



Deephaven Elementary
Innovate. Inspire. Excel.



THE WINDS
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 5	First Day of School for Kindergarten
Sept. 5	Principal's Challenge forms and stories due to the office
Sept. 11	Curriculum Night, Grades 1&2, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	PTA Meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Media Center
Sept. 17	Deephaven Dad's Night Out, 6 p.m. at Maynard's
Sept. 18	Curriculum Night, Grades 3,4 & 5, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 24	PTA Mom's Night Out, 6 p.m. at Maynard's
Sept. 26	1-Hour Early Release for Homecoming Parade (1:40 p.m.)
October 1	PTA Family Pizza Party

[District Calendar](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Winds includes more information than normal this week. Please take time to read each item.

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! We had a great start yesterday for students in grade 1-5. Kindergarten begins this Thursday. This is the first edition of Winds, the school newsletter, that is sent out to all parents on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. Below you will find topics in bold lettering to help you determine if the item applies to you and your family. Our goal is to save you time so you will read the information pertinent to you. In addition to the weekly Winds newsletters, your child's teacher will provide you with classroom and grade level information.

Early Dismissal Plan In the rare event of an emergency such as an early school dismissal due to inclement weather, you need to talk over arrangements with your child ahead of time and complete the link below with this information. Please fill out this Google form by Friday, September 12: [Early Dismissal Plan](#)
This information will be shared with teachers and kept in the office in the event of an early dismissal.

Mondays are Deephaven School Spirit Days where students are encouraged to wear blue, such as their blue Tonka shirts. Picking clothes out on Sunday night just got a whole lot easier.

Office Staff – You may reach our office at 952-401-6900. Please contact the health office at 952-401-6904.

Principal – Bryan McGinley

Assistant Principal – Josh Jansen

Head Office Assistant – Alexis Beckman

Building Office Assistant – Beth Egan

Health Para – Heidi Koehnen

Behavior Manager – Theresa Brown

Lines of Communication for Parents – When you have a question, compliment, concern, suggestion, etc., our Lines of Communication for Parents plan will help you interact in the most effective and efficient way with our school.

Not sure who to call?

1. Start with our main office number at 952-401-6900. Beth or Alexis will direct you to the correct staff person.
2. All after school programs are run by Community Education. You may contact them at 952-401-6800.

Have a concern or problem? Work with the adult closest to the situation.

1. Contact the classroom teacher or specialist teacher.
2. Additional resources include contacting our social worker, our school counselor, the special education department, our high potential teacher, or our behavior manager.
3. Contact the Principal or Assistant Principal
4. Contact the Superintendent.
5. Contact the School Board.

Following the steps outlined in our Lines of Communication for Parents will help ensure our school is addressing your concern in a constructive manner. Your cooperation will allow our staff to work as effectively and efficiently as possible toward our main goal of ensuring a safe learning environment, so all students achieve academic and social success.

Student Drop Off - Students may be dropped off at school between 7:30-8:00 a.m. Beat the traffic and the buses by dropping your child off before 7:40 a.m.

Student Pick Up – Students may be picked up at 2:40 p.m. and no later than 2:50 p.m. If you have a change to your after school pick up plan, please call the office by 2 p.m.

Parents picking up their child from school:

1. Pull all the way up to the stop sign at the end of our building.
2. Remain in your car. Your child will come to you.
3. Children need to enter the backseat on the driver's side.
4. Remind your child to watch for your car while waiting for you.
5. Pick up runs from 2:40-2:50.

Reminder – Parents are not allowed to walk into the bus area during arrival and dismissal times.

Ride the bus, avoid the pick-up/drop-off line.

Resident Families:

- Please have your child ride the bus.
- Bike or walk to school when conditions allow.

Open Enrolled Families:

- Please drop off and pick up your child at an existing bus stop. Call our Transportation Department at 952-401-5023 for more information.

We can appreciate that this request will not work for every family. We simply hope you will consider having your child take the bus if possible. It would be of great help to the ongoing traffic challenges we face during drop-off and pick-up. Thank you!

Pass to Ride Other Buses - No daily bus passes will be issued this year, due to a record number of bus riders. Some of our buses are at full capacity. With that being said, we will review emergency situations on a case-by-case basis. If you have one arise, please reach out to the office.

Back to School Fatigue – Children often experience fatigue as they return to the school schedule. This can last through September and is typically more obvious with our younger students. Please keep this in mind if you see behavior changes at home and remember the importance of an early bedtime.

