

Immersion Pathways Defined Through Grade 12

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Nurturing global learners is an important part of the mindset and curriculum in the Minnetonka Public School District. For more than a decade, we have fostered that goal through the World Language Immersion program in both Chinese and Spanish. The Immersion program is now entering its 11th year, which is exciting on several fronts. The program continues to support the District's goals of delivering world language curriculum that helps students master a new language and understand multiple cultural perspectives and differences, and laying the groundwork for students' K-12 Immersion experience.

Further, recent NWEA test results show Immersion students are performing at high levels; by grade five, the average Chinese, Spanish, and English student is performing beyond the 11th grade level in reading and in math compared to national norms.

First Immersion Students Now in Grade 11

The District's first class of Immersion students are now juniors. Last spring, they made important choices during the high school course registration period for 2017-18. Thirty-three students are choosing to embark on a two-year program to earn an International Baccalaureate Bilingual Diploma (25 in Spanish and 8 in Chinese). Others are enrolled in VANTAGE, Minnetonka's advanced professional studies program, and they plan to complete a real-world project in their Immersion language during second semester.

Expanded Offerings for Underclassmen

New this year are Immersion Program Abroad experiences in China and Chile, offered to sophomores. Other courses include IB Language and Literature in either Chinese or Spanish, as well as IB Individuals and Societies in Spanish. Immersion students have the option to take an AP Language and Culture course in either 9th or 10th grade, and 95% of our ninth-graders earned a score of 3 or higher in spring of 2017.

More Than Simply Learning a New Language

While the World Language Immersion program teaches students either Chinese or Spanish, including how to read, write and converse in each language, one of the key aspects of the curriculum is getting students to use those skills in practical and meaningful ways. For example, high school students in the Immersion program have access to Chinese and Spanish classes

that focus on much more than just language; they are also learning Chinese or Latin American Politics, Film and Culture in either Chinese and Spanish, IB Language and Literature in Chinese or Spanish, and IB Global Politics in Spanish. For the first time, 10th graders have the opportunity to participate in the Immersion Program Abroad, which includes a half-credit course during the spring semester and an experience abroad in either China or Chile in June. Finally, Immersion students can integrate their learning experience with the VANTAGE program with strands including Business in a Global Economy and Design + Marketing in either Chinese or Spanish. This gives students the opportunity to tackle real-world projects and allows them to use their language skills, as they will when they advance to their professional careers.

Learn More About Minnetonka's World Language Immersion Program

The District's World Language Immersion program is recognized as the largest in the state of Minnesota. Learn more on the District's website:

Minnetonka High School World Language Immersion:
www.minnetonkaschools.org/academics/mhs/language-immersion

Middle School World Language Immersion:
www.minnetonkaschools.org/academics/middle-school/language-immersion

Elementary School World Language Immersion:
www.minnetonkaschools.org/academics/elementary/kindergarten-options/immersion



Message

from the Superintendent

The 2017-18 school year is underway. The last several years have provided us with an excellent foundation for greater success this year. We have been building toward even higher achievement by our high school students through the high levels of achievement by elementary and middle school students over the past ten years, so we were predicting the performance of 2016-17.

Our Seniors reached a nationally competitive ACT average of 27.5, which is considerably higher than any Minnetonka class has ever had and probably the highest ever for a Minnesota public high school. It was 23.1 in 2002 and has climbed over the years to this new high. The top 100 students' average that we use to compare with private schools has now climbed to 33.8, and we are far ahead of their top 100's. Actually, the average of our top 400 of 29.8 is now above the private schools' top 100.

Furthermore, our averages on the SAT also set new high levels. The national honors for students on Advanced Placement exams has reached incredible new high levels as well. The number of National AP scholars has climbed from one in 2004 to 58 in 2017, and all of the other honor classifications have increased dramatically with 513 more students being honored.

So, we are ready for even higher levels of success this year.

Dennis L. Peterson
 Superintendent

District Announces a New Director of Communications and Associate Superintendent

After serving in Minnetonka Public Schools as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, **Eric Schneider** has accepted a new District role as Associate Superintendent. Schneider has led the Teaching and Learning department as well as the District's innovation efforts for the past six years, launching new programs such as VANTAGE, Tonka Online, and Tonka <codes> while leading an academic program that continues to reach new heights in student achievement. Schneider's new role will expand his leadership impact and will help drive the District's ongoing commitment to excellence and innovative thinking.



Before coming to Minnetonka in 2011, Schneider served as principal of Vintage High School in Napa (CA), was an assistant principal and a teacher in Minneapolis Public Schools. Schneider currently serves on the EdLeader21 National Advisory Board and leads the Twin Cities "Community Innovation Partnership." He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and is currently completing his doctoral degree at Concordia University in Chicago. He resides in the Minnetonka community with his wife, Juliette, and his two sons, Matteo (MME) and Dylan (Groveland).

