

MINNETONKA

AlumniMagazine

2019

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD



Immersion Pioneers Shape Program

Minnetonka Public Schools celebrates the first graduating class from its language immersion program. Page 13



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Inside This Issue



Find out why this alumnus came back to follow in his parents' footsteps. Page 12

Reminisce with retired Excelsior principal Don Carruth as he turns 105. Page 16



A year in, Groveland's new principal thinks the future is very bright for Minnetonka. Page 17

From the President



Greetings Fellow Alumni,

What a year for the Minnetonka Alumni Association! Since the last *Minnetonka Alumni Magazine* went out, we celebrated our 5th Annual All-School All-Class Reunion; dedicated a new KIA Memorial at Minnetonka High School; supported three Fine Arts teacher grants and have chosen 10 amazing alumni to honor at our Alumni Awards Brunch this fall. We couldn't have done it without the support and generosity of our fellow Skippers, who shared their time, talent and treasure with us.



In that spirit, I want to extend a personal invitation to all of you to get involved! Whether you want to volunteer for a few hours at an upcoming event, make a donation to support Minnetonka Public Schools or join our Board of Directors and help us shape the future of this group, we have a place for you.

JOIN THE BOARD!

The MAA is seeking new alumni to join our Board. Email alumni@minnetonkaschools.org to get involved.

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The Minnetonka Alumni Association recently formed three new standing committees (Communications, Events & Outreach, Fundraising) and are looking for engaged alumni to serve on them. Help us build a better organization for our alumni and the Minnetonka community.

With all of these exciting things going on, there has never been a better time to join the Minnetonka Alumni Association! If you are interested in learning more, contact us at alumni@minnetonkaschools.org.

As president, I am so grateful for the heartfelt support of those board members who have retired this year and to those who continue to work tirelessly to represent the exceptional alumni in our community. I hope you will consider joining us!

Sincerely,

Dan Heiland '74
President, Minnetonka Alumni Association

The Principal's Corner



Minnetonka High School! Just a few weeks ago, I was honored to watch our students cross the stage at the June 6 Commencement ceremony at U.S. number of students—17 in Chinese and 58 in Spanish—maintained continuous immersion program from first through twelfth grade.

ays, short years.” As a former Spanish teacher, being able to see the amazing ay—it’s a gift. There is tremendous pride when I hear these students speak nestly, I am amazed at what they can do.

rd work and for helping your school improve the immersion program along ram exceptional for yourselves and, more importantly, your feedback has to come. To you fresh alums, I propose a challenge: How will you take what High School? Think hard about what you will do with this unique skill set. ations! I’m so proud of you all. Please continue to make an impact and give nity.

Sincerely,

Jeff Erickson, Minnetonka High School Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

“Loft” Brings New Opportunity for Innovation and Collaboration

Last summer, more than 7,000 square feet of underutilized physical education locker room space at Minnetonka High School was transformed into a 21st Century instructional and collaboration space.

Many of you may remember the upper floor space previously housed the varsity locker rooms. In 1996, new varsity locker rooms were built below the Black Box and, since then, the upper floor lockers have been very lightly used.

The remodeled area now houses five new classrooms and collaboration spaces, allows for improved foot traffic within the high school and provides additional restrooms. All classrooms have natural light from new outside windows. Existing funds were used to redesign the space, so no donations or bonds were solicited.



What's New at MHS?

Minnetonka High School is always evolving to better meet the needs of students. There have been many exciting updates over the last few years, such as new sports facilities, a research lab, off-campus spaces for advanced professional studies and a memorial dedicated to alumni who gave their lives in military service. Take a tour next time you are in town and see all the amazing changes!



Minnetonka Research



VANTAGE



KIA Memorial



Pagel II Hockey Arena



Minnetonka Boys Hockey Featured on Emmy-Winning “Dream.State.”

After an amazing state championship win in 2018, the Minnetonka High School Boys Hockey team was selected by FOX Sports North to be featured on “Dream.State.” This exciting documentary series went behind the scenes to meet the players and coaches, share their inspiring stories and show how the entire community rallied to support them.

“We were excited for the opportunity to represent Minnesota high school hockey as this year’s ‘Dream.State.’ team and as a Hockey Day participant in Bemidji,” says Sean Goldsworthy ‘90, Varsity Head Coach of Minnetonka Boys Hockey.

“This is what the State of Hockey is all about,” says Jamie Spencer, Minnesota Wild Executive Vice President, Business Development. “Nothing rivals the Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament and the pursuit of winning state. We are inspired to share these incredible stories of hard work, passion and sacrifice that are all part of chasing a dream.”

While they were not able to recapture the championship in 2019, the Minnetonka Boys Hockey team’s journey was no less inspiring and heartfelt. You can relive the excitement anytime online by watching “Dream.State.” here: bit.ly/tonka-dreamstate



Sports Report 2018-19

Congratulations to all our state-qualifying teams and individuals! We are proud of your accomplishments.

FALL

- * **Cheerleading: State Grand Champions, 2nd and 3rd at Nationals**
- * **Cross Country (Girls): State Competitor Kate LeBlanc**
- * **Cross Country (Boys): State Competitor Max Lauerman**
- * **Football: 6-5, Section 6A Champs**
- * **Soccer (Boys): 14-3-5, 3rd in State**
- * **Soccer (Girls): 16-4-1, State Champs**
- * **Swim & Dive (Girls): 4-1, True Team State Champs and 2nd in State**
- * **Tennis (Girls): 14-2, True Team State Champions and 2nd in State**

WINTER

- * **Gymnastics: State Competitors Emma Siefker and Nicole Thompson**
- * **Hockey (Girls): 11-13-1, 3rd in State**
- * **Alpine Ski (Boys): 3rd in State**
- * **Alpine Ski (Girls): 3rd in State**
- * **Nordic Ski (Boys): State Competitors Thomas Atwood and Luke MacKinnon**
- * **Swim & Dive (Boys): True Team State 2nd Place and 5th in State**
- * **Wrestling: State Competitors Peter Barrett, James Johnson, Gabriel Schumacher and Quinn Sell**

SPRING

- * **Bowling (Adapted): 2nd in State**
- * **Golf (Boys): State Competitor Carson Herron**
- * **Golf (Girls): State Competitor Ally Chan**
- * **Track & Field (Girls): True Team State 6th Place; State Competitors Annalise Johnson, Kate LeBlanc, Kylie Melz, Ella Roach, Faith Robinson, Ashley Shields, Anna Wander and Desiree Ware**

For all the latest sports updates, follow our official Athletics & Activities account on Twitter [@TonkaSkippers](https://twitter.com/TonkaSkippers).

Welcome, Class of 2019

782 students

98% of seniors graduated

93% College bound

83% Attending 4-year colleges & universities

10% Attending 2-year colleges

7 Entering military service

39% Attending Minnesota colleges & universities

54% Attending out-of-state colleges & universities



The Minnetonka Alumni Association would like to congratulate the Class of 2019. You are each members of the Alumni Association and entitled to all the benefits therein. We are pleased to welcome you to this amazing alumni community!

