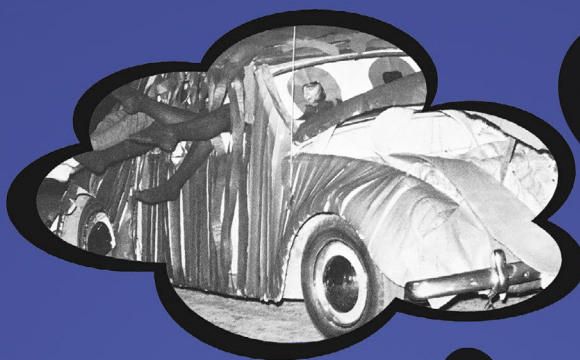


MINNETONKA

AlumniMagazine

2018

Minnetonka Memories



On the cover: Scott Meriwether '68 remembers his VW bug in the homecoming parade (page 12), Ari Koehnen '09 reminisces about traveling to Scotland for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (page 18) and Lisa Wandrei '81 ponders her former driving instructor, Einer Anderson (page 20).

The Minnetonka Alumni Magazine is an annual publication of the Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) and the Minnetonka School District. The MAA includes graduates of Minnetonka High School, Excelsior High School, Deephaven High School, non-graduates who attended those high schools for at least one year, all present and former members of the faculty, administration and the school board. Membership is free.

Story suggestions, news, events and comments are always welcome. However, submission does not guarantee publication.



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See you at the All-School All-Class Reunion! Saturday, July 28, 2018



Greetings fellow alumni,

Minnetonka Memories seemed like a great theme for this year's edition of the Alumni Magazine because of the upcoming All-School All-Class Reunion. What better time and place to reminisce about all those memories than while surrounded by a welcoming group of your fellow Skippers?

Our board and volunteers have been working hard to plan what we hope will be the best All-School All-Class Reunion yet. We are looking forward to seeing familiar faces—as well as meeting new alums. If you have not registered yet, we encourage you to do so now. More details can be found on page 20.

Beyond the reunion, we are looking forward to the return of the Minnetonka Alumni Awards in 2019. We are accepting nominations now through January 2019. You can learn more about the awards on page 10.

With so many exciting things to do, it is essential that we have active participation in the Alumni Association. We would like to formally invite you to join us. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the District Service Center. They are open meetings, and we welcome participation from all alumni and former faculty.

If you are interested in learning more about joining the Alumni Board, please contact us at alumni@minnetonkaschools.org or reach out to one of us directly.

Sincerely,

The Minnetonka Alumni Association
Board of Directors

Meet the Alumni Board



(Left to right)

- Lisa (Lund) Mayer '79
- Dan Heiland '74 (president)
- Marietta Jacobsen '70 (secretary)
- Jeff Davenport '81
- Lynn Krafve (retired teacher & coach)
- Morgan Fischer '19 (student rep)

(not pictured)

- John Frees '67 (treasurer)
- Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67
- Joy (Davis) Fruen '71
- Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68

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THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Jeff Erickson, Principal
Minnetonka High School

As I reflect on my Minnetonka memories from the past 25 years, I find they are inextricably linked to the growth, advances, successes and accomplishments of the students and District as a whole. For example, top memories include the opening of the Minnetonka Research Center, the first championship title for the boys' hockey team, the first year that our Spanish and Chinese Immersion students started high school and so many more!

I have fond personal memories, as well: wondering how I was going to fill 56 minutes of class time on my first day teaching, meeting my wife (we were both Spanish teachers at the time) and attending my first MHS graduation as principal. I had attended graduations before, of course, but I was not prepared for the overwhelming flood of emotion and excitement. It was an amazing experience.

As I think about our current MHS students, I imagine their memories will be just as strong. Pep fests, sports championships, concerts, plays, academic competitions, Seniors Serve and other events are certainly memorable, but more than anything else, I hope they cherish friendships and their

connections with one another. I also hope they stay true to their character and understanding of who they are as people. I hope they carry with them the core values of Minnetonka High School, which will transcend whatever they do in life and will serve them well.

I am proud to be part of the Minnetonka community, and I look forward to creating many more memories—for myself and the students who pass through our doors—for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Erickson, Principal
Minnetonka High School

Thank you teachers and staff!

The following Minnetonka teachers and staff members retired this year. Please join the MAA in thanking them for their years of service and dedication to students in Minnetonka Schools.

Cheri Anderson, Paraprofessional at Excelsior.....	24 yrs	Alicja Krebs, Paraprofessional at MMW.....	10 yrs
Jane Barkuloo Olsen, Nutrition Services at MME.....	14 yrs	Denise Leines, Nutrition Services at Groveland.....	16 yrs
Mary Benson, Grade 6 Teacher at MMW.....	29 yrs	Deb Liedahl, Special Ed Teacher at MHS.....	29 yrs
Mary Beth Bloom, Occupational Therapist at MCEC.....	20 yrs	Sara Lovelace, Grade 2 Teacher at Groveland.....	30 yrs
Jerry Christenson, Custodian at MHS.....	19 yrs	Dan Marek, Counselor at MHS.....	25 yrs
Monica Clark, Office Assistant at the DSC.....	11 yrs	Paul Mcallister, Custodian at MME.....	12 yrs
Margaret Coldwell, ECFE Teacher at MCEC.....	23 yrs	Kathryn Mosley, Nutrition Services at MHS.....	37 yrs
Sandy Gosen, Health Teacher at MME.....	40 yrs	David Parker, Principal at Groveland.....	15 yrs
Peggy Hammerseng, Paraprofessional at MHS.....	20 yrs	Annie Paul, Paraprofessional at MMW.....	25 yrs
Paula Holmberg, Music Teacher at MHS.....	24 yrs	Ann Ricketts, ECFE Teacher at MCEC.....	16 yrs
Deb Jensen, Speech Lang Pathologist at Clear Springs.....	33 yrs	Terri Root, ECFE Teacher at MCEC.....	24 yrs
Kelly Kautz, Special Ed Teacher at MHS.....	18 yrs	Mary Beth Solheim, Special Ed Teacher at Groveland.....	27 yrs
Nancy Kennedy, Paraprofessional at MME.....	18 yrs	Connie Strand, Business Ed Teacher at MHS.....	11 yrs
Mary Kolstad, Grade 2 Teacher at Groveland.....	43 yrs	Mark Thompson, Social Studies Teacher at MMW.....	27 yrs
Beverly Kreatz, Grade 2 Teacher at Deephaven.....	43 yrs	Kathy Wipperling, Speech Lang Pathologist at MHS.....	33 yrs
		Tracy Yurich, Paraprofessional at Minnewashta.....	13 yrs



POINTS OF PRIDE



24/7 Wall St. lists the Minnetonka School District as the best school district in Minnesota. To determine the best school district in every state, 24/7 Wall St. developed an index based on a variety of measures, including graduation rate, teachers per student, preschool enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) course enrollment.



Niche.com ranks the Minnetonka School District #2 in Minnesota. Our teachers rank #1 and our District is also ranked #1 for the best place to teach. Rankings are based on data from the U.S. Department of Education and reviews and survey responses from students and families.



Minnetonka students continue to excel in AP courses at Minnetonka High School and through Tonka Online. Minnetonka's AP exam pass rate (scores of 3 or higher) is 85% while the state pass rate is 66%. As of August 2017, 561 students in grades 9-12 had earned one of four AP Scholar designations.



