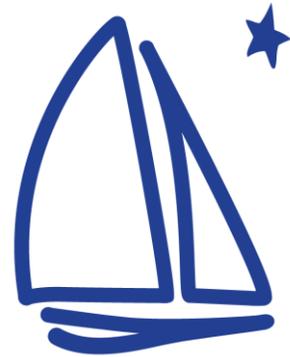


# Kindergarten Options

Webinar - November 19, 2019

Host: Curt Carpenter  
Clear Springs Elementary Principal



MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Today's 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

# Goals of our Kindergarten Program:



Inspire a love  
of learning!

Prepare students for  
first grade.

# Inspiring a Love of Learning

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



# 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

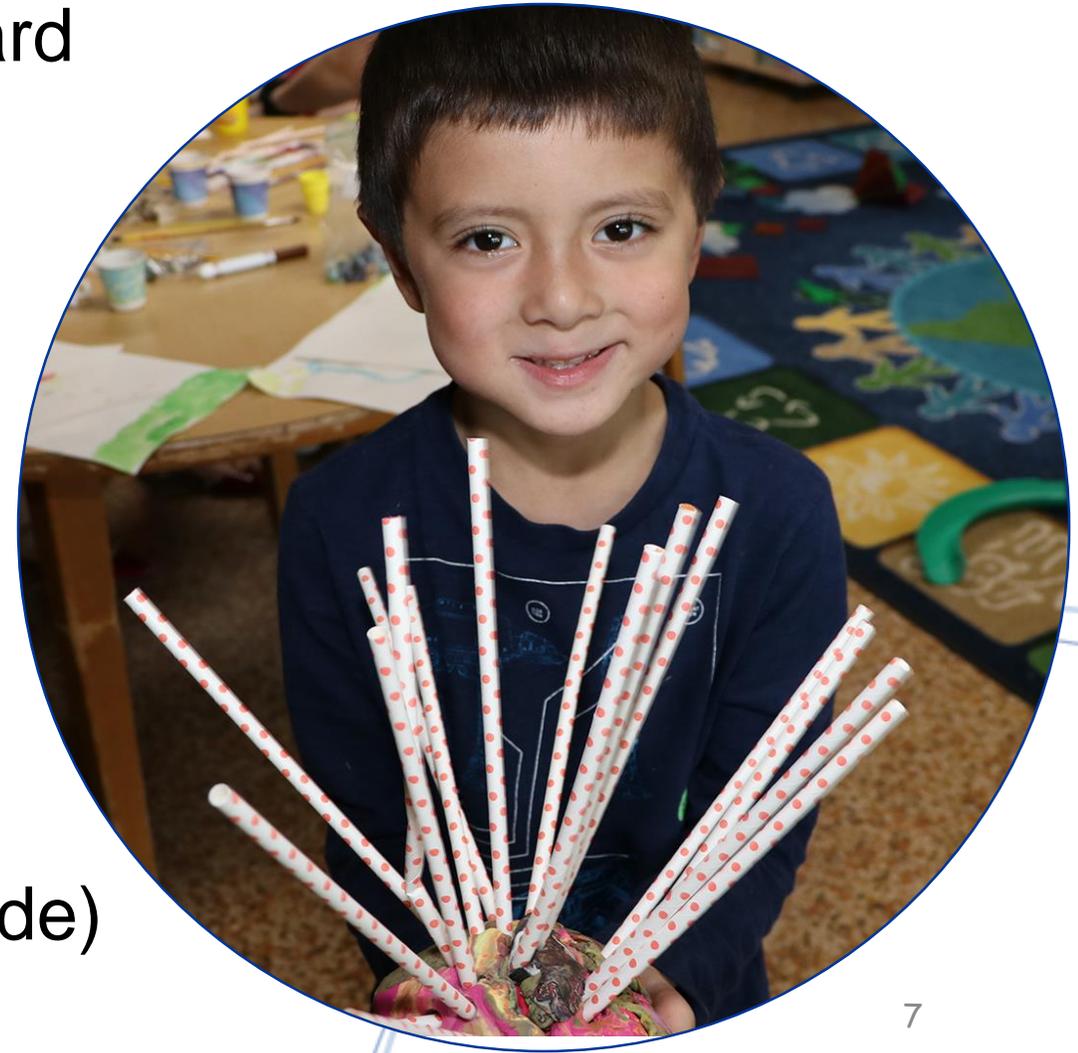
# Kindergarten Curriculum



- Strong, early literacy and math curriculum
- Focus on creativity, collaboration and problem-solving
- Hands-on science, math manipulatives, technology and arts
- Opportunities to work with specialists in music and visual arts
- Creative play balanced with quiet time and mindfulness

