

Kindergarten Information 2016

Welcome!

Please introduce yourself to
someone seated near you!



Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of options
- Making a thoughtful kindergarten registration decision
- School Tour
- For more in-depth information, plan to attend our Kindergarten Options Night in January



Kindergarten Options

- Kindergarten is tuition free
- Language Options: English, Spanish or Chinese Immersion
- Part-Day Enrollment option
- Ready-Start Kindergarten



Kindergarten Goals

Inspire a Love
of Learning!

Prepare
students for
first grade.

Kindergarten Similarities

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several overlapping circles of varying shades of gray, creating a layered, circular effect.

- All kindergarten languages teach the same standards; the delivery and the language may differ
- Kindergarten teachers plan together
- Technology integration is a standard in all programs
- High parental involvement at home and school is a hallmark of our school

Kindergarten Standards

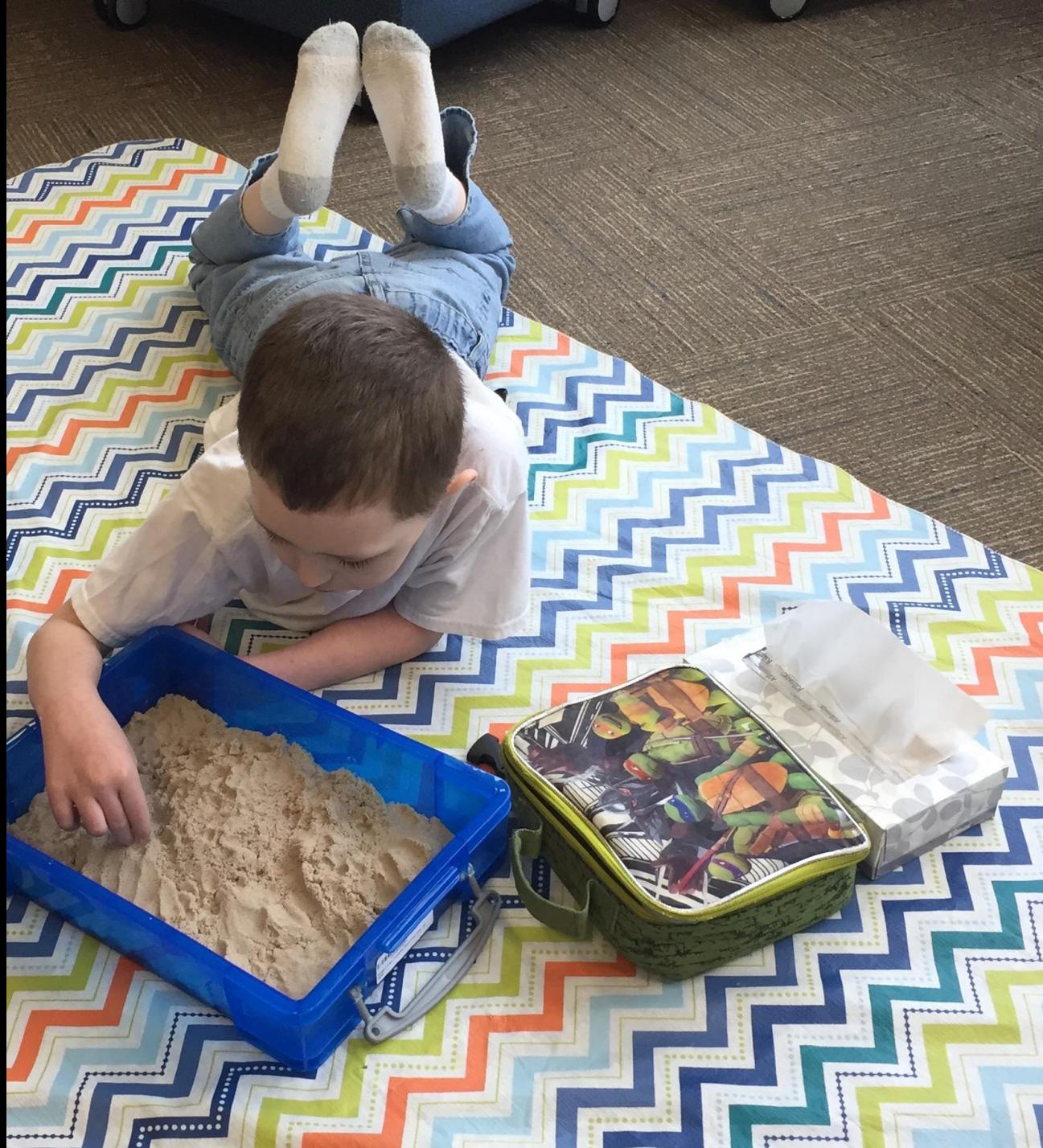
- Focus on strong early literacy and math concepts balanced with play and motor development
- Creativity, collaboration, problem-solving
- Hands-on science, early engineering, technology, and arts
- Opportunities to work with specialists in music and visual arts