A FAMILY LEGACY

These 2019 graduates join their parents, siblings and other family members as proud MHS Alumni.

Julia Lilly Baker joins aunt Gretchen (Robideau) Austin '91, great uncle Jon Anderson '64, grandmother Karen (Anderson) Robideau '62 and step-grandfather Harvey Robideau '60.

Finn Duggan joins mother Maud (Anderson) Duggan '92.

Sydney Henderson joins father Tom Henderson '77 and sister Allison Henderson '17.

Max Koyonen joins mother Carol (Jenkins) Koyonen '90 and aunt Laurie Jenkins '87.

Ellie Larson joins sister Jenna Larson '18, father Mark Larson '88 and mother Laurie Larson '88.

Audrey McMillan joins father Mike McMillan '86.

Ellie Moore joins brother Greg Moore '15, mother Missy (Hogan) Moore '86, aunt Kate (Hogan) Jacobsen '89, uncle Rick Hogan '81 and aunt Jenny (Hogan) Ogden '76.

Zach Person joins mother Kathryn Mason '87, uncle Brian Simons '85, uncle Sim Simons '87, aunt Sue Simons '89, uncle Joe Simons '97, cousin David Simons '14, cousin Sterling Sibley '16, cousin Jordan Schultz '16, cousin Jon Simons '18 and cousin Jared Schmitz '18.

Rodney Peterson joins sister Anna Peterson '17, sister Sara (Goff) Weides '06, brother Hank Goff '05 and father Rodney Peterson Jr. '85.

Ashley Shields joins father Mike Shields '77, aunt Shelly (Shields) West '79, uncle Mitch Shields '82, aunt Melissa (Shields) Nordness '85, cousin Adam Shields '05 and cousin Olivier Shields Nordness '09.

Sophia Sumners joins brother Thomas "TJ" Sumners '17, brother Matthew Sumners '12, sister Emily (Sumners) Pyne '09, mother Mary (Lehner) Sumners '84 and father Greg Sumners '84.

Colten Tessness joins grandfather Richard Bartholow '70 and great-grandmother Mary Ellen Caughrean '50.

Sam Tyrpa joins mother Sani (Glenn) O'Brien '81, aunt Debi (Glenn) Bernhagen '83, cousin Nicole Bernhagen '14, grandmother Arline (Moran) Glenn '61 and grandfather Dick Glenn '61.

Thank you to the 2019 graduates who will be serving our country:

Suzanne Muench, U.S. Army Reserves
Aidan Oestreich, U.S. Army Reserves
Anders Raichert, U.S. Air Force
Jared Simmer, Army National Guard

Matthew Kickhafer, U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Nathan Olmsted, U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Ethan Taddy, The Citadel: The Military
College of South Carolina
William Roslansky, Air Force ROTC Scholarship (U of M)

We are proud of all alumni who have joined the Armed Forces. Thank you for your service!

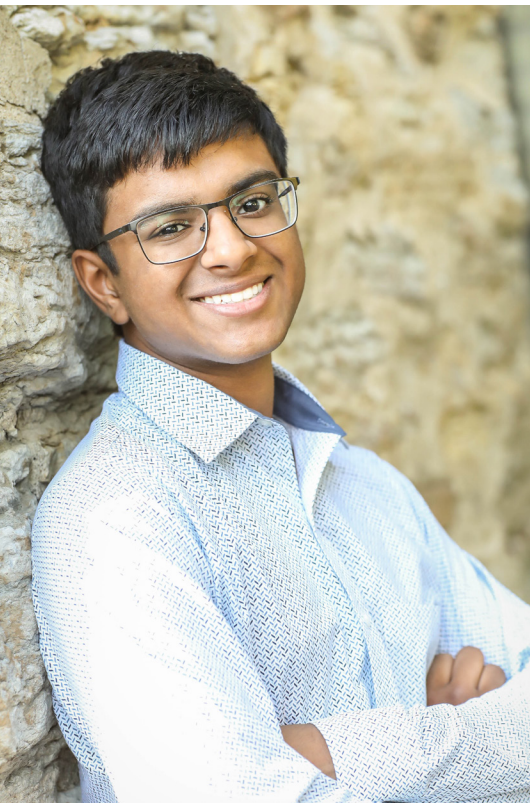
SIX TO WATCH



by Claire Harley & Maggie Shea



Featured MHS Class of 2019 graduates (from left to right): Parthiv Krishna, Theresah Mienzah-Quarm, Antonio de la Vega, Cameron Anundson, Claire Salmi and Julia Schulman



Parthiv Krishna

At 17, Parthiv has completed two years of University of Minnesota coursework, filed patents for his autonomous drone inventions and started his own company, Fractal Aerial Systems. He's earned countless honors: National AP Scholar, National Merit Finalist, Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar, nine Gold President's Volunteer Service Awards and U.S. Presidential Scholar Semi-Finalist, to name a few. Yet what truly sets him apart is his motivation: Parthiv's technical innovations grew from a desire to solve life-threatening problems, and he feels that educational inequality is a critical issue.

"People are built in the schools," he says, reflecting on his summer trips to India, where he teaches young students two years of science curriculum in a few jam-packed weeks. "It's so inspirational to see how fast the students pick it up," he says. The school was founded by a family friend. Parthiv first visited as an Excelsior Elementary fourth-grader, when he collected discarded supplies and delivered them to the school, launching an ongoing relationship.

At MHS, he is captain of the Robotics Team, Science Olympiad, Science Bowl and Alpine Ski. He's loved being part of Chicken Bot Pie, the Robotics Team, which earned back-to-back slots in the World Championships. Robotics membership has grown from eight to 50 students over the past four years, and Parthiv developed a training curriculum to share collective knowledge with new students.

Minnetonka Research facilitated his inventions: a low-cost eye tracking device for distracted driving prevention and hardware and software for autonomous drones, which create full-color 3D building maps for first responders. "It took thousands of lines of code just to get it to hover; it crashed 30 times before it finally flew," he says. Persistence has clearly paid off. Parthiv will attend Stanford University, where he will major in electrical engineering and computer science.



Cameron Anundson

Cam has cracked the code to productivity. He balances rigorous academics with leadership roles in Student Government, Nordic Ski, Boy Scouts and Coffeehouse. He's on the Trap Shooting team and plays rec soccer, all while working as a video intern for MHS, an audio engineer at his church and manager at Adele's Custard. "Everything goes into my Google calendar," he says. "If you manage your time well, you can do more things."

As a National Merit Finalist and National AP Scholar, Cam clearly excels in academics, but he also excels in community service, earning the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award six years in a row. He raised \$1,000 for his Eagle Scout project to construct five portable garden carts for Excelsior Elementary.

This spring, Cam attended DECA Internationals for the third year in a row. He will attend Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University on a full-tuition scholarship, where he'll major in computer science. He also won an Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship, which includes \$10,000 a year toward his education costs and a paid summer internship at Amazon's Seattle headquarters.

