical thinking and connections 12

#### MINNETONKA STUDENTS CHALLENGE THEMSELVES!

As part of their four-year plan, 79% of Minnetonka High School students take at least one AP or IB course (Class of 2016). 86% of students earn a score of 3 or higher on their AP exams compared to 60% globally.