The Washington Post lists Minnetonka High School as one of America's Most Challenging High Schools—ranked #4 in Minnesota and #278 nationally. Rankings are determined by the number of AP and IB tests given, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year. Only 12% of U.S. high schools made the list.



Minnetonka Public School District was again recognized as one of the best in the nation for music education by the NAMM Foundation. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.



The Hennepin Theatre Trust recognized the MHS fall musical, *On the Town*, with 25 Spotlight Awards, including Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical. The spring musical, *Mary Poppins*, earned 22 Spotlight Awards, including another Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical. The competition One Act Play, Terrence McNally's *Master Class*, won the state's highest honor—a starred performance at the MSHSL 2018 One Act Festival.



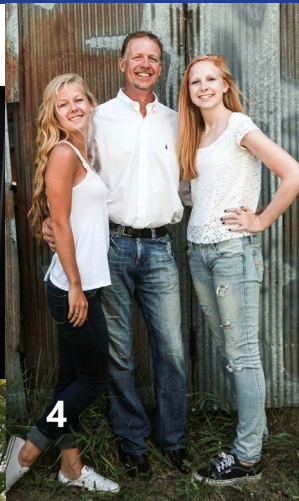
This year, 33 MHS students were honored with 65 Gold Key, Silver Key or Honorable Mention awards through the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. Senior Anna Heinen won a National Gold Medal for her sculpture, which was also selected for exhibit in New York City.



2018 state athletics championship teams: Boys Hockey (1st time state champions), Tonka Cheer (1st place in state, 2nd place in national competition), Boys Alpine Skiing, Boys Swimming and Diving, Minnetonka Sailing Team. The following teams qualified for state tournaments in 2017-18: Football (2nd place), Wrestling, Girls Swimming and Diving, Mountain Bike Team, Adapted Bowling, Girl's Tennis, Girls Alpine Skiing (3rd place)

1. Caroline Anderson; mother Teri (Schatzle) Quick '89; uncle Rob Schatzle '93, aunts Laura (Scholtec) Schatzle '94 and Jenny (Schatzle) Borum '98; grandfather Dean Hermanson '58; grandmother Nancy (Handy) Hermanson '66; great aunt Sue (Handy) Bonthius '59, cousins Phil Bonthius '87, Kevin Bonthius '88 and Justin Bonthius '18.
2. Katelyn Anderson; mother Jana (Goldberg) Anderson '86.
3. Hunter Brown; aunt Jill (Hambor) Beck '89; sister Bailey Marie Joseph '15.
4. Sydney Clinton; father Steve Clinton '84; aunts Christine Clinton '86 and Lynne Clinton Gardner '80; sister Annika Clinton '15.
5. Blake Dickson; mother Connie Johnson-Dickson '82; uncles Gordon Johnson '78, Darrell Johnson '84, and Wayne Johnson '81; sister Jacquie Dickson '17.
6. Sarah Garibaldi; mother Heather (Branson) Garibaldi-Davis '86; brothers, Alex Garibaldi '13 and Tommy Garibaldi '16.
7. Grace Ginther; father Jim Ginther '84; mother Beth Ginther '86; brother Grant Ginther '13; sister Anna Ginther '15.
8. Evan Hexum; mother Kerri (Ashenbach) Hexum '87; father Marc Hexum '87; aunt Amy Ashenbach '89.
9. Sarah Johnson; father Erik Johnson '84; uncles Bret Johnson '89 and Jeff Johnson '79; aunts Julie Johnson '77 and Jennifer Johnson '74; brother Michael Johnson '17.
10. Anna Jones; mother Beth Brown Jones '91.
11. Jake Koonce; father Matt Koonce '91; aunt Rena (Koonce) Turnham '84.
12. Allyson Kuzara; mother Robyn Johnson '80; sisters Abby Kuzara '12 and Ana Kuzara '14; grandmother Janet Uptagrafft Johnson '56; grandfather Franklin Johnson (deceased) who was in the first graduating class of MHS and on the first MHS hockey team.
13. Jenna Larson; father Mark Larson '88; mother Laurie (Danielson) Larson '88.
14. Noah Larson; mother Kathy Sevey Larson '81; aunt Jenn Sevey '83; grandfather Bob Sevey '49; sister Olivia Larson '16.
15. Josh and Adam Livingston; mother Rachel (Oppegaard) Livingston '86
16. Jamie Martinson; mother Lisa Martinson (Anderson) '83; aunts Lara Anderson Trout '86 and Pati Peterson (Borman) '72; uncle Mike Borman '74; cousins Matt Peterson '00 and Jenna Staunton (Peterson) '03; sister Holly Martinson '14.
17. Ryan Oppegaard; father David Oppegaard '88
18. Sarah Petroski; grandfather Lester Koehnen '54.
19. Tori Polingo; uncles Michael Gherity '77, Jim Thome '81 and Jeff Thome '85; aunts Deb (Thome) Munson '78, Diane (Thome) Gherity '79, Sue (Thome) Richards '80 and Lisa Thome-Marks '84.
20. Charlie Quinn; father Matt Quinn '88.
21. Sophia Rogney; father Ross Rogney '82; mother Tina (Karels) Rogney '83.
22. Lillie Singh; parents Vijai Singh '96 and Cameron (Kleiser) Singh '96.
23. Cameron Smrekar; mother Julie Albrecht '83; uncle Randy Albrecht '82; grandfather Jerry Albrecht '60; grandmother Roxane Albrecht '60.
24. Erin Tully; father Gary Tully '80; aunts Megan Tully McManus '81 and Amy Tully Black '83; brother Jack Tully '16.
25. Jarod Wandersee; mother Carol (Kartak) Wandersee '87; aunt Mary Ann (Kartak) Walstrom '74; uncles Jim Kartak '75, Robert Kartak '77 and Steve Walstrom '72; sister Mikayla Wandersee '14.
26. Sonja Zbinden; mother Jennifer Hattstrom Zbinden '85; uncle John Hattstrom '81; sister Erika Zbinden '14.

We celebrate multiple generations of Skipper families! If you are an alum with an upcoming 2019 graduate in the family, send your family information to us at alumni@minnetonkaschools.org or submit information online at minnetonkaschools.org/magazine



⚓ 2018 GRADS TO WATCH by Claire Harley '03 and Maggie Shea



Leonardo Clarke

Leonardo Clarke is a citizen scientist, reading the night sky in search of a certain kind of star. "Variable stars pulsate, or change brightness, in an orderly pattern. I'm studying stars whose pulsations are not orderly; they are said to exhibit the Blazhko effect," he says. He collects data on these stars using high-powered telescopes and cameras, operated remotely via computers, and he plans to add his findings to scientific databases. Studying variable stars helps researchers learn about cosmic distances and chemical reactions within stars.

A personal fascination with outer space merged perfectly with the Minnetonka Research program, and Leonardo is grateful for the chance to pursue his lifelong passion in high school. Research students are paired with working scientists—Leonardo has a direct line of communication with Horace A. Smith, a Michigan State professor and leading expert on pulsating stars.



Amanda Tahnk-Johnson

Amanda Tahnk-Johnson has discovered a source of renewable energy—or perhaps she borrowed Hermione's Time Turner.

On stage, she radiates confidence and joy in musical performances. She has been in every fall and spring musical, including *Brigadoon*, *Pippin*, *Titanic*, and the spring 2018 production of *Mary Poppins*. She sings in Concert Choir, plays flute in Wind Ensemble and excels at rigorous coursework as an IB Diploma Candidate. Giving back is also a priority; she has served as a Writing Center coach for three years, a Math Center tutor and director of the children's choir at her church.