Theresah Mienzah-Quarm

Tessa open-enrolled at Minnetonka in ninth grade. Her parents, who are from Ghana, wanted Tessa to attend a school that would provide her with as many opportunities as possible, but she struggled at first. After finding the Compass program at MHS, and with the help of friends and counselors, Tessa says she has progressed in both her academics and mental health. "They made me feel like it's okay not to be okay," she says.

Tessa's love of writing inspired her to join the school newspaper, *Breezes*. While she originally considered a career in journalism, she now plans to become a pediatric nurse. "I want to help kids live a life that's not just about being sick," she says. "I want to give them hope." Tessa is also a leader in the MHS Women of Color group, where she tries to create a "home away from home" for other students. Tessa will be attending Arizona State University this fall and is happy that her father had a chance to see her acceptance letter before he passed away in March. "I didn't see myself going to college," she says, "but I'm so proud of myself for never giving up. I feel like I climbed Mount Everest."



Claire Salmi

Claire, cello section leader for the MHS Symphony Orchestra and two-time All State Orchestra member, loves the range of her instrument. Her commitment to music extends to Chamber Orchestra, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony, Coffeehouse gigs and performance trips to Europe.

Claire's talents are remarkable. She's an AP Scholar with Distinction and National Merit Commended Scholar. She's president of Minnetonka's vibrant DECA chapter and is a highly successful competitor. Claire's first place wins at State sent her to Internationals twice where she won first in the Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling event as a junior and took second this year. "Claire is a selfless, exceptional leader," says DECA advisor Stephanie Lolich. Claire will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and major in neuroscience or international relations, interests shaped by her experiences at Minnetonka.



Julia Schulman

When Julia moved to the Minnetonka district at the beginning of eighth grade, she found the transition easier than expected, especially after meeting so many new friends while playing the role of Fiona in the MMW production of *Shrek*. She has since been in every musical theater performance at the high school, with her favorite role being the lead in *The Matchmaker*, Dolly Levi. "I have always been surrounded by strong Jewish women," Julia says, "so it was cool to be able to portray that through theater. I also learned a lot about myself in the process." However, Julia's favorite part of her time at Minnetonka has been the choral program: "Choir was where I found my spot. I felt valued, and I got to experience something beautiful every day."

While she can reflect back on numerous other highlights, from taking American Studies to mentoring freshmen as a First Mate, Julia is now just looking forward to the future. This fall, she will be majoring in political science at the University of Kansas. "I have so many ambitions," she says. "Whenever someone asks me what I want to do, I tell them I want to change the world, and I'm just ready to get started."

Antonio de la Vega

"Putting yourself in someone else's shoes is so exhilarating," says Tony, Minnesota Department of Education Theater Scholar of Distinction and award-winning actor. Since his first role as Roger in Minnewashta Elementary's production of *101 Dalmatians*, Tony has delighted audiences at Minnetonka Theatre, Children's Theatre and more.

His final Minnetonka role is the sword-fighting Elton in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and he leaves full of gratitude for the supportive theater community. This summer, Tony will direct and produce his second play for Contra Theatre, a company he founded last year.

Tony's favorite shows stretch boundaries and address social justice. As a sophomore, Tony played Tommy Boatwright in Minnetonka Theatre's *The Normal Heart*, an award-winning One Act that raises awareness of the 1980s AIDS crisis. "The story is still relevant, as long as the disease and discrimination still exist," he says.

He was honored to be one of seven Latinx actors in *I Come From Arizona*, a 2018 Children's Theatre world premiere that brings the lived experiences of Chicago-area immigrants into sharp focus. Tony says the play's stories mirror events unfolding today and he hopes they inspire us to create an uproar of change. "Tony is remarkable," says Barbara Van Pilsum, Tony's favorite English teacher. "He's a theater maker who can be both serious and playful on stage." His inspirations range from local mentor Shá Cage to Lady Gaga, and he looks up to his sister, Franki, who acted at MHS and now thrives in the theater world of New York City. He'll join her there in the fall as a drama major at The New School.



VANTAGE Mentorship Connects Alumni & Students



HANNAH WORRELL '11
PROJECT MANAGER, THOMSON REUTERS

"I have really amazing memories from my time at Minnetonka High School. As cliché as it sounds, I met some of my best friends there. Although the VANTAGE program wasn't around when I was in school, DECA and the business program set me on my career path. It only felt right to give back to the programs that helped me so much.

As a mentor, being paired with the same student over the course of the year and seeing her develop has been really rewarding. My mentee, Whitney, and I meet once a month. When we're together we'll talk about a variety of things, like what she's working on for VANTAGE, and we'll work through any obstacles she's facing on her projects. We also talk about life, where she's going to college next year and how she's balancing her job with her classwork.

I've been really fortunate with the three mentees that I've had. They are wonderful young women, and I'm excited to see where life takes them. I would encourage anyone who is considering becoming a mentor to just do it! It will be one of the most rewarding things you can do."



WHITNEY HERITAGE '19
SENIOR, MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL

"What I like about Minnetonka High School's VANTAGE program is the real-world experience, the freedom of being outside of a traditional classroom and the opportunity to be treated like an adult. My two short years in VANTAGE have prepared me for the future and helped me grow more than traditional high school ever has.

I have always been more reserved and quiet in class and would avoid talking at all costs. Now, after being in VANTAGE, I don't think twice about talking in front of people.

What I like most about being paired with a mentor is the real-world connection and exposure. My mentor is the young professional I strive to be someday. I am inspired by her hard work.

We talk about everything from schoolwork to daily life. Hannah always tells me to enjoy life right now and to just be a teenager, which is so refreshing to hear from such a successful person."

A Tradition of Teaching

by Anna Geldert '21



Curtis Geldert has walked the halls of Minnetonka High School for as long as he can remember. In 1986, he was Curtis, the quiet kid who sat in the back of the class and whispered sarcastic comments to those around him. Today, he's the same guy, but at the front of the class as Mr. Geldert, the physics teacher. I just call him Dad.

"It's fun teaching here because I feel a connection to the school," he says. "Through the community, because I live here, but also through the history of growing up here."

We Gelderts have a long history in Minnetonka. My grandfather, Dan Geldert, was a band director at MHS and was inducted into the Minnetonka Alumni Association's Faculty Hall of Fame in 2009. My grandmother, Carol Geldert, was a music teacher at both the elementary and middle school level. Then, last year, Dad and I both started high school together: he as a teacher and I as a freshman.

"I know from experience that it's a little strange having your dad in the building," Dad says to me, "but I've found it fun teaching in your school. I feel much more connected to the whole educational experience."

Because of my grandfather's connection to the building, my dad had been coming to the high school even before he was a student. My dad would tag along to sports games with the pep band, help set up music stands before concerts and help carry materials stored at school during the summer for my grandfather. Needless to say, Dad knew the building well.

When my dad came back to teach, he was astounded. Minnetonka was bigger and better, with an emphasis on new styles of student-centered teaching.

"The building itself is so different," he says. "If there are alumni who haven't been inside Minnetonka High School for 30 years, they should come back."

