

Minnetonka Public Schools 2014 Annual Report



INSPIRE

EXCEL



INNOVATE



INSPIRE

2014-15 District Goals

The Minnetonka School Board has a vision for world-class, child-centered excellence and is committed to ensuring excellence in student achievement. Each year, the Board adopts specific goals to ensure long-term educational excellence for all Minnetonka students.

Goal #1: Design and implement school-specific strategies that address identified barriers to student academic achievement.

Goal #2: Further implementation of the following strategic programs: VANTAGE, Tonka Online, Tonka Summer Academy, Tonka Coding and Immersion.

Goal #3: Define process, criteria review and methodology to be used by the School Board in review of innovation ideas. Implement structure for existing ideas in innovation pipeline and any new ideas submitted for review by the Board.



Lisa Wagner
School Board Chair



Charlie Kanan
School Board Vice Chair



John Holcomb
School Board Treasurer



Lisa Sumner
School Board Clerk



Heidi Garcia
School Board Director



Pam Langseth
School Board Director



Karen Walkowski
School Board Director



School Board's Message

“Minnetonka School District will challenge and support all students in the pursuit of their highest levels of academic and personal achievement.” More than just words, this promise from our District Vision is at the heart of every decision we make as your elected officials on the Minnetonka School Board. It has guided us to expand opportunities for students, raise the level of rigor for all and ensure added support for any student who has a difficulty or barrier to success.

This report is filled with evidence of success, but we also wish to share with you the individual stories of perseverance, determination and responsibility instilled in our students that empower them toward their personal best.

Consider the triumph of Mary Fisher, who was adopted from Cambodia and entered sixth grade at Minnetonka Middle School West in 2008 with minimal English skills. While she spent half of her day in an English as a Second Language class, Mary showed talent in her math class. Her teachers encouraged her. “School was really hard,” she told her class at graduation this past June. “I spent about 10

hours a night doing homework.” In her junior year, Mary started the two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2014. She is now enrolled at Macalester College. Her parents believe that it was a team effort. “Minnetonka offers the assistance that you need, at whatever level you need,” shared Peter and Maureen Fisher. “Minnetonka Public Schools are such an asset to our community.”

Whether it is inspiring a young artist, teaching a child they can “get math,” or holding students to high expectations, the professionals in our schools pull out the best in each child. We are proud to share in their collective personal and academic success. We thank you, our community, for all your support in inspiring this passion to excel in each and every one of our students.

Lisa Wagner
School Board Chair

Superintendent's Message



The 2013-14 school year has been another outstanding one for students and staff in the Minnetonka School District, and I believe this means it has been a good year for the entire community. The success of schools reflects in the overall community because of the vibrancy of Minnetonka's reputation and the interest of families to live within the District, as well as the overall excitement of having such successful students in many of the homes within the District.

Student achievement has reached new heights again this year, with the average ACT of Seniors at 26.5. That is an increase from 23.1 just 13 years ago on a college entrance test that has a maximum score of 36. This has happened because all students in the District are doing better, and it is not just a reflection of the top students.

It is critical for our residents to realize that our program maximizes the learning of every student. Our average fifth grader performs beyond the level of the average eleventh grader nationally, and many of our average students in the High School have successfully completed Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses because they are prepared to do that level of work. Our average students have outperformed virtually all nations on the international PISA exam. Every student who received a Minnetonka diploma in June is prepared to make a difference in our world—to be a leader in whatever endeavor they choose.

The introduction of the VANTAGE program, which gives students opportunities for real world application of their high school learning while still providing some courses at the High School, is an exciting new addition to the District this past year. The speakers from top companies throughout the Metro, whom students have heard on topics related to their courses, have added immensely to their experience, and the mentors have enabled even deeper learning. This program will continue to

grow and enable more students to experience the rich mixture of real world context and high level course content.

The District is widely recognized as a leader in using technology to enhance student learning. iPads were in place for 8-11th graders last year and are in place for 7-12th graders in 2014-15. The National School Boards Association brought leaders from across America to Minnetonka in May to see how technology can make a difference in student learning.

Finances in the District have continued to be strong during 2013-14, as enrollment has driven state aid increases, while careful spending has placed the District below the state average in per-pupil cost and well below the Metro average spending level. The key to successfully getting high student performance and relatively low costs is making good choices on where funds are spent.

We are getting very close to the enrollment limit that has been in place for each school and the overall enrollment is about to reach the top. As important as enrollment has been to the success of the District, we will need to implement other strategies for sustaining finances.

All of these elements produce an outstanding district that is focused on preparing students for a highly competitive world. I am proud to be part of it.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis L. Peterson".

Dennis L. Peterson, Ph.D.

Our Mission

The mission of the Minnetonka School District, a community that transcends traditional definitions of excellence and where dreams set sail, is to ensure all students envision and pursue their highest aspirations while serving the greater good, through learning and teaching which:

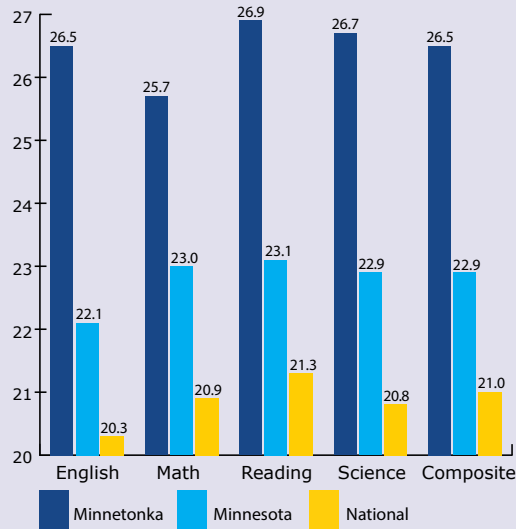
- Value and nurture each individual,
- Inspire in everyone a passion to excel with confidence and hope, and
- Instill expectations that stimulate extraordinary achievement in the classroom and in life.



EXCEL



ACT SCORES BY SUBJECT



Did you know?

26.5 was the average ACT composite score for the Class of 2014, the highest ever for MHS.

90% of Minnetonka's Class of 2014 took the ACT.

ALL juniors will take the ACT beginning April 2015 as a replacement for the GRAD test.

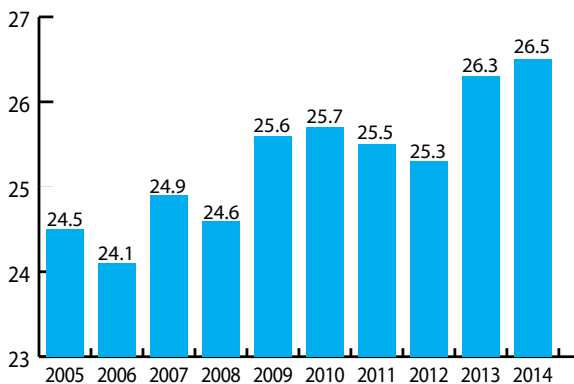
Class of 2014 Sets Record ACT Scores

The Class of 2014 posted a **record 26.5 ACT composite score**, the highest score recorded in Minnetonka High School history on this national college entrance exam. These students also **scored record highs on English, math, reading and science subtests** (see chart above), providing evidence that Minnetonka's academic program is capable of supporting unlimited student potential.

Despite a national trend that shows a slight decrease in ACT composite results, Minnetonka students showed a dramatic increase in performance. The chart below shows Minnetonka ACT composite scores for the past ten years.

ACT 10-YEAR COMPOSITES

(Test scores by MHS graduating class)



The table below shows the ACT composite scores for Minnetonka and Minnetonka's Top 100, Top 200 and Top 400 scoring students, as well as west metro public and private schools. Most private schools have a selective admission process, yet Minnetonka's Top 400 scoring students average a higher ACT composite score than most of their private school peers, demonstrating the positive impact of Minnetonka's rigorous college-preparatory academic program.

CLASS OF 2014 ACT COMPARISONS

School	Average ACT Composite Scores
Minnetonka Top 100	32.9
Minnetonka Top 200	31.4
Minnetonka Top 400	28.9
Minnetonka (All)	26.5
Benilde-St. Margaret's	26.0
Blake	29.6
Breck	28
Chanhassen	24.7
Chaska	scores not released
Eden Prairie	25.7
Edina	26.3
Holy Family	24.7
Hopkins	23.1
Mound Westonka	24.5
Orono	25.6
Wayzata	26.0



SAT Scores Remain High

Minnetonka student performance on the SAT has continued at high levels. The results can be attributed to Minnetonka's strong academic program that focuses on developing critical reading and thinking skills.

In addition, Minnetonka students are driven to do their best and plan to attend college. In fact, 90 percent of Minnetonka tenth grade students report they are planning to attend a four-year college after high school, and 92 percent report that they care about doing well in school.

SAT scores in reading, math and writing are shown in the table below. Once again, Minnetonka's SAT scores exceed the national scores in all three subject areas. Scores by Minnetonka graduating classes have remained steady over the last three years.

It's important to note that today, colleges and universities across the country accept both ACT or SAT scores for college admission.

Increased Enrollment in AP & IB Programs

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) provide opportunities for high school students to take college-level courses. Minnetonka High School offers 27 AP courses and 33 IB courses for which students can earn college credit and weighted grades for academic honors.

The number of MHS students in both AP and IB classes continues to grow as students opt to challenge themselves to take more rigorous classes. Enrollment in AP classes has more than doubled since 2007 to 1,174 students.

A record number of 48 students from the Class of 2014 attained the IB Programme Diploma. Total enrollment in IB classes also increased by 10 percent over last year to 552 students.