Custody Arrangements/Orders for Protection – If our staff need to be aware of any custody arrangements or orders for protection for your family, please submit documentation to the office staff. **Updated documentation must be submitted each year.** You can scan and email your documents to Alexis Beckman at alexis.beckman@minnetonkaschools.org.

Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Devices

As a reminder, Deephaven is a cell-phone free educational environment. We strive to create an optimum learning environment with limited distractions and a focus on engagement and connection. Our guidelines are as follows:

1. PED (Personal Electronic Devices) includes cell phones, laptops, watches with input capability, audio recorder, etc.
2. PEDs are to be completely out of sight from 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
3. If a student has a PED, it must be stored in a student locker or backpack.
4. Families can contact students at any time by calling the main office at 952-401-6900.
5. Contact Mr. McGinley if your family has a unique situation like a medical emergency and would like to discuss an exception.

Lockdown Drills and Fire Drills – Deephaven conducts 5 lockdown drills and 5 fire drills each year. Teachers discuss the expectations and reasons for the drills ahead of time in an age-appropriate way. Essentially, we communicate to students that we are making sure we are keeping everyone safe. The first drill will be held on Friday and the remaining drills will be announced to students and staff ahead of time.

Last call for Principal's Challenge calendars! If you participated in the Principal's Challenge this summer and have documentation to turn in, make sure it is given to your child's teacher or brought to the office by **Friday**. More details to come in how we will celebrate our participants.

Parent and Student Handbook The [Parent and Student Handbook](#) contains a wide variety of information about school and district processes and policies, as well as annual notices. The handbook is a resource for annual calendars, communication, transportation and nutrition information, and more. Please review the handbook with your family prior to the start of the school year. The handbook is accessible any time throughout the year on our school website.

Safety and Security Please know that throughout our school district, year-after-year, we have worked hard to improve our already considerable safety efforts. More information can be found on the [District's safety and security page](#). Below is also information for parents who want support with talking to their children about violence and crisis. Keeping our students and staff safe will always be a top priority.

- [Talking to Children About School Shootings \(National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(National Association of School Psychologists\)](#)

CHARACTER STRONG

This year, we are implementing Purposeful People, a K–5 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum that is part of the CharacterStrong program. This research-based curriculum is designed to help students grow into

kind, responsible, and resilient individuals by focusing on key character traits such as respect, empathy, perseverance, and courage.

What makes this initiative especially meaningful is how it connects with the work already happening across classrooms. Purposeful People will be fully integrated with our Responsive Classroom approach and Social Thinking curriculum, creating a consistent and supportive environment for all students. Together, these programs help children build strong relationships, manage emotions, and make thoughtful, respectful choices. This work also plays a vital role in our efforts to prevent bullying. By teaching students how to understand others' perspectives, resolve conflicts peacefully, and stand up for what's right, we're building a school culture where every child feels safe, valued, and has a sense of belonging.

September Theme: Community The first six weeks are a time to build a community and culture of respect in our classrooms. Teachers design their instruction to ensure students know that they belong and are an important member of their classroom community. We use the Responsive Classroom approach, which is a research and evidence-based practice that focuses on social and emotional learning and discipline. Morning meetings, establishing hopes and dreams, and talking about rules and logical consequences are just a few examples of the things students are learning and practicing. Ask your student about their class routines and expectations!

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

We want to remind all families that Deephaven Elementary continues to be Allergy Aware which means **no nuts of any kind are allowed at school**. This includes the lunchroom, classrooms, class parties, field trips, etc.) Please remember to read all labels carefully before sending snack or lunch items to school. As always, we thank you for partnering with us to keep students safe.

Attendance It is the parent/ guardian's responsibility to notify the Deephaven Attendance Office when a student is absent or tardy for any reason. **Attendance must be reported directly to the DHE Attendance Office by 8:15 a.m.** To report attendance, you can call the Attendance Office at 952-401-6904, or enter attendance through the Minnetonka website. To do this, follow the steps below:

1. Begin at our [District Home page](#) and log in to your parent account. To log in, click My SSO.
2. Log in using your email address on record with the district and the password you set when you claimed your parent account.
3. Your parent applications will appear after you log in. Click on Skyward.
4. On the left side of your Skyward Parent Access window, you will see a list of tabs. Click Attendance to report an absence.

PTA PULSE

The best way to stay "in the know" this school year with all the events and opportunities to participate - update/ join Membership Toolkit.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8892075a/mZPtGO5VSUSqb5maOEFTfw?u=https://deephavenpta.membershiptoolkit.com/>. Each class is looking for 2 room parents to assist with classroom parties and communication throughout the year. Check out Membership Toolkit for details!