



# Celebrating Success with the Class of 2016

Minnetonka High School seniors tossed caps Thursday, June 9, in a final display of enthusiasm for which the class was so well known. The following accomplishments only begin to capture the success of these 702 graduates.

## ACADEMICS: PREPARED FOR LIFE AFTER MINNETONKA

The Class of 2016 posted an average ACT score of 26.7, the second-highest in Minnetonka history. Four students earned an ACT score of 36, the highest possible. Always reaching higher, 79 percent of this class enrolled in one or more Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses during their high school career. Twenty-five students pursued the full IB diploma. Like alumni before them, Minnetonka graduates are prepared for college and career: 91 percent are enrolling in two- or four-year colleges, 16 have enlisted to serve our country, still others are choosing a gap year to explore other cultures or interests.

## ARTS: WORTHY OF STATE & NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Seniors turned in exceptional performances to help Minnetonka Theatre earn 36 Spotlight Awards for “Nice Work if You Can Get It” and “Pippin”—including Outstanding Overall Production. Leo Plante (and junior Christine Hwang) won Spotlight’s Triple Threat Awards. The Competition One Act play, “Third,” earned the state’s highest honors with a Starred Performance. Eleven seniors were honored with Scholastic Art Awards; one earned a National Gold Medal. Seniors represented us well in all-state band, choir and jazz band; 13 musicians delivered superior performances in state band and orchestra solo/ensemble competitions.

## ACTIVITIES: DEFINED BY EFFORTS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

From DECA internationals to Math Team, Science Olympiad to Physics Bowl, seniors took their interests to a competitive level, delivering leadership, outstanding results and Tonka Pride.

## ATHLETICS: CHARACTERIZED BY CAMARADERIE AND SPIRIT

Thirty-three athletes signed letters of commitment to compete at the college level. Girls basketball, boys tennis and boys golf brought home state championships. Boys swim and dive were the True Team State Champions and earned second place at state. Girls swim and dive won the True Team State Title and the Section 2AA meet. For the second year in a row, boys soccer won the Section 2AA title. The Sailing Club competed in a national regatta. For the first time in program history, the wrestling team, led by seven seniors, qualified for the team state tournament.



**“Every day I’ve seen positive and thoughtful interactions that have woven together to form your class legacy.”**

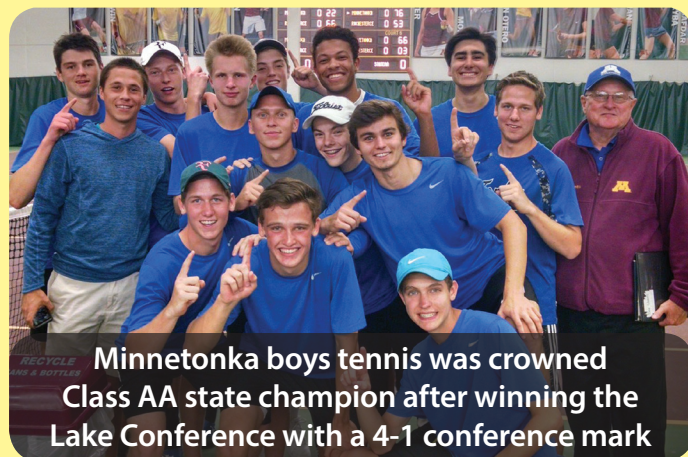
*Jeff Erickson, Principal, Minnetonka High School*

## SERVICE: SELFLESS DESIRE TO SERVE THE GREATER GOOD

As freshmen, the Class of 2016 chose “Adopt a Community” as their legacy service project. Forty-one seniors earned President’s Volunteer Service Awards in 2015. Five seniors received a President’s Volunteer Service Award all four years. 25 seniors earned Varsity Letters in community service. Heart Week raised \$40,500 for Minnetonka Family Friends, an all-time record.



