



MINOOKA CCSD 201 NEWSLETTER

// 21 November 2022



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Minooka 201 continues to thrive and grow in 2022-23!

The decisions made by the Board of Education are guided by the District's Strategic Plan. Strategic Goal #1 in our Strategic Plan is to demonstrate continuous improvement in student growth and achievement. One of the indicators for this goal is the percentage of eighth grade students that achieve a level of high school readiness. Strategic Goal #4 in our Strategic Plan is to strengthen family and community engagement, communication, and collaboration to support student success.

The Board of Education is excited to begin a new initiative over the coming months that will allow us to support both Strategic Goals #1 and #4. One challenging aspect of Goal #1 is that the term "high school readiness" is not a clearly defined benchmark, and is often open to interpretation. At our regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on October 17, the Board approved a proposal for a Portrait of a Graduate Study with Hazard, Young and Attea. This process will allow us to engage our community, stakeholders, students and staff in defining what skills, knowledge and attributes we want a graduate of Minooka CCSD 201 to have. We will support Goal #4 by engaging with our community through various focus groups centered around the end goal of defining what our "Portrait of a Graduate" should look like. We will share the data collected through this process with all stakeholders on our district website. The end result of this study will then be used when making future decisions surrounding student growth and achievement.

The Board of Education is invested in collaborating with our community on this project, and we hope that it will be a springboard for future engagement opportunities. As always, we welcome you to attend our Board of Education meetings each month, or to watch the recordings online if you are unable to attend in person.

Emily Conquest
Minooka CCSD 201 Board President

#201inspires

It feels like the 2022-23 School Year has just started and the holiday season is already quickly approaching! This school year has already seen a tremendous start for our Minooka 201 schools, and truly amazing things are happening throughout our District. Our classrooms are amazingly active, social, and collaborative learning environments that are doing more and more hands-on activities, engaging with guest speakers, and inspiring students every day. Make sure to follow our Facebook feed for many great posts about the awesome things happening in our schools.

In this newsletter, you can read about some of the ongoing work we are doing throughout the District to improve our schools' and students' and families' well-being. You can read about topics such as the Board of Education engaging with the community, social support for students, and highlights of some of the curriculum work being implemented this school year, including a redesigned science and social studies curriculum and the implementation of Instructional Coaches throughout our schools. Our financial stewardship remains strong, with Minooka 201 achieving the highest financial designation the State Board of Education awards for the fifth straight year.

As most families that utilize our student transportation have experienced, we still need more school bus drivers. It is both a regional and national shortage affecting many districts in the suburbs. You can read on for more information on our positions and incentives so you can spread the word. The continued delays we experience have also pushed us to implement a bus GPS application for families to follow the position and get alerts when the bus is nearing their neighborhood. More information can be found further on in the newsletter. And please, take a moment and thank the drivers and transportation staff you encounter for being a part of our community. Every Minooka 201 staff member is a critical piece of our school system. The bus drivers, aides, and transportation office staff of both Minooka 201 and our friends at Minooka High School 111 are working extremely hard to maintain our bus routes with the limited staffing we have.

Finally, as we communicated back in August, the Board of Education has taken steps to improve the safety of our students and staff with the addition of a Minooka Police Department School Resource Officer at Minooka Junior High School and our own School Security Officers at our other schools. This security personnel will be assessing the safety of the building daily, checking entrances, and working with our staff to improve and inform safety procedures - all while engaging with the students daily in a positive manner to support their learning and growth. Most importantly, they will be an on-site armed deterrent in the event of any school crisis and provide critical support and communication with local first responders. This is a beautiful addition to our schools, and we will finalize the selection and assignments over the next month.

We hope your family and students are enjoying the 2022-23 school year as much as our Minooka 201 team has been. Read on for more information on many topics, and as always, follow our story on Facebook @Minooka CCSD 201. #201inspires!

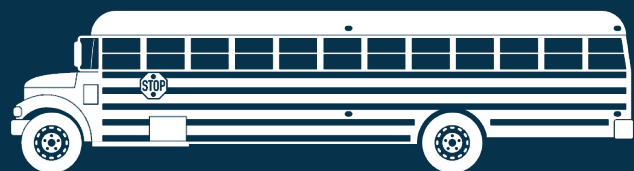
Dr. Kristopher Monn
Superintendent of Schools



www.min201.org

MINOOKA DISTRICT 201

APPLY TODAY!