Inspiring a Love of Learning

- Learning through creative-play
- Plenty of large-muscle physical movement and fine motor, balanced with quiet time.
- Choice time, individual, small group and large group instruction designed to meet the needs of all learning styles.



Part-Day Option



Part-Day Option

- Families consult with school to determine agreed upon schedule; may be more than half-day.
- Students will miss important learning, which families will be responsible for covering.
- Typically low enrollment in this option; “embedded model” within All-Day program has been successful
- No mid-day transportation

Language Immersion



Language Immersion Goal:

Fluency/proficiency in a second language and increased cultural awareness.

Research is clear that "immersion" is the most effective type of foreign language instruction currently available in U. S. schools.

What is Language Immersion?

- An approach to learning a second language where all the activities and standards are delivered in the “target language.”
- Students hear and use second language to learn all of their school subjects.
- Communication home to parents is in English.
- Minnetonka has a commitment to continue fluency development through high school

Immersion for Young Children

- Learning language is a natural process
- Child's brain has twice the number of synapses as an adult; use them or lose them
- Hearing and sound recognition are being trained and wired to the brain at this young age
- For a young child, it's just another new word
- Language acquisition in the target language mimics language acquisition the first time.

Immersion in Minnetonka

- A school-within-a-school option for families
- Standards parallel the district standards
- Art, music, media, physical education in English
- Direct instruction in English begins at Grade 3 with 300 minutes per day taught by Language Arts specialist.
- High Potential and Special Education services are provided in English.

As Children Grow...

Percentage of instruction in Spanish decreases as students gain proficiency

- 85 - 95% in grades K-2 (Specials in English);
- 65 - 75% in grades 3-5 (Specials in English);
- Middle School Model (LA/SS)
- In high school, only the world language class is taught in second language

Learning to Read

- Research is clear that children only learn to read once and the concept of reading is transferable across languages.
- Children will learn the concept of reading in the second language.
 - Direct instruction in English vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and English reading begins in grade 3 and will thrive at the same rate reading in the second language thrives.

Testimonial...

"We chose Spanish Immersion because we believe being fluent in another language is important for the next generation. We want our child to be competitive in the future marketplace and being bilingual will be a great asset. What an amazing opportunity and gift to give your child! The gift of knowing a foreign language. It can only benefit them in the long run."

Minnetonka Parent

Things I Wish I Would Have Known....

- Teacher only speaks to children in the second language...ALL DAY!
- I should have explained to my child that the teacher understands English, even if she is not speaking it. It is OK for kindergarten children to speak to the teacher and each other in English

More Tidbits...

- Children will be exhausted after school.
- Children will experience all the normal emotions of a new school year compounded by the addition of a new language. Some added anxiety is natural.
- Volunteering is very different if you don't speak the language; not bad, just different.
- Be prepared to defend your decision at family functions over and over again!

Immersion FAQs

- How will I help with homework?
- Can I be involved in my child's classroom if I don't speak the second language?
- How will my child understand what is taught?
- What if my child is not yet reading in English?
- Is there a down-side to immersion?