The innovation and technology that drew my dad back to the district has opened his eyes to creative teaching styles and new classroom activities. When he was a student, he says, it was all lectures, but now teaching encompasses so much more. He likes the way Minnetonka works to provide the best contemporary education for students.

"It's good to be back," he concludes.

Immersion Pioneers Shape Program

by Lyssa Campbell



In fall 2007, Minnetonka Public Schools launched its Language Immersion program at all six elementary schools. On June 6, students who entered the program as first-graders graduated from Minnetonka High School. "Twelve years ago our parents decided to take a leap of faith," says Abri Click '19. "And look at all we have accomplished in being pioneers. Language is just the foundation. The program has allowed us to grow in so many other aspects; it has become part of our identity."

Pioneers. Trailblazers. Leaders. Advocates.

These are just some of the words used to describe the first group of language immersion students who graduated with the Class of 2019. During their 12-year journey that began in first grade, students not only mastered language proficiency in Mandarin Chinese or Spanish, but grew to respect the nuances and significance of culture, food, government, politics and more. Some have traveled abroad to practice their language skills; many have stepped-up as student leaders and advocates, helping to shape curriculum that is already impacting thousands of Minnetonka students.

"The program emerged from our strategic planning process that began in 2002," says Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson. "One of our strategies was to develop specialized magnet programs. We explored Montessori, a math magnet, a fine arts magnet and language immersion." One challenge: Minnetonka did not have an empty building to set up a separate magnet site. "After we settled on the idea of a school-within-a-school," says Dr. Peterson, "we knew we wanted to pursue language immersion." District leaders communicated with families, collaborated with teachers and administration, and worked closely with the Minnetonka School Board that adopted the program in spring 2007.

"We had great interest from the word 'go,'" says Dr. Peterson. The district was also spurred on by enthusiasm from non-resident families who valued language immersion for their children. "We were committed to ensuring that every resident child had a place in the immersion program if their parents made that choice," says Dr. Peterson, a commitment that continues to this day. "Immersion gave us a boost in terms of numbers."

Enrollment levels allowed all six elementary schools to begin the 2007-08 school year with dedicated immersion classrooms: Mandarin Chinese at Excelsior and Scenic Heights elementary schools and Spanish at Clear Springs, Deephaven, Groveland and Minnewashta.

In the primary grades—when children are just beginning to learn the immersion language—teachers speak only Chinese or Spanish, augmented by signage and physical movement (called Total Physical Response) to teach vocabulary and core subjects. "It's all I've ever known," says Jimmy Gammill '19. "Of course, my immersion teachers only spoke Spanish. And while they were especially helpful, we quickly learned to be self-dependent. We gained maturity and independence. We developed problem-solving skills at a young age and are very

open-minded—we're not afraid to try something new."

Abri Click '19 says, "At the beginning of first grade, all I heard was gibberish. I went home with a headache. But literally one day in first grade it clicked, and I could understand everything. The ability to understand a foreign language as if it were my own is amazing."



Children are immersed from the first day of Kindergarten in Chinese language by expert Minnetonka teachers like Li Zheng.



At La Copa Minnetonka, K-12 families celebrate the cultures and traditions of Spanish-speaking countries.



Minnetonka High School's first immersion program graduates celebrated their amazing accomplishment at MHS Commencement on June 6, 2019.

Providing a high-quality Minnetonka education, taught through a foreign language, added a new dimension to the district's teaching, learning and assessment structure. Understandably, these pioneering families needed assurance that their children were gaining immersion language proficiency *and* maintaining grade-level standards in math, science and other core subjects, including English. International language proficiency tests and state-mandated tests are just two ways the district monitors student progress. "All along, our kids were learning Minnetonka curriculum just as well as our English program students," says Dr. Peterson. "Meanwhile, they were also learning their immersion language as well as anyone in the world."

From the beginning, the District built relationships with educators at sister schools in China and Chile. They shared curriculum and provided invaluable opportunities for Minnetonka to sponsor student teachers who were excited to share their language and culture.

Over time, curriculum was designed for the middle schools and high school. "As a former world language teacher," says Minnetonka High School Principal Jeff Erickson, "I knew that immersion was the right way to learn a new language. In fall 2015, when many immersion students took the Advanced Placement (AP) Language

and Culture exam as ninth-graders, the passing rate was 100%. We knew we were definitely on the right track giving students what they need, and every year the program has grown stronger. What's next for these students? It will be exciting to watch and learn."

Luca Vereecken '19 says, "The ability to speak Chinese is a valuable asset. I'm leaning toward a career in engineering and architecture, and with China's growing economy, I believe I could combine my interests and language skills toward a successful career."

Isabelle Pagano '19 is considering a career in law or international law. She says, "I'm excited to see where Chinese takes me in that area. When you go to China, people are so impressed that you know their language."

At the senior immersion breakfast in April, student speakers expressed their gratitude on behalf of all immersion students. "Thank you to our teachers for devoting countless hours creating new curriculum, adjusting coursework to fit our needs and never giving up on us," says Luca Vereecken. "We are also grateful for the administrators who made this outstanding program possible. They hired experienced and knowledgeable teachers who helped create these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for us."

A Look Back with Don Carruth: 105 and Thriving

by Anna Geldert '21

At 105 years old, Don Carruth has seen a lot. He was there for the Great Depression, both World Wars, the moon landing and the fall of the Berlin Wall. He also saw the creation of the Minnetonka School District and helped shape the future of our school culture.

Born in 1913, Don nearly died at the age of five during a flu epidemic. He survived and went on to discover his passion for teaching. Don earned just \$60 a month at his first teaching job in the 1930s at a small rural school in western Minnesota. In 1942, he transferred to Excelsior High School to teach social studies and coach the baseball team. When Minnetonka High School was built 10 years later, he was appointed principal at Excelsior, which had been converted to a K-9 school. Don continued to lead the school until he retired in 1973.

Looking back, Don remembers working with a wonderful community of people during his time at Minnetonka. "I liked the teachers," he recalls, "And I loved the students. And the parents backed me up 100%."

Don's final years as principal landed him right in the middle of a changing America, where society pushed for educational reform and students began testing boundaries. Reflecting on that time, Don says that he had hoped to leave the school with a solution to the growing issues. In 1972, Don presented the School Board with a plan to broaden education beyond simply academics, so it encompassed values such as



Former Excelsior Elementary School teacher and Principal Don Carruth reflects on his 30 years of leadership.

kindness and respect.

"I am talking about a value system that a society needs if it is going to continue to exist where most people are happy and productive," Don wrote in the document. "I feel that I am working with a greater staff, some wonderful, cooperative parents, and lots of fine youth. I want it to be better. I want to do more for our young people in the way of citizenship and education."

Don ultimately succeeded in his endeavor, and, to this day, every Minnetonka student learns to "do the right thing and represent us well." There have been many other changes to the Minnetonka that Don remembers from 50 years ago. New schools were built to accommodate a growing community, classrooms ditched their

chalkboards for whiteboards and iPads replaced paper notebooks. Of all the advances in education over the years, new technology is one thing that Don admits he'd have a hard time working with.

