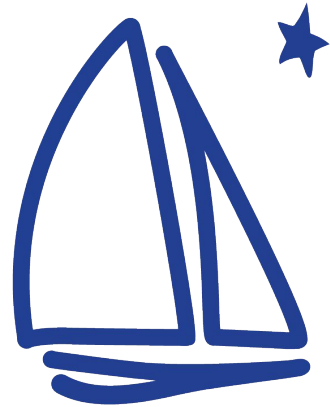


# Our Kindergarten Program

Minnewashta Elementary  
Cindy Andress, Principal



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Agenda



- Introductions
- Goals of our Kindergarten program
- How we nurture young children
- Overview of options
- Making a thoughtful Kindergarten program decision
- Opportunities to learn more



Minnewashta Kindergarten Staff



# Requirements for Kindergarten

- Schedule Early Childhood Screening (ages 3-5)
- Visit **[minnetonkaschools.org/screening](http://minnetonkaschools.org/screening)** or telephone 952-401-6840
  - If screened elsewhere—that's ok, but please provide paperwork to enrollment office*
- Immunizations
  - **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses
  - **DTaP/DT:** 5 doses
  - **Polio:** 4 doses
  - **MMR:** 2 doses
  - **Varicella:** 2 doses
- Birth Certificate (official copy)
- Proof of Address (e.g., utility bill, driver's license)





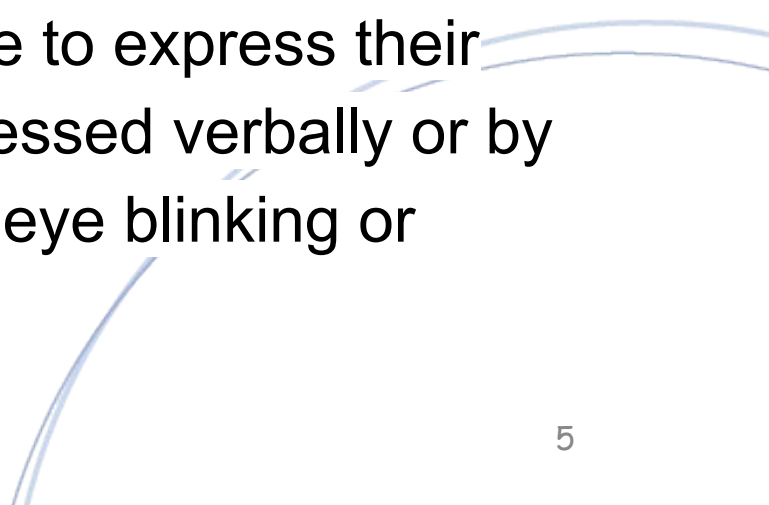
# National Institute of Health

## What are speech and language?

Speech, and language are the tools we use to communicate with each other.

**Speech** is talking, which is one way to express language. It involves the precisely coordinated muscle actions of the tongue, lips, jaw, and vocal tract to produce the recognizable sounds that make up language.

**Language** is a set of shared rules that allow people to express their ideas in a meaningful way. Language may be expressed verbally or by writing, signing, or making other gestures, such as eye blinking or mouth movements.



# Inspiring a Love of Learning

- Individual small- and large-group instruction designed to meet the learning needs of all children
- Choice time
- Learning through creative play

Goal First Grade Readiness



# Nurturing Your Child

- Welcome events and bus safety—before school starts—will help your child get off on the right foot! We will communicate dates and locations.
- Kindergarten students enjoy music, art and structured physical education on a six-day rotation
- There is plenty of scheduled recess time and outdoor play
- Lunch paras and nutrition staff assist in the lunch line and make sure children are eating *and* enjoying social time
- Class size averages for Kindergarten: 20.51 (Metro, 20.60)
- Classroom paraprofessional support

# Current Learning Model (due to COVID)

- During the current year, we are offering full in-person learning and also full e-learning as options for families.
- We are planning to offer both in-person learning and also e-learning options again for the 2022-23 school year.
- We will offer our English instruction and Spanish Language Immersion options for in-person learning at Minnewashta.
- We will offer English instruction for e-learning and also Spanish and Chinese Immersion in e-learning if there is enough interest.
- Full details about other grades and the District's comprehensive COVID-19 Response Plan are on the District website.



# COVID-19 Safety Protocols

- The District has put strong health and safety measures in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 during the current school year.
- This includes (but is not limited to) face covering and social distancing requirements in E-8 schools and on all buses, floor and wall markers and plexiglass dividers, HEPA filters in all classrooms for air purifying and increased cleaning of classrooms and commonly used/touched surfaces
- The District works closely with MN Dept. of Health when there is a positive case to notify close contacts (for quarantine, safety reminders and awareness).
- A dashboard on the District website shows number of active and recovered cases and number of students and staff quarantining.

