



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276  
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WINTER 2024

# AROUND MINNETONKA

NEWS FROM MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSES PRELIMINARY 2024-25 GOALS

The Minnetonka School Board held a planning meeting to discuss preliminary goals for the 2024-25 school year. The Board develops its annual goals through an iterative process, which 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 for 2024-25 align with the District's theme: "Excellence in How We Live, Lead and Learn." Below is a summary of each goal. To read more about the preliminary goals and associated action items, visit [MinnetonkaSchools.org/Board-Goals-2024-25](http://MinnetonkaSchools.org/Board-Goals-2024-25)

**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 through various initiatives. Schools will also increase bullying prevention efforts.

**GOAL: Excellence in Student Learning and Support**

The District will increase opportunities for improved academic outcomes for all students, improve student literacy efforts, expand student program opportunities and improve middle school opportunities.

**GOAL: Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support**

The District will work to ensure long-term financial stability and sustainability, address staffing needs, assure facilities meet current and future needs of the community, provide high-quality meals for students and continue engagement efforts to foster community trust.

**Stay Up-to-Date on Goal Progress**

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. To share your input regarding the proposed goals, email [Communications@MinnetonkaSchools.org](mailto:Communications@MinnetonkaSchools.org).



Listen to all of the episodes through your favorite podcast app or find the podcast online at [MinnetonkaSchools.org/Ahoy](http://MinnetonkaSchools.org/Ahoy)

## NEW PODCAST FACILITATES COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Through the *Ahoy, Minnetonka!* podcast, Minnetonka Schools has launched a new way for the community to hear stories from our District.

Episodes include a range of topics, spotlighting innovative signature programming at Minnetonka High School, such as VANTAGE, as well as the S.A.I.L. (Students Achieving Independent Life) Transition Program, the Minnetonka Preschool and ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) programs, the Minnetonka Schools Nutrition Services Department, Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation, and more!

We hope you will listen in and join us for these conversations with teachers, staff, students, parents, volunteers, Board members, alumni and administrators – the people who make our District such a special place to live, lead and learn.

Listen in and subscribe today by visiting [MinnetonkaSchools.org/Ahoy](http://MinnetonkaSchools.org/Ahoy)

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 2024**

- 1.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 19.....No School K-12+, District Offices Closed, Presidents Day
- 22.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 29.....Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.

**MARCH 2024**

- 1.....No School K-12+, Parent/Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 4.....K-5 No School, 6-12+ E-Learning, Staff Professional Learning
- 7.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 21.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 28.....End of 3rd Quarter
- 29.....No School K-12+, District Offices Closed

**APRIL 2024**

- 1-5.....No School K-12+, Spring Break
- 8.....No School K-12+, Planning and Grading/PLC
- 9.....Classes Resume, 4th Quarter
- 11.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 18.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC



## NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY FOR A CHILD-CENTERED EXCELLENCE AWARD

When you think of excellence in the Minnetonka Public School District, is there a person who comes to mind who helps to make the District exceptional? A teacher or para? A staff member? A volunteer in the schools? Whether you are a parent, student, staff member or community member, you have the opportunity to nominate that person for a Minnetonka Schools Child-centered Excellence Award.

Award honorees are selected from the pool of nominations by a committee of past award honorees. Honorees will be recognized at the District's annual Celebration of Excellence Awards Ceremony on May 16, 2024. Additional details about the celebration will be provided as the event approaches.

Please take a few moments to learn more about the award categories and to acknowledge a school employee or school volunteer for their dedication and impact by nominating them for a Child-Centered Excellence Award at [minnetonkaschools.org/celebrate](https://minnetonkaschools.org/celebrate)

**Nominations are open through February 29, 2024.**

### AWARD CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- Minnetonka Award for Child-centered Excellence in Teaching
- Minnetonka Award for Child-centered Excellence in Teaching E-learners
- Bradley G. Board Award for Excellence in Elementary Education
- Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award
- Minnetonka Employee Award for Child-centered Excellence
- Team Award for Child-centered Collaboration
- Spinnaker Award (for community members' volunteerism and efforts in support of our schools)

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## MESSAGE from the Superintendent .....

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Minnetonka Public Schools! Our second semester of the 2023-24 school year is upon us, and with it our students and staff are experiencing all of the excitement that comes this time of year.



Our high school students are starting anew with classes and beginning to consider what's ahead for them—whether they are thinking about what to enroll in next year at MHS and its many pathways of learning—or whether they will be graduating and heading off to their next big adventure. Students at all learning levels are happily engaging in winter academic competitions, athletics, co-curricular activities, and musical and theater performances.

I've been visiting elementary, middle school and high school classrooms over the past several months, and I am so pleased with all that I am seeing. From our creative and dedicated teachers to our supportive paraprofessionals and school staff to our eager and engaged students—there is much to be proud of in this District. As noted on this postcard, in May, we'll honor some of our outstanding teachers, staff and school volunteers through our Celebration of Excellence Awards Program. I encourage you to nominate someone today!

Excellence remains the focus here at Minnetonka Schools. Recently our School Board mapped out the preliminary 2024-25 goals for the District. The new goals build on our current ones of Excellence in Well-being, Connection and Belonging, Excellence in Student Learning and Support and Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support—with some new action items under each area for the year ahead. You may read through a summary of the goals on this postcard and visit our website to see a full draft of the goals.

While much of our District news is sunny, we are aware that there are some challenges ahead of us. Our funding from the State has not kept up with the cost of providing the exceptional education our families have come to expect, and that, coupled with the fact we have scaled back on open-enrollment growth over the past few years, means we will be facing some budget challenges. Consequently, we are looking at expenditure reductions for the first time in nearly two decades. We will work hard to minimize the impact any reductions would have on our students and staff.

As always, I want to thank you for all you do for Minnetonka Schools and for being part of this incredible community. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to remain a district where students' dreams set sail.

With appreciation,

**David Law, JD**  
**Superintendent of Schools**