"Years and years ago I bought a computer," he says with a wry smile. "But I just couldn't sit at the thing so I gave it to the church. End of story."

While Don enjoys spending his retirement golfing, playing alto sax and visiting with his growing family, his legacy lives on within the district. His idea of broadening education to include supporting values such as kindness and respect have become a cornerstone of education in the Minnetonka School District. "And, here I am today," Don chuckles, "105 and still alive."

Groveland's Bright Future

by Daniel Campbell

Andrew Gilbertson knew he had big shoes to fill when he took over for Dave Parker, who served as principal of Groveland Elementary for the past 15 years. He also knew it was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

As the son of a teacher and a pastor, Andrew made the decision early in his life to work in the education field and serve others. After 20 years in various roles, there was really only one place for him to go.

"When I started looking at districts in Minnesota for principal positions, I was immediately struck by Minnetonka's culture of innovation," Andrew says, adding that it was a big reason he decided to come to the district. "Good ideas don't stay ideas very long; they get put into practice. Chinese and Spanish Immersion was an idea that became the biggest in the state. You see a lot of programs like that in this district."

A year in, there have already been big changes at Groveland. Space changes include a bold redesign of the Media Center, now called The Learning Commons, reflecting the emerging need for collaborative learning environments. Other improved spaces include an outdoor classroom, courtyard and a new gymnasium. New social-emotional learning programs like Social Thinking and Super Hero Kids ensure that there's a focus on the



whole student. They provide a framework for students to deal with issues like how to act in difficult situations and prevent bullying. Their impact can already be seen across the school.

"Open any door in the building, and faces brighten up," Andrew says. "I can't take credit, but it feels great."

Andrew notes one other big change in education is the families themselves. From volunteering to mentoring, parents are more willing to be involved with their children's education than ever before. "Twenty years ago, families said 'That's the school day from 8-4, you have them' and now, families have a desire to be part of their child's school in a meaningful way," says Andrew.

As for the future, Andrew thinks bringing coding into the classroom is a game changer. "You don't often see a truly new subject for kids to learn. There is lots of room and chances for growth in coding." Like all of Minnetonka's schools, Groveland has integrated coding into its curriculum starting in Kindergarten. There are also extracurricular opportunities like CoderDojo at Groveland, which takes place one Sunday each month. It gives kids the chance to work with computers, robots and coding.

Andrew is also excited to watch his students grow. "It's amazing," he says, "to realize you'll be part of these families' lives for the next 10-15 years. Not just as their principal or during classroom visits, but even for years after they leave Groveland."



Principal Gilbertson is a "hands-on" administrator. In fact, he took time to meet every student in his school over the last year.

Sundem Scholarship Enables Student to Pursue His Dream

by Emil Liden '21

Gary Sundem graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1963, and in 2015 was recognized as one of the Minnetonka Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award winners. This award prompted Gary, along with his sisters, Gail (Sundem) Noller '66 and Gwen (Sundem) Jansen '70, to establish the Sundem Family Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a senior who has a minimum GPA of 3.50, lettered in at least two varsity sports and plans to attend a liberal arts college for four years.

Now in its fourth year, past honorees include:

- **Mario Bertogliat '16**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **Patrick Brady '17**, University of Notre Dame
- **Christina Crassas '18**, Rice University
- **Sarah Hamilton '19**, Macalester College



Gary Sundem, class of 1963, founded the Sundem Family Scholarship in 2016.



Patrick Brady '17, Sundem Family Scholar at the University of Notre Dame.

Patrick Brady, who received the scholarship in 2017, is already using it to put his passion for international relations into action. Patrick's accomplishments while at Minnetonka High School included being a National Merit Finalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction, captain of the cross country team and an Eagle Scout.

"I am very thankful for the Sundem family and their generosity," says Patrick. "The Sundem Family Scholarship has been tremendously helpful in paying for my tuition at the University of Notre Dame, where I am currently enjoying a fun and busy sophomore year."

At Notre Dame, Patrick is studying economics, political science and Russian. He is also involved in the school's Running Club and Naval ROTC Battalion. Patrick will be spending the summer studying the Russian language in Kiev, Ukraine.

In talking about his future, Patrick says, "I hope to serve as a naval officer and attend graduate school. I would love to have a career in international relations, either in the military or otherwise. Learning languages is a huge passion of mine, and I hope to continue that education through whatever career I may have."

The Minnetonka Alumni Association extends a special thank you to the Sundem family for their generosity!

Alumni Association Gift Impacts More Than 1,300 Students

Each year, as part of the Minnetonka Alumni Association's commitment to support fine arts programming, the association funds teacher grants in partnership with the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation. These grants make innovative ideas from teachers a reality and enhance the ability for students to learn.

Through the generosity of alumni, the Minnetonka Alumni Association was once again able to provide Minnetonka teachers with the funding to enhance student learning in the fine arts. This year \$2,845 was given to support teacher grants, which will impact an estimated 1,337 students across the district.

It is the hope of the association that this investment will allow students to excel at their passions.

2019-20 TEACHER GRANTS

- **Remo West African Drums**
Impact is 877 music students at Clear Springs and Scenic Heights elementary schools
- **Draw the Future with 3D Pens**
Impact is 80 second-grade and third-grade students at Excelsior and Scenic Heights elementary schools
- **Elements of Art Centers**
Impact is 380 students at Clear Springs and Minnewashta elementary schools

See a full list of teacher grants funded by the Minnetonka Alumni Association from 2005-present at <http://bit.ly/TonkaTG>.



Minnetonka Alumni Association board members Morgan Fischer (student representative, second from left) and Marietta Jacobsen (secretary, fourth from left) pose with the recipients of the 2019 Fine Arts Teacher Grants.

Give a Gift, Make a Difference



There are many ways to make a direct and lasting impact on Minnetonka Schools:

- Direct donations
- Sustaining gifts
- Establishing a scholarship
- Establishing a named fund

Your tax-deductable donation will support fine arts programming in the district and events for our alumni community.

Contact the Minnetonka Alumni Association at **Alumni@minnetonkaschools.org** to discuss how you can support your alma mater!

Give online at
minnetonkaschools.org/alumnigiving

MICHAEL BUSSEY '65

Distinguished Alumnus

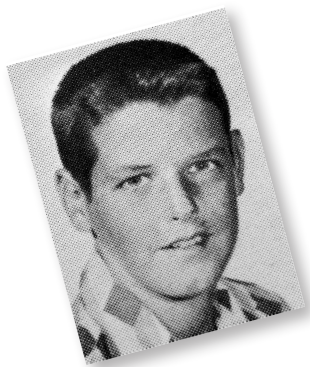
by Emil Liden '21

Michael Bussey's 55-year history with the YMCA started at the age of 15 when he worked as an assistant counselor at Camp Christmas Tree, a Minneapolis day camp. "It was the first time I realized that I could be paid for doing something I loved," says Mike, who earned \$30 that summer.