The research is clear: high school students who take college-level courses (AP/IB) experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates.

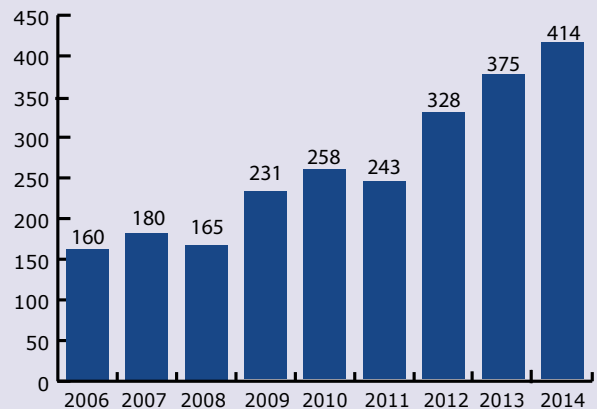
Did you know?

70% of the MHS Class of 2014 took at least one AP or IB class during their senior year.

2014 SAT SCORES BY SUBJECT

	Year	Reading	Math	Writing
Minnetonka	2014	626	628	603
	2013	637	627	612
	2012	629	626	615
	2011	641	635	610
	2010	641	644	624
	2009	625	624	607
Minnesota	2014	598	610	578
Nation	2014	495	513	486

MINNETONKA AP SCHOLARS



414 AP Scholars

45 NATIONAL AP SCHOLARS: Granted to students who receive an average of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more AP exams.

Class of 2014: James Arps, Scott Bohn, Carolina Bowe, Stephanie Buersmeyer, Jonathan Croskey, Rachel Davis, Hayley Graffunder, Emily Graupmann, Patrick Griffin, Anne Hamilton, Brooke Hensley, Michael Ho, Elisa Hofmeister, Lukas Jagger, Alex Klein, Adam Krueger, Scott Kvidera, Jethro Land, Jonathan Landa (*awarded in 2013*) Matthew Larson, Anna Linden, Devin Logan, William MacDonald, Gurshan Madan (*awarded in 2013*), Benjamin McArthur, Evan Meeker, Jonathon A. Meyer (*awarded in 2013*), Calvin Pelletier, Patrick Quarberg, James Sebold, Mary Clare Seeman, Brianna Smith, Jesse Thorson

Class of 2015: Brady Bunkelman, Tracy Geng, Ali Goldberg, Marshall Heitkamp, Madeline Hoffmann, Bastien Ibri, Reid Johnson, Brett Kleist, Justin Kleist, Benjamin Kosvic, Kelvin Loke, Connor O'Brien

134 AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION: Granted to students who receive an average of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams.

Class of 2014: Alana Aamodt, Henry Ahrenholtz, Haley Backdahl, Mia Barron, Michael Beauchamp, Amanda Bergseid, Eric Bishop, Emily Blomquist, Riley Bodkins, Carter Bonnette, Holly Brandenburg, Piers Brennand-Francis, Lauren Broadbent, John Buresh, Meredith Campbell, Lindsey Carr, Catherine Cruikshank, Alissa Dahle-Koch, Micaela Dick, Kyle Doerrler, Hannah Ehresmann, Elizabeth Endy, Emily Erickson, David Evans, Haydn Foote, Madeline Forst, Madelyn Granos, Megan Greiner, Monica Hanson, Grace Hauff, Ryan Helgeson, Sara Holmgren, Alayna Hoy, Ross Hughes, Brent Jacobs, Dana Jacobson, Joshua Jansen, Ryan Jessen, Dale King, Emma Krueger, Katie Lacroix, Meers Larsson, Joseph Lavigne, Trevor Lecrone, Bruno Lefranc (*awarded in 2013*), Alexander Ludtke, William Malina, Madison McDaniel, Adam Meier, Jack Menk, Eden Miller, Katherine Mott, Jonathan Murphy (*awarded in 2012*), Jacob Nelson, Kelsey Niaz, Jessica Nordseth, Mason Nuss, Sarah Nyberg, Alexandra Orłowski, Kristin Paulson, Megan Peterson, Charles Plaziak, Samuel Polikowsky (*awarded in 2013*), Keely Pullman, Jayson Rice, Rouel Rothenberger, Jonathan Rotman, Kalli Schumacher, Madeline Sicora, Ian Silas, Michael Slattery, Thomas Slattery, Jasmine Tatah, Carter Thomas, Rachel Thompson, Natalie Van Ochten, Joshua Vassallo, Bradley Wagaman, Henry Weavers, Adam Wegscheid, John Wheaton, Marcus Williams, Logan Willits, Lindsay Wipf, Jason Witherspoon, Brian Wold, Laura Yang

Class of 2015: Brooke Benkovich, Cooper Birkland, Thomas Bissen, Kelsey Crow, William Czerwinski, Kelly Endres, Samuel Gilk, Nicolle Herpers, Jiamin Jiang, Jonathan Kleist, Charlotte Knopp, Nicholas Mattiacci, Erin McGinnis, Joshua McGrath, Alise Mintz, Joann Moors, Lisa Moors, Scott Moser, Meredith Nesbitt, Ryan O'Connor, Javidan Odqan, Abigail Olson, Morgan Pockock, Jackson Pomroy, Adam Reiskytl, Jacob Reiss, Joseph Rosicka, Andrew Salmon, Colin Schrof, Adam Scow, Andrew Sibley, Jacob Siegel, Jacob Stolar, Ryan Vashaw, David Wang, Elyse Wanzenried, Ry Wiese, Matthew Zeman

Class of 2016: Nagu Chidambaram, Ari Conati, Samuel Hebeisen, Elizabeth Hipskind, Jackson Kruger, India Nelson, Samuel Peters, Arjun Viswanathan, Kyle Wipf

67 AP SCHOLARS WITH HONOR: Granted to students who receive an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more AP exams.

Class of 2014: Bailey Anderson, Collin Bhojwani, Erin Blackford, Elizabeth Braun, David Cushing, Mackenzie Dahl, Daniel Elder, Jacob Ewald, Mitchell Felknor, Anna Gleason, Jameson Glennon, William Hoverman, Madison Jensen, Rami Kaissi (*awarded in 2013*), Sage Kelner, Holly Korn (*awarded in 2013*), Alexa Langum, Keaton Lee, Monica Livorsi, Robert Miller, Katharine Mulhern, Riley Nelson, John Norton, Samantha Obermiller, William Olson, Kieran Rettler, Cara Schrader, Wyatt Sieber, Kira Smiley, Grant Steele, Lauren Strauss, Samantha Stretar, Samuel Stromwall (*awarded in 2013*), Brooke Wassenaar

Class of 2015: Isabella Armour, Jack Bitney, Claire Carter, Jonathan Everett, Benjamin Gerton, Charles Harris, Elizabeth Hilgemann, Kathleen Hoeting, Rachel Marks, Alec McElhinny, Alec McKee, Maxwell Melin, Bailey Melz, Gregory Moore, Rachel Pierstorff, Jack Ross, Anna Rupp, Kristen Rutschke, Anika Shah, Hannah Simmons, Owen Singh, Megan Socha, Sophia Tabat, Grant Uecker, Kendall Van Horne, Anna Weber, Parker Whitton, Michael Zimmerman

Class of 2016: Alexa Bussmann, Sierra Schultz, Nathan Steckman, Charlotte Thomasson, Nina Wagner



CAROLINA BOWE was an exceptional student athlete on the MHS Girls Track and Field Team, setting school and state records and winning two state championships. As track captain, Bowe was named All Conference and Academic All State and All State Track. This year, Carolina is a freshman at Yale University and runs track for the Bulldogs.

Carolina excelled academically. She's a National AP Scholar, taking Minnetonka's most rigorous AP courses. She enrolled in summer programs in medicine at Georgetown, writing at Duke, and science and engineering at St. Olaf. She competed on the Rube Goldberg team, collaborating with teammates on an intricate invention for hammering a nail. She also plays the trumpet, and in her senior year was named to the All State concert band.



168 AP SCHOLARS: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Class of 2014: Madison Andresen, Declan Armour, Olivia Baker, Isabella Barberena, Sylvia Bindas (*awarded in 2013*), Meaghan Borowski, Rebecca Broschard, John Burkhardt, Anjali Chadwick, Bentley Clarke, Courtney Collins, Josie Crepeau, Ashley Creps, Steven Dales, Madelyne Dunn, Alexander Dye, Josie Eichers, Alec Englander, Amelia Esh, Jacquelyn Evenson, Annie Fagerlee, Nickolas Gabler, Tyler Goblirsch, Olivia Haas, Gabriel Hawk, Paul Herbes, Laura Herman, Hannah Hollenhorst, Jack Hotvet, Ellen Jerome, Annmarie Johnson, Leah Johnson, Zachary Johnson, Nicolas Juhl, Nicole Kallman, Elizabeth Kaufman, Connie Khong, Emili Klauda, Peter Kluzak, Jack Kuehn, Madeline Lunzer, Sophie Marion, Chiara Mazzei, Jack McMillan, Reilly McNaught, Christopher Mello, Michaela Moulder, Macy Narr, Nefeli Neamonitaki, Victoria Niu (*awarded in 2013*), Cody Peter, Luke Pettersen, Alexis Prowizor (*awarded in 2013*), Caitlyn Pyzdrowski, Evangelina Redmond, William Sharpe, Haley Slator, Quinnlan Smith, Marc Sosin (*awarded in 2013*), Lauren Sutfin, Lauren Sweet, Bethany Vaneps, Sara Wakeham, Steven Wallace, Zachary Wallace, Kelly Walsh, Mikayla Wandersee, Benjamin Wattenhofer, Hannah Weidner, James Wiersum, Cooper Wietecha, Gabriel Worre, Isabel Wyrer, Padee Yang, Mackenzie Yurich