Can We Enroll Later?

- Students must enter the program in kindergarten, or
- Demonstrate grade level proficiency if transferring into the program at a later year.



Electing our World-class English Program

- After-school World Language Program exposes students to language (optional)
- By high school, 91% of students go onto college; average ACT is 26.7
- MHS among Top High Schools in America (U.S. News, Washington Post and Newsweek Magazine)
- Standards are the same across the district
- Art, music, media, physical education, high potential, interventions and special education services are provided in English
- Children will be exhausted after school.

Kindergarten English Program

- A school-within-a-school option for families
- Standards are the same across the district
- Art, music, media, physical education in English
- High Potential, Interventions and Special Education services are provided in English
- Children will be exhausted after school.



Ready-Start
Kindergarten

Ready-Start-Kindergarten (RSK)

- Intended for less mature children
- Full day para support
- Geared for younger, active learners
- Goal is to prepare children for first grade the following year
- An All-Day program with a Part-Day option, just like our other Kindergarten options

Our Programs have:

- Highly trained and experienced staff
- Developmentally balanced curriculum
- Extensive services available for students who need help or an extra challenge

Plan for Success

- Parent involvement is important
- Daily attendance is important
- Reading to and with your child in English daily is critical to future success
- During early years, children will sound things out. This is natural.
- Children will be exhausted after school; do not over commit the children or your family.

World Language Offerings

- After school Elementary Language program (K-5)
- Intro to a Language (one-quarter, grade 7)
- Elective, grade 8, full-year everyday World Language (5 yrs of language before college)
- MHS students regularly among top in Nation on World Language Exams
- Minnetonka Community Education partners with Concordia Language Camps for world language exposure opportunities.

Making a Thoughtful Kindergarten Decision



- Parents may want children to have a profound command of the English Language before beginning a second language
- Immersion is a bigger family commitment to learning a second language than some families desire
- Family preference for second language other than Chinese or Spanish (i.e. French, Japanese, Russian)

Immersion is open
to everyone;
however,
Immersion may
not be a good fit
for everyone.

Questions to Ask Yourself

Is learning a second language to a level of proficiency an important value in your family?

Is learning a second language during elementary school a priority?

Are you willing to make a six-year commitment to a language immersion program?

Are you willing to dedicate at least 30 minutes per day to reading to your child in English?

