



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276
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Minnetonka School Board Members

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WINTER 2026

AROUND MINNETONKA

NEWS FROM MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Superintendent Law shares about his time in Minnetonka classrooms and his meetings with local and national education leaders through his Instagram account. **Follow along @TonkaSup**

MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Minnetonka Schools Community,

We are halfway through the 2025-2026 school year. Our theme for this school year has been "Student-Centered Excellence: Connected, Empowered, Inspired."

This year, we have been intentionally focused on the importance of connection—among staff, between staff and students and among students. In support of this theme, we have been emphasizing efforts at each building to encourage connection and ensure every member of the school community feels a sense of belonging. At each Board meeting, students have been sharing the ways they are helping build a sense of connection at their school.

I encourage you to tune into a Board meeting to listen to our amazing students. Elementary students have shared their efforts to ensure the bus ride to school feels comfortable, and they explained to our Board how older students are mentoring younger ones. Middle school students have shared special events and activities they help to coordinate to create an even more inclusive school environment for their fellow students. Our high school students will be presenting in an upcoming Board meeting. They have done some amazing things to foster a sense of community at MHS. Our School Board members, in teams of two, have "adopted" grade levels of students to meet with throughout the school year—and throughout the students' time at MHS. These meetings allow Board members to connect with students and hear firsthand stories about students' experiences as they progress through MHS. These activities are a point of pride for me as Superintendent.

Ensuring our students feel safe, supported and a sense of belonging at school is something we each have a role in providing, and I appreciate the partnership between parents, students, staff, administrators and the community. Thank you for all you do to help provide an incredible teaching and learning environment for all.

David Law, JD · Superintendent of Schools

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

JANUARY 2026

- 15 2026-27 Kindergarten Registration Deadline
- 19 No School K-12+, District Offices Closed, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22 School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 26 No School K-12+, Planning and Grading/PLC

FEBRUARY 2026

- 5 School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 16 No School K-12+, District Offices Closed, Presidents Day
- 19 School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 21 Dream Makers Event, 5:30-11 p.m. at The Club at Golden Valley. *Find details and purchase tickets: minnetonkafoundation.org*
- 28 Celebration of Excellence Nomination Deadline

MARCH 2026

- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 5 School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 6 No School K-12+, Parent/Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 19 School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 20 No School K-12+
- 30-31..No School K-12+, Spring Break

APRIL 2026

- 1-3 No School K-12+, Spring Break
- 3 District Offices Closed
- 6 No School K-12+, Planning and Grading/PLC
- 7 Classes Resume, 4th Quarter
- 9 School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 23 School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC

Nominate Someone Today! Celebration of Excellence

Each year, Minnetonka Schools honors individuals who make an extraordinary impact on our students and community. The Child-Centered Awards of Excellence celebrate teachers, staff and volunteers whose dedication helps our District thrive. Once nominated, final recipients are chosen by a panel of past honorees. They will be recognized at the annual Celebration of Excellence Awards on May 14, 2026.



Submit your nomination by February 28, 2026! Find details and award categories online at minnetonkaschools.org/celebrate



WEBSITE
MinnetonkaSchools.org



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PODCAST *Ahoy, Minnetonka!*
[MinnetonkaSchools.org/Ahoy](https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/Ahoy)



High School Spanish and Chinese Immersion students connect monthly with elementary schoolers to build friendships and support language development. Find more about K-12 Language Immersion: minnetonkaschools.org/Immersion



State-of-the-art flight simulators give aviation students unparalleled learning opportunities. For more about MOMENTUM Design and Skilled Trades, visit minnetonkaschools.org/MOMENTUM



VANTAGE Advanced Professional Studies offers 12 different course strands ranging from business analytics, education, computer science and public policy to global sustainability, design + marketing, fashion and health sciences (pictured). Learn more: minnetonkaschools.org/VANTAGE

WHERE LEARNING MEETS *Real Life*

At Minnetonka Schools, experiential learning is a cornerstone of how we engage students. “When we say something is ‘experiential learning,’ we mean that it is where the lesson meets real life,” explained Superintendent David Law. “Students connect classroom learning with real-world contexts—whether through a research project, a field trip, a visit with an industry professional, or collaborating with community leaders to solve challenges. It’s a key component of providing an engaging and personalized educational journey for every student.”

This approach takes many forms. It’s embedded in signature programs such as the K-12 Language Immersion program (Spanish and Mandarin Chinese), Minnetonka High School’s VANTAGE Advanced Professional Studies, MOMENTUM Design and Skilled Trades, and the Minnetonka Research program. It also extends into core curriculum, enriching learning at every level.

Experiential learning begins as early as preschool through nature-based, Spanish Immersion and STEAM options. Across the District, Language Immersion continues to grow, while VANTAGE, MOMENTUM, and Minnetonka Research expand to meet evolving student interests and industry needs. These programs prepare graduates to thrive in a dynamic world.

“When students see how concepts like civics or physics fit into their lives—when they realize knowledge opens doors and sparks ideas—that’s when the magic happens,” Law said. “We see excitement build and engagement bloom.”



The new middle school schedule allows for expanded elective choices in all grade levels, so students can pursue their unique interests sooner. Pictured: Animal Behavior elective for Grade 8.

SCHOOL BOARD DRAFTS PRELIMINARY 2026-27 GOALS

The Minnetonka School Board has begun planning its preliminary goals for the 2026-27 school year.

The Board develops its annual goals through an iterative process that includes reviewing the District’s progress in achieving current goals; considering input and feedback received throughout the year from staff, students, families and the broader community; and monitoring student outcomes measured through assessments, activities and survey data.

The proposed goals are framed within the context of the mission of Minnetonka Public Schools. Below is a summary of each drafted goal. To read the full text of the preliminary goals and associated action items, visit minnetonkaschools.org/Board-Goals-2026-27

GOAL: Excellence in Well-being, Connection and Belonging

The District will continue to prioritize student mental health and to create a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all students and employees through various initiatives. Schools will also increase awareness of bullying prevention efforts.

GOAL: Excellence & Innovation in Student Learning and Support

The District will ensure all students receive outstanding instruction. The District will prioritize student literacy improvement efforts, and it will continue to improve the implementation of updated middle school programming, including adjustments made based on teacher, student and parent feedback. The District will explore

options to increase participation in experiential learning programs by pursuing efforts to ensure all students graduate with tangible, real skills for real life. The District will continue to ensure that instructional use of technology tools and resources are intentional and enhance instruction and student learning.

GOAL: Improve Leadership and Organizational Support

Minnetonka Schools will ensure long-term financial stability and sustainability for the District. It will ensure facilities meet the current and future needs of students by implementing the bonding, planning and construction of the projects that were approved by the public with the passage of the 2025 building bond referendum. It will recruit and retain the highest quality staff, build strong relationships with stakeholders by informing and engaging District constituents, and it will monitor the delivery of high quality meals.

Stay Up-to-Date on Goal Progress

Community input on these goals is welcome. To share your input regarding the proposed goals, email communications@minnetonkaschools.org.

If you’d like to sign up to receive monthly School Board News emails, which summarize the content of the School Board’s regular meetings, scan the QR code to the right and fill out the contact form.