Amanda portrayed a doctor in *The Normal Heart* her junior year and opera singer Maria Callas in this year's production of *Master Class*; both one-act plays won a starred rating, the equivalent of the state championship.



Ty Barron

The Minnetonka football program has a motto they've recently adopted: #INAM—"It's Not About Me!" If there's any player on the team who exemplifies this core value, it's Tyler (Ty) Barron.

When asked about his favorite memories on the team, Ty talks about the excitement of helping the team come back from behind with a touchdown in the playoffs, but beyond that it's all about the relationships: celebrating outside after winning the Homecoming Game and commiserating with teammates after losing the State Championship. "After we lost," he said, "we were more sad knowing we would not play with these guys ever again than we were about losing the game."

His research teachers Russell Durkee, Caitlin McWhirter and Kim Hoehne encouraged him to present his research on variable stars to the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair. The results were stellar. He won three awards and qualified to attend the Intel International Science Fair in Pittsburgh this May. "Minnetonka really prepared me for this," he says. "Talking to all kinds of people about our research was something we practiced."

In addition to his fluency in science, Leonardo excels at world languages. He's taken every Spanish course possible and scored in the 99th percentile on the National Spanish Exam in Levels Four and Five. This year, he is enjoying the immersion course, "Intro to Latin American Politics." He also picked up French along the way, self-studying in the summer so he could take advanced classes junior and senior year.

"The sense of community at Minnetonka is remarkable," Leonardo says. He enjoys gathering with peers each week in Astronomy Club, which he co-leads. With his broad skills, he's been able to tutor peers in science, math, French and Spanish as part of the Academic Anchors program.

This rising star will study astrophysics at the University of Minnesota next year.

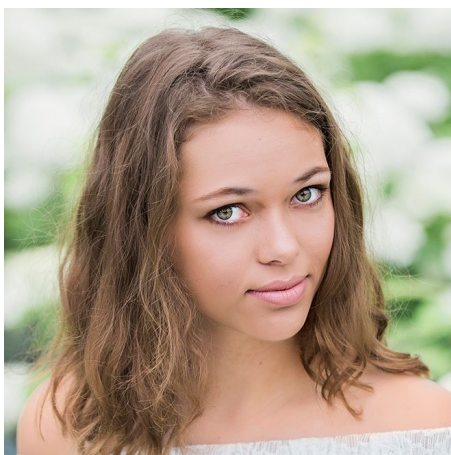
Though she loves the song and dance of musicals, she says, "I didn't become a good actor until I was in plays." She enjoys the challenge of memorizing lines, researching characters and working with other actors. A 2017 Minnesota Scholar of Distinction in Theater Arts, Amanda has also earned four Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Awards for her performances. Lauren Bartelt, who directed Amanda in the one-act plays, says, "She has a fearlessness, maturity and powerful stage presence that convinces the audience that she is the character."

Though she spends much of her time on the weekends doing homework, Amanda enjoys unwinding by playing show tunes on the piano. "I enjoy all the things I do, especially theater, and I always have something to look forward to," she says of her busy schedule in and out of school.

Amanda will graduate from Minnetonka High School with gratitude and honors. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction and National Merit Finalist with a 4.4 GPA. After a competitive audition process, she was accepted into four of the top theatre programs in the country, including NYU Tisch and Baldwin-Wallace University.

What Ty doesn't talk about is his personal success on the team. As a senior, Ty totaled more than 120 tackles and led his team to a 12-2 record. He was a finalist for the 2017 Mr. Football Award, named 2017 *Star Tribune* All Metro First Team, KARE 11 All-Metro Team and was a Minnesota All-Star Game MVP. He even broke the school record this year for most forced fumbles. His coach Dave Nelson says, "Ty has been a great leader on and off the field. Ty was our tailback as a sophomore and the heart and soul of our defense the past two years at linebacker. He has been a coach's dream."

Ty will be playing football for the University of Minnesota, which he chose because "at the U of M," he says, "you're more than a number or a position. It's more like a family." He began practicing with the team on June 4.



Sonja Zbinden

When Sonja raised her hand with an idea in ninth grade, she set a path of leadership for herself. The idea? Choose the environment as the area of focus for the Class of 2018 Legacy project, a class-wide service initiative that travels with students as they move through high school. Legacy advisor Dave Bierly says, "Sonja's passion for environmental causes is unmatched; her leadership has been the engine that has driven her class' work in this field the last four years."

As a Legacy leader, she's proud of what they've accomplished, from the trash sort freshman year to Earth Day education every year, capped off by a water bottle awareness campaign their senior year. "Convenience usually wins out," she says of the public's reliance on plastic water bottles. "But if everyone just takes small steps, it can have a massive impact."

An ethos of service and aspirations to lead go way back for Sonja. "From the ages of five to ten, I wanted to be president," she says. She served on student government in middle school and fondly recalls the thought and energy that went into her campaign. Her volunteer work ranges from teaching Sunday School and leading youth groups at her church to being an attendant in the Lucia court at the American Swedish Institute.

As an IB Diploma Candidate, Sonja loves the close camaraderie and learning from a global perspective. She wrote her IB Extended Essay on the evolution of Iceland's democracy. In addition to learning about the world in school, travel has shaped Sonja's worldview. She's visited family and friends in Europe and Asia since first grade. This spring, she traveled to Norway with the International Studies program, making a stop in Ireland on the return trip to visit a friend. "Noticing the differences in each country—and enjoying all of them—makes me want to learn more about different cultures," she says.

Sonja has revised her long-term goal from president to diplomat, a fitting career for this bright, global-minded senior. She will study diplomacy and political science in college.



Anna Heinen

"Art isn't only about the finished product; it is about the process and what it gives to you," says Anna Heinen. For her, the process of making art brings happiness and a deeper understanding of the world. She's taken all the ceramics classes available at MHS, as well as jewelry and AP Studio Art. Her 3D creations have won many Scholastic Awards over the past four years. This year, she won a Gold Key for her art portfolio and national recognition.

Her sculpture *Origanum Dictamnus* won a National Scholastic Gold Medal, an award given to the top one percent of high school artists. The honor came with an invitation to a Carnegie Hall ceremony, and the sculpture is currently on display in New York City. "I'm ecstatic," she says of the award. The idea for the piece stemmed from her study of the Victorian language of flowers, a focus of her AP Studio Art work.



Zane Bush

"VANTAGE changed my life," says Zane Bush. "Every problem we face has a real-world application. The content is engaging, and even the homework feels meaningful."

For one who is inspired by his peers, the collaborative learning focus in VANTAGE is a perfect fit. As a junior in VANTAGE's Business in a Global Economy cohort, Zane and his team partnered with Cargill's Truvia Sweetener group. This year, as a Design + Marketing student, he's on the Nike ecommerce project. He also worked with an initiative advocating for mountain bike trails in two Minnetonka parks, a project close to home. "Much of my childhood was spent in Big Willow Park, one of the potential sites for trails. It would be awesome to give kids opportunities to get outside," he says.

Bush's zest for creative problem-solving serves him well in DECA, a student organization with a business competition that taps into quick thinking and presenting skills. Zane and his partner won first place at Internationals last year in the Marketing Team Role Play event, and this year they will take their ad campaign for Explore Minnesota to the international competition in Atlanta after placing first at state. "You need business acumen to succeed in DECA, but even more you need to articulate what you are thinking and know how to read people," he says.

