

Why We Innovate in Minnetonka

A culture of innovation expands opportunities for students

Innovation in Minnetonka Public Schools is central to transforming learning to meet the changing needs of our students and society.

Six years ago, the District created an innovation pipeline to formally tap our employees' ideas for improving student experiences and outcomes. Over time, with a high level of employee engagement, supportive business partners, and District leaders, the pipeline has matured into a design-thinking, solution-focused innovation process. Each school has an innovation team, trained to have a mindset of discovery and focused on student learning.

A COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

Students' needs are different today, in part because of the pervasive technology environment in which they live. With our culture of innovation, we can incubate and accelerate new teaching and learning strategies, testing them on a small scale and then expanding to more students. In this way we improve student achievement and deliver world-class opportunities to all children.

Through innovation we are also developing citizens of tomorrow. To be successful, our

graduates must demonstrate high levels of competency in critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration as well as global competency, adaptability and leadership. Helping students develop these 21st century skills is at the core of our instructional framework.

"Students are at the center of every decision, every day, and that makes me proud to be part of our innovation team," says Eric Schneider, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. "Our employees know their ideas matter, which helps us attract the very best."

Innovation Portfolio

Several significant, thriving programs were born through Minnetonka's focus on innovation and the "Hunt for Big Ideas" that began six years ago.



The state's first K-5 coding curriculum is driving engagement and leading students to enroll in advanced computer science coursework in middle school and high school.



1,000 MHS students are enrolled in Tonka Online courses for 2016-17, up from 600 the previous year. Approved through NCAA and the Minnesota Department of Education, the program is now open to students throughout Minnesota and is expected to provide a new revenue stream to the District without adding students to classrooms.



Opening in fall 2016, MHS students will learn through an authentic science research experience with partnership from industry mentors. New science classrooms and lab space will support our growing high school science program.



From business analytics to healthcare to graphic design, students are engaged in real-world, project-based learning coupled with rigorous and relevant coursework for today.

Message

from the Superintendent

The school year has begun with the largest student enrollment in Minnetonka's history and the largest class being Kindergarten. Over 3,250 students live outside of the District. The District's financial condition is at a high point with voters' approval of a new referendum and the addition of \$23 million from Open Enrollment this year and over \$100 million in the past nine years. Student achievement continues to climb and promises to go even higher this year.

Last year we reported that a cross-section of Minnetonka 15-year-old students chosen by the OECD organization out-performed every country in the world, except Shanghai, in Math, Reading and Science. This year another cross-section of Minnetonka 15-year-olds out-performed every country in the world, including Shanghai, in Reading and Science. In Math, Shanghai is the only country performing higher than Minnetonka.

Mr. Erickson, our High School Principal, attended an international meeting of principals from elite high schools at Harvard University this summer. Many of them have one or two of the unique programs for students that Minnetonka has, but none of their schools have all of the programs Minnetonka offers students. None of them have the high level of innovation found in Minnetonka. It is essential that excellent school districts continue to meet the changing minds of students and support the development of emerging skills that students will need in the future.

Dennis L. Peterson



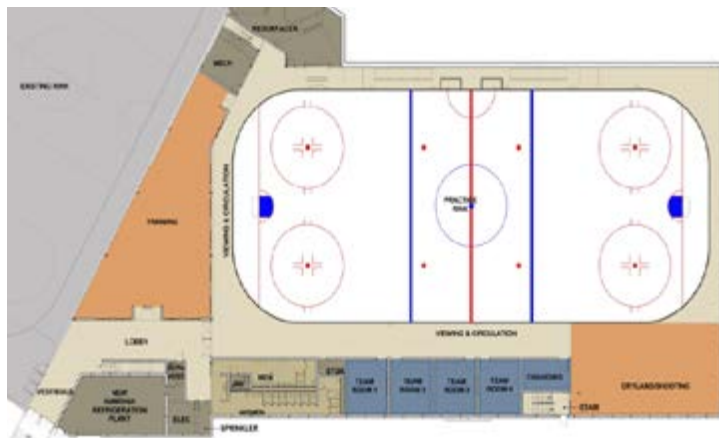
Privately Funded Pagel II Ice Rink Construction

The Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association (MYHA) has seen dramatic growth over the last decade-plus. In response to that growth, the association has undertaken a tireless campaign to raise funds for a second rink addition to the Pagel Center.

privately funded through MYHA membership, fundraising and corporate and individual giving. The MYHA has secured independent financing through Venture Bank. Construction started this summer and will be completed in 2017.