Class of 2015: Nathan Abzug, Anthony Adamek, Delaney Ambrosen, Madeleine Brown, Clare Buckley, Mark Bunday, Kate Busch, Eli Chez-Shaw, Ryan Colesworthy, Patrick Cotter, Kirby Crow, Iselin Erickson, Alicia Falk, Brianna Fitzpatrick, Thomas Fordyce, Emma Gerlicher, Hannah Grauze, Adam Guralnik, Eric Gutierrez, Matthew Heinen, Matthew Heldt, Thomas Hersman, Evelyn Hofmeister, Bennett Holmgren, Samantha Hopp, Cory Hummel, Eline Jacobs, Lucas Johnson, Jennifer Kiefer, Madeline Klaysmat, Melanie Klemond, Elizabeth Kohn, Emily Lecy, Nicholas Leisen, Alicia Lhotka, Jason Linn, Isabella Loosbrock, Georginia Lowden, Ryan Malloy, Peter Maple, Thomas Meyer, Hayley Noack, Brock Noonan, Michael Oppedisano, Shenelle Perera, Weihao Qu, Jake Radke, Elena Rolseth, Jonah Salita, Annika Samuelson, William Schulenberg, Andisheh Shirvani, Bryan Siefert, Karina Smiley, Benjamin Sosin, Peter Stoltenberg, Emily Sumner, Alec Synsteliem, Michael Trebisovsky, William Tuseth, Eric Van Camp, John Watkins, Cole Weber, Sydney Wicklacz, Carolyn Wilson, Julie Zumsteg

Class of 2016: James Agan, Benjamin Akre-Fens, Grace Allen, Lauren Aller, Gianna Anderson, Jack Arriola, Heming Bai, Ian Bush, Madelyn Goblirsch, Austin Haag, Hannah Hedstrom, Cristina Jones, Taylor Josephs, Alexander Lehman, Alexis Locsin, Madeline Luehr, Gunnar Maples, Josephine O'Donnell, Benjamin Ogilvie, Anna Rice, Caroline Richman, Elizabeth Schmitz, Leonardo Segal, Riley Sester, Peter VanDyke, Zoe Vogel

Class of 2017: Justyn Fine

48 IB Diploma Graduates: Class of 2014

IB Diplomas are awarded to students who complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, which includes an extended essay, 150 hours of creativity, action and service (CAS) and success in all six of their IB subject exams.

Class of 2014: Cecilia Anderson, Eleanor Babcock, Michael Beauchamp, Sylvia Bindas, Elizabeth Borstad, Piers Brennan-Francis, Meredith Campbell, Anna Cushing, Angela Davis, Aidan DiGiacomo, Elizabeth Ditto, Matthew Dragovich, Paige Erickson, Emily Eslinger, Mary Fisher, Mateo Frumholtz, Rachel Gerton, Camille Gosset, Adrienne Irmer, Brent Jacobs, Leah Johnson, Madison M. Johnson, Amanda Keegan, AJ Krueger, Alexander Ludtke, Harrison Magid, William Malina, Chiara Mazzei, Madison McDaniel, Conor McGinnis, Noah Meester, Nefili Neamonitaki, Riley Nelson, Chelsea Niaz, Wilson O'Donnell, Natalie Orcutt, Megan Prosser, Madeline Roesler, Anne Rogers, Kalli Schumacher, Layla Sethuraju, Madeline Sicora, Grant Steele, Abigail Stratton, Lauren Sutfin, Elza Thayer, Logan Willits, Alexis Zimmer

National Merit: Class of 2015

This year, Minnetonka has 13 National Merit Semifinalists and 31 Commended Students. These current seniors scored among the top in the nation on the PSAT taken in October of their junior year. The semifinalists must now complete an additional application to continue in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS Brooke Benkovich, Anna G. Erickson, Tracy Geng, Ali Goldberg, Madeline Hoffmann, Reid Johnson, Brett Kleist, Kelvin Loke, Connor O'Brien, Ryan O'Connor, Sarah Schmoller, Adam Scow, Benjamin Sosin

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS Nathan Abzug, Brady Bunkelman, Koby Dejewski, Brynne Erb, Benjamin Gerton, Samuel Gilk, Adam Guralnik, Marshall Heitkamp, Kathleen Hoeting, Bastien Ibri, Justin Kleist, Charlotte Knopp, Benjamin Kosvic, Georginia Lowden, Rachel Marks, Thomas Meyer, Lisa Moors, Scott Moser, Motassem Nashawaty, Meredith Nesbitt, Shenelle Perera, Rachel Pierstorff, Adam Reiskyt, Jack Ross, Andrew Salmon, Andrew Sibley, Karina Smiley, Megan Socha, Trevor Susla, Kendall Van Horne, Ry Wiese



MHS National Merit Semifinalists

(Front, L-R) Connor O'Brien, Sarah Schmoller, Anna Erickson, Tracy Geng, Ali Goldberg, Ryan O'Connor
(Back, L-R) Benjamin Sosin, Reid Johnson, Brooke Benkovich, Madeline Hoffmann, Brett Kleist, Adam Scow, Kelvin Loke

Class of 2014

97%

of seniors graduated

91%

college-bound

80%

attending 4-year colleges
and universities

11%

attending 2-year colleges

40%

attending Minnesota colleges
and universities

51%

attending out-of-state colleges
and universities



Graduation Day 2014: Jack Rotman (left) and Jesse Thorson excelled in academics and leadership during their time at Minnetonka High School. Jack now attends DePauw University and Jesse attends Columbia University.

Did you know?

The Class of 2014 submitted 3,103 total applications to 433 colleges and universities. These students earned acceptance from more than 350 colleges and universities, including all but one of the Ivy League schools (Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn and Yale), as well as every Big Ten university. Students chose to enroll in 169 different colleges listed below.

American University (2)
Amherst College (1)
Arizona State University (2)
Augsburg College (4)
Augustana College (3)
Ave Maria University (1)
Azusa Pacific University (1)
Baylor University (4)
Bemidji State University (14)
Bethel University-MN (9)
Biola University (3)
Boston College (7)
Bradley University (3)
Brandeis University (2)
Brigham Young University (1)
Brown University (1)
Butler University (2)
California Institute of the Arts (1)
Carthage College (1)
Case Western Reserve University (1)
Central Washington University (1)
Claremont McKenna College (1)
College of Saint Benedict (5)
College of St. Scholastica (1)
College of the Holy Cross (1)
College of William and Mary (1)
Colorado College (1)
Colorado State University (3)
Columbia University (1)
Concordia College - Moorhead (1)
Concordia University at St. Paul (1)
Cornell College (1)
Cornell University (1)
Dakota County Technical College (4)
Dartmouth College (2)
DePaul University (4)
DePauw University (2)
Diablo Valley College (1)
Drake University (1)
Dunwoody College of Technology (5)
Eastern Michigan University (1)
Evergreen State College (1)
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Los Angeles (1)
Georgetown University (1)
Gettysburg College (1)
Grinnell College (1)
Gustavus Adolphus College (11)
Hamline University (5)
Hennepin Technical College (7)
High Point University (1)
Illinois Institute of Technology (1)
Indiana University at Bloomington (6)
Institute of Production & Recording (2)
Iowa State University (25)
Kansas State University (1)
Kent State University (1)
Kenyon College (1)
Lake Forest College (1)
Lake Region State College (2)
Lewis & Clark College (1)
Liberty University (6)
Long Beach City College (1)
Loyola Marymount University (1)
Loyola University Chicago (4)
Luther College (2)
Macalester College (2)
Marquette University (2)
Marshall University (1)
Maryville University (1)
McGill University (1)
McNally Smith College of Music (1)
Miami University, Oxford (9)
Michigan State University (1)
Middlebury College (1)
Minneapolis Community and Technical College (4)
Minnesota State University, Mankato (17)
Minnesota State University, Moorhead (2)
Montana State University, Bozeman (10)
Normandale Community College (43)
North Dakota State College of Science (1)
North Dakota State University (22)
Northeastern University (2)
Northern Arizona University (1)
Northwestern Michigan College - Great Lakes Maritime Academy (1)
Northwestern University (1)
The Ohio State University (1)
Pennsylvania State University, University Park (2)
Pensacola State College (1)
Pomona College (1)
Purdue University (2)
Quinnipiac University (1)
Regency Beauty Institute (1)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1)
Riverland Community College (1)
Rochester Community and Technical College (1)

Rutgers University-New Brunswick (1)
 Saint John's University (3)
 Saint Louis University (1)
 San Diego State University (1)
 Santa Clara University (2)
 South Dakota State University (3)
 Southwest Minnesota State University (1)
 St. Catherine University - St. Paul (2)
 St. Cloud State University (3)
 St. Cloud Technical & Community College (2)
 St. Lawrence University (1)
 St. Olaf College (4)
 Stanford University (1)
 Stetson University (1)
 Swarthmore College (1)
 Syracuse University (1)
 Taylor University (1)
 Texas A&M University (2)
 Texas Christian University (3)
 Tulane University (1)
 Universal Technical Institute (2)
 University of Arizona (8)
 University of Bath (2)
 University of California, Berkeley (3)
 University of Chicago (1)
 University of Cincinnati (1)
 University of Colorado at Boulder (3)
 University of Denver (2)
 University of Florida (1)
 University of Hawaii at Manoa (1)
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1)
 University of Iowa (5)
 University of Kansas (3)
 University of Kentucky (1)
 University of Mary (1)
 University of Maryland, College Park (1)
 University of Michigan (1)
 University of Minnesota, Duluth (28)
 University of Minnesota, Morris (4)



