Congratulations to the Minnetonka Class of 2018

“To say that you are our future is not an empty cliche. You are our future, and what you make of it will impact all of us,” said Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson as he addressed 820 students in the Class of 2018. Each student is ready to take on unlimited opportunities in college, career and service. After all, this group has already reached great heights. Here are just a few of their accomplishments:

SHOWING DEPTH AND BREADTH OF SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS

The Class of 2018 posted an average ACT score of 27.7, the highest in Minnetonka history. The ACT average for the top 400 students is an astounding 30.9. Nine students earned an ACT score of 36, the highest possible. Seventy-nine students pursued the International Baccalaureate (IB) full diploma, the largest cohort in school history. Sixteen students were named National Merit Finalists and 31 were Commended. At the end of junior year, 206 had already been named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars. The Summa Cum Laude designation was earned by 158 students. The Class of 2018 was filled with true trailblazers, taking advantage of new high school opportunities through Tonka Online, VANTAGE, and Minnetonka Research—all developed to help students build 21st Century skills in unique learning environments.

ACHIEVING IN THE ARTS

Seniors upheld our strong Minnetonka theatre tradition, earning record numbers of Spotlight awards for the 2017-18 musicals, “On the Town” and “Mary Poppins.” The Competition One Act play, “Master Class,” earned the state’s highest honors. Nineteen seniors and several performing groups earned superior ratings this year in band, orchestra and vocal solo/ensemble contests. Ten seniors earned Scholastic Gold Key awards in fine arts and poetry.

LEAVING A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Each class adopts a legacy service project freshman year. The Class of 2018 focused on the environment. They implemented ways to improve recycling in the MHS cafeteria, delivered presentations on recycling to elementary classrooms, cleaned the Excelsior beach and more. On June 5-6, Minnetonka seniors continued the “Seniors Serve” tradition, volunteering around the community before they said goodbye June 7. Five seniors earned Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and 43 students earned community service cords for their volunteer efforts.

LEADING IN ATHLETICS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Senior year equaled tremendous success for our athletic teams with state championship honors for Boys Swimming and Diving, Girls Track and Field, Varsity Cheer, Boys Alpine Skiing, Boys Hockey and Boys Rugby. State second-place honors went to Football, Baseball and Girls Swimming and Diving. Boys Lacrosse earned third place at state. Wrestling and Girls Tennis teams also represented us well at state-level competition. Many more seniors from our athletic teams qualified for state competition as individuals.

I stand before you tonight in awe of what you’ve achieved, and more so, how you achieved it—with such humility, an unwavering work ethic and a quiet confidence.

Jeff Erickson, Principal, Minnetonka High School

The Class of 2018 was the fifth class to go all the way through the Minnetonka school system since I became Superintendent. I am very proud of their accomplishments and their preparation for the future. I also fully realize the responsibility that comes with their development. Our priority is to be sure we are providing learning opportunities for every student that will best prepare them for the future. With the rapid evolution of technology and changing social values, that is an even greater challenge today.

This was the largest Minnetonka class, and their accomplishments were incredible. Some of those achievements are noted in this publication, but there are far more to be acknowledged. Because we emphasize the development of the whole student, these students not only excelled in academics but also in music, drama and athletics.

We have developed an outstanding program for our students, and we have hired many outstanding teachers to deliver the excellence we must have to enable our students to be ready for the intense competition the world presents to them.

Enrollment growth has enabled the District to accomplish much of what has been done over the past ten years, but we are now at the point where we must stop growing and focus on maintaining our enrollment. This is probably the only school district in Minnesota that has not had to reduce its budget over the past thirteen years. That situation has enabled our community to remain stable and our students to thrive.

Dr. Dennis Peterson, Superintendent
Minnetonka Schools Calendar

August 2018

21...College Admissions 101, 7pm, Forum
21...Minnewashta Kindergarten & New Family Meet/Greet, 6pm
22...Deephaven Kindergarten Welcome Picnic, 5:30pm
23...Groveland Kindergarten Playground Night, 6:30pm
23...ECFE Coffee, 11am
23...MHS: College Admissions 101, 7pm, Forum
23...Scenic Heights New Family Picnic, 6pm
23...Clear Springs Kindergarten Family Get-Together, 10am
27...MME Picture Day; Gr 7-8 Back-to-School Open House at 4pm
27...MHS: Selective College Admissions: 5 Important Tips, 7pm, Forum
27...MMW Gr 6 Student Orientation, 11:30am
28...Deephaven Kindergarten Curriculum Night & New Families Welcome Night 6pm; New Families Tech Orientation, 7pm
28...ECF Preschool Parent Orientation, 6:30pm
28...Excelsior New Family Welcome, 6:30pm
28...MHS: College Admissions 101, 7pm, Forum
28...Minnewashta Kindergarten Parent Orientation Night, 5:30pm
28...Clear Springs: Kindergarten Practice Bus Ride, 2:30pm
29...Scenic Heights Back-to-School Open House: Last Name A-L, 8am; Last Name M-Z, 9am
30...Groveland Back to Open School House, 8am; Kindergarten Practice Bus Ride, 9:45am
30...MHS: Selective College Admissions: 5 Tips, 3pm, Forum
30...MMW Picture Day; Back-to-School Night begins 4:30pm