Mike graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1965 and later from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1969 with a degree in business. "There were lots of business jobs available," says Mike, "but I was fully committed to the mission of the YMCA." With the encouragement of his camp director, Mike pursued his passion and started his career as a program director with the YMCA of Greater St. Paul.



"I have met the Queen of England, the Pope and the Israeli Prime Minister, but what's most memorable is working in a field where you can help other people."



After working for four years with the St. Paul YMCA, Mike and his wife, Marcia, accepted positions as Work Service Workers with the YMCA in Nazareth, Israel. Mike served as the youth sports director, which, among other things, included coaching the only Arab team in a Jewish basketball league.

The Busseys returned to Minnesota and to the YMCA in 1977 where Mike became director at YMCA Camp St. Croix. "It was my dream job," Mike reflects. In 1983, he became the VP of Operations and Financial Development at the YMCA of Greater St. Paul.

In 1990, he was selected by the YMCA to return to the Middle East, this time to direct the Jerusalem International

YMCA. Mike's return to Jerusalem coincided with the start of the Gulf War. He remained in Jerusalem, but his wife and children were evacuated by the State Department. It was around that time that he was contacted by Minnetonka High School and told that he was in everyone's thoughts and prayers back home. "I will always be grateful for that message at a very challenging time," Mike reflects. Under Mike's leadership, the Jerusalem International YMCA was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

Mike returned to the U.S. in 1998 to serve as a national consultant for the YMCA, working with 375 YMCAs in 14 Midwest states. In 2009, Mike retired from the YMCA and became a Senior Consultant with Donor By Design, a consulting firm that helps not-for-profit organizations carry out their missions.

Mike is thankful for the encouragement he received, as well as the lifelong relationship he has had with Minnetonka schools. "I'm amazed when I think back at how many times throughout my life that Minnetonka High School has reached out to express support," says Mike, who remains a proud Skipper to this day.

EDWARD DEUTSCHLANDER '89

Distinguished Alumnus

by Emil Liden '21

Edward Deutschlander is a highly respected business leader in the Twin Cities area. As CEO of the North Star Resource Group, Ed leads more than 300 financial advisors and team members in one of the nation's oldest privately held financial firms.

Ed first moved to Minnetonka when he was 16, starting his sophomore year of high school at MHS. The big move made him "comfortable being uncomfortable," he says. The teachers constantly challenged him to reach his full potential and helped prepare Ed for the many opportunities in his life.

Ed's decorated career is one of accomplishment and honor. He was the first recipient of North Star's Medal of Honor, an award given for leadership, selflessness and service to others. His alma mater, Macalester College, established the Deutschlander A.C.E. Award in his name. The award is given annually to a football student-athlete who best exemplifies characteristics of "Attitude, Commitment and Excellence," three characteristics that defined Ed's career. Ed was also recently listed as one of the most powerful business leaders by *Minnesota 500*.

Ed's recruitment and financial work has been recognized in two *New York Times* bestsellers *What the Dog Saw* by Malcolm Gladwell and *Use Your Head to Get Your Foot in the Door* by Harvey MacKay. Ed has also co-authored three books: *Be the First Believer* (2013), *Practice on Purpose* (2015), and *Promises Kept* (2017).

Apart from his tremendous work in the financial industry, Ed has also devoted his time and resources to philanthropic causes. In 2004, Ed and his wife, Toni, founded Bikes for Kids. This charitable organization works with groups across Minnesota to give bikes and helmets to children. With the help of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities, Bikes for Kids has donated more than 4,000 bikes and helmets to children in the Twin Cities. Ed is also a member of Stop Alzheimers Now, an organization that promotes



awareness and resources to help fight and eradicate Alzheimer's Disease.

"We forget about all the good things we have. Whenever you are involved with a cause, it gives you perspective and gratitude."



Reflecting on his time at Minnetonka High School, Ed is grateful to all the teachers and supporters who brought out the best in him and welcomed him into a supportive community that embraced a culture of positive values. His advice for recent graduates? "Don't worry if you don't have it figured out yet."

ROBERT NAEGELE '57

Distinguished Alumnus in Memoriam

by Daniel Campbell

Bob Naegele lived a life of excellence. From business success to philanthropy, he never settled for good enough. Despite his many achievements, there is no doubt that Bob's most celebrated moment came when he successfully led the efforts to bring NHL Hockey back to Minnesota, "The State of Hockey."

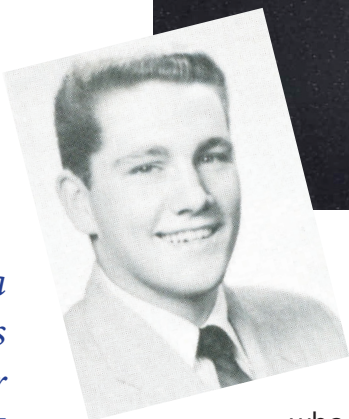
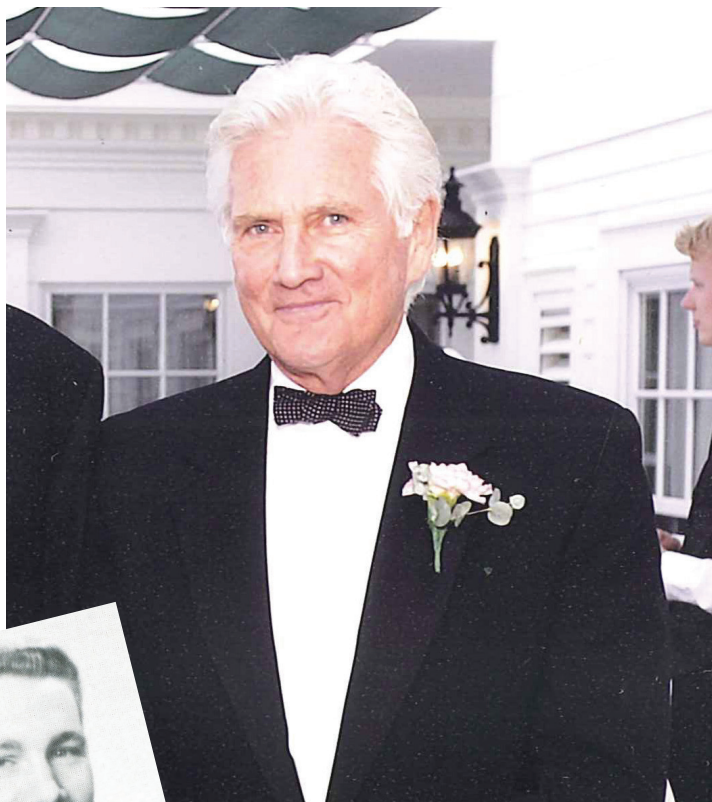
Bob graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1957, where he served as class president, played football, tennis and—of course—hockey. Minnetonka was also where he met the love of his life, Ellis Jean Fitzimons '57. They were married in 1961.

Classmate Carlyle "Jack" Ballantine '55 remembers Bob well, proclaiming that, "if there is a better example for future grads of a community citizen and friend to all I haven't met that person."