University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (56)
 University of Missouri Columbia (3)
 University of Nebraska at Kearney (1)
 University of Nebraska at Lincoln (8)
 University of New Hampshire (1)
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1)
 University of North Dakota (22)
 University of North Florida (2)
 University of Northwestern (2)
 University of Notre Dame (4)
 University of Pennsylvania (2)
 University of Puget Sound (1)
 University of Reading (1)
 University of Sioux Falls (3)
 University of South Dakota (3)
 University of Southern California (3)
 University of St. Thomas (22)
 University of Tampa (1)

University of Virginia (1)
 University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire (12)
 University of Wisconsin, La Crosse (2)
 University of Wisconsin, Madison (30)
 University of Wisconsin, Marshfield/Wood County (1)
 University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (1)
 University of Wisconsin, River Falls (2)
 University of Wisconsin, Stout (6)
 University of Wyoming (1)
 Valparaiso University (2)
 Villanova University (1)
 Washington University in St. Louis (1)
 Westminster College (1)
 Wheaton College IL (1)
 Williams College (1)
 Winona State University (5)
 Yale University (1)

AP Honor Roll

4TH ANNUAL AP HONOR ROLL RECIPIENT

Minnetonka School District Named to AP Honor Roll

Minnetonka School District was named to the AP Honor Roll for a second consecutive year. The District is one of only seven Minnesota school districts and 477 school

districts across the United States and Canada so honored. The District was recognized for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining a high percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

Attaining this recognition indicates that Minnetonka High School successfully inspires and academically prepares students to benefit from rigorous AP course work. Minnetonka not only increased participation in AP courses, but also increased the number of students honored through the AP Scholars Program. A record 414 Minnetonka students were recognized in 2014 with AP Scholar Awards. Many of these students will enter colleges with a sophomore standing. An amazing 45 students earned National AP Scholar Awards for successful performance on eight or more AP exams during high school.

INNOVATE



Former VANTAGE students Alex Carney and Will Sharpe (photos at right) launched their own company, Excelsior Bay Clothing, as a VANTAGE project during 2014.



VANTAGE: Expands into Healthcare and Big Data

By all accounts, VANTAGE: Minnetonka Advanced Professional Studies was a success in its inaugural year. The pre-professional program allows college-bound students to explore careers, gain hands-on experience in a professional environment, network with local professionals and earn high school and potential college credit.

For the 2014-15 school year, VANTAGE has expanded. Students are now enrolled in Business Analytics, Business in a Global Economy or Healthcare and Sports Science. Enrollment has nearly tripled with 102 juniors and seniors.

The strength of the program is its professional partners. With a 1:1 mentor, guest instructors and partner-driven projects, students see the relevance and real-world application of what they are learning.

“With 50 guest instructors, all having their own expertise, the VANTAGE students gain deeper insights.”

**—Chris Pears
VANTAGE Program Teacher**

Specific projects in 2013-14 allowed VANTAGE students to:

- Research and design a 2014 State Fair exhibit for Emerson Process Management to encourage an interest in engineering among Minnesota’s youth.
- Research and develop an awareness campaign that attracts youth to Habitat for Humanity and proposed ways to improve its social media use and website traffic.
- Research and propose alternative uses for the South Shore Community Center and evaluate the financial viability of any such proposals.
- Research teenage behavior in using mobile phones and how it impacts their consumer behavior for General Mills.
- Research, develop and market-test two new flavors to add to ASPIRE Beverages’ existing range of healthy sports performance drinks.
- Develop a more focused social media and advertising campaign that highlights Ovations Salon and Spa’s expertise in hair styling.

In May 2014, the VANTAGE program and awards sponsors, presented three scholarships to five students who have excelled in the program’s business curriculum.



Preparing students for highly competitive and high-demand careers in engineering, Minnetonka High School is a certified Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering program school. This pre-engineering program provides future engineering and architecture majors the opportunity to earn college credit and is highly respected by colleges and universities. Minnetonka offers four PLTW courses in civil engineering and architecture, digital electronics, engineering design and principles of engineering. Students who enroll in a full-year course and score well on the end of course exam may qualify for college credit at participating colleges and universities.

Among students applying to the competitive engineering program at the University of Minnesota, PLTW students enjoy higher admission rates than non-PLTW students.

Enrollment in Minnetonka's PLTW program is continuing to grow and students perform exceptionally well on the exams.

Year	Number Enrolled	% Pass Year-end Exam
2013-14	70 students	91.4%
2012-13	51 students	96.0%
2011-12	21 students	95.0%

Cara Schrader: Taking Full Advantage of VANTAGE



Cara Schrader started her college career at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Business with an insider's knowledge of business. As a student in the VANTAGE Global Business course, she and her project team helped General Mills build brand loyalty among teens through social media. Her second-semester project involved developing marketing plans for internal donations for Habitat for Humanity.

Her work was rewarded with a VANTAGE summer internship at Lifetouch Photography where she worked with college junior and senior marketing interns.

"I did meaningful work and I met people from all lines of the business. I learned a lot beyond marketing, from innovation in the workplace, to building resumes, to meeting the senior leadership team," explained Cara. "School can only prepare you so much for the real world. My year in VANTAGE and the Lifetouch internship were extremely valuable experiences and have helped me grow as a student and an individual."



EXCEL



SPRING 2014 NWEA RESULTS

This table shows the average Minnetonka student's performance compared to national grade-level criteria.

Minnetonka	Reading Is at	Math Is at
Kindergarteners	Early 1 st Grade	Middle of 1 st Grade
1 st Graders	Middle of 2 nd Grade	Early 3 rd Grade
2 nd Graders	Early 4 th Grade	Early 4 th Grade
3 rd Graders	Middle of 5 th Grade	Middle of 5 th Grade
4 th Graders	Middle of 7 th Grade	Middle of 7 th Grade
5 th Graders	Early 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
6 th Graders	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
7 th Graders	Not tested	Beyond 11 th Grade
8 th Graders	Not tested	Beyond 11 th Grade

Gaining More than a Year's Growth in a Year's Time

At the end of a school year, how do parents and teachers know if a student has grown academically? It's no longer acceptable to simply cover the curriculum or finish a textbook. We want to know how much each student learned.

Each September and May, elementary and middle school students take the **NWEA Measures of Academic Progress** to measure growth in reading and math. The assessment results indicate that the longer students are enrolled in Minnetonka schools, the more their learning accelerates (results shown in table above). The growth is profound in both reading and math, especially in grades 3-5. Average students in third grade in Minnetonka perform about 2.5 grade levels ahead of their peers nationally. By the end of fifth grade, students are performing at an eleventh grade level—six grade levels ahead of their peers nationally and the ceiling for the NWEA tests. In Minnetonka, all grade levels surpassed their national growth targets for reading.

On the **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)**, Minnetonka students scored among the top districts on reading, math and science tests (see table on right). Overall, 80 percent of Minnetonka students are proficient in reading; 81 percent are proficient in math and 79 percent are proficient in science, exceeding state averages by 19 or more percentage points in each subject.

SPRING 2014 MCA COMPARISONS

West Metro School Districts

District	% Proficient on Reading	% Proficient on Math	% Proficient on Science
Minnetonka	79.9	80.8	79.2
Wayzata	80.4	81.9	77.5
Edina	80.5	81.9	71.7
Orono	77.2	76.7	71.2
Westonka	79.5	80.9	69.6
Eden Prairie	72.8	72.3	62.5
Eastern Carver	71.8	68.8	67.9
Waconia	70.1	75.9	61.9
Hopkins	63.6	63.7	53.8
St. Louis Park	64.2	61.0	50.9
Osseo	56.6	59.2	45.5
Robbinsdale	49.0	44.7	40.3
State	59.1	61.4	53.2

"We are proud of our strong student performance, but we continue to work toward a goal of all students becoming proficient."

**—Dr. Dennis Peterson
Superintendent**

State's Premier Immersion Program Expands to High School

Minnetonka's Language Immersion Program offers both Spanish Immersion and Chinese Immersion with the goal of providing English-speaking children the opportunity to acquire fluency in a second language. This year, the program has expanded through eighth grade and plans are in place to offer the state's premier high school program.

Assessment results reveal that students are being well prepared in both the English language and the Immersion language. Student achievement highlights include:

- First grade students reached their all-time highs on five DORA-Spanish subtests, which measure reading and language skills.
- Most Chinese and Spanish Immersion fifth graders reached the year-end proficiency targets for listening and speaking according to American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language standards.
- 2013-14 Chinese and Spanish Immersion sixth graders outperformed sixth graders from 2012-13 on three of four language subtests which measure reading, listening, writing and speaking.

Beginning in seventh grade, Immersion students may select one of three paths for world language based on their language ability, commitment and personal goals (see table at right). Each path prepares students to take the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture course in either ninth or tenth grade. Each path also provides a study abroad opportunity before entering high school. The most motivated students may select the advanced path, which will lead to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Bilingual Diploma (*starting with the class of 2019*).



Immersion Enrollment

About half of Minnetonka Kindergarteners enroll in Immersion. The program has grown almost each year since it started in 2007. Immersion is available at each of our schools, preparing students for a global economy.

