



THE WINDS
MAY 6, 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6	Bike to School Day
May 19	Grade 5 Choir Concert, 8:20 a.m
May 19	NEW DATE/TIME Lighthouse Publishing Event, 1 p.m. (Media Center)
May 19	Grade 4 & 5 Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.
May 20	Grade 5 Track & Field Day (Rain Date is 5/21)
May 21	Deephaven Mom's Night Out, 6:30 p.m. (Maynards)
May 25	No School - Memorial Day
June 2	Deephaven Dad's Night Out, 6:30 p.m. (Maynards)

[District Calendar](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Teacher Appreciation Week is this Week – This is the week we celebrated our teachers at Deephaven. Our school is fortunate to have excellent teachers that are committed to their students' success. Please consider expressing your appreciation for your child's teacher and/or specialist teacher this week. A note of appreciation means so much to our teachers. Thank you for your ongoing support of our teachers and our entire Deephaven staff.

Parent Party - Thank you for helping to make this year's Parent Party a great success! Our PTA is an amazing partner that helps to create a sense of community among our parents and provides enrichment opportunities for our students. Your support of Deephaven is so appreciated! A special thank you to the people that put in so many hours to make this event a great success.

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**. See below for information and resources.

Staffing Update:

Classroom Teachers for the 2026-2027 School Year (as of 5/6/26).

RSK: Rebecca Schmitz

Kindergarten English: Emily Langen, Emma Laughlin

Kindergarten Spanish: Rachel Adkins, Emily Casey, Lizzy Maus

First Grade English: Jennissa Schommer, Kate Whiting

First Grade Spanish: Yanira Bhatia, Janetta Kayser, Julie Rothman

Second Grade English: Rachel Norton, Elizabeth Renz

Second Grade Spanish: Malorie Brockamp, Jessie Knowles, Jane Sladky Valley

Third Grade English: Jennifer Peters, Chelsey Skogerbo

Third Grade Spanish: Stephanie Gloe, Betsey Powell, Kendra Tam

Fourth Grade English: Brennan Dickinsen, Janelle Laurent
Fourth Grade Spanish: Kirsten Lunzer, Susan Owens
Fifth Grade English: Morgan Erickson, Joe Sherry
Fifth Grade Spanish: Elizabeth Burgos, Anya Rosa

Retirements: Theresa Brown, Carol Traynor

Other: Courtney Loynachan accepted a role as an instructional coach in the district.

2026-27 Transportation Information Attention Minnetonka families, if you *have not already* completed the transportation request for 26-27, please do so now. [2026-27 Student Transportation Request Form](#). This transportation form must be completed each year.

After School Student Pick Up Reminder Dismissal is at 2:40 p.m. and students must be picked up by 2:50 p.m. Please adjust your schedule if you have not been arriving by 2:50 p.m.

The 2026 Celebration of Excellence will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, at MHS Arts Center. This year, **Deephaven's Award for Child-Centered Excellence in Teaching goes to Maura Devanie**. This award seeks to select the best representatives of the many outstanding teachers in the Minnetonka School District. The award includes recognition at every level and from every school.

Minnetonka Schools Dress Code – With spring here, this is a reminder about our district's dress code, Policy #504. Here is a portion of the policy. You may find the entire policy by following [this link](#).

Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately mid-thighs, applicable to front and back. Tops must have shoulder straps.

Upcoming Assessment Dates

Please avoid scheduling appointments for your child(ren) when testing is taking place this spring:

- NWEA Testing: May 5-19

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Building Representative can be contacted at any time if you have questions or would like a connection within the building. Please reach out to Morgan Minich, morgroberts@gmail.com.

CHARACTER STRONG

We are excited to focus on creativity in the month of May. It's time to be creative! At some point, everyone finds themselves in a situation that requires creativity to solve problems or create something new. In those situations, students can feel stuck or unable to get started. Practicing creativity helps students develop tools like using their imagination to come up with meaningful solutions. Each grade level will also practice applying creativity to support being well emotionally. See below for this month's Character Strong newsletter for more information.

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

Create a Reading Routine

- **Daily Reading Time:** Set aside at least 20 minutes each day for reading. [This can be a mix of reading aloud to your child and having them read to you.](#)
- **Consistent Schedule:** Try to read at the same time each day to build a habit.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Medication Pick-Up

If your child had medication of any kind in the Health Office during the 2025-26 school year, please plan to pick it up on or before the last day of school, June 10th. We ask that emergency medications such as epi pens and inhalers remain at school until the last day. Please contact the Health Office by email at (DHE.HealthOffice@minnetonkaschools.org) to make arrangements. Some medications (inhalers, epi pens, etc.) can be sent home with your student if we have an email request on file. Controlled medications (ADHD, seizure, etc.) must be picked up by a parent. Any medication remaining in the Health Office after June 10th will be discarded.

PTA PULSE

Teacher Appreciation Week - We're half way through Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank you for helping us celebrate the incredible educators who do so much for our kids every day!

Mom's Night Out - May 21, 6:30p.m. at Maynards - Moms, Grandmas, and caretakers, stop by any time. There is no formal agenda - just visiting. Contact Megan D'Alessandro with questions, Dalessandromeg@gmail.com.

Dad's Night Out - June 2, 6:30 p.m. at Maynards - Dads, Grandpas, and caretakers of all kinds, please join us. This is a buy your own food and beverage event. Contact Jerome D'Alessandro at 763-458-7321 with questions.