Though he's clearly at home in the business world, Bush spends as much time as possible outdoors. He's run track all four years of high school and skied on the Nordic team since 10th grade. Fishing with family in Ontario, Canada is a favorite getaway, and he also enjoys traveling to the BWCA and western states.

Zane is grateful that Minnetonka provides so many opportunities for students to explore their interests. He says that since Kindergarten at Groveland through this year his teachers have prepared him well to take on challenges. "Ms. Lolich is amazing," he says of his VANTAGE teacher. "She does a lot to figure out what makes a kid tick, then orients learning toward that interest."

The University of St. Thomas' Schulze School of Entrepreneurship is next for Bush. He won a prestigious Dick Schulze Innovation Scholarship, which includes four years of tuition along with unique opportunities in experiential learning, networking and mentorship.

For an artist experienced in ceramics, sculpture involves new challenges. "You have to pay attention to so many different surfaces, capture the texture and feeling of everything on a 3D level," she says. In ceramics, her favorite decorative technique is sgraffito, which involves carving intricate designs on a clay surface.

Anna's passion for the natural world inspires her art. "Nature is like a big museum where you can touch everything," she says. From a young age, she's loved hiking and camping. Close to home, she likes wandering in Purgatory Park.

As a senior, Anna splits her time between PSEO classes at the University of Minnesota and MHS. She enjoys working as a TA in Sarah Young's Ceramics 1 class. "Anna has inspired so many students with all that she does. I feel lucky to be her teacher," says Sarah Young. Outside the art wing, Anna has been involved in the Writing Center as a coach and blog editor, cross country, and Envirothon, an ecology-focused group competition.

This summer, Anna plans to hike the Superior Hiking Trail and travel to the Grand Canyon with family. Next year, she is excited to attend University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she will major in art and pursue her interest in sustainability.



MINNETONKA ALUMNI AWARDS

The stories of our alumni create a common history, increase our sense of community and strengthen our Tonka pride. Alumni achievements are evidence of the world class education that children receive in Minnetonka Schools.

The Minnetonka Alumni Association celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding alumni at an annual awards brunch. The next Alumni Awards Brunch will be held in September 2019, as the 2018 awards have been deferred due to the All-School All-Class Reunion.

Anyone may submit a nomination, including self-nominations, with the exception of the Faculty Hall of Fame Award, which requires submissions be made by a former student.

Deadline: Nominations are accepted throughout the year but should be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2019, to be considered for the 2019 awards. Nominations submitted on or after Feb. 1, 2019, will be considered for the following year. Submit your nomination online at www.minnetonkaalumni.com or email alumni@minnetonkaschools.org.

Recognize an Alum

The Distinguished Alumni Award is Minnetonka's premier alumni honor, recognizing distinguished professional achievement, distinguished leadership and/or distinguished service toward the greater good. Recipient(s) must have graduated from Minnetonka High School at least 20 years prior to receiving the award.

The Distinguished Service Award is open to all Minnetonka alumni, recognizing significant volunteer service benefiting the greater good, philanthropic leadership or service/contribution to the MAA.

The Young Alum Award honors alumni within 15 years of graduating from Minnetonka High School for distinguished post-secondary academic achievement, professional achievement, distinguished leadership and/or distinguished service toward the greater good.

The Skippers Hall of Fame inducts up to five individuals or teams each year for achievements in arts, activities and athletics. Induction reflects achievements that stand the test of time by alumni who graduated from MHS more than 10 years ago.

Nominated by a former student and selected through an online vote of MAA members, **the Faculty Hall of Fame** will honor a Minnetonka School District teacher or administrator who has inspired in students a passion to excel with confidence and hope.

Nominate someone today at:

www.minnetonkaschools.org/alumniawards



1. The awards brunch in the MHS Commons
2. Kathy Smith and Barbara Zell
3. Friends and family celebrating the honorees
4. Joe Mullen and friend
5. The alumni car in the Homecoming parade
6. Honoree Richard Humleker and family
7. Don Mark and Dan Austin
8. Honoree Ryan McCartan and parents

Congratulations to the 2017 Alumni Award Honorees!



Ryan McCartan '11, Lori Palmer '65, Howard Young, Cornell Anderson '66, Kara Aanenson '03, Bill Seibert '64, Richard Humleker '67



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MINNETONKA MEMORIES

The first memories that come to mind involve being a typical teenager in the early '90s including the engineering of a "Ferris Bueller"-style day off with my friend Jason and getting lost on a cross-country practice run that required us to run back to the high school for miles against traffic along busy Highway 7. In addition to all of the non-academic fun, I have vivid memories of the challenges presented by teachers like Bill Chisholm (English), Ernie Gulner (Speech) and Sue Sinkler (English), who all required me to read, write and speak as part of a pretty rigorous workload. All of it made me very uncomfortable, stressed and I failed often. It wasn't until after law school that I worked as hard as I did for those classes (and teachers). I couldn't appreciate it at the time, but I now appreciate that they all prepared me for the fundamentals of my career. I still live in the district and have the opportunity to volunteer with the Minnetonka Schools Foundation with the hope of contributing back to these wonderful schools. I also look forward to the memories that my kids will have of Minnetonka Schools.

- Todd J. Anlauf '92



I remember using my "green pea" VW bug in the '67 homecoming parade, depicting our mascot Oscar the Octopus (predecessor to the Skipper). I had a very small eye opening in the windshield and feared I might run over other parade participants! We actually had a police escort to the high school so I could go slow and not blow off the decorations. Also, it rained that night and the crepe paper wrapped all around the car "bled" onto the car! What a mess! To this day, I still can't remember whose legs were sticking out the windows that night.

- Scott Meriwether '68

I greatly enjoyed my teammates and experience on the gymnastics and math teams at Minnetonka High School. (A school photographer took this picture at a home meet in 1990; it is one of my favorites because of the anchor and flag in the background.) I was also fortunate to have many exceptional teachers, one of whom was Leo Razidlo who fostered my love of math, so much so that I went on to major in math in college. Finally, of course, friends made everything more fun, and I am grateful the friendships made at MHS have been lifelong.

- Megan (Bauman) Schmidt '91



I will never forget my days at Minnetonka High School. At MHS, I forged lifetime friendships, honed the skills necessary to achieve life goals and had fun all at the same time.

These were the most formative years of my life, and I owe a lot to MHS and my teachers there. Learning facts and figures is one thing, but I was fortunate to have teachers and mentors who gave me a thirst for knowledge and a desire to focus on the more important things in life.

The ability to think and respect other people's opinions was paramount and certainly yields a balanced and happy life. Among my favorite teachers were Mrs. Woodey, Mr. Thomsen, Mr. Thames, Mr. Green and Mr. Gniffke.

My only wish is that I could go back in time and thank them all! Where did the time go? I wish the best for present and future students in their quest for a rewarding life!

- Tim M. Kucij '72



One of the highlights of my senior year in 1978 at Minnetonka High School was an “armed” robbery I was involved in ... hold on, not a REAL armed robbery but an acted-out one. It was part of a film production class I was a member of where my fellow classmates and I were required to develop a short movie with a plot of our own choosing.

Our small group of students came up with the idea of “robbing” the local bowling alley, Aqua Bowl, located at the corner of Minnetonka Boulevard and Highway 101 near the Deephaven-Minnetonka border.

We set everything up ahead of time with permission from the bowling alley owner and may have even done a dry run or two before it was “roll ‘em” time.