Kindergarten	417
1 st Grade	359
2 nd Grade	383
3 rd Grade	325
4 th Grade	322
5 th Grade	258
6 th Grade	210
7 th Grade	183
8 th Grade	137
Total Immersion Students	2,594



LANGUAGE IMMERSION PATHS

As Immersion students progress through middle school and high school, students may pursue one of three paths, based on their personal goals, language ability and time commitment. In high school, new Tonka Online Immersion electives will maximize opportunities and scheduling flexibility.

Advanced Pathway	
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Language Arts/Social Studies • Immersion Elective for AP Cultural Studies
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Language Arts • Immersion Social Studies • 10-day Study Abroad Option
Grade 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Language & Culture (Spanish or Chinese) • Immersed Civics (Social Studies Credit)
Grade 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Spanish Literature or Chinese HSK Level 5 • Global International Studies (Elective Credit)
Grade 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Choice: IB Bilingual Diploma-year 1 or VANTAGE Global Business with language focus, Study Abroad, Visiting Scholar Series, U of MN Flagship Program
Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Choice: IB Bilingual Diploma-year 2 or VANTAGE Global Business with language focus, Study Abroad, Visiting Scholar Series, U of MN Flagship Program • Immersed Economics
Intermediate/Advanced Pathway	
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Language Arts/Social Studies • Immersion Elective for AP Cultural Studies or • Explore a different world language
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Language Arts • 10-day Study Abroad Option
Grade 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Language & Culture (Spanish or Chinese)
Grade 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Spanish Literature or Chinese HSK Level 5
Grade 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Choice: VANTAGE Global Business with language focus, Study Abroad, IB Bilingual Diploma, Visiting Scholar Series, U of MN Flagship Program
Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Choice: VANTAGE Global Business with language focus, Study Abroad, IB Bilingual Diploma, Visiting Scholar Series, U of MN Flagship Program
Intermediate Pathway	
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Language Arts/Social Studies • Immersion Elective for AP Cultural Studies or • Explore a different world language
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Language Arts • 10-day Study Abroad Option
Grade 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Immersion Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
Grade 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Language & Culture (Spanish or Chinese) • Honors Immersion Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
Grade 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Spanish Literature or Chinese HSK Level 5
Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Choice: VANTAGE Global Business with language focus, Study Abroad, Visiting Scholar Series, U of MN Flagship Program

INSPIRE



All-Day Kindergarten Enhances Student Learning

One of the School Board's District goals for the 2013-14 school year was to develop an All-Day Kindergarten program to launch in fall 2014. This decision was made possible after new state funding was earmarked specifically for Kindergarten students.

Starting this school year, all students have the opportunity to attend All-Day Kindergarten with an enhanced curriculum.

"The true beneficiaries of this new funding are parents," said Superintendent Dennis Peterson. "The new dollars provided by the Legislature for All-Day Kindergarten enable school districts to fund the portion of Kindergarten that was previously paid by parents to Community Education for an extended-day program. Many parents have expressed how thankful they are." For young families, it is a \$4,000 savings per child, opening access to all.

To accommodate All-Day Kindergarten, five of the six elementary schools added classrooms over the summer.

In preparation for All-Day Kindergarten, our teachers worked last school year and over the summer to rewrite the curriculum. "Our state is making a significant investment in early learning by funding All-Day Kindergarten. It

is critically important to make the most of the added instructional time," said Peterson.

The All-Day Kindergarten schedule will provide more time for hands-on science activities, implementing a new early writers curriculum, tapping creativity in music and art, and building number sense, patterning and early math concepts.

Students will start developing 21st Century fluencies of collaboration and problem-solving. They'll also be exposed to Minnetonka's new computer coding curriculum using Bee Bots, programmable robots.

Of course, all of this is accomplished in a fun and playful way with many opportunities for active, child-initiated, small-group play activities that are essential to promote social-emotional development and reinforce collaboration, cooperation and creativity. "Young children learn best when they are having fun," Peterson added.

Minnetonka will continue to offer families the option of English, Spanish or Chinese Immersion beginning in Kindergarten. For those families who prefer less than an all-day schedule, schools will work with those families to make sure the needs of their children are met.



As the demand for computer programming skills continues to increase in the workplace, Minnetonka Public Schools has responded by developing and implementing Minnesota's first K-5 coding curriculum, Tonka<codes>.

Starting this fall, Tonka<codes> introduces all students to the language of computer programming, while simultaneously developing and offering advanced level coursework for those students wishing to specialize in this area.

Parents and students are excited about this new opportunity. Inspired by Code.org, staff and parents collaborated during the 2013-14 school year to host "Hour of Code" sessions at several Minnetonka elementary schools. Since then, a design team made up of community experts and Minnetonka teachers has developed a plan to distinguish Minnetonka as a leader for computer programming and computer sciences through core instruction, electives, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Learning the basics of code will help students regardless of the path they choose for their future. Most careers and many facets of today's digital age interact with code every day. Students will be well-prepared to be both creators and users of technology.

Coding involves learning important life skills, such as logic, critical thinking and problem-solving. In eight to ten lessons throughout the year, students will learn foundational computer programming skills using a variety of tools:

- K-2 students will use hands-on, graphic-based tools like Bee Bots (programmable robots) and Lightbot and Kodable iPad apps.
- Students in grades 3-5 use the Tynker platform, which is designed to teach young students coding fundamentals through engaging, interactive lessons which allow students to manipulate code through a graphical user interface.

There will be a variety of after-school extension and skill-building clubs—from elementary to high school students—as well as school-wide and District-wide challenges.

"One goal of Tonka<codes> is to ensure we're teaching students an essential skill necessary for them to succeed in a world filled with computers."

**—Phil Rader
Nvizeon CEO & Minnetonka Parent**



EXCEL



With Proven Results, iPad Program Expands

In Minnetonka, we believe technology is an accelerator of learning. Since the iPad Program started in fall 2011, it has expanded every year due to demonstrated success in student achievement.

In fall 2013, almost 3,000 iPads were distributed to all students in grades 8-11. This school year, the iPad Program has expanded to grades 7-12. The expansion continues to be effective and there has been a cultural shift to embrace the technology in the classrooms by teachers and students.

The iPad Program uses digital curriculum materials, student collaboration tools and individualized instruction in all subject areas with the goal of enhancing student learning.

iPads have a positive impact on student achievement, engagement, organization and collaboration. Grades have improved across subjects and at all grade levels. In 2013, freshmen earned more A's in their first semester English class using iPads than their counterparts without iPads in 2009.

One reason for better grades is the use of iPads for formative assessments. Teachers can readily see results and give students immediate feedback. This ensures students understand the current lesson material before advancing to

the next topic. Technology makes checking for classroom understanding more efficient and increases instructional time in the classroom.

Students are also learning to be responsible digital citizens. Principals and teachers model lessons on the importance of using technology appropriately in the classrooms and outside the classroom, both academically and socially.

Students have also been taking care of their iPads. The anticipated iPad life cycle was estimated to be three years, but our experience is the iPad actually lasts four years, stretching the initial budget for this program over a longer time period.

Did you know?

Minnetonka again received the Apple Distinguished Program Award for its effective implementation of the iPad Program, which is a model for other school districts.



Nationally Recognized Technology Leader



As if walking through an innovative company or highly admired business, more than 1,000 educators in the past decade have toured Minnetonka Public Schools to see how technology is infused with learning.

Last May, the National School Boards Association Technology and Learning Network hosted its second site visit in Minnetonka during the District's ninth annual educators' technology tour.

"I saw so many amazing things. I went to the middle school and high school and saw that it completely permeates through the entire culture. Every student in every class was constantly using technology in ways that were amazing," shared one New Jersey teacher. "I saw Schoology which keeps kids organized and on task, always knowing where all of their learning resources are. Then, they were using Google with all the different things that Google Apps can do."

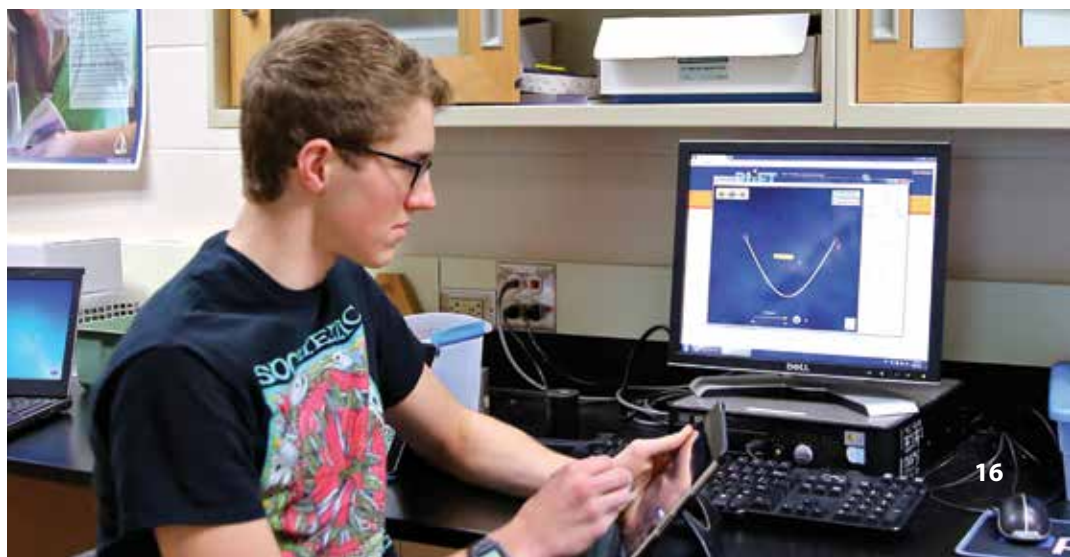
Technology has changed the way that teachers teach and children learn, and increased efficiency, effectiveness and collaboration. For example, in a ninth grade English class studying Romeo and Juliet, the teacher uses an online form to collect students' understanding of literary components, specific quotes or original text citations. As the students are completing the form, the teacher is able to review student work and immediately assist a student who isn't

understanding a concept. What used to take teachers a whole evening to assess is now done during class. Research shows that immediate feedback to students deepens learning. Later, the work is automatically compiled in a spreadsheet study guide for everyone in the class to use.