DEEPHAVEN MONTHLY SEL NEWSLETTER



THEME: Creativity

It's time to be Creative! At some point, everyone finds themselves in a situation that requires creativity to solve problems or Create something new. In those situations, students can feel stuck or unable to get started. Practicing Creativity helps students develop tools like using their imagination to come up with meaningful solutions. Each grade level will also practice applying Creativity to support being well emotionally.

Kindergarten/RSK: emotion identification

Grade 1: emotional awareness

Grade 2: emotional regulation

Grade 3: emotion advocacy

Grade 4: positive self-talk

Grade 5: manage stress

[What is Creativity? \(video link\)](#)

Coping Skill of the Month

Positive Self-Talk

What we believe about ourselves influences our well-being. Positive self-talk is the ability to notice unhelpful thoughts and turn them into more helpful thoughts.

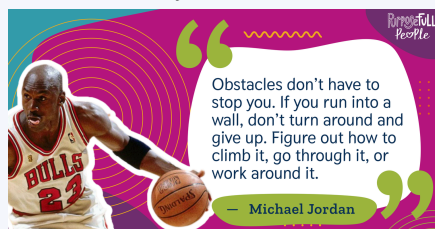
Step 1:

Recognize the thought, "I'm going to do horribly on this test." That's my inner critic talking.

Step 2: Change the narrative. "I will do my best" or "I can handle it."

Step 3: Support with examples or non-examples. "I studied and usually do well on my tests."

[Click this link](#) for a visual of positive thoughts to share with kids.



Home Connection

1) Engage with Conversation Starters

- Can you share or show what Creativity is?
- How can being Creative help you solve problems?
- How could you use Creativity to help you with positive self-talk?

2) Charades Game

Get Creative with expressing your emotions through a game of emotion charades! Gather as a family and brainstorm some emotion words. Write them on slips of paper and turn them facedown. Then, take turns choosing a slip of paper and acting out the emotion (assist with reading as needed). Other family members will guess the emotion that is being acted out. After each person's turn, take a moment to talk about what we may need when experiencing these emotions.

3) Creativity Challenge

Creativity is using your imagination to create something new or solve a problem. This challenge is about using your imagination. Find a large cardboard box and unleash your Creativity as you work together to create something new. What can the box become? Perhaps it will be a spaceship, an ice cream shop, a fairy castle, or a race car. Use any craft supplies or scraps on hand and your imagination to turn an ordinary box into a new creation!

Time for Emotion Check-ins

Set aside some time to check in with each other. Ask each family member or friend, "How are you feeling today?" Practice listening carefully as each person shares.

Emotion Check-In Questions:

- Tell me more about that feeling.
- Why do you think you are feeling that emotion?
- What do you need right now?

Mental Health Awareness Month

We all have mental health. Mental health is our ability to engage with our emotions, thoughts, interactions with others, and the world around us. Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act every day. Just like with our physical health, we can do things that make us mentally healthier. When you feel mentally well, you're more able to manage the stress and challenges you face in life, feel better about yourself, and engage in fulfilling activities and relationships

Exploring your mental health will help you better understand what you need to support your mental wellbeing. Mental health plays a big role in overall wellbeing. We all have tough days and weeks, and everyone manages their mental health every day. The best way to protect mental health is to pay attention to it even when you're feeling ok or even good. Becoming more aware of what disrupts your mental health will help you learn what actions, tools, and resources may be useful to help you when you need it. There are many ways to take action – big and small – to improve mental health for yourself and for those around you. Taking proactive steps to understand and care for your mental well-being isn't just self-care—it's an investment in your future.

Experiencing poor mental health is not the same as having a mental health condition. A mental health condition, or mental illness, refers to a set of symptoms that have been identified by a health provider. People with mental health conditions experience change in emotions, thinking, and/or behavior. For some, this means extreme and unexpected changes in mood, like feeling more sad or worried than usual. For others, it means not thinking clearly, pulling away from friends and activities you used to enjoy, or hearing voices that others do not. Mental illness is treatable; it is not always a permanent state of being.

The opportunities and resources we have available in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities can help support our mental health and wellbeing. Mental health is about what we do as individuals, and how we are supported in our communities. For example, neighborhoods and organizations can provide resources that support your sense of belonging, connectedness, and mental wellbeing.

RESOURCES:

- Taking steps to explore your mental health will help you learn what you need to support your mental wellbeing. Take action by checking on your mental health with a free, quick, anonymous test at Take a Mental Health Test - Mental Health America (<https://screening.mhanational.org/screening-tools/>)
- Research has found several ways that you can keep yourself healthy. Check out these Keys to Mental Wellbeing from Berkely University Greater Good Magazine (<https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/key>).
- Mental health is all around us but is often misunderstood. The Roadmap to Mental Health (<https://www.thementalhealthcoalition.org/mhcs-roadmap-to-mental-health/>), by the Mental Health Coalition, can explain what we mean when we say "mental health."
- Every individual, family, organization, and community can promote mental health and wellbeing. For example, practicing gratitude and recognizing the good are two individual exercises that can enhance our positive experiences in life. See Harvard's Human Flourishing Program: How to Flourish (<https://hfh.fas.harvard.edu/how-to-flourish>) for practical ideas to help you flourish.