Our plot involved a couple of us student actors entering the bowling alley, hurriedly rushing the cashier and demanding all the money in the till. We used Monopoly money for this and once we were handed the loot, we made our getaway in one of our fellow student’s cars and hightailed it right down Minnetonka Boulevard before our student director finally yelled, “cut!”

It all turned out well and in the rare times I’m in that area today I think of that time all those years ago and the fun and excitement we had in making that movie!

- Mike McGuire '78

I loved my years at MHS. While some school traditions have changed since I was there, many still continue. My daughter has also enjoyed going to football and hockey games, Coffee House and the Homecoming parade. To this day I still attend many of these events and I see that so many other alumni do as well—this is an amazing community!!

- Amy (Hambor) Brown '88



One of my fondest memories from my 12 years in the Minnetonka Schools is from my 6th grade class at Scenic Heights Elementary. I had Mr. Lewis as my teacher, and despite how seasoned he was, he approached teaching his students with such vigor and excitement. There are many things he did to make learning fun—like bringing in homemade maple syrup from his farm for us to try or of the school’s courtyard that housed small farm animals, which he brought in for kids to interact with. However, my all-time favorite memory that I wish I could go back to even today was of him reading to us every day after lunch. He had the kind of voice that drew you in and quieted the world around you. I’ll never forget him reading to us one of his favorite books *Where the Red Fern Grows*. As a class, we cheered together when Billy (the main character) saves enough to buy his coonhounds, and we cried together when Billy mourns their death.

How fortunate I am to have that memory from my days at Scenic Heights Elementary. Thank you, Mr. Lewis, for teaching me lessons I still remember 30 years later.

- Melissa (Burkhardt) Markham '91



Some members of the 1972 basketball team reminisce with coach and teacher Lynn Krafve. Pictured: Steve Comer, Steve Crees, Lynn Krafve, Steve Opheim and Barry Olson



MINNETONKA MEMORIES

Fantastic friends, football games, musicals and more. Flexible academics where select students could design their own curriculum and study subjects off campus! SWAS (School Within A School)! I loved the program and learned so much my junior year. Not only did I meet with a variety of subject matter specialists to learn interesting things, I was encouraged to take ownership of my education and gain experience managing a big project—my education! Today I am a Global PMO Project Business Specialist for a large engineering firm.

- Jennifer Strohm '79



Most adults tell you that your K-12 years will just be a dot on the timeline of your life and that what matters most is what comes after high school. If that is true, then I want to give credit to the teachers and staff who gave of themselves to allow me to take away positive memories. Thank you Lynn Kurth, my third-grade teacher who knew my potential way before I did, Kat Scotting who gave so much of her time, energy, talent and heart to guide me in middle school, and Karin Firkus of the Firkus Circus who showed me in my senior year that unknowns, not-yets and what-ifs are okay, and that I am not alone.

- Isabella Farina '18



Minnetonka memories? That's a long list. I graduated 30-plus years ago, yet as the years pass, I can still say without a doubt some of my best and closest friends are those I made during my Skipper days. I currently live in Mumbai, India, and have been back to Minnetonka a couple of times the past year, and I can always count on #SkipperNation coming together. As for specifics, well it was, and still is, all about those high school hockey games and the school's first trip to the state tournament in 1985. There was also "the hill" on Friday night football games. But when hockey season came, it was always about the game and beating a certain team in green and gold.

- Christopher Erhard '86

I was fortunate to return home from Montana to the West Metro and Groveland in 2003 at midpoint in my principalship career. Groveland's enrollment had been steadily declining and was nearing 400 students at that time, and the Groveland school community was becoming aware of the District's preliminary discussions on the potential need to restructure or even close Groveland due to these enrollment trends. The historic Groveland school community mobilized with a fierce commitment to our school with a variety of turnaround strategies beginning with a year-long "Celebrate Groveland 1854-2004" sesquicentennial year in 2004-05 as the oldest active elementary school in Minnesota. The PTA and I collaborated to engage generations of Groveland families, staff and students. It was a soaring success with fun and creative special events that captured the Twin Cities' attention designed to feature each of the distinct "Eras of Groveland" through the years. Reflecting back 15 years later, as I retire this spring, I'm amazed at our vibrant 865-student school today with four major additions improving learning commons, classrooms, music areas, food preparation, gyms, playground and parking. Groveland is now a popular "school of choice" in 2018 with innovative programming to meet the learning needs of all kinds of learners. The future is bright at Groveland!



- David Parker
Groveland Elementary School Principal
(retiring June 2018)



Mr. Dan Geldert
'63 Voyageur Photo

I remember marching band practice in the fall of 1963. We were marching around the parking lot practicing, and Mr. Geldert kept stopping us to tell Wally Zastrow to hit the big bass drum harder (sort of like "more cowbell," but 40 years earlier). After about the fourth time, Wally was pretty frustrated. On the next attempt, we were marching along, and Wally hit the drum so hard he exploded the drum head. There was a tremendous boom, and we all stopped immediately. Wally probably assumed he was in big trouble, but Mr. Geldert—who was so fantastic—looked at it and said, "Well, I did tell you to hit it harder. My fault." Great memory!

- David Preston '65



MINNETONKA MEMORIES



I found my "identity" back in 1963 when the MHS Theatre became the place where I spent most of my after-school time. Gretchen Heath was the drama teacher back then. We are still close friends today and regularly attend the MHS productions.

The spring of 1965 was absolutely crazy ...

The March Madness of "our boys" winning the State Basketball Tournament that was followed the next day by a fierce blizzard that tried but couldn't dampen the frenzied elation of the parade and pepfest. Not even a fender-bender would keep us from participating in the celebration, proudly wearing the "Skipper" sailor hats provided to us by Bob Lundsten, President of Minnetonka State Bank in Excelsior. He became my boss a few years later.

Then there was massive flooding. Sandbagging around the Minnesota River was necessary to try to keep the nearby homes and businesses dry. In mid-April, the "high water mark" record was reached and still exists on 101 in Shakopee. It remains a part of the history of our senior year.

All of this was leading up to the Big Event. On Thursday, May 6, just two days before Prom, tornados wreaked havoc all around the area, especially in Cottagewood. Clean up began. Dresses and accessories were borrowed for a very memorable evening of dinner and dancing at the Lafayette Club, followed by more dancing at the Old Log "After Party." Through the good and the bad, as "the Skippers, the Mighty, Mighty Skippers," we "Hung Tough," and were forever bonded by these events of our senior year.

Jump ahead about 20 years. Tonka pride again filled me as I watched my step-daughter receive the Addie Haag Award in Choir. Following in my theatrical footsteps, my daughter took the stage, in the first of her many MHS shows, as one of the children in *The King and I*. Before Kent Knudson and Trent Boyum, there was the direction of Brian Halleen, vocal direction of Joan Larson and the choreography of John Command. Wonderful Broadway musicals were produced. As a "D.I.P." (Dramatically Involved Parent), I was honored to be recruited to be part of the newly-formed Minnetonka Arts Council. As the Curtain Call Club, we raised money, sent MHS juniors to numerous six-week experiences at Interlachen Music Camp with full scholarships and partnered with the Booster Club to put in the lift for the orchestra pit.

But, I think my heart was at its fullest when chaperoning the 1989 Choir Tour to Chicago. At the top of what was then the Sears Tower, these talented and inspired kids suddenly organized themselves and began singing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Every tourist up there stopped and quietly listened. Tears filled my eyes at the beauty and spontaneity of the moment that has stayed with me all these years.