Bus Driver Shortage & Incentives

With the continuing nationwide shortage of bus drivers, Minooka 201 is actively seeking bus drivers for the 2022-2023 school year. Drivers earn \$20.00/hour with a guarantee of 4.5 hours per day, and District 201 provides paid training for interested drivers.

In an effort to attract drivers, we are offering the following incentives for new bus drivers which could result in up to \$3,000.00 worth of incentives being paid after 6 months of employment with the District.

1). Hiring Bonus:

All new drivers employed as bus drivers for Minooka 201 will receive a \$1000 hiring bonus after 6 months of employment.

2). Attendance Bonus:

All drivers are eligible to receive a \$50 per pay period attendance incentive totaling a possible \$1000 cumulative amount for perfect attendance for the 2022-2023 school year.

3). Active CDL Upon Hire Bonus:

In addition to the \$1000 Hiring Bonus, if the new employee has an active CDL license upon hire with Min201, he/she is awarded an additional \$1000 bonus after 6 months of employment with Minooka 201.

If interested in learning more about how to become a bus driver for Minooka CCSD 201, please contact Sarah Massey, Director of Human Resources at 815.467.1698.

Instructional Coaching

This year is the official start of the Instructional Coaching Program at Minooka CCSD#201 but it has been long in the making! One teacher from each school was selected in Spring of 2021. The coaches spent 2021-2022 in training and practicing coaching skills while still teaching full time in their classrooms. This year, the program is off and running!

The Coaches:

AuxSable Elementary:	Lisa Lara
Jones Elementary:	Krystal Retzke
Minooka Elementary:	Jackie Tadley
Minooka Intermediate:	Ashley Webb
Minooka Jr. High:	Holly Klosowski
Walnut Trails:	John Seaton



What are Instructional Coaches?

Instructional Coaches are Educational Leaders that use research-based practices to:

- Support teachers
- Provide resources, feedback, modeling, and professional development
- Form partnerships with teachers

Instructional Coaching Vision

The Vision for Instructional Coaching in Minooka CCSD#201 is to improve instructional outcomes by establishing a culture of goal-focused partnerships and a collaborative learning community. We believe Instructional Coaching supports student learning, achievement, and engagement.

*Strategic Plan Goal#1 - Academic Achievement: Demonstrate continuous improvement in student growth and achievement.

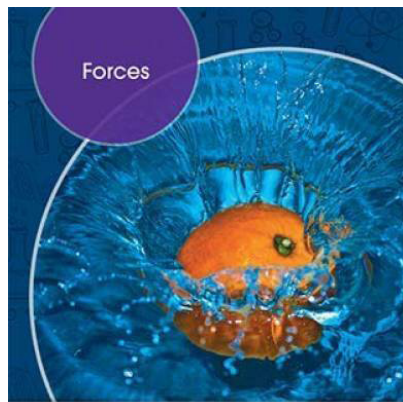


www.min201.org

Minooka CCSD#201 Curriculum & Instruction

► New for 2022-2023

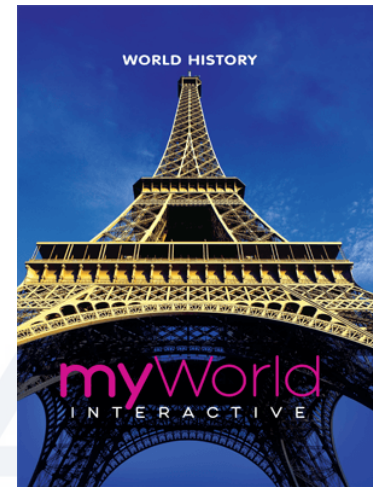
During the 2021-2022 school year, the 6th-8th Grade Science and Social Studies Curriculum Teams researched, reviewed, and evaluated several new curricular programs. The district's previous programs were adopted in 2009, before the current Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Social Studies State Standards were implemented. The selection for both Social Studies and Science was Savvas Learning Company. The adoption of Savvas elevateScience and Savvas myWorld Social Studies for 6th-8th grades was approved and are fully implemented this year.