In social studies, paper maps have been replaced by Google Earth, which provides not only two dimensional images, but a virtual street view of almost anywhere in the world. No longer are students limited to writing a term paper or doing a book report to show what they know. Technology tools allow them to import video clips, dig into the National Archives, reference original sources with a hyperlink, create a magazine or multi-media report, or record a narrative that is electronically submitted into the teacher's digital dropbox.

"I think Minnetonka is a sweet spot in this country for having used technology effectively to engage students in learning," shared a Louisiana administrator. "The sustained leadership in the District has provided the scaffolding to support teachers to look for innovative ways to use technology to really challenge students to do more."

A New England school board member added, "I walked into classrooms and it was obvious that technology was there, but it wasn't the limelight item. The limelight was on student learning."



MINNETONKA POINTS OF PRIDE

ACADEMICS

- In the Class of 2014, **100 Summa Cum Laude** students graduated with a 4.0 or higher GPA.
- In the **Continental Math League** contest, Minnetonka's seventh grade team tied for first place in the nation. All grades scored in the top five nationally. Grades 2 and 4-8 earned first place in both the state and the eight-state region.
- **MHS Math League Team** qualified for the state tournament for the fifth year in a row. **Sam Stromwall** was selected for the Invitational Event for the top 50 highest scoring students in the state.
- Two teams of first year and second year physics students each earned second place in the nine-state **Regional Physics Bowl Competition**.
- Two **MHS Quiz Bowl Teams** qualified for Nationals in Chicago. One **MMW Quiz Bowl Team** also qualified for Nationals in Atlanta.
- The **MHS DECA Team** set two new state chapter records with 52 students qualifying for finals and one student qualifying in three events. Eighteen members advanced to the International Competition. Eight students scored top ten finishes. **Sam Peters** earned Minnetonka's first top three finish.
- Forty MHS students attained national recognition for excellence on the **2014 National Spanish Exams**. **Jonathon Meyer** was the top scorer in the state for Level

five and was awarded a scholarship for post-secondary studies.

- **215 Minnetonka Scholars** from MME and MMW were honored for their SAT test results. Two MMW students scored a perfect 800 on the math section.
- Groveland Elementary student **Jenna Krueger** won national distinction in the SIFMA Foundation's InvestWrite® essay competition on long-term investment in Home Depot stock.
- An Excelsior team qualified for the **Destination Imagination Global Finals** in Knoxville, TN.
- Three Excelsior students won first place in the **Regional Minnesota Renewable Energy KidWind Challenge** for their small wind turbines made with recycled packaging board and Lego gears.

ATHLETICS

- MHS finished fifth in the state for the MSHSL Challenge Cup, a composite ranking of all athletics and fine arts tournaments.
- MHS varsity athletic teams celebrated four state championships (**Girls Soccer, Cheer Team, Girls Alpine Ski** and **Girls Track & Field**). MHS teams were state champion runners-up in three sports (**Girls Tennis, Girls Swimming & Diving** and **Boys Tennis**). The **Adapted Softball** team was state consolidation champions.
- In an online USA TODAY poll, Minnetonka was voted #1 in Minnesota for "Best Girls Sports Program" and "Best Boys Sports Program."
- **Girls Soccer** won the state championship (*pictured on next page*). **Elizabeth Endy** was honored as the Gatorade 2013-14 Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year and Ms. Soccer by the Minnesota Coaches Association. She was also the Athena Award winner for 2014.
- After winning its 17th state championship, the **Cheer Team** took second place in international competition and third place at the national championship.
- **Girls Alpine Ski Team** successfully defended their 2013 state title. **Megan Greiner** and **Erin Olejnik** finished first and second in individual state competition.



**Riley Nelson,
American Vision
Award Winner**

Riley's painting, "Untitled (McDonalds)" was selected for the prestigious Scholastic American Vision Award. Riley was recognized as a 2014 National YoungArts Merit winner

for his talents in visual arts. Riley was also awarded a Regional Scholastic Writing Award, Honorable Mention, in the personal essay/memoir category.



- **Girls Track & Field Team** repeated as State Champions. **Mia Barron** set two new records in long jump and triple jump. **Elizabeth Endy** captured the 800-meter title and the 4x800 relay along with **Meaghan Borowski**, **Meghan Janssen** and **Lucy Hoelscher**.
- MHS Girls Coach **Jane Reimer-Morgan** was named Minnesota Coach of the Year by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association.
- **Girls Hockey** captain **Sydney Baldwin** was named Ms. Hockey and the Star Tribune Metro Player of the Year. Sydney is the first Skipper player, and only the fourth defenseman, to win Ms. Hockey in its 20-year history.
- **Boys Tennis** earned a second place finish at the State Tournament. **Joey Richards** claimed the Consolation Title, won the Class AA State Singles Champion as a junior, and helped the Skippers finish as state runners-up in 2013 and 2014.
- The **Boys Swim & Dive Team** won the True Team state title. The Skippers advanced to the state meet, where they finished fifth.
- **MHS Treble and Concert Choirs** received the highest ratings possible for their performances at the State Contest for Large Choral Ensembles in Category 1 (most difficult music) and earned a superior rating from all three judges on the panel.
- **MHS Band** performances earned 25 "Superior" ratings, the highest rating possible, at the Minnesota State High School League Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- **Minnetonka's Chamber Orchestra** received a "Superior" rating, a perfect score, the "Best in Site" award and the "Spotlight in the Arts" Award.
- Minnetonka won the **SpotLight Musical Theatre Award for Outstanding Overall Production**—the highest award possible—for its fall musical, *Young Frankenstein*, which was awarded 11 SpotLight Awards, and for its spring musical, *Evita*, which earned 16 SpotLight Awards.
- **Clare Seeman** was named a Minnesota Department of Education 2014 Scholar of Distinction for Theater Arts.
- Ten MHS students earned a total of **44 Scholastic Art Awards**, including nine Gold Key, 18 Silver Key and 17 Merit Awards.
- **Victoria Niu** was recognized nationally for two consecutive years by the Scholastic Art Awards.
- MHS student **Victoria Williams'** painting was chosen as one of five national semi-finalists for the Great Frame Up Self-Expression Art Show.

FINE ARTS

INSPIRE



Minnetonka Community Education: Experience It!

Customer satisfaction with Community Education classes remained strong with 90 percent of survey respondents saying they would rate their experience as good or excellent. This is up four percentage points since 2008-09 when Minnetonka Community Education began using a new customer evaluation process.

Implementing new programs and adapting to the needs of the community continue to be top priorities for Minnetonka Community Education. By combining new programs such as the Excelsior Firecracker Run, Minnetonka Summer Academy and adult iPad classes with traditional activities, Minnetonka Community Education is able to strengthen and enrich the Minnetonka area.

By the numbers

516
Preschool Students
& ECFE Families

3,137
Riders Participated
in Tour de Tonka

16.6%
Increase in Explorers
Enrollment

16,415
Youth Programs
Enrollment

164
Families Served through
Holiday Family Giving

1,819
Firecracker Run
Participants



Minnetonka Aquatics Serves Entire Community

The recently renovated West pool provides the perfect setting for children and adults to have fun while learning swimming and water safety.

- A uniform, four-foot depth
- September–May, water temperature is at 82 degrees for competitive swim teams
- June–August, water temperature is at 87 degrees so swimmers can focus on instruction, not the temperature

“Living in an area surrounded by water makes learning to swim an essential safety skill.”

—Dan Berve
Minnetonka Aquatics Director

School Quality: Top Criteria in Choosing a Community



Back in 2003, in developing part of the Minnetonka School District's Strategic Plan, Beacon Bank President Bob Weiss and his team found that the future financial health of the District was dependent on the number of students enrolled—one that was projected to decline over the next decade.

Weiss, along with community and finance experts, then devised a plan for securing adequate resources to achieve the District's mission and objectives, which included attracting more families to move into the Minnetonka community, re-attracting students from private schools and welcoming open enrollment students.

In line with that plan, when the Great Recession hit in 2009 and State revenues froze, Minnetonka committed to "innovating" its way through the recession and set a goal for planned enrollment growth to avoid the budget-cutting volatility that school districts across the state experienced.

With innovative new programs, Minnetonka became, and continues to be, the *District of Choice* for families who value excellence in education. Today, 2,774 students open enroll from 36 different Minnesota school districts. Their families are actively seeking the best education for their children. Most students enroll beginning in Kindergarten and quickly grow to be part of our Minnetonka community—a relationship that lasts beyond high school graduation.

Without the financial support that those open enrollment dollars provide, Minnetonka would not be the destination for top education that it is today. If not for the District's efforts to attract more families, the recession would have necessitated teacher lay-offs, cutting important programs and closing at least two elementary schools and one middle school. This would have led to the exodus of many families in search of a more stable school district, forcing even more reductions.