# Kindergarten Options

- All-Day Kindergarten is our standard Kindergarten program; tuition free
- All schools have an English program; language Immersion in Chinese or Spanish
- Part-Day Enrollment option
- 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 curriculum; 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 in Kindergarten!
- High parental involvement at home and school is a hallmark of our school



# Language Immersion



# Immersion Language Choices

- Chinese Immersion
  - Excelsior Elementary
  - Scenic Heights Elementary
- Spanish Immersion
  - Clear Springs Elementary
  - Deephaven Elementary
  - Groveland Elementary
  - Minnewashta Elementary

Program started in fall 2007. Curriculum fully developed in grades K-12.

# What is Language Immersion?

- From day one, all subjects are delivered in the Immersion language 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
- Curriculum parallels the district curriculum
- Art, music, media, physical education delivered in English
- Direct instruction in English begins in grade 3 with 60 minutes per day taught by a Language Arts specialist.
- Advanced Learning and Special Education services are currently provided in English.



# Immersion for Young Children



- Don't worry! 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. For a young child, it's just another new word.
- Vocal physiology is still developing, so muscle memory for pronunciation comes naturally.

# Reassuring Your Child About Immersion



- The teacher speaks to children in the second language all day!
- Explain that the teacher understands English, even if she/he is not speaking it.
- It is OK for Kindergarten children to speak to the teacher and each other in English in Immersion classrooms.
- It's easy to make friends!

# Immersion FAQs

- How will I help with homework?
- Can I be involved in my child's classroom if I don't speak the second language?
- How will my child understand what is taught?
- What if my child is not yet reading in English?
- Is there a downside to Immersion?



# 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.

Immersion is open to everyone; however, Immersion may not be a good fit for everyone.



# If You Don't Choose Immersion...

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

- Highly trained and experienced staff
- Developmentally balanced curriculum
- Extensive services available for students who need help
- Advanced Learning opportunities for students who need an extra challenge



# Strong Results by Minnetonka Students

## SPRING 2019 MCA III STATE READING, MATH AND SCIENCE COMPARISONS

The following data shows aggregate results for all grades tested. Comparisons are with comparable Metro districts and the state.

| District              | Reading     | Math        | Science     |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Minnetonka</b>     | <b>81.9</b> | <b>79.8</b> | <b>75.4</b> |
| Wayzata               | 81.4        | 79.8        | 73.5        |
| Edina                 | 77.9        | 76.9        | 73.7        |
| Orono                 | 79.1        | 76.1        | 75.9        |
| Westonka              | 77.1        | 78.4        | 63.7        |
| Eastern Carver County | 67.6        | 61.2        | 59.3        |
| Eden Prairie          | 74.5        | 69.4        | 61.6        |
| Hopkins               | 60.5        | 55.4        | 47.3        |
| State of Minnesota    | 59.7        | 55.5        | 50.7        |

## SPRING 2019 RESULTS: NWEA MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

| Minnetonka   | Reading level:                | Math level:                   |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | Early 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade   | Early 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade   |
| Grade 1      | Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade     | Mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade     |
| Grade 2      | Mid 3 <sup>rd</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 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade   | Early 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade   |
| Grade 5      | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Grade 6      | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Grade 7      | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Grade 8      | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Beyond 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade |

# Kindergarten English Program

- Your child will receive a world-class education in some of Minnesota's top schools!
- By high school, ~90% of Minnetonka students go on to college; average ACT is 27.7!
- Minnetonka High School is among the top high schools in America



# 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





Remember, play is the work of childhood!

# Decisions for Families



- English? Language Immersion?
- Will you attend your neighborhood school or elect the Parent Option Program for another language/building?
- All-Day or Part-Day Enrollment?
- Ready-Start Kindergarten?