elevate^{science}
MODULES

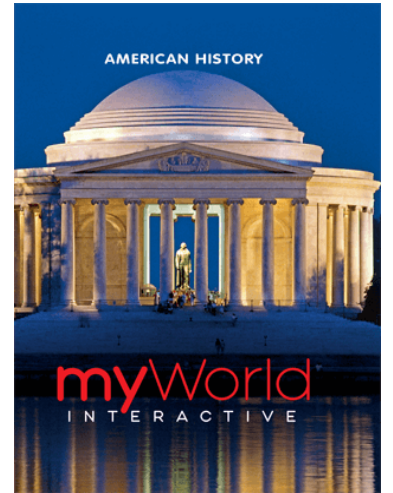
elevateScience for Middle Grades (6-8) is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The program supports science inquiry, evidence-based reasoning, and hands-on discovery. It encourages investigation, collaboration, and creativity. Students engage in lab studies focused on real-world tasks and science and engineering practices.

Savvas myWorld Social Studies for 6th-8th grades aligns with the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies Standards. The program promotes critical thinking, problem solving, evidence-based reasoning, and communications skills. Each chapter includes a Quest, which is an inquiry-based activity where students develop questions, investigate a topic, synthesize information, and communicate their findings.



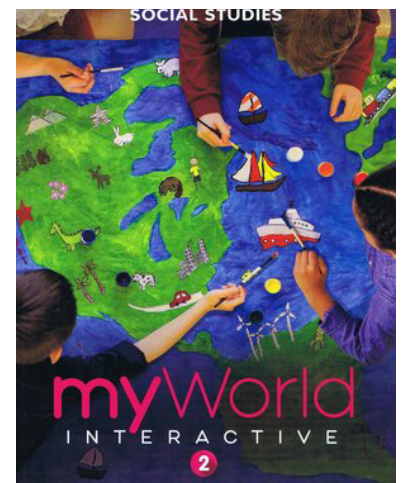
myWorld Interactive- American History from Savvas is the Social Studies program used in 7th and 8th grades. Seventh grade studies Beginnings to 1877 and Eighth grade focuses on 1877 to Present Day. This program emphasizes active inquiry and follows the C3 Framework for Social Studies.

In addition, some Fifth Grade teachers are piloting Savvas Science and Social Studies programs this school year. These programs will be reviewed and evaluated during the year.



elevateScience from Savvas is piloted this year by five Fifth grade teachers. The program is a phenomena-based science curriculum focusing on the inquiry process. It features problem solving, critical thinking, and the NGSS performance expectations.

► **myWorld Interactive-Social Studies** from Savvas is also piloted this year in five Fifth grade classrooms. The program encourages active inquiry and introduces civics, economics, geography, and history concepts.



► Minooka School District 201 highlights Student Social Supports

We all know that school's are responsible for the three R's-Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, but did you know that schools also focus on the mental wellbeing and development of our students? Minooka CCSD 201 offers a robust Social Emotional Learning Program to our students through our classroom staff, social workers, school psychologists, and counselors. Beginning with our youngest learners at Minooka Primary Center to our students at Minooka Junior High School, our focus is creating students that will be lifelong learners and positive members of our community.

**CASEL Social Emotional Learning Framework -Core Competencies*

Minooka CCSD 201 Strategic Goal #2 discusses creating a safe, engaging, authentic learning environment that promotes student confidence and growth. Specifically in the area of developing student confidence and growth, Minooka CCSD 201's curriculum is rich in social emotional skills and tool development. At each building, our student services teams support children's social emotional and behavioral development through classroom lessons, small group lessons, and individual sessions. Through these lessons we focus on building student's self awareness, self management, decision making skills, peer interaction skills, and social awareness.

At Minooka Primary Center, our social workers work within each of our preschool and early childhood classrooms to support our littlest learner's development. They have also created a Family Drop In for families to learn about various topics impacting the development of preschool aged students. These monthly meetings provide families with tools to assist them with a school and home life balance. The presentations were developed based on feedback from questionnaires completed by families at the start of the school year. After the presentations, the team opens up a Q & A session for families to further develop their knowledge.