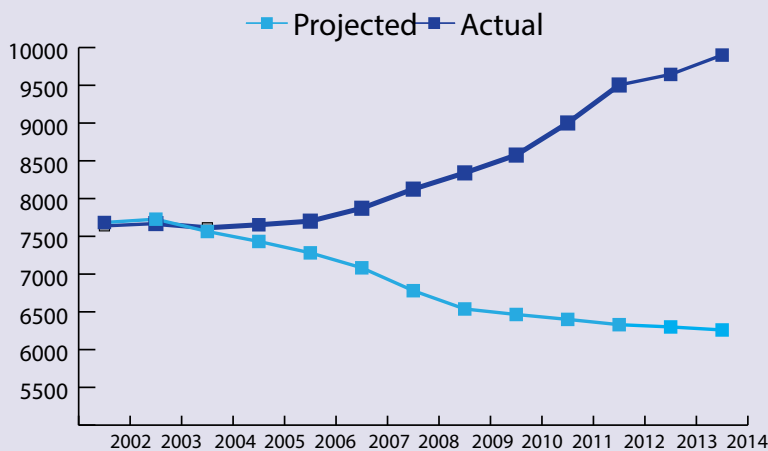
Instead, Minnetonka remains a healthy, vibrant community and one of Minnesota's top school districts. In fact, compared to neighboring communities, homes for sale in the Minnetonka School District had the lowest days on market and highest sale price value during the 2013-14 school year, according to Northstar MLS data.

The District's forward and innovative planning has assured Minnetonka's place among the top of many wish lists.

"The quality of the schools remains the #1 selection criteria in selecting a community in which to live."

**—Carl Zinn
Realtor**

STUDENT ENROLLMENT



In 2002, Minnetonka's projected enrollment was estimated to decline by 1,500 students over ten years. Instead, with carefully planned growth, we welcomed just over 9,853 students for the 2014-15 school year. The revenue from student growth has improved programs for all students and protected the District from budget cuts over the last ten years.



INSPIRE



Preparing the World's Best Workforce Summary Report

Minnetonka has long focused on preparing its students not just with the essential skills needed for the workforce, but to be leaders in the areas of interest that their talents and passions take them. It is the District's mission to ensure all students envision and pursue their highest aspirations, while serving the greater good.

Minnetonka is one of the top performers in the state of Minnesota because of its focus on fostering world-class excellence in all corners of the District. This includes giving each student a personalized education, using technology as an accelerator of learning, applying best practices in assessment and teaching and learning, offering choice, flexibility and support and hiring the best teachers, principals and support staff.

Our progress towards the State's goal of creating the world's best workforce is outlined, in accordance with 2013 Minnesota Statutes, in this Annual Report.

System Goals and Support

Minnetonka's focus on meeting the changing needs of today's students is reflected in the District's Strategic Plan, Board Goals, Q-Comp Goals (see p. 23), teacher and principal evaluation systems, staff development goals, technology

plan and innovation initiatives, all of which are aligned to inspire in everyone a passion to excel.

The results of those initiatives are shown not only in test scores, but also in the opportunities all students have to progress beyond the confines of traditional grade level expectations and classroom work.

Student-focused Excellence

In Minnetonka, we have a commitment to make all decisions in the best interest of the student. Beginning in early childhood, families are supported with Early Childhood Family Education, School Readiness, Early Childhood Special Education and Minnetonka Preschool, programs that are certified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and have received the *Four Star Parent Aware* rating from the state of Minnesota.

In elementary schools, teachers meet children where they are and use differentiated instructional strategies to ensure students' academic, social and emotional growth. Responsive classroom principles, which are posted on classroom walls, create a supportive and caring learning environment that inspires students to do their best in pursuit of their individual hopes and dreams. Response



to Intervention (RTI) provides intensive early assistance to students who struggle in reading, math or behavior. RTI has also successfully reduced the number of referrals for special education services.

Four Minnetonka elementary schools receive Title I funds, which provide additional intensive assistance for students based on the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch in a school. All four schools are designated **Minnesota 2014 Reward Schools**, which is the highest rating possible. All Minnetonka schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) per the state's evaluation system.

Since 2005, the District has had a personalized and proactive secondary guidance model that encourages college and career planning beginning in sixth grade. According to the 2013 Minnesota Student Survey, 89 percent of Minnetonka eleventh grade students planned to attend college, but when those same students graduated in 2014, 91 percent were accepted and planned to enroll in college. (see pp. 5-8)

In 2007, the District introduced a Language Immersion option open to any student whose family valued learning a second language during elementary school. The program has grown to 2,594 students in grades K-8 and will expand to the high school in 2015. (see p. 12)

The School Board set a goal to redesign the middle school program in 2009, which resulted in more choice, flexibility, support and rigor for all middle school students. Middle school teachers, guidance counselors and support staff

work closely with families to ensure all students are appropriately challenged to ensure annual growth. Minnetonka Middle School East and West now consistently perform among the top middle schools in the state.

At the high school, an ongoing effort to raise the rigor and opportunity for all students has resulted in a school record ACT score of 26.5 in 2014, which is up from 23.1 in 2002. More students are enrolling in college-level courses through the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. In fact, among the class of 2014, 70 percent of seniors took at least one AP or IB exam. An external review by researchers from Johns Hopkins University found that "each academic department within MHS is meeting their individual goals for increasing rigor by introducing honors, integrated or advanced courses." With the International Studies Program reaching nine countries and Minnetonka's Advanced Professional Studies program, VANTAGE (see pp. 4-6), Minnetonka High School continues to insure its students will be internationally competitive in a global economy.

Since 2012, the Board has had a goal to identify and address barriers to student success, identify or develop programs to address the barriers, and work with school and community partners to ensure success for ALL students. This goal aims to assure every student is ready for school, that all read by third grade, all graduate and that the achievement gap is closed.

Teaching & Learning Advisory Committee

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cindy Andress | David Olson |
| James Donald | John Powers |
| Taeya Erani | Anne Redfern |
| Sandy Gosen | Matt Rega |
| Paule Hocker | Pete Rogan |
| Stephanie Johnson | Diane Rundquist |
| Ross Johnson | Lisa Sumner |
| Heidi Kluzak | William Tuseth |
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Deephaven Elementary 2013 National Blue Ribbon School



INNOVATE



World's Best Workforce: Minnetonka's Results

Teachers and Principals Support

Minnetonka was one of the first districts to adopt Minnesota's Q-Comp program, which provides performance-based compensation for teachers tied to student achievement goals. All staff development is also aligned with the goals. Within the Q-Comp program are five components to improve instructional practices: teacher leaders and instructional coaches, job-embedded professional development, observation and evaluation, performance pay, and reformed salary schedule.

Minnetonka teachers have two measures of student achievement within the Q-Comp program: Site goals and Professional Learning (PLC) goals. For fiscal year 2014:

- Minnetonka teachers participated in 31,525 hours of professional development.
- Of 690 eligible teachers, students of 670 teachers met PLC achievement goals.
- Every eligible teacher earned at least 90% of their total possible compensation.

Data Supporting Workforce Goals

All Students Ready for Kindergarten	82.8 percent of Kindergarten students in reading and 73.7 percent in math scored at or above the Early Kindergarten level on NWEA.
All Students in Third Grade Achieving Grade-Level Literacy	90.1 percent of all third grade students are proficient in reading according to state MCA scores. The average Minnetonka student in third grade is reading at the middle of fifth grade level according to NWEA national norms.
All Students Career- and College-ready by Graduation	91 percent of 2014 MHS graduates were accepted and planned to enroll in two- or four-year colleges and universities. 70 percent of seniors took at least one AP or IB exam, which research indicates improves the rate of college completion. The Class of 2014 posted a school-record 26.5 average ACT score, with 91 percent ready for college-level coursework in English Composition, 77 percent ready in math, and 73 percent in biology.
All Students Graduate	MHS has a 95 percent 4-year graduation rate. By state and federal law, special education students who do not graduate are eligible for educational services through age 21.
Closing Achievement Gap(s)	Proficiency between White students and non-White students has a 14.9 percent gap in math and 15.7 percent gap in reading. The gap is projected to close to 6.8 percent in math and 7.8 percent in reading by 2018.

Investing in Facilities and Students

In November 2013, the School Board approved the construction of 13 additional classrooms at five elementary schools. The added rooms are for the All-Day Kindergarten program, for music classes, and increased enrollment in the upper grades.

With the passage of All-Day Kindergarten, the State Legislature authorized the School Board to fund both the program and construction of classrooms. To accommodate All-Day Kindergarten, Clear Springs, Deephaven, Groveland, Scenic Heights and Minnewashta added new classrooms. Excelsior did not need additional rooms for implementing the program. Where two half-day classes used to share one room, two rooms are now needed. Construction was completed in time to welcome the youngest Skippers, the Class of 2027.

In 2008, the Board set a goal to elevate the K-12 Fine Arts program to world-class. In 2011, the Board approved a new model allowing fifth grade music students to increase time in elementary music, band, orchestra or choir. The newly added music classrooms are dedicated to inspiring students to explore their musical interests.

Did you know?

Minnetonka has the lowest elementary class sizes in the metro area.

World Class Fine Arts



Minnetonka Public Schools was named one of the Best Communities for Music Education for a second consecutive year.

Minnetonka is committed to funding music offerings, staffing highly qualified teachers and providing access to music instruction.

- 64 middle school and high school students were named to state and regional honor choirs and bands.
- MHS Treble and Concert Choirs received the highest possible ratings at the State Contest.
- MHS Chamber Orchestra received the "Spotlight in the Arts" Award.
- MHS jazz band soloists received outstanding soloist awards at the 2014 Winter Jazz Blast.
- MHS Band performances earned 25 "Superior" ratings, the highest rating possible, at the State Contest.