September 2018

3...No School K-12, Labor Day, District Office Closed
4...Kindergarten Assessments
4...Scenic Heights Back-to-School Coffee, 9am
4...School Begins, Full Day (Gr 1-12), Begin 1st Quarter
6...School Begins, Kindergarten
6...MHS Curriculum Night, Gr 9-12, 6:30-8:30pm
6...MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 7:15am, Forum
7...Selective College Admissions: 5 Important Tips (Webinar), 12pm, minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor
7...MHS Picture Day, All Seniors
8...Minnewashta Back-to-School Social, 11am
8...Scenic Heights Back-to-School Open House, 8am
8...Excelsior Back-to-School Open House, 8am
8...MHS Back-to-School Open House, 6am-4pm
8...MHS Grade 9 Parent Night, 6:30pm
9...MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 3pm, Forum
9...MHS: Picture Day
9...Minnewashta Back-to-School Open House: Gr K, 1, 2, 8am; Gr 3, 4, 5, 6, 8:45am; Kindergarten Practice Bus Ride, 9am
10...MME: Gr 6 Back-to-School Open House/Curr Night, 4pm
10...MME Picture Day
10...Preschool Teacher Meet & Greet, 5pm, MCEC
10...Scenic Heights Kindergarten Practice Bus Rides, 9am & 10am
11...ECSE Classes Begin, 8:30am
11...MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 3:15pm, Forum
12...ECF Coffee and Play, 11am
13...Clear Springs Curriculum Night: Ready Start K, 4:30pm; Kindergarten, Gr 1 and 2, 6:40pm; Gr 4, 7:20pm
13...Deephaven Kindergarten Evening Orientation, Kindergarten, 6:30pm
13...Excelsior Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 4:30pm, Technology Orientation, Kindergarten, 7pm
13...Groveland Kindergarten Night: Gr K, 4:30pm; Gr 1 and NAV 2/3, 5:30pm; Gr 3, 6:30pm
13...Groveland Kindergarten Night: Gr K, 2, 4 at 6pm
13...Minnewashta Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 6pm; Gr 2, 6:45pm
13...Scenic Heights Curriculum Night: Gr K, 2, 4 & Navigator 4-5, 5:30pm

14...Deadline: Presidents Volunteer Service Award Applications
15...Groveland Picture Day
15...MHS Senior Parent Program, 7pm
16...ECF Classes Begin, 9am
18...Clear Springs Picture Day
18...MHS: Completing a College Application-Practical Advice for Seniors, 7pm, Forum
19...MHS Picture Day; Back-to-School Night begins 4:30pm
20...Clear Springs Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 6pm; Gr 3, 6:40pm; Gr 5, 7:20pm
20...Deephaven Curriculum Night: Gr 3-5, 6pm; Technology Orientation Gr 3-5, 7pm
20...Excelsior Curriculum Night: Grade 4 & NAV 4/5, 4:30pm; Kindergarten, 5:30pm; Gr 2, 6:30pm
20...Groveland Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 3, 5 at 6pm
20...MHS: Admission to Big Public Flagship Universities, 7pm
20...Minnewashta Curriculum Night: Gr 4, 6pm; Gr 5, 6:45pm; Gr 3, 7:30pm
20...MME Curriculum Night, Gr 7-8, 6pm
20...Scenic Heights Curriculum Night: Gr 1, 3, 5 & Navigator 2-3, 5:30pm
20...Scenic Heights Picture Day, 8:40am
21...Tonka Pride Fall Store, 3-7pm, DSC
21...Tonka Pride Fall Sale, 8am-1pm, DSC
21...Distance for Deephaven, 8am
22...Tonka Pride Fall Sale, 8am-1pm, DSC
22...Tonka Pride Fall Sale, 8am-1pm, DSC
22...Tonka Pride Fall Sale, 8am-1pm, DSC
24-26...Homecoming Week
24...MHS: Admission to Big Public Flagship Universities, 3:15pm, Forum
25...Clear Springs New Family Welcome, 6:45pm
26...Deephaven New Families Event, 6pm
26...Scenic Heights Boosterthon Fun Run
28...2-Hour Early-Release K-12, Professional Learning
29...MHS Homecoming Dance, 9pm

MHS Construction: Flexible Options for Classes & Collaboration

You may have noticed some construction activity at Minnetonka High School over the past few months. We’re renovating 7,000 square feet of outdated, under-utilized Phy. Ed locker rooms on the upper floor of MHS and turning the area into instructional and collaboration space.

Previously, this upper floor functioned as varisty team locker rooms until new locker rooms were built in the lower level in 1996. Since then, the upper floor lockers have been very lightly used, and those that were used are being repurposed to the lower level so that sufficient Phy. Ed locker capacity remains.

The remodeled space will provide flexible options for classroom design and operation with five new classrooms and a collaboration space, better flow of foot traffic within the high school and additional restrooms. All classrooms will also have natural light from new outside windows. Existing resources are covering the costs of the redesigned space, and therefore no new bonds were issued for this project. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-August.

Minnetonka Schools Calendar