The Class of 1965 recently celebrated its 50th reunion. The weekend was filled with wonderful events, but for me, the best part was inviting our teachers to a Lafayette Club brunch. We reconnected with them, and they, with each other. It was definitely a time for us to give back, just a little, for all they did for us and, once again, show our Tonka pride!

- Carol Fischer Parker '65



My memories of my time at MHS are:

1. Getting the football field named after Einer Anderson—a favorite driving instructor/teacher!
2. Having our commencement ceremonies outside on the football field despite the threat of rain.
3. Having the 9th graders moved up to the high school in my senior year and how they destroyed the bathrooms!
4. Being carried down the hall by friends.
5. The all-night school party after commencement and a very tired breakfast the next day.
6. Having Mr. Anderson help me check out a school car and drive me to the license center to take my driver test and coming home with my drivers license!

These are just a few of my fond memories at MHS!

- Lynn (Thome) Polingo '83

This is where I met my wife, in the hallways of this school, back in 1972. Also, this is when Mr. Enwesi was there, and he would always say "Flip your card and go away." Those of you from that time will remember.

- Scott Scheurich '74

I took home economics in my junior year, and I believe the teacher was Mrs. Feitinger. My friend Julie Tuthill was also in this class. Mrs. Feitinger had been at Minnetonka High School for many years, as my mother also had her for home economics during high school. This teacher called me my mom's name "Sue" the entire year, and I passed this class with flying colors. My friend Julie failed because she "killed the yeast." We still don't know to this day what that meant.

- Lisa (Lund) Mayer '79

I'm Alan Tollefson '59 and my wife is Martha Mase Tollefson '62. We raised four sons, Alan, Anson, Adam and Andrew, who all graduated from Minnetonka High School. Our two youngest of the four, Adam '87 and Andrew '89, are who we are writing about because of something that each of them did at graduation that was possibly a first, but at least, it was quite unique.

Adam's story begins with him recalling sitting with his friends at the Minneapolis Auditorium glued to the graduation ceremony and eagerly awaiting their turn to walk up on the stage. But he was also nervous, as he was thinking about doing a back flip off the last step after receiving his diploma.

What made him apprehensive was the big "what if" factor. Flipping off of a step to the concrete floor, holding onto his cap and diploma, and wearing a long gown. "Never tried all that before." The next thing he remembered, was reaching the bottom step, spinning around, cranking a nice clean back flip with a solid landing. "Wow... I did it." He felt it was his way of adding his personal stamp, an exclamation point, on many great years in school. "I was excited and relieved. The cheering throughout the arena was a bonus. Yup, we did it. We graduated."

His brother Andrew doesn't really have a clear recollection of how or why he did a back flip, too. He only said, "I just know I did a lot of the same things Adam did. We lifted weights together, played football, went out for wrestling because Adam thought we should, and then I was following him to Saint John's University, so why not do a back flip at graduation like he did?"

Martha and I, and our four boys, all have really loved Minnetonka. We're proud to have been a part of such a special school and all share wonderful memories. And now it is our grandsons' time—Luke and Sandler are juniors next year.

- Alan Tollefson '59



MINNETONKA MEMORIES

Miss Huebner was an English teacher at Excelsior High School for a number of years. She was a formidable teacher and would stare you down through her wire-framed glasses if you made a misstep in her class. If you did, there were usually consequences!

In the fall each year, she informed our class of her rules. They included no gum chewing (she would stop the class) or reading outside books if you wanted to earn an "A" on your report card. For those who didn't have their work done by class time, they were moved to "Hangman's Row."

Miss Huebner had a way of infusing us with the King's English—from diagramming sentences to reading prose and poetry and giving speeches to the class. We knew exactly where we stood with her and what was expected of us from day one.

Miss Huebner had a funny side, as well, and she liked to tell us stories. We could divert her attention from an expected daily quiz by getting her to talk about something completely different, but the quiz inevitably came!

I was fortunate enough to have her teach me for three years in high school—and it paid off. Being employed as both an administrative and correspondence secretary at IBM Rochester for six years, I was complimented on my English skills. I could only thank Miss Huebner for that, and how I retained what she had taught me many years ago. Her name was inevitably brought up at our class reunions held over the years. She was truly unique, inspirational and totally unforgettable!

- Jean (Henkelman) David '53 (the first MHS class)



Miss Olga Huebner
'53 Voyageur Photo

I have many good memories of Minnetonka but one really sticks out. Miss Huebner taught English and was a very nice teacher, but ...

On the first day in class she introduced everyone by Mr. or Miss. Well my first name was Francis, but I went by Butch. She called out my name as "Miss Colby." That was a tough way to start my high school career! I will say that even though I never enjoyed English, I did like Miss Huebner!

- Butch Colby '61



One of my fondest memories is traveling with Minnetonka Theatre to Scotland to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival! It will forever be a highlight. I fell in love with art, and now I spend every day ensuring that students across the state of Minnesota have unique opportunities to showcase their talents through my role as the Spotlight Education Manager with the Hennepin Theatre Trust.

-Ari Koehnen '09



Forward-Looking in Minnetonka Schools Started Way Back

Congratulations to Minnetonka Schools and more kudos for the citizens who can take great pride in the successes of the District. Special appreciation goes to the School Board, Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson, the entire staff, volunteers, alumni and our citizens-at-large. We look forward to the future while we celebrate the past and present. Let us reflect for a few moments on how this all started.

William O. Nilsen was the first Superintendent of Schools of Minnetonka School District #276. Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1903, he and his Norwegian immigrant parents moved to North Dakota and then to Minneapolis, where he graduated from South High School in 1920. His education continued at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., where he received his bachelor's degree in education and pre-medicine in 1924. His master's degree was earned at the University of Minnesota.

After teaching, coaching and administrative assignments took him to Buffalo Lake, Minn., Brown's Valley, Minn., Holmen, Wis., and Spring Grove, Minn., he was selected in 1943 to be the Superintendent of Schools in Excelsior, Minn. The challenge back then was how to expand the curriculum to meet the growing and changing needs of the students, who numbered about 100 per class.

Post-war requirements for advanced mathematics, science and better world understanding all called for significant curriculum change. Finding more students to create a critical mass was the only answer. So, with School Board encouragement, Bill Nilsen began discussions with the other neighboring districts of Deephaven, Tonka Bay, Groveland, Clear Springs and Minnewashta, all of which were even smaller in size than Excelsior. This radical notion of consolidation was new to Minnesota—a state with more than 4,000 school districts at the time.

The climate for consolidation was highly political and emotions were very evident. How could this possibly work? Some people called him "Wild Bill." Initially, status quo thinking predominated over consolidation talk. Moreover, high school sports—like today—were a powerful magnet in the late 40s and early 50s. Small high schools played one another on an even-keel basis. The boys on the Excelsior High School basketball team won the state championship shortly before the merger conversations started, further making a new route into the future an uphill battle.

Vested interests reared their heads. More than 20 School Board members would be reduced to six. Which current



William O. Nilsen

Superintendents would be out of a job? Would local students choosing to attend high school in Hopkins or other border districts be forced to change schools? Status quo is comfortable; change is upsetting. Hence, the School Board and Bill Nilsen, using their leadership skills, sold the idea of focusing on what's best for the kids. They stressed the future of our community-at-large and placed emphasis on teaching and learning. This attitude prevailed—and on March 15, 1949, the voters agreed by 89 percent.

It is important to note that this decision was not just a philosophical one. Land had to be purchased, buildings built, bonds sold and tax levies managed. The high school and two junior highs (middle schools now) were built to create the present-day Minnetonka School District. All the elementary schools today were remodeled or built for the first time during Mr. Nilsen's superintendency, which continued until he retired in 1968.