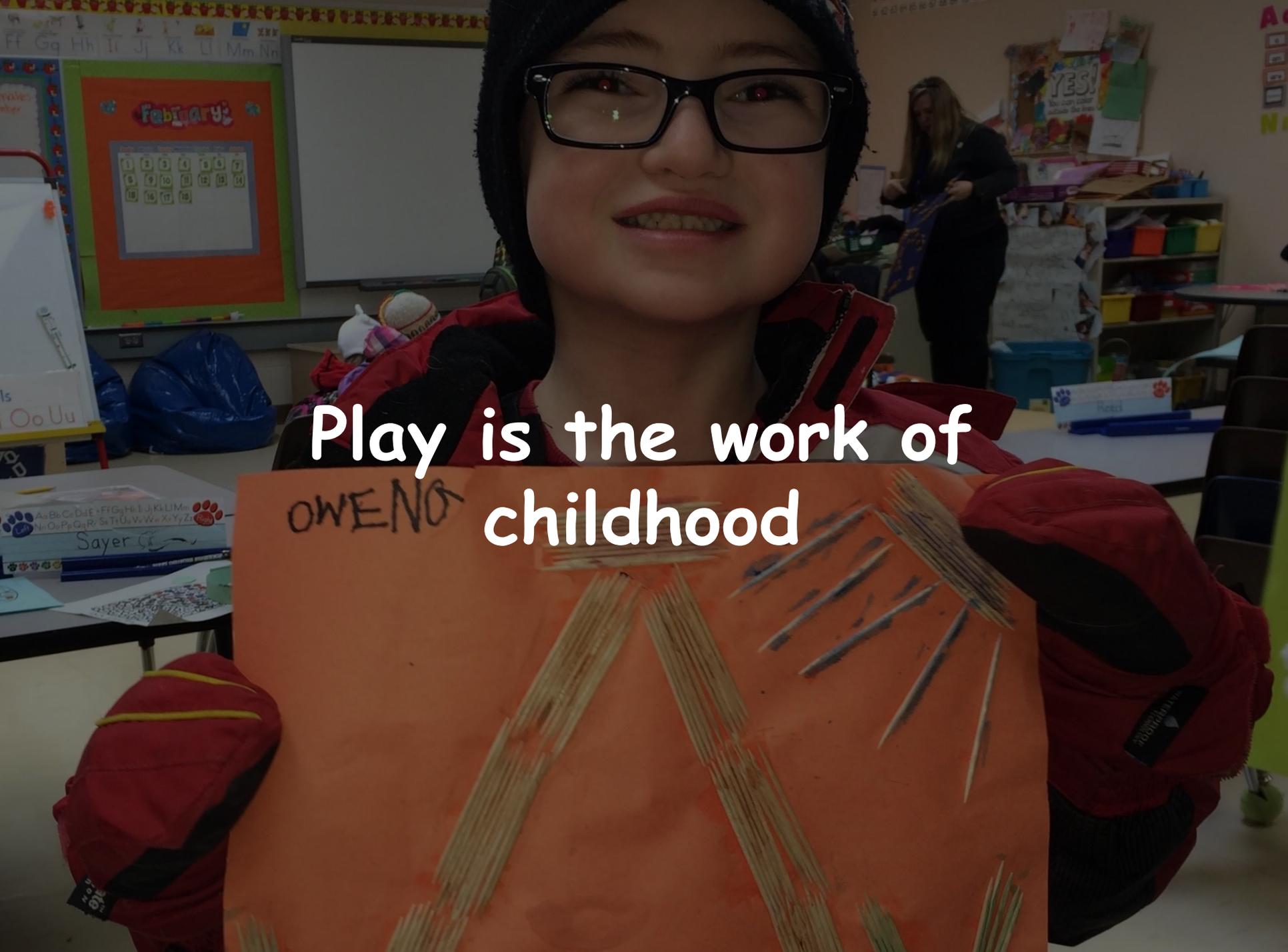
More Questions...

Are you comfortable delaying direct instruction in the English language until 3rd grade?

Are you confident in your child's ability to eventually meet or exceed English-only peers in reading and writing if you wait to begin direct instruction in English until third grade?

Play is the work of
childhood

OWEN



Decisions for Families

- English, Spanish or Chinese?
- Neighborhood school or Parent Option Program for resident students?
- All-Day or Part-Day Enrollment?
- Ready-Start Kindergarten?



Registering

- Contact:
 - Monica Clark (A-L) 952.401.5009 monica.clark@minnetonkaschools.org
 - Lori Schwart (M-Z) 952.401.5012 lori.schwartz@minnetonkaschools.org
 - December 6 residents and approved OE families were sent an email with information on next steps.
- January 26 Registration Deadline

Open Enrollment

- Contact our Enrollment office.
- Complete Open Enrollment Application *ASAP*.
- Decisions are based on date of inquiry and application; not lottery.
 - Resident students
 - Siblings of Open Enrolled students
 - Minnetonka Preschool students
 - New applications processed by date