"Bob was all you could ask for in a classmate and teammate and has always been a source of pride for the rest of us." - Jack Ballantine '55

After attending Dartmouth College, Bob worked for the family business, Naegele Advertising. Bob and his brother, Bill '60, eventually bought the Twin Cities arm of the company, the first of many business successes. In 1984, he invested in a hockey training product company, Ole's Innovative Sports. He renamed it Rollerblade Inc. and, under his leadership, inline skating went from a niche activity to a national phenomenon. When he sold the company in 1995, Bob shared more than \$1.5 million of the profits with his employees.

A lifelong hockey fan, Bob was always saddened by the loss of Minnesota's home team, the North Stars. One day, his son arranged for him to meet with then St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman, who was trying to bring the



National Hockey League back to Minnesota.

Following Bob's passing, Mayor Coleman remarked publicly, "As a mayor, I dreamed great dreams, but it was Bob Naegele who had the skill and the faith to turn those dreams into reality. The result was the Minnesota Wild."

Bob used his wisdom, financial acumen and business connections to lead the group of investors that launched the Minnesota Wild franchise, becoming its first majority owner. Under his tenure, he weathered an NHL lockout and helped build a solid foundation for the new team. He eventually sold the Wild in April 2008 but will always be remembered for bringing back Minnesota hockey.

"We are all grateful to the dreamer who made the return of the NHL possible," said Jac Sperling, former CEO and board member of the Minnesota Wild, in a public statement, "as will be future generations of Minnesota hockey fans. We will all miss Bob greatly." Minnetonka will miss Bob as well, but his legacy will continue to inspire generations of Skippers to come.

MINNETONKA *Alumni Awards*

Congratulations to all of the 2019 Alumni Award Honorees!

Join us on Saturday, September 28, to honor their achievements.

RSVP at www.minnetonkaalumni.com/AlumniAwards



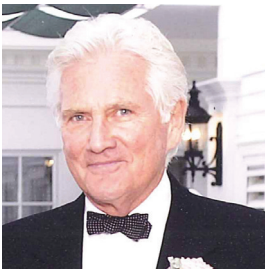
Distinguished Alumni
Michael Bussey '65

For 40 years, Mike worked with the YMCA in the United States and Israel. Due to his leadership in the Middle East branch, the group was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.



Distinguished Alumni
Edward Deutschlander '89

Dedicated to improving the lives of others, Ed was named CEO of North Star Resource Group, a company that offers financial services and advice to those in need.



Distinguished Alumni in Memoriam
Robert Naegele '57

From Bob's business success to his support of Minnesota hockey and his work with local charities, Bob was a lifelong leader and role model to all.



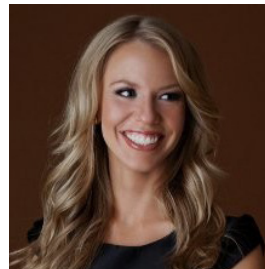
Distinguished Service
William Loeber '69

Bill is the founder of Operation Connect, an organization that helps veterans transition back into the working world by partnering them with influential business leaders.



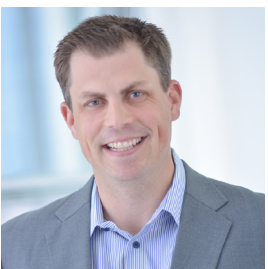
Young Alumni Award
Craig Bantz '04

Craig overcame personal and financial challenges to graduate from the U of M. He has since gone on to become the chief digital officer at Ohio University.



Young Alumni Award
Kelsy Zimba '04

Kelsy is a leader in the world of fashion. She has her own clothing label, ZIMBA, and has designed everything from dresses to school uniforms.



Skipper Hall of Fame
Rob LaRue '97

Rob stands out as one of Minnetonka's most accomplished multi-sport athletes, lettering in football, hockey and baseball during his time at Minnetonka.



Skipper Hall of Fame
Gary Peterson '59

Gary was a truly inspiring athlete. He lettered in football, basketball, tennis and track. Later, he returned to Minnetonka Schools as a teacher and coach.



Faculty Hall of Fame
Susan Adamek

Sue was a brilliant social studies teacher and powerful female role model. She encouraged each student to become passionate and engaged in their education.



Faculty Hall of Fame
Juris Terauds

As a drafting teacher at MHS, Juris taught students not only about the skills needed in the field of architecture but also the importance of working hard and being creative.

Class Notes

1940s

1946

Barbara Bessessen Krenz, Ruth Evan VanAllen, Allen Anderson, John "Corky" Williams, Eleanor Johnston Oglin and Nancy Hurley Punch gathered for their 72nd Excelsior High School class reunion on September 7, 2018, at the Lafayette Club. They all turned 90 in 2018.



1949

Louis S. Zakariasen Jr., a graduate of Excelsior High School, celebrated his 90th birthday in March 2019.

1950s

1955

Dick Engen and his wife still play golf three times a week. He writes that, "Age is not making us as good as we were a few years ago, but we're still looking down at the grass!"

1960s

1961 (1962)

Sondra Hamness Wenz '61, Janet Hamness Mills '62 and Kathy Kempf Martin '62 happily met up at the All-School All-Class Reunion.

1963 (1964)

Bob Shelton '64, Bill Heinsch '63, Ken Grabow '63 and Terry Smith '64 enjoyed their 51st annual trip together. This year, the alums travelled to Tampa, Florida.

1965

Lori Palmer and her husband Russ recently donated a large portion of their land to the Texas Land Conservancy to ensure its perpetual protection as a habitat for wild and botanical life.

Daniel Paulsen celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in September 2019. The Paulsens have three children and 11 grandchildren.

1966

Donna Cousins Vos published her latest novel, *The Story of Bones*. It was nominated as a Foreword INDIES 2018 Book of the Year Finalist in General Adult Fiction and Multicultural Adult Fiction.

1967

Richard Wehler had a great time attending his 51st class reunion this past year. He is the author of three books: *North of Normal: Minne-Sconsin Stories*, *South of Superior: More Minne-Sconsin Stories* and *East of Excelsior: A Senior's Minne-Sconsin Stories*.

1968

Phil Martin worked with the Minneapolis College Foundation on a new initiative, Children's Book Express. Books are dropped off, then English department staff sort and display them on bookshelves for students to take home to the children in their lives.

1969

Dr. Linda Bolmeier Sanders has been instrumental in launching the Professional Dramatic Writing concentration of the new Master of Arts Professional Creative Writing program at University of Denver. Linda has developed and currently teaches the Personal Performance Writing and Masterworks: Drama courses for the college.

1970s

1971

Joni (Joan Hlavacek) Schwartz, Professor of Humanities at the City University of New York, co-edited a new book, *Race, Education & Reintegrating Formerly Incarcerated Citizens*, published by Rowman & Littlefield.

1972 (1975, 2006, 2008)

David Ferguson is presently a principal of Ferguson Realtors, under the Coldwell Banker Burnet umbrella, operating out of the Minnetonka office.