Thankfully, area citizens and their leaders back in 1949 were open to conversation, dialogue and eventual decision-making on the best interests of the whole regarding the education of youth. Their vision, tenacity and entrepreneurship in those early days paved the way for the ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

And now, over the years, those visions have continued with the same openness and innovation. Thanks, Bill!



MINNETONKA MEMORIES



Before & After

Left is my 1969 prom picture with my boyfriend Tom. The theme was "A Place in the Sun" and on the right is today's picture of us in Our Place in the Sun - Florida! We have been married for 46 years!

-Kathy (Kramer) Richardson '69



I have a few things that come to mind about high school. Having Einer Anderson as my driving instructor for behind-the-wheel training my sophomore year. What a kind, gentle, patient man. I feel so fortunate to have gotten to know him. I remember wearing my cheerleading uniform to school the very first time my sophomore year and participating in the Homecoming Parade. Going out with classmates on Sunday nights for Uncle Sam's Teen Night dance parties was probably the most fun I had in high school. And of course, spring break in Daytona Beach my senior year with my best friends Brenda and Julie. I would NEVER allow my teenage daughter to go on Spring Break today without a guardian!

- Lisa Wandrei '81

A special thank you to the 2018 graduates who will be serving our country:

Liam Arnar, Air National Guard
Logan Gallagher, U.S. Air Force
Java Gordon, Army National Guard
Jacob Hagen, Army National Guard
James Jorde, Army National Guard
Devon Kendall, U.S. Air Force
Nicholas Lowden, U.S. Army
Sarah Riviere Herzan, Army National Guard
Annika Shipstad, U.S. Navy
Keyonté Talley, U.S. Air Force
Samuel Venjohn, U.S. Air Force
Zachery Wallace, U.S. Marines

Mac Karrick, ROTC at University of St. Thomas
Sarah O'Connor, ROTC at Old Dominion University
Olivia Pfaendtner, ROTC at Santa Clara University

Henry Bixler, U.S. Naval Academy
Tyler Fahning, U.S. Naval Academy
Olivia Rey, U.S. Military Academy at West Point



MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EST. FOUNDATION 1986

Investing in Innovation

Celebrating Teacher Grants

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation announced more than \$57,000 in 2018-19 teacher grants. This year, the Foundation also celebrated more than \$1 million invested into Minnetonka classrooms by the Teacher Grant Program since its inception in 1999. Teachers and administrators from the school district and board members from the Minnetonka Alumni Association attended the Teacher Grant reception on April 19, 2018.

MAA Fine Arts Endowment Fund Grants for 2018-19

In partnership with the Foundation, the Minnetonka Alumni Association's Fine Arts Endowment Fund provided funding for two fine arts teacher grants in the 2018-19 school year. Grants funded this year include:

Art Room on Wheels (Christin Congdon, Minnewashta)

This grant will provide a mobile art room, allowing students to learn to set up, take care of and put away materials, teaching self-reliance and responsibility. It will allow the traveling art teacher to save time by having all supplies in a specific, portable space that can be wheeled to multiple classrooms in a day.

Colorful Choir Hand Chimes (Jennifer Kimball, Clear Springs and Scenic Heights)

These hand chimes will expand the curriculum of reading music and provide a new experience that is both student engaging and fun. All students will read from left to right on a score and simultaneously see their colored note on the Smart board and play at the accurate time. Students will then share their musical product with others and will be able to self-critique their performances, all which inspires teamwork and musicality.

Scholarships and Named Funds

There are many ways to make a direct and lasting impact on Minnetonka Schools, such as direct donations, stock gifts, planned gifts and establishing a scholarship or named fund. The Foundation is the fiscal agent for several scholarships and named funds on behalf of generous donors. A few of the named funds managed by the Foundation include:

- Brad Board Award for Excellence in Elementary Education
- Nick Duff Multicultural Fund
- Lovett Summer Writing Scholarship
- Charlie Parnell Memorial Fund
- Sundem Family Scholarship
- Youth Citizenship Endowment Fund (established by Dr. Draayer)



MAA board members with the recipients of the 2018-19 Fine Arts Endowment Grants funded through the MAA.

How You Can Help

Contact the Foundation at mtka.foundation@minnetonkaschools.org or visit www.minnetonkafoundation.com to learn about all the Foundation's efforts to invest in innovation for all Minnetonka schools.



ALL-SCHOOL ALL-CLASS REUNION

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Skipper Level

- The Class of 1965

This fantastic event only comes along once every four years, and you don't want to miss it!

Saturday, July 28, 2018

5-10 p.m.

Excelsior Commons

135 Lake St, Excelsior, MN 55331

Tickets: You may purchase tickets for the All-School All-Class Reunion online at www.minnetonkaschools.org/reunion or you may mail payment to the Minnetonka Alumni Association (PO Box 103, Excelsior, MN 55331). Tickets will also be available at the gate. Tickets for the reunion are \$20. Teachers and coaches (both active and retired) can get in free.

Hotels: The Sheraton West in Minnetonka has reserved a block of 30 rooms at a special discount rate for reunion attendees: www.sheraton.com/minneapolis. Simply tell them you are with the Minnetonka High School Reunion!

Shuttles: Parking at the high school is free. Two shuttles will also run continuously, departing approximately every 15-20 minutes. The first shuttle to the reunion will leave MHS at 4:45 p.m. and the last shuttle will leave Excelsior at 10:30 p.m.

Food/Beverage: There will be several food and beverage options at the reunion. Beer and wine will be available for purchase by guests 21 years of age or older. Purchase drink tickets at the white tent near the bandshell.

Meeting spaces: Tents are provided and divided by decade (with space for faculty, too). Chairs and tables are available. Make arrangements to meet your friends in the tent by your decade, then head out from there!

Alumni T-Shirts: We will be selling Minnetonka Alumni Association t-shirts at the reunion, and you can have them customized with your graduation year while you wait.

Before the reunion

Tours of Minnetonka High School will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at: 9, 10 and 11 a.m. Tours will be hosted by current MHS students and will highlight the new Minnetonka Research Center, athletic facilities, the Arts Center on 7 and much more! Tours last 20-30 minutes. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

KIA Memorial: The unveiling of the Killed in Action (KIA) Memorial Plaque will take place on Saturday, July 28, from 11:30 a.m.-noon in the Minnetonka High School Commons.



KIA MEMORIAL PLAQUE

by Bruce Triden '63 and
Doug Smith '63

MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO BE UNVEILED DURING THE ALL CLASS REUNION

A memorial plaque honoring Minnetonka High School graduates who have been killed in action while serving in the U.S. military will be unveiled on July 28 at MHS.

There are nine graduates who will be recognized for making the ultimate sacrifice for our country: Carl Kollmeyer '56, Henry Hampton '60, Craig Egge '62, Marty Benson '63, Berni Teske '63, Dale Granger '65, Roger Kittleson '65, Thomas Knopik '68, and Jerome Olson '68. All were killed in Vietnam. We have not learned of any additional graduates who have been killed in action since the Vietnam War.

The memorial will be installed in the MHS commons area and will include a large American flag, the five Military Service Emblems and a memorial plaque with brass plates, including digitized photos and names of the nine honorees.