**We work closely with families to
find openings.**

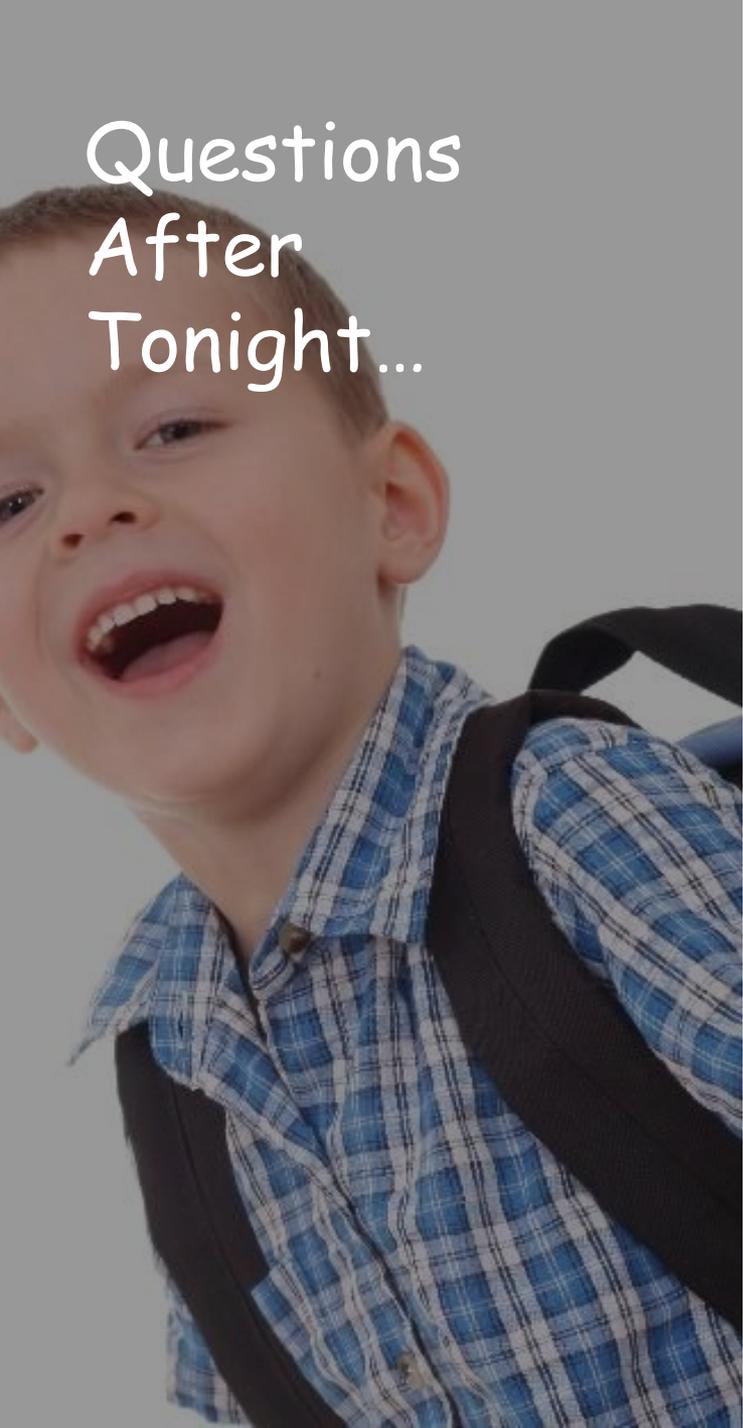
www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll

Requirements

- Early Childhood Screening
 - Deb Sorteberg, 952-401-6840
- Immunizations
 - Hepatitis B: 3 doses
 - Polio: 4 doses
 - Varicella: 2 doses
 - DTaP/DT: 5 doses
 - MMR: 2 doses
- Birth Certificate (official copy)
- Proof of Address

A young child with short brown hair, wearing an orange shirt, is smiling broadly and giving a thumbs up with both hands. The child's mouth is open, showing their teeth and tongue. The background is a plain, light gray color.

Time for questions!