At our elementary schools, the social workers led the students through Red Ribbon Week in October. Red Ribbon Week inspires students to spread kindness and be drug free. This year's theme was Celebrate Life, Live Drug Free. The week consists of daily activities in the classrooms, dress up theme days, and whole school awareness to support the initiative.

At Minooka Intermediate School, The Good Vibes Tribe is a program that teaches our students about spreading kindness and compassion both in the school and the community. Throughout the years, they have created a Pay It Forward Week by collecting personal care items that will be donated to We Care of Grundy County, created a chain of Kindness Hearts and participating in daily kindness challenges. They encourage children to volunteer in the community to make a positive difference in the world around them.

At Minooka Junior High School, various clubs are offered to increase students' involvement in their educational journey. A new club this year is the Unity Club. This is an opportunity for students to learn about what makes each person unique and provide a safe space to be our true selves. Students will be encouraged to share the qualities that make them unique as well as help others learn through multiple lenses. It is a social group, where students are free to be themselves free of judgment. Students will learn and teach others together in a united effort to spread awareness and acceptance in order to create a more inclusive school environment.

These are some of the amazing activities our schools provide to help our students and families connect with each other and build strong emotional foundations through Minooka 201! You can find more information at www.min201.org.





BUSINESS OFFICE

Mary Robinson, Director of Finance & Operations

1 BUDGET- The Board must adopt an annual budget annually by September 30th

On 9/19/2022 the Board adopted a **balanced budget** for the 2022-2023 (FY23) school year

The FY23 budget includes **6 new School Safety and Security** positions

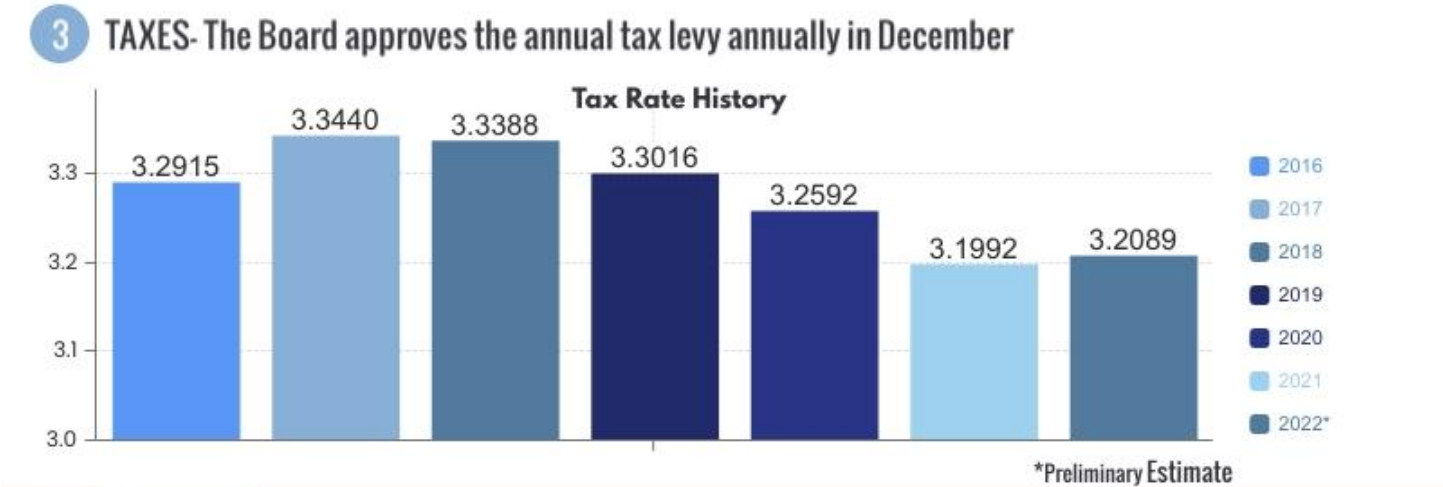
EXPENDITURES
Employee salaries and benefits make up **77%** of Expenditures