NO SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS ARE BEING USED FOR THIS PROJECT

No school District funds are being used for this project. The entire cost of the new rink is



Pagel II is a standard NHL practice size sheet, 85' x 200'. The facility will include a large, open training space, four locker rooms, a mezzanine area, and meeting space. The MYHA will pay for all operating expenses.

Soon, more than 1,000 kids will be ready to call the new rink home. When its doors open, Pagel II will play a large role in the continued development of Minnetonka hockey players and the growth of the MYHA.



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276
 Dennis Peterson, Ph.D, Superintendent
 5621 County Road 101
 Minnetonka, MN 55345

School Board

Pam Langseth, Chair
 Lisa Sumner, Vice Chair
 Mark Ambrosen, Treasurer
 Lisa Wagner, Clerk

Katie Becker, Director
 John Holcomb, Director
 Heidi Garcia, Director

TOUR of TABLES



A ladies' luncheon benefit featuring lavishly decorated tables, shopping and a fashion show

Friday, November 4, 2016
 Lafayette Club

www.MinnetonkaFoundation.com

Minnetonka Schools Calendar

September

30 Two-Hour Early Release K-12, Staff Development

October

- 1 Tonka Trot, Groveland, 7:30am reg; 8:30am run/walk
- 5 MHS Band Sampler Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 6 MHS Orchestra Sampler Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 6 Parenting with Purpose Series, "Stress is a Part of Life. How do We Know When it's Too Much?" Excelsior Aud, 6:30-8:30pm
- 7 Family Movie Night, Clear Springs, Gr K-3, 6-8pm
- 13 No Preschool: Conferences; ECFE Meets
- 13-14 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 14 No School K-12, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 20-21 No School, Teacher Statewide Meetings
- 25 College Financial Aid, MHS Forum, 4pm & 7pm
- 26 ECFE Open Gym Begins, 4-5pm

November

- 1 Two-Hour Late Start K-12, Staff Development
- 1 No Preschool or ECFE
- 3-5 MME Gr 6 Fall Musical, 7pm
- 4 Minnetonka Foundation Tour of Tables, Lafayette Club, 11:15am

- 5-19 MHS Fall Musical, "Bye Bye Birdie," Arts Center
- 7 Celebration of Service, Arts Center, 6pm
- 8 Election Day, Polls Open 7am-8pm
- 9 Parenting with Purpose Series, "Warp Speed—Working with Kids in a Digital Age," MHS Arts Center, 6:30pm
- 10 Excelsior Veteran's Day Program, Aud, 9:15am
- 10 Scenic Heights Talent Show, Excelsior Aud, 6:30pm
- 11 No Preschool; ECFE Meets
- 11 No School K-12, Planning and Grading
- 14 Looking for Scholarships, MHS Forum, 7pm
- 15 Clear Springs Gr 3 Music Program, Excelsior Aud, 6:30pm
- 15 Groveland Gr 3 Music Concert, MME Cafe, 7pm
- 15, 21 Navigator Parent Info Night for Prospective Applicants, DSC, 6:30pm
- 17 Minnewashta Gr 4 Choirs, West Gym, 6pm & 7pm
- 21 MMW Gr 6 Choir, Cafetorium, 6:30pm
- 21 College Scholarships, MHS Forum, 3:30pm
- 22 Minnewashta Gr 3 Choir, West Gym, 6pm & 7:15pm
- 24 Tonka Turkey Trot 5K, MHS, 7am
- 24-25 No School K-12, District Office Closed, Thanksgiving

MINNETONKA THEATRE PRESENTS

BYE BYE BIRDIE
 the musical

November 5-19, 2016
 minnetonkatheatre.com | 952.401.5898
 Arts Center on 7 Main Stage

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
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 Hopkins, Minnesota