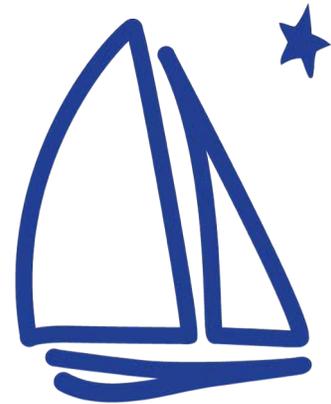


Our Kindergarten Program

Minnewashta Elementary
Cindy Andress, Principal



**MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Agenda



- Introductions
- Goals of our Kindergarten program
- How we nurture young children
- Overview of options
- Making a thoughtful Kindergarten program decision
- School Tour
- Opportunities to learn more



Minnewashta Kindergarten Staff

Requirements for Kindergarten

- Schedule Early Childhood Screening (ages 3-5)
- Visit minnetonkaschools.org/screening or telephone 952-401-6840
 - If screened elsewhere—that's ok, but please provide paperwork to enrollment office*
- Immunizations
 - **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses
 - **DTaP/DT:** 5 doses
 - **Polio:** 4 doses
 - **MMR:** 2 doses
 - **Varicella:** 2 doses
- Birth Certificate (official copy)
- Proof of Address (e.g., utility bill, driver's license)



National Institute of Health

What are speech and language?

Speech, and language are the tools we use to communicate with each other.

Speech is talking, which is one way to express language. It involves the precisely coordinated muscle actions of the tongue, lips, jaw, and vocal tract to produce the recognizable sounds that make up language.

Language is a set of shared rules that allow people to express their ideas in a meaningful way. Language may be expressed verbally or by writing, signing, or making other gestures, such as eye blinking or mouth movements.

Inspiring a Love of Learning

- Individual small- and large-group instruction designed to meet the learning needs of all children
- Choice time
- Learning through creative play

Goal First Grade Readiness



Nurturing Your Child

- Welcome events and bus safety—before school starts—will help your child get off on the right foot! We will communicate dates and locations.
- Kindergarten students enjoy music, art and structured physical education on a six-day rotation
- There is plenty of scheduled recess time and outdoor play
- Lunch paras and nutrition staff assist in the lunch line and make sure children are eating *and* enjoying social time
- Class size averages for Kindergarten: 20.51 (Metro, 20.60)
- Classroom paraprofessional support

Kindergarten Curriculum



- Strong, early literacy and math curriculum
- Focus on creativity, collaboration and problem-solving
- Opportunities to work with specialists in music, visual arts, physical education and science, technology, engineering and math (English is the common language)
- Creative play balanced with quiet time and mindfulness

Kindergarten Options

- All-Day Kindergarten is our standard Kindergarten program; tuition free
- Minnewashta Elementary language options:
English or Spanish Immersion
- Part-Day Enrollment option
- Ready-Start Kindergarten at Deephaven, Clear Springs and Minnewashta (for less mature children, still preparing for first grade)



Kindergarten Similarities

- All Kindergarten languages teach the same [standards](#); the delivery and the language may differ
- Kindergarten teachers plan together
- Intentional use of technology for learning is a standard in all programs
- Fun computer coding curriculum begins
- Interventions in English & Spanish
- [Responsive Classroom](#) & [Social Thinking Skills](#)



Kindergarten Program

- Your child will receive a world-class education in some of Minnesota's top schools!
- High parental involvement at home and school is a hallmark of our school
- By high school, ~90% of Minnetonka students go on to college; average ACT is 27.7!
- Minnetonka High School is among the top high schools in America



Strong Results by Minnetonka Students

SPRING 2019 MCA III STATE READING, MATH AND SCIENCE COMPARISONS

The following data shows aggregate results for all grades tested. Comparisons are with comparable Metro districts and the state.

District	Reading	Math	Science
Minnetonka	81.9	79.8	75.4
Wayzata	81.4	79.8	73.5
Edina	77.9	76.9	73.7
Orono	79.1	76.1	75.9
Westonka	77.1	78.4	63.7
Eastern Carver County	67.6	61.2	59.3
Eden Prairie	74.5	69.4	61.6
Hopkins	60.5	55.4	47.3
State of Minnesota	59.7	55.5	50.7

SPRING 2019 RESULTS: NWEA MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Minnetonka	Reading level:	Math level:
Kindergarten	Early 1 st Grade	Early 1 st Grade
Grade 1	Mid 2 nd Grade	Mid 3 rd Grade
Grade 2	Mid 3 rd Grade	Early 4 th Grade
Grade 3	Mid 5 th Grade	Early 6 th Grade
Grade 4	Early 8 th Grade	Early 8 th Grade
Grade 5	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
Grade 6	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
Grade 7	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade
Grade 8	Beyond 11 th Grade	Beyond 11 th Grade

Language Immersion



What is Language Immersion?

- From day one at Minnewashta, all subjects are delivered in Spanish to develop fluency and proficiency.
- Teachers use hand gestures and signage to help communicate and reinforce understanding.
- Communication to parents is in English.



Immersion in Minnetonka

- A school-within-a-school model
- Direct instruction in English begins in grade 3 with 300 minutes per week taught by a Language Arts specialist.
- Advanced Learning, Special Education services are provided in English.



Immersion for Young Children



- Learning language is a natural process
- Hearing and sound recognition are being trained and wired to the brain at a young age
- Vocabulary builds quickly
- Vocal physiology is still developing, so muscle memory for pronunciation comes naturally

Can We Enroll in Immersion Later?



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

If You Choose English

We have outstanding **World Language** opportunities:

- After-school elementary language program (K-5)
- Intro to a World Language (one-quarter, grade 7)
- Language elective, grade 8, full-year every day world language (start here for five years of language before college)
- MHS students are among top in nation on world language exams
- International Baccalaureate Bilingual Diploma Programme
- Minnetonka Community Ed partners with Concordia Language Camps for world language exposure opportunities.

World-class English Program



Our English Program

- Developmentally balanced curriculum
- Language and vocabulary development are central
- Strong number sense and recognizing pattern are the fun math work



Fundations--Wilson Language Program

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study
- High frequency word study
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension strategies
- Handwriting
- Spelling



Ready-Start Kindergarten



Ready-Start-Kindergarten (RSK)

- Intended for less mature children
- Geared for younger, active learners
- Goal is to prepare children for first grade the following year
- Three school sites: Deephaven, Clear Springs and Minnewashta





Remember, play is the work of childhood!

Decisions for Families



- English or Spanish available at Minnewashta Elementary
- Will you attend your neighborhood school or elect the Parent Option Program for another building/language?
- All-Day or Part-Day Enrollment?
- Ready-Start Kindergarten?

Registering (for Resident Families)

- **January 15 Resident Priority**
Deadline to specify your first-choice language and school
- Attend the December 10 Information Night if you need to review or send another family member
- Consider your options over the next few weeks
- Complete the online registration form (minnetonkaschools.org/enroll)



Open Enrollment (for Non-Resident Families)



- Complete the online Open Enrollment Application ASAP. **January 15 state deadline.**
- You will hear more from the enrollment office by February 15, 2020.
- Contact our Enrollment office with questions.



Questions?