There is a story behind the idea for the memorial. One of the nine honorees, Marty Benson '63, was inducted last year into the Skippers Hall of Fame for his athletic achievements. When Marty's classmates heard that he was receiving an Alumni Award, some thought it must be related to his being killed in action. Then the details came out; Marty actually was being recognized for winning the 880-yard race at the state track meet in 1963, shattering a 21-year-old record. That was indeed noteworthy, but giving his life for his country was on a whole different level. Therefore, the discussion for an MHS Killed in Action Memorial began. A large donation was made, a second donation followed and work began on the memorial.

Everyone is welcome to attend the unveiling of the memorial plaque for MHS alumni who were killed in action:

Saturday, July 28, 2018

11:30 a.m. - noon

Minnetonka High School Commons

- Opening remarks by Doug Smith and Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson
- Introduction of families of graduates who were killed in action
- Recognition of Veterans in the audience
- Unveiling ceremony
- Taps

Relatives of Henry Hampton, Berni Teske, Roger Kittleson and Jerome Olson have not been reached. If you are related, or know how to contact any relatives of these KIA Honorees, please email their contact information to:
alumni@minnetonkaschools.org.



ANCHOR ALUMNI NOTES

1. Following graduation, **Bill Le Beau '66** attended Bemidji State College where he met his sweetheart of 47 years and soon started a career in banking. Following various career moves and earning an MBA, he became the president of Seneca Savings, Baldwinsville, New York where he continues in his retirement years as chairman of the board. He and his wife have two children and spend the summers in Upstate New York and the winter months in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
2. **Donna Cousins '66** published her new book, *The Story of Bones*. Check it out (along with her other books) on her website at donnacousins.com
3. **Larry Fraser '78** owns his own construction business, plays the bagpipes and worked in theatre for several years.
4. **Lauri Margeson '80** moved to the west coast with her daughter Tay. They enjoy sunny days and spending time together at the many beaches.
5. 1982 classmates **John Ziegler**, **Tim Stevens**, **Steve Cady**, and **Jon Shear** recently reunited after 35 years at a PGA tournament at Bay Hill in Florida, March 2018.
6. **Lynette Johnson '82** is currently working as a Work Comp Claims Administrative Assistant for Westfield Insurance. She is also the founding member of The Singers, a 40-voice professional choir based in the Twin Cities (www.singersmca.org) and the Director of Choral Music at Excelsior Covenant Church.
7. As of April, 2017, **Christopher Erhard '86** has relocated from West Palm Beach, Florida to Mumbai, India for work. It's an adventure that satisfied his wanderlust and is off his bucket list.
8. On July 29, 2017, the **class of '87** celebrated their 30-year reunion at the Old Log Theater. The reunion was well attended and was so successful that they held a 30.5 reunion in December at Jake O'Connors. Many thanks to the organizing committee led by **Jodi LaBatt Schofield**!
9. **John Dodson '88** was recruited by the Options Clearing Corporation in 2008 and moved to Chicago. He and his wife currently live in the Loop with their two cats. His parents recently moved from Shorewood to the western suburbs of Chicago to be closer to his brother Keith '90. John also teaches with the U of M and gets back to Minneapolis a few times a year. He is hoping to make it to the All-School All-Class Reunion this summer!
10. **Mary Summers '96** received the Cardinal Pride Teaching Excellence Award (Teacher of the Year Award) for the Eleva-Strum School District. Mary has been teaching with the Eleva-Strum School District since August 2001.
11. **Kyle Fransdal '98** is now a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He is married to **Elizabeth (Follese) Fransdal '99**. Liz says: "We're so proud of him and his huge achievement!"
12. **Elizabeth (Liz) Larsen '06**, completes her last year of anesthesiology residency at the University of Washington in Seattle on June 30, 2018. She has accepted a position with a physicians group in the Chicago area starting September 2018. From her family: "We are so proud of Liz's hard work and dedication during her 25 years of education. Those 13 years she spent in the Minnetonka Public School system played a critical role in shaping and preparing her for the remaining challenge she faced and for the exciting future she has ahead of her. Congratulations, Liz. You are amazing!"



Send your updates to:
alumni@minnetonkaschools.org
or submit them online at
www.minnetonkaalumni.com

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers these and all Minnetonka, Excelsior and Deephaven graduates and staff who passed away this year.

Donald R. Schuetz '50 (Excelsior) passed away on April 29, 2018. He cherished growing up in Excelsior, proudly served in the Navy, loved being Mr. Red Owl Meat Market Manager and always looked forward to going to his parents' house on Galpin Lane, as well as all the Lake Minnetonka activities.

Barbara (Olson) Rye '53 passed away in December 2017. Standing only 5'2" tall, Barbara was the shortest in her class of 97 students, so she was placed in the front row at graduation ceremonies in June 1953. That resulted in her receiving the very first diploma that Minnetonka High School conferred.

1959 classmates JoAnn Ryan Sullivan, Kathyne "Kathy" Hallin Taralseth, and Joyce Thompson Trumbo passed away in early 2018.

Lynn Lewis '60 passed away on Feb. 9, 2017. If inclined, donations to a local charity (especially one benefiting animals) would honor her lifelong commitment to giving that her family shares.

Richard (Dick) Peters '63 passed away on June 8, 2017. He loved baseball, and his talent as a pitcher culminated in him playing semi-pro baseball in Alabama. Any memorials may be designated to the Minnetonka Baseball Association.

Jeff Kenline '81 and Katy Laing '81 passed away this past year.

Arthur (Art) Samion '89 recently passed away. He is survived by wife Christina, children Alexandra and Tyler, mother Clarita, brothers Daniel (Ann) Dolina, William Samion and many other family and friends.





Minnetonka Public Schools
Dennis Peterson, Superintendent
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345

www.minnetonkaschools.org

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Upcoming Events

2018

July 4 - Firecracker Run, Minnetonka Community Ed
July 27 - Class of 1988, 30-Year Reunion
July 27 - Class of 1973, 45-Year Reunion
July 27 - Class of 1963, 55-Year Reunion
July 27 - Class of 1968, 50-Year Reunion
July 27 & 29 - Class of 1958, 60-Year Reunion
July 28 - All-School All-Class Reunion
July 28 - Class of 1998, 20-Year Reunion
Aug. 18 - Class of 2013, 5-Year Reunion
Aug. 25 - Class of 1978, 40-Year Reunion

Aug. 4 - Tour de Tonka, Minnetonka Community Ed
Sept. 22 - Apple Days in Excelsior
Sept. 28 - Homecoming Parade and Game
Nov. 16 - Tour of Tables, a Minnetonka Foundation Event

2019

Jan. 31 - Nomination deadline for the 2019 Alumni Awards
Feb. 9 - Dream Makers, A Minnetonka Foundation Event

ATTENTION

Minnetonka Boys Basketball Alumni!

We would love to add you to our alumni list. Please email Coach Freeberg or fill out your information on our website.

Ryan Freeberg, MHS Boys Basketball Coach
ryan.freeberg@minnetonkaschools.org

tonkabball.com/pages/alumni

Join our Facebook Group:
"Minnetonka High School Boys Basketball"



The class of 1953 is celebrating 65 years this year after graduating as Minnetonka High School's first class. Excelsior and Deephaven High Schools combined in 1952 to form a class of 97 students.

These "first-class friends" are planning a luncheon cruise on Lake Minnetonka concurrent with the All-School All-Class Reunion on July 28 in Excelsior. For more information, please contact the Alumni Association.

LOST
Sailor Hat.

If found,
please call
the Skipper!

Congratulations to the
2017-18
Boys Hockey Team
on their first
State Championship!!!