REVENUE
49.34% Local Taxes
11.05% Other local
32.4% State Funding
7.21% Federal

2 AUDIT- The district must file an audited Annual Financial Report annually by November 15th

2021-2022 Audit Results

- Wermer, Rogers, Duran and Ruzon presented the annual audit to the Board with no material findings on 09/19/2022
- Minooka 201 ended the 21-22 year with **\$2,349,116 excess** Revenues over Expenditures increasing the district's fund balance
- Minooka 201 ended the 21-22 year with \$49,109,860 in long-term debt outstanding. This debt will be **paid in full by the end of the 2028-2029 year.**
- Minooka 201 received the estimated **Financial Profile Designation of Recognition**, which is the highest designation. This score is based on Fund Balance, Expenditures to Revenue Ratio, Days Cash on Hand, % of Short-Term Borrowing Max Remaining, and % of Long-Term Debt Margin Remaining



How do I calculate the amount of taxes I pay to Minooka 201?

Equalized Assessed Value x Tax Rate= Tax Bill

Example: If your home's market value is \$250,000
(\$250,000/3)-\$6,000*=\$77,333.33 EAV
\$77,333.33 x .032089 (3.21%) = \$2,481.55 taxes paid to Minooka #201

*Homestead Exemption of \$6,000

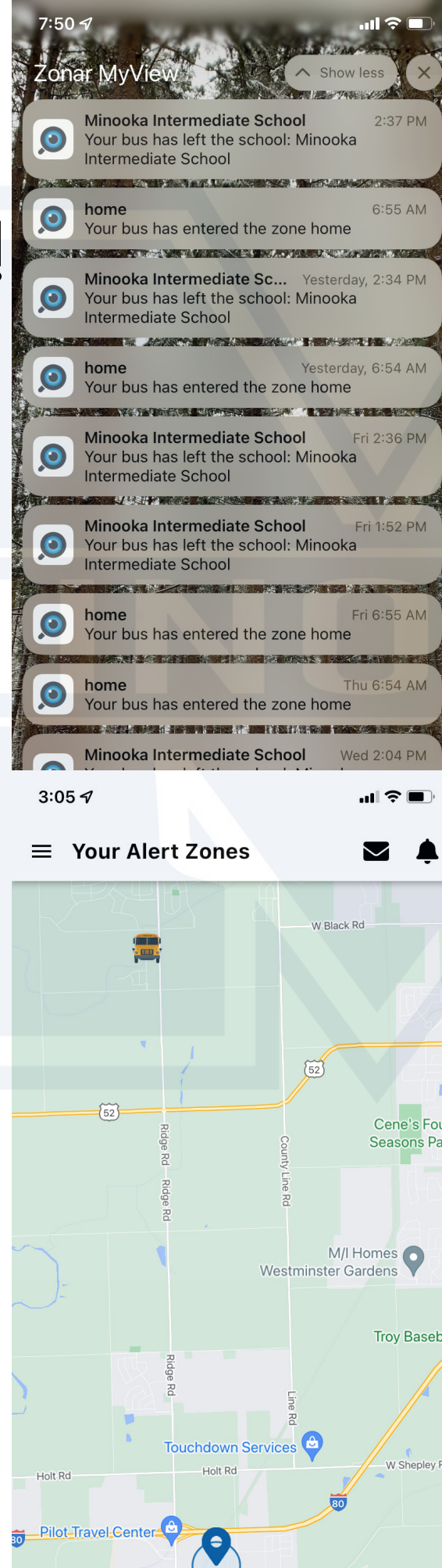
Note: Your total tax bill consists of multiple taxing bodies including school districts, park districts, fire & police, and municipalities.

►Transportation GPS coming to families of Minooka CCSD 201!

With this technology, families can receive near real-time data on their student's bus location and receive notification messages when the bus is near your house. Families will be able to better prepare for their student's bus arrival on inclement weather days.

Timeline: As each bus comes online we will email detailed instructions to parents/guardians. Our plan is to have most buses online by the end of November 2022. Currently, only buses 16 and 115 are online.

Youtube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCJqGc6_TNQ



Minooka CCSD 201 Board of Education

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*Inspire learners to be
responsible, confident
and successful.*



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