Jerry Holl published his latest book, *Downhills Don't Come Free: One Man's Bike Ride from Alaska to Mexico*.

In April 2018, five MHS Alumni met in Kathmandu, Nepal to hike up to the Mount Everest Base Camp. The group (pictured right) included: Jerry Holl '72, Greg Wilson '72, Hank O'Brien '75, Frank O'Brien '06, Dr. Jeffrey O'Brien '08.

1978

More than 100 members of the Class of 1978 met at the Lafayette Club for food, drinks, music and fun on August 25, 2018 (pictured below).

The 1978 Swim Team reunited at its 40-year reunion last summer to reminisce about its state championship and catch up on everything that's happened since.

1980s

1980

Michael Wahl works for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Orlando, Florida as a missionary helping to send interns, volunteers and missionary staff overseas and throughout the U.S. Over the last 20 years, he has taken teams to Russia, Romania, Nigeria, India, Peru and China.



1981

Colonel Thomas Smith retired as the Wing Commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing in March 2019 after more than 32 years of service in the United States Air Force.



Steve Robertsen was awarded the United States Forest Service's Gifford Pinchot Award as the Eastern Region's Interpreter and Conservation Educator of the Year. Steve has worked as an interpretive naturalist for the Forest Service since 1996 in both Alaska and Minnesota and is currently lead interpreter with the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota.



Todd McGonagle and Polly Westlie were married on February 2, 2019.

David Mackay lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Tali, and their four children aged 17-23. He is currently producing and directing TV movies and independent features. Watch for "The Matchmaker Mysteries," a series of movies that will air on the Hallmark Mystery Channel in 2020.

1990s

1992

Jeremy Borash was promoted to Senior Director of Content and Development for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) in March 2019.

2000

2000

Jacob Kane and his wife, Kasey, moved to Bloomington in 2018. They have two dogs, a lab named Kimo and a Husky mix named Etta.

2001

Rebecca Hass released her debut album, *Florescer (Bloom)*, a piano-based album of original compositions and arrangements in Brazilian styles, in October 2018.

Daniel Kunitz welcomed his first daughter, Natalie.

2005

Meredith Johnson was married in November 2018.

Michael David Miller graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth and now works at Spa Commerce in Minneapolis. Michael and his wife, Michelle, live in Golden Valley with their dog, Cooper.

2006

Robb Gordon Miller and his wife, Lynne, recently transferred to Phoenix, Arizona to work at the Target Corporate office.

Steven Mitchel Miller and his wife welcomed their new son. The family lives in Vancouver, Canada with their two cats.

2007

Sonja Midtune released a brand new single called "My Light." This spiritual love song, lying somewhere in the folk-pop genre, is the first of several singles Sonja plans to release in 2019.

2010s

2011

Anthony John Miller graduated with a BA and BM in Theology from Bergen University after studying in China for a semester. He currently works at Target Corporate and is on staff at Passion Church. He is engaged to be married this summer to his fiancé, Chessa.

Adam Jensen-Nau married Katharin in May 2018. The couple currently live in Salt Lake City, Utah with their dog, Daisy.



Julie Friend '11 and Sydney Rossman '13 both captured their first professional women's hockey championship in the NWHL.

2012

Vanessa Inez Olive graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Nevada on May 18, 2019.

2014

Peter Kluzak married Brittini Faddoul on May 26, 2019 and will attend graduate school at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles in the fall.

2017

Jonathon Matthew Miller will be transferring to Montana State in Bozeman, Montana. He currently runs his own buy/sell vintage business.

2018

Liam Arnar graduated with honors from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Jenna Larson is attending the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa. Her sister Ellie Larson '19 is attending Iowa State University to study Industrial Engineering.



Send your updates to:
alumni@minnetonkaschools.org
or submit them online at www.minnetonkaalumni.com

In Memoriam

The staff of the *Minnetonka Alumni Magazine* extends its deepest sympathies to the families and friends of all Minnetonka, Excelsior and Deephaven graduates and staff who passed away this year.

Alumni

Donald Thomas '40
Edward Allen Zembrycki '57
Donald Berglund '57
Gary Reed '57
George Lovrien '57
Robert Naegele '57
Marilyn (Olson) Huttner '57
Ronald Johnsen '57

Charlie Jerabek '57
John Swanson '58
Paul E. Johnson '59
Brad Dyar '60
Wally Brown '61
Helen (Broste) Ewig '61
Frank Cody '61
Jerry Fernstrom '61
Margaret (Bristol) Johnson '61
Margaret Klein '61
Terry Knutson '61
Gary North '61
Joel Stoehr '61
Lynn Hammond '64
Richard Bellchamber '65
Robert Berkey '65
Caroline Chowen '65
Nicholas Ice '65
David Paulson '65
Joel Peterson '65
David Workman '66
Joseph Doescher '68

Charles "Chuck" Weller '70
Jon Frederick Hanson '71
Tom Chamberlain '73
Robert Brady Fisher '76
Terry Toll '78
James Kalgren '79
Brad Beniek '83
Matthew Strand '94
Justin Anderson '01
Alexander McFarland '17

Teachers and Staff

John Elliott
Don Grimstad
Angie Kallman
John Raymond
Lynn Scearcy
Tom Schmid
Ruth Thompson
Mary Traxler-Orstad

Upcoming Events

2019

Aug. 10 - Class of 2009 10-Year Reunion
Aug. 17 - Class of 1979 40-Year Reunion
Sept. 13 - Class of 1989 30-Year Reunion
Sept. 27 - Homecoming Parade in Excelsior
Sept. 28 - Alumni Awards Brunch at MHS

2020

Jan. 31 - Nomination Deadline for 2020 Alumni Awards
Feb. 1 - Dream Makers (Minnetonka Foundation)

For all the latest reunion and alumni event updates, visit www.minnetonkaschools.org/alumni-events. Know about a class reunion that is not listed? Email us at alumni@minnetonkaschools.org and we'd be glad to include it on the website.

Alumni Events

All-School All-Class Reunion Recap

The 5th annual All-School All-Class Reunion was held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 in the Excelsior Commons. More than 1,300 alumni from across the years had a great time by the lake sampling amazing local food and beverages, reconnecting with friends and making new memories!





MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

★ Minnetonka Public Schools
Dr. Dennis Peterson, Superintendent
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Minnetonka, MN 55345

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Minnetonka Memories: A Look Back at 1979

Forty years ago, *Superman* proved that comic book movies could be blockbusters, *My Sharona* topped the charts and the price of gasoline was 88 cents per gallon. The Sony Walkman also made its debut, changing how people listened to music forever. Changes were on the way at Minnetonka, too, as a new track and a new weight room were added for the athletics department and the art department received a new dark room. The most memorable moment of the year was when school was closed on January 24—not for snow—but because the boiler blew up. Thankfully, no one was injured.



The Minnetonka Alumni Magazine is an annual publication of Minnetonka Public Schools and the Minnetonka Alumni Association. The association includes graduates of Minnetonka High School, Excelsior High School, Deephaven High School, all present and former members of the faculty, administration and the school board.