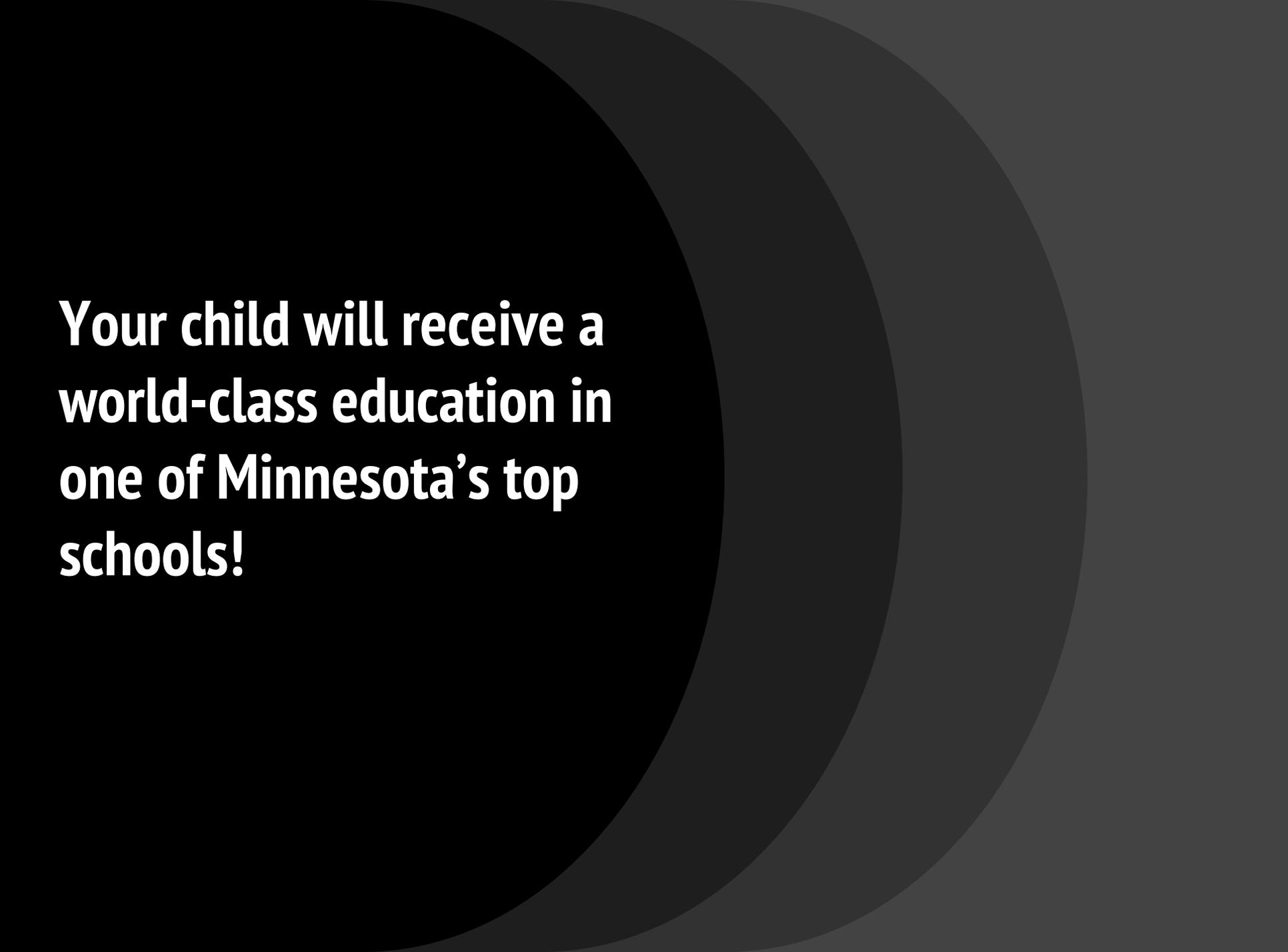
A young boy with a backpack, smiling broadly. He is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The background is a plain, light color.

Questions After Tonight...

- Email the Principal

cindy.andress@minnetonkaschools.org

- Call at 952.401.5500

The background features three overlapping circles of varying shades of gray and black, creating a layered, abstract effect. The largest circle is black and occupies the left side of the frame. A medium-sized circle in a dark gray shade overlaps its right edge. A third, larger circle in a lighter gray shade overlaps the right edge of the medium circle, extending towards the right side of the image.

**Your child will receive a
world-class education in
one of Minnesota's top
schools!**