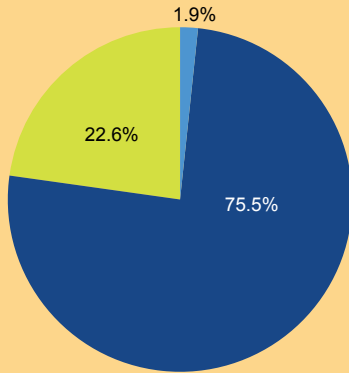


INSPIRE



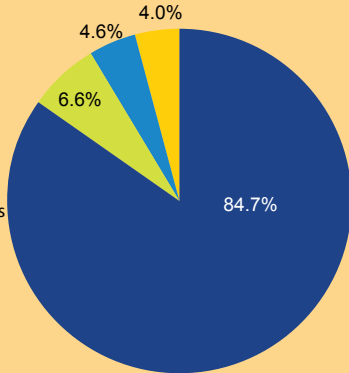
Sources of Funds FY14-15 Budget - General Fund

- Local Sources
- State Sources
- Federal Sources



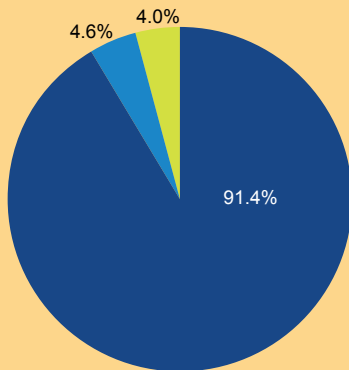
Uses of Funds by Function/Activity FY14-15 Budget - General Fund

- Instruction, Pupil Support Services & School Level Administration
- Facilities, Operations & Maintenance
- Student Transportation
- District Level Administration



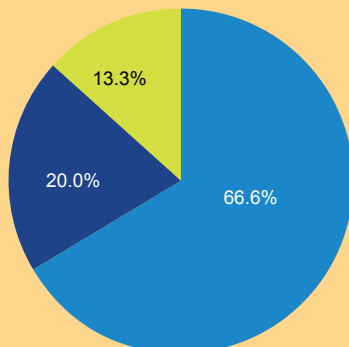
Uses of Funds School Level vs District Level FY14-15 - General Fund

- School Level Education Services
- Student Transportation
- District Level Administration



Uses of Funds - Employee Compensation vs All Other FY14-15 Budget - General Fund

- Salaries
- Benefits & Payroll Taxes
- All Other



Responsible Stewardship

The District has made many decisions during the 2013-14 year to improve the value of the District for taxpayers and students. It is always critical to provide sufficient financial resources to maintain the high quality program and staff of the District, and the very close watch on expenditures by administrative staff and the Board enables the most efficient use of the resources available. That is why the District's spending is below the state average and well below the Metro average (see the table on p. 26). Despite the excellent educational results the District's students are achieving, the District is not one of the highest spenders in Minnesota.

It has also been an important strategy for Minnetonka to increase revenue beyond what the local levy and state aid provide to assure an outstanding program for Minnetonka students. Increasing Open Enrollment has brought in over \$83 million in the past eight years to support resident students and to pay the limited additional cost of the Open Enrolled students themselves. It costs much less for the added students than the revenue received for them due to economies of scale and the fact that basic costs are present regardless of the number of students in the District.

Furthermore, the District has taken many steps to reduce tax costs to the District's taxpayers by refunding bonds to get lower interest rates and using reserves to hold down tax levies. Most of the District's bonds are now at the historically low rates available in the past three or four years.

As shown in the table below, the District has balanced budgets for both FY2014 and FY2015. In fact, the 2013-14 Budget shows an ending Unassigned Fund Balance of \$14,951,502 and the 2014-15 Budget shows an ending balance of \$16,094,299, with both having increases in the final balance. The increase in expenditures for 2014-15 over the past year is primarily due to the implementation of the all-day Kindergarten program within the General Fund. The extended-day Kindergarten program in 2013-14 was accounted for in the Community Education Fund. The State of Minnesota has provided funding for the all-day program, so the revenue for FY2015 has increased significantly as well.

District General Fund	Unaudited Actual 2013-14	Adopted Budget 2014-15
Beginning Assigned Fund Balance	\$2,255,782	\$2,855,151
Beginning Unassigned Fund Balance	\$14,631,943	\$14,951,502
Revenue	\$94,076,803	\$101,235,687
Expenditures	\$93,657,875	\$100,240,181
Difference	\$418,928	\$995,506
Transfer from Operating Capital	\$500,000	\$500,000
Transfer to Operating Capital	—	(674,232)
Ending Assigned Fund Balance	\$2,855,151	\$2,533,628
Ending Unassigned Fund Balance	\$14,951,502	\$16,094,299
Unassigned Fund Balance %	16.0%	16.1%
Student Enrollment (Oct. 1)	9,622	10,030

As seen in the table to the right, Minnetonka spent \$9,438 per pupil in 2012-13, less than the state average of \$10,096. Our comparative ranking fell to 199 in 2012-13 from 143 in 2011-12 because other districts surpassed our spending per pupil. Overall efficiency places Minnetonka's per pupil spending below the state average.

2012-13*	Cost Per Pupil	Ranking
Minneapolis	\$13,782	22
St. Paul	\$13,259	25
Hopkins	\$10,984	70
St. Louis Park	\$10,744	81
Wayzata	\$10,296	108
Eden Prairie	\$10,205	119
Edina	\$10,204	120
State	\$10,096	—
Anoka	\$9,933	146
Minnetonka	\$9,438	199

*MDE Profiles. Most recent comparable data available.

Consolidated Financial Statement

Minnetonka School District #276 has received the *Excellence in Financial Reporting Award* every year since 1994. According to District auditors, "The District has historically done an excellent job of allocating the budget according to the nature of the underlying costs, especially for the most critical areas of salaries and employee benefits." Budget expenditures were within 0.5 percent of actual for fiscal 2013 and 1.2 percent in 2012.

DISTRICT GENERAL FUND	2013-14 Actual Amounts	2014-15 Budget Amounts	2014-15 % of Total
REVENUES			
Property Taxes	\$18,688,273	\$21,153,841	20.9%
Earnings on Investments	9,862	40,000	0.0%
Other	2,061,537	1,735,834	1.7%
Local Sources	20,759,672	22,929,675	22.6%
State Sources	71,196,812	76,391,874	75.5%
Federal Sources	2,120,319	1,914,138	1.9%
Total Revenue	\$94,076,803	\$101,235,687	100.0%
EXPENDITURES			
School Level Administration	\$2,764,528	\$2,843,812	2.8%
Elementary & Secondary Regular Instruction	51,722,022	57,018,111	56.9%
Vocational Education Instruction	491,506	680,473	0.7%
Special Education Instruction	15,074,702	16,591,798	16.6%
Instructional Support Services	4,693,540	4,888,825	4.9%
Pupil Support Services	2,759,510	2,928,572	2.9%
Sites & Buildings	6,497,890	5,763,076	5.7%
Fiscal & Other Fixed Cost Programs	850,099	898,262	0.9%
District Level Administration	677,982	660,231	0.7%
District Support Services	3,806,406	3,329,927	3.3%
Transportation	4,319,690	4,637,094	4.6%
Total Expenditures	\$93,657,875	\$100,240,181	100.0%
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$418,928	\$995,506	
FUND BALANCE			
Beginning of Year	\$16,887,725	\$17,806,652	
Transfer from Operating Capital	500,000	500,000	
Transfer to Operating Capital	—	(674,232)	
End of Year	\$17,806,653	\$18,627,926	

District General Fund: Includes General Fund Operations, Transportation & Activities

Note: Does not include Operating Capital, Arts Center, Dome Operations & Pagel Center

This financial information provides only a snapshot of our District's unaudited finances. The audit firm of CliftonLarsonAllen will complete the external audit in November and the District's Comprehensive Financial Audit Report will be posted to the District website at that time. View additional financial documents and reports at: www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/finances.

Did you know?

In 2014, Moody's reaffirmed Minnetonka's Aaa bond rating, the highest rating possible.

Finance & Audit Committee

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Paul Borowski

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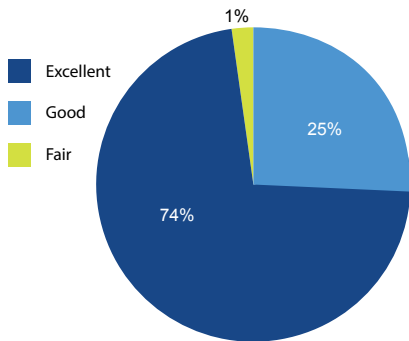
Dennis Peterson



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2014 Annual Parent Survey



99% of parents rated the education provided by Minnetonka School District as excellent or good (chart above; no change from 2013)

97% of parents would recommend their child's school to friends and neighbors.

79% of elementary parents believe their child's class size is about right (improved from 74% in 2013). Minnetonka has the lowest elementary class sizes in the metro area.

84% of parents trust the Minnetonka School Board and Administration to do what is right for children (up from 81% in 2013).

93% of parents agree our community receives a good value from its investment in local public schools (no change).

This online survey was conducted in June 2014 for all parents of students enrolled in the Minnetonka School District. Results are based on 2,612 respondents, or a 32 percent response rate.

This report is required by law and is published by Minnetonka Public Schools.

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View our multimedia Annual Report online. Look for the video icon inside this report to see how Minnetonka students are learning today.