# Kindergarten Curriculum



- Strong, early literacy and math curriculum
- Focus on creativity, collaboration and problem-solving
- Opportunities to work with specialists in music, visual arts, physical education and science, technology, engineering and math (English is the common language)
- Creative play balanced with quiet time and mindfulness

# Kindergarten Options

- All-Day Kindergarten is our standard Kindergarten program; tuition free
- Minnewashta Elementary language options:  
English or Spanish Immersion
- Part-Day Enrollment option
- E-learning language options: English Instruction and also Spanish and Chinese Immersion options if there is enough interest
- Ready-Start Kindergarten at Deephaven, Clear Springs and Minnewashta (for less mature children, still preparing for first grade)





# Kindergarten Similarities

- All Kindergarten languages teach the same [standards](#); the delivery and the language may differ
- Kindergarten teachers plan together
- Intentional use of technology for learning is a standard in all programs
- Fun computer coding curriculum begins
- Interventions in English & Spanish
- [Responsive Classroom](#) & [Social Thinking Skills](#)





# Kindergarten Program

- Your child will receive a world-class education in some of Minnesota's top schools!
- High parental involvement at home and school is a hallmark of our school
- By high school, ~86% of Minnetonka students go on to college; average ACT is 27.2!
- Minnetonka High School is the #1 high school in MN and among the top high schools in America! (Niche.com Best Schools rankings)



# Strong Results by Minnetonka Students

RECENT MCA RESULTS

District	Reading	Math	Science
Minnetonka	74.5	67.8	67.9
Eastern Carver County	61.3	52.3	49.7
Eden Prairie	70.3	60.9	57.3
Hopkins	57.2	48.0	46.3
Orono	73.3	64.8	60.0
Wayzata	77.7	75.4	68.1
Westonka	67.3	64.4	55.7
State of Minnesota	52.3	44.0	42.7

RECENT NWEA RESULTS

Minnetonka	Reading level:	Math level:
Kindergarten	Mid 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Mid 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Grade 1	Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Early 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Grade 2	Early 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Early 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 3	Mid 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Early 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 4	Early 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Early 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 5	Mid 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Early 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 6	Beyond 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Beyond 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 7	Beyond 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Beyond 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade

# Language Immersion





# What is Language Immersion?

- From day one at Minnewashta, all subjects are delivered in Spanish to develop fluency and proficiency.
- Teachers use hand gestures and signage to help communicate and reinforce understanding.
- Communication to parents is in English.





# Immersion in Minnetonka

- A school-within-a-school model
- Direct instruction in English begins in grade 3 with 300 minutes per week taught by a Language Arts specialist.
- Advanced Learning, Special Education services are provided in English.



# Immersion for Young Children



- Learning language is a natural process
- Hearing and sound recognition are being trained and wired to the brain at a young age
- Vocabulary builds quickly
- Vocal physiology is still developing, so muscle memory for pronunciation comes naturally

# Can We Enroll in Immersion Later?



- Students must enter the Immersion program in Kindergarten, or demonstrate grade-level proficiency if transferring into the program at a later year.



# If You Choose English

We have outstanding **World Language** opportunities:

- After-school elementary language program (K-5)
- Intro to a World Language (one-quarter, grade 7)
- Language elective, grade 8, full-year every day world language (start here for five years of language before college)
- MHS students are among top in nation on world language exams
- International Baccalaureate Bilingual Diploma Programme
- Minnetonka Community Ed partners with Concordia Language Camps for world language exposure opportunities.



# World-class English Program



# Our English Program

- Developmentally balanced curriculum
- Language and vocabulary development are central
- Strong number sense and recognizing pattern are the fun math work





# Foundations--Wilson Language Program

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study
- High frequency word study
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension strategies
- Handwriting
- Spelling



# Ready-Start Kindergarten





# Ready-Start-Kindergarten (RSK)

- Intended for less mature children
- Geared for younger, active learners
- Goal is to prepare children for first grade the following year
- Three school sites: Deephaven, Clear Springs and Minnewashta





Remember, play is the work of childhood!



# Decisions for Families



- English or Spanish available at Minnewashta Elementary
- Will you attend your neighborhood school or elect the Parent Option Program for another building/language?
- E-learning?
- All-Day or Part-Day Enrollment?
- Ready-Start Kindergarten?



# Registering (for Resident Families)

- **January 15 Resident Priority**  
Deadline to specify your first-choice language and school
- Consider your options over the next few weeks
- Complete the online registration form ([minnetonkaschools.org/enroll](https://minnetonkaschools.org/enroll))



# Open Enrollment (for Non-Resident Families)



- Complete the online Open Enrollment Application ASAP. **January 15 state deadline.**
- You will hear more from the enrollment office by February 15, 2022.
- Contact our Enrollment office with questions.



# Questions?