JacQueline Getty is the new Executive Director of Communications.



Previously, Dr. Getty was Associate Vice President of University Relations at Hamline University. Before that, she spent three years as public relations manager for Greater Twin Cities United Way and has nine years of experience in broadcasting—as an award-winning reporter, and also as an anchor, producer, writer and news director. She holds a doctorate in education and an MFA in writing from Hamline University. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities. She is a former Education Fellow of the nationally-accredited Education Policy Fellowship Program and has served as a board member for the 2023 Minnesota World's Fair Bid Committee.

"Minnetonka School District embodies excellence in teaching and learning and in preparing students to be successful in school and in life. Championing the District's story and helping our parents, students, prospective families, staff, and community members to connect with the District is at the heart of our efforts in the Communications Department. I'm thrilled to support this work and to be part of an exceptional District leadership team," says Dr. Getty.

DISTRICT CALENDARS

Visit

www.minnetonkaschools.org/calendar

PDF downloads

- 2017-18 academic calendar
- 2017-18 5-day calendar
- 2017-18 A/B calendar
- 2018-19 academic calendar

Online calendars

Select "CALENDAR FILTERS" to view only the events for your school(s).

Minnetonka Schools Calendar

September

- 25...Admission to Big Public Flagship Univ, Forum, 7-8pm
- 27...Admission to Big Public Flagship Univ, Forum, 3:30-4:30pm
- 28...Admission to Big Public Flagship Univ, Webinar, 12-1pm
- 28...MME Gr 7 & 8 Curriculum Night, 6-8pm
- 29...2-Hour Early-Release K-12, no afternoon Early Childhood

October

- 2-6.....Custodian Appreciation Week
- 5.....School Board Meeting, DSC, 7pm
- 2.....College Admission and the Student Athlete, Forum, 7pm
- 3.....ACT/SAT Parent Info for Gr 7-8, MMW, 4:15
- 4.....ACT/SAT Parent Info for Gr 7-8, MME, 4:15
- 5.....College Admission and the Student Athlete, Forum, 3:30pm
- 9-13.....Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week
- 9.....MHS Band Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 10.....MHS Orchestra Concert, Arts Center, 7pm
- 10.....Parenting with Purpose Workshop I, EXC Aud, 6:30pm
- 11.....PSAT test for sophomores and juniors, MHS
- 12.....Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 13.....No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 16-20...Bus Driver Appreciation Week
- 16.....A Closer Look at Community and Technical Colleges, Forum, 7pm
- 17.....Parenting with Purpose Workshop II, EXC Aud, 6:30pm
- 19-20...No School E-12, Statewide Teacher Meetings
- 23.....Financing a College Education, Forum, 4pm & 7pm
- 24.....Parenting with Purpose Workshop III, EXC Aud, 6:30pm

- 26.....MHS Volunteer Fair, Student Union, 7am
- 26.....Scenic Heights Talent Show, EXC Aud, 6:30pm
- 27.....Community Service Day, Gr 8, all day off-site
- 27.....Educator Site Visit, multiple sites
- 28.....Rake-a-Thon. Volunteer through MCEC!
- 30.....A Closer Look at Community and Technical Colleges, Forum, 3:30pm
- 30.....Looking for Scholarships, Forum, 7pm

November

- 1.....Looking for Scholarships, Forum, 3:30pm
- 2.....2-hour late start, no morning early childhood
- 3.....MME Fall Gr 6 Musical, MME, 7pm
- 4.....MHS Fall musical opens, "On the Town"
- 6.....Celebration of Service, Arts Center, 6pm
- 8.....WE Day, Xcel Energy Center
- 9.....Veteran's Day Program, EXC Aud, 9:15am
- 9.....Parenting with Purpose: Tap the Power of Parent/Child Connections, Arts Center, 6:30pm
- 9.....End of First Quarter
- 10.....No School E-12, Grading and Planning
- 13.....Begin Second Quarter
- 14.....Navigator Info Night for Prospective Parents, DSC, 6:30pm
- 17.....Foundation Tour of Tables, Lafayette Club, 11:15am
- 20.....MMW Gr 6 Fall Choir Concert, MMW, 6:30pm
- 20.....Navigator Info Night for Prospective Parents, DSC, 6:30pm
- 23-24...No School, Thanksgiving Break
- 23.....Turkey Trot 5K, MHS, same-day reg opens 7am; run, 8:30am

MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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 Pam Langseth, Chair
 Lisa Wagner, Vice Chair
 John Holcomb, Treasurer
 Heidi Garcia, Clerk

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 Katie Becker, Director
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