# You're Invited!

| Kindergarten Information Nights for Parents | Date and Time                               |
|---|---|
| Clear Springs Elementary                    | December 12 • 6 p.m.                        |
| Deephaven Elementary                        | December 12 • 6 p.m.                        |
| Excelsior Elementary                        | December 5 • 6 p.m.                         |
| Groveland Elementary                        | December 10 • 6 p.m.                        |
| Minnewashta Elementary                      | December 5 • 6 p.m.<br>December 10 • 6 p.m. |
| Scenic Heights Elementary                   | December 10 • 6 p.m.                        |

Download the Kindergarten brochure from the Kindergarten Options webpage



# Registering (for Resident Families)

- **January 15 Resident Priority**  
Deadline to specify your first-choice language and school
- Attend a December Information Night if you need to review or bring another family member
- 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)

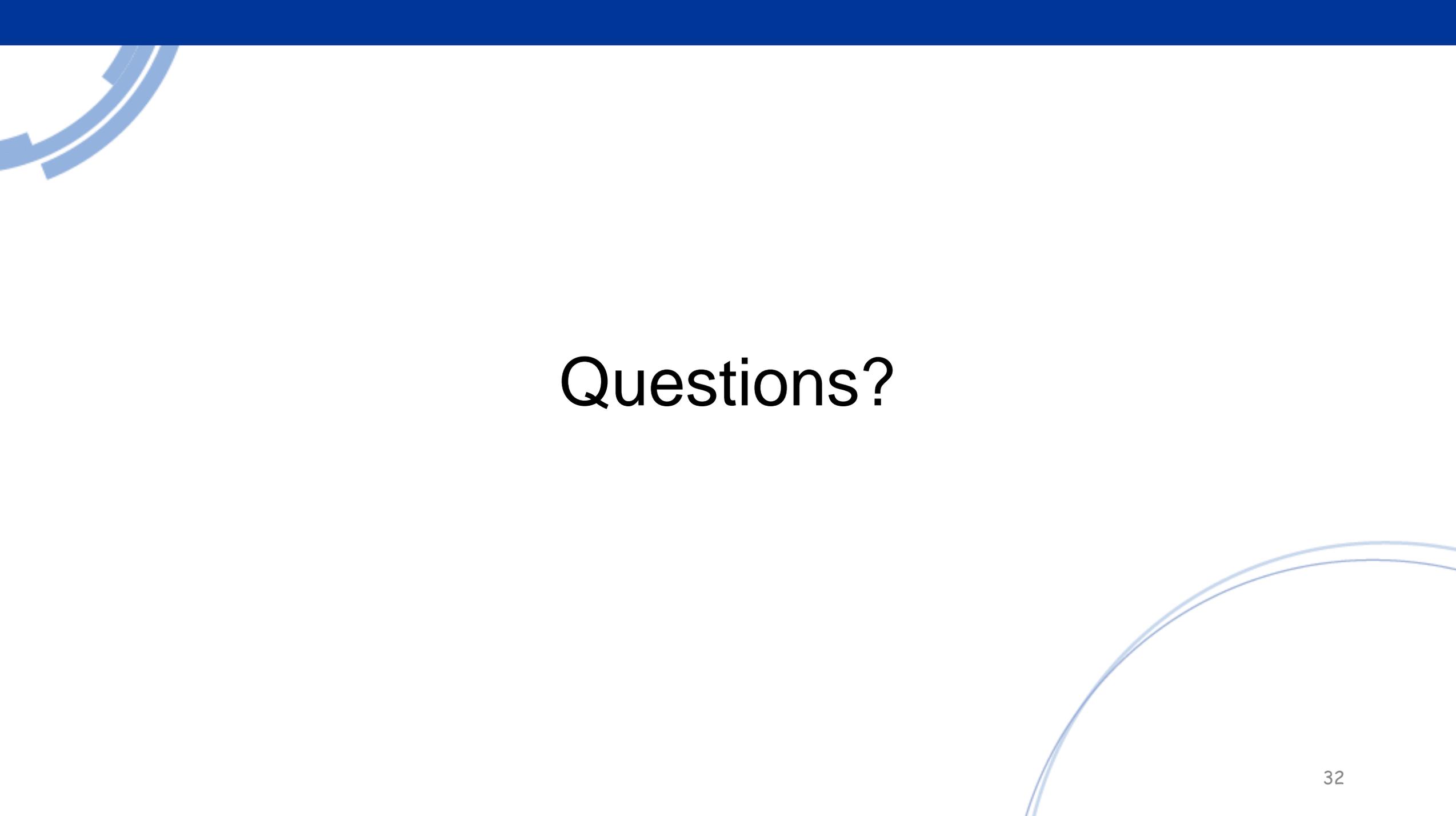


- Complete the online Open Enrollment Application ASAP. **January 15 state deadline.**
- You will hear more from the enrollment office by February 15, 2020.
- Contact our Enrollment office with questions.

# 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)





Questions?