



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276
 Dennis Peterson, Ph.D., Superintendent
 5621 County Road 101
 Minnetonka, MN 55345
www.minnetonkaschools.org
 952-401-5000

School Board

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SUMMER 2022

AROUND MINNETONKA

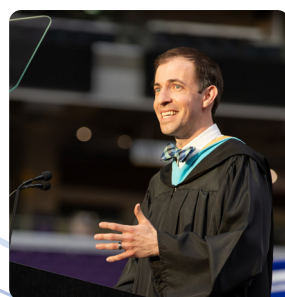
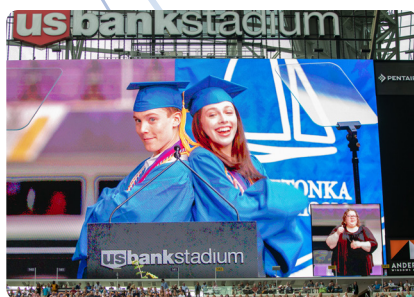
NEWS FROM MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

On Monday, June 6, Minnetonka High School graduates from the Class of 2022 celebrated their commencement with family and friends at US Bank Stadium.

"We have had many important events and recognitions throughout the years that these students have been in school, but the program tonight is our most important event," shared Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson in his commencement address. "It is each graduate's goal during all of their years of schooling, representing all of the of hours of work by students and staff over many years, to help each student acquire the knowledge and skills that have prepared them for the future."

Read more about the commencement ceremony, find photos and watch the full program here: bit.ly/3HbwTE7



- 1: Graduates celebrate together before the commencement ceremony.
- 2: Student emcees lead the graduation program.
- 3: Staff speaker from MHS delivers inspiring remarks.

SCHOOL BOARD GOALS: END-OF-YEAR UPDATE

Each year, the School Board sets goals for Minnetonka Public Schools. The Board's goals for 2021-22 focused on maximizing opportunities for students academically, socially and emotionally.

"The District has made purposeful and meaningful strides this year toward both of the School Board goals," said Chris Vitale, School Board Chair. "It takes the shared dedication and daily efforts of teachers, administrators, staff, students, families and community members to make Minnetonka excellent, and we are proud of the steps taken to enhance student learning, support, well-being and belonging this year, all of which will have a ripple effect for years to come."

The goal for **Excellence in Student Learning and Support** outlined efforts to enhance academic excellence at every level through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), the expansion of Tonka Online full e-learning program opportunities, the strategic use of District space and the ongoing monitoring and implementation of the COVID-19 Safe Learning Plan. Highlights from the District's work toward this goal this year include:

- Partnership with the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement to improve the District's implementation of the MTSS framework to support the success of all students
- Groundbreaking on a new building to support the VANTAGE and MOMENTUM programs at MHS

The goal for **Excellence in Student Well-being and Belonging** continued districtwide efforts to build a culture of positive self-regard, connection and inclusivity. As the school year ends, highlights from the District's work toward this goal include:

- Schools set and worked toward building-specific goals to address identified barriers to student well-being, belonging and academic success
- Teacher, staff and School Board trainings were held in collaboration with the Search Institute

Read more details about efforts in support of the District's goals here: www.minnetonkaschools.org/EOYGoalsUpdate22

WELCOME TO SUPERINTENDENT LAW

DAVID LAW TO LEAD MINNETONKA SCHOOLS STARTING JULY 1

The Minnetonka School Board has selected David Law to be the District's next superintendent. He will begin the role on July 1.

Law brings more than three decades of experience in K-12 education to the superintendency. He served eight years as superintendent for the Anoka-Hennepin School District, the largest district in the state of Minnesota, with a student population of 38,000. Prior to that, he was an assistant superintendent in the White Bear Lake School District for seven years. He has also served as adjunct professor at Bethel University and at the University of Minnesota. He began his career as a math teacher in the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Chris Vitale, Chair of the Minnetonka School Board, said, "We are thrilled that David Law will be taking the helm here at Minnetonka Schools. He is an experienced, proven leader who we believe will help us to harness and preserve the focus on child-centered excellence across our school system and at the same time will infuse new energy into all we do as a district."

Coming off what he feels is a wonderful experience in Anoka-Hennepin, Law said he sees his new role in Minnetonka as an exciting opportunity to work in a community that is renowned for excellence and to continue that amazing legacy of innovation and of exceptional, personalized education for all students.

Highlights of Law's time in Anoka-Hennepin include a steady increase in graduation rates, an increase in the number of schools performing in the top quartile in Minnesota in math, reading and science, two National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and a National School Board Association Magna Award-winning School. Law was 2020 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year and the 2020 President of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. He is currently a governing-board member and executive board member for the American Association of School Administrators.

Law earned his BA from Hamline University, his JD from William Mitchell College of Law and his Minnesota K-12 Principal Licensure and Superintendent Licensure from the University of Minnesota.

MESSAGE from the Superintendent

This is my last opportunity to communicate with the Minnetonka community as Superintendent. My last day in the position is June 30. It has been a great honor to serve this community and our students over the past 21 years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the students. I have come to work each day focused on ways to improve the education of all students and to assure that the District has been run in a way that best serves the families who live here.

We have enjoyed many successes over the years, and there have been challenges. The past couple years have been difficult for many students, staff and parents, and I have tried to make them better for all. Nearly everything has been controversial during the pandemic, so there were always lots of different opinions of what the District was doing.

However, we have increased programs and services to students over the years, and this is the go-to district in the Twin Cities. We have always been open to thinking about options for students who needed something different. Every student has been an individual in our eyes. We have created special programs like Immersion, RSK, Navigators, VANTAGE, MOMENTUM, Minnetonka Research, IB, and broadened music and drama opportunities. We have implemented the strongest program in the Twin Cities for addressing Dyslexia, and we have the best Special Education program. Our athletic program is outstanding. There are many more programs than I can describe here.

We have addressed facilities needs, and we have provided the most stable district in Minnesota financially. We have saved taxpayers millions of dollars by refinancing the debt to secure the lowest possible rates. We have not had to cut our budget for 17 years. Every other district has made multiple cuts to their programs and staff. Parents and staff do not realize how much agony and turmoil they have avoided by not having the District go through budget cuts.

Open Enrollment has made that difference for resident students. We have brought in more than \$500,000,000 in additional revenue from Open Enrollment, and more than half of that has been spent making things better for resident students. Voters have repeatedly passed referendums to supplement the added revenue. We have the formula for long-term success.

I have enjoyed the relationships with thousands of students, staff members, parents and other community members over the years. I will continue to live in the community and support the work done here. Thank you to the 29 School Board members with whom I have served over the years.

Best wishes to all of you. **-Dr. Dennis Peterson, Superintendent**

MINNETONKA SCHOOLS IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 2022

- 4.....Independence Day, District Service Center Closed
- 4.....Firecracker Run, 7:30-11am, Excelsior Elementary, bit.ly/30hxy9n
- 9.....Minnewashta Mud Run, 8am-12pm, Minnewashta Regional Park

AUGUST 2022

- 4.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6.....Tour de Tonka, bit.ly/3zD6cGE
- 18.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m.
- 15-26.....New Teacher Workshops
- 30-Sept 1.....Teacher Workshops & Planning

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 1.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6.....First Day of School (Gr 1-12)
- 8.....First Day of School (Kindergarten)
- 15.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m.
- 23.....MHS Homecoming
- 30.....Two-Hour Early Release, Professional Learning

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