Scan to learn more about our seniors



**Minnetonka boys tennis was crowned Class AA state champion after winning the Lake Conference with a 4-1 conference mark**

# Message

from the Superintendent

The Class of 2016 has met several significant milestones in their years in Minnetonka, and they are to be congratulated for their high academic performance. This class has a 26.7 average ACT score, with an amazing four perfect scores out of only a couple dozen or so in the state. These students and their classmates in other classes have won several conference, section and state championships in athletics and they have won numerous awards in drama and music. They have been leaders in many ways and are prepared to be leaders in the future.

The School Board has adopted the 2017 Budget, and it probably represents the strongest financial condition in the District’s history. This is due to prudent financial decisions by the Board over the past 15 years, the wise use of enrollment to increase revenue, and the voters’ support of referendum issues in 2002, 2007 and 2015. Thank you, voters! Also, the Debt Service fund is in sound shape after several refundings of bonds in recent years to capture the lowest possible rates for taxpayers. Millions of dollars have been saved. And, the facilities throughout the District are in great shape for the long-term, thanks to prudent work on maintenance and refurbishing of the buildings. Taxpayers can be proud of the condition of their school district.

Dennis L. Peterson  
Superintendent

## District Welcomes New Leaders in Student Support Services and Early Childhood Education

**Michelle Ferris** joins Minnetonka Public Schools as Executive Director of Student Support Services. She brings 30 years of experience as an educator, administrator and mental health professional. Most recently, she served as director of student services and special education at Indian Prairie Schools in suburban Chicago. There, she supervised staff and services for approximately 3,000 students on individual education plans (IEPs), in addition to supporting school psychologists, social workers, nurses and special education staff.



"I believe in differentiated, personalized, high-quality instruction for all students," Ferris said. "When I look to Minnetonka and the great work being done for all children, I'm just so thrilled to be part of it. I can't wait to meet and serve our staff, students and families."

Ferris holds graduate degrees in social work and educational administration and is currently completing her doctorate through Cardinal Stritch University.

**Tiffany Grams Farkas** will be leading Minnetonka's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Minnetonka Preschool programs. She has experience teaching and administering ECFE and Preschool programs in the Elk River, Minn., School District.



Farkas recently completed her master's degree in educational leadership. She is excited to be part of a world-class education system that focuses on effective, high-quality learning environments. "I look forward to providing support through positive relationships, utilizing effective resources, and instilling a passion for learning."

"I can't wait for Tiffany to begin her Minnetonka career on July 1," Tim Litfin, Executive Director for Minnetonka Community Education said. "Our families and staff will definitely benefit from Tiffany's leadership and experience with Creative Curriculum."

Please visit the [District website Newsroom](#) to learn more.



MONDAY, JULY 4  
[WWW.EXCELSIORFIRECRACKERRUN.COM](http://WWW.EXCELSIORFIRECRACKERRUN.COM)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6  
[WWW.TOURDETONKA.ORG](http://WWW.TOURDETONKA.ORG)



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## Minnetonka Schools Calendar

### 2016-17 School Calendar at a Glance

Sept. 6	School Begins, Full Day Gr 1-12
Sept. 8	School Begins, Kindergarten
Sept. 30	2-hour Early Release K-12
Oct. 13	Parent-Teacher Conferences, Evening
Oct. 14	No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 20-21	No School, Teacher Statewide Meetings
Nov. 1	2-hour Late Start K-12
Nov. 11	No School, Teacher Grading/Planning
Nov. 24-25	No School, Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 2	No School, Winter Break
Jan. 3	Classes Resume
Jan. 16	No School, MLK Jr. Day
Jan. 23	No School, Teacher Grading/Planning
Feb. 17	2-hour Early Release K-12
Feb. 20	No School, Presidents Day
March 2	Parent-Teacher Conferences, Evening
March 3	No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 27-31	No School, Spring Break
April 3	No School, Teacher Grading/Planning
April 4	Classes Resume
April 14	No School, District Office Closed
April 27	2-hour Late Start K-12
May 29	No School, Memorial Day
June 8	Last Day of School and MHS Graduation

### Important August 2016 Dates

22, 25	College Admissions 101, MHS Forum, 7pm
25	MME Gr 7 & 8 Back-to-School Open House, 4-7pm
29	MMW Gr 6 Student Orientation, 9am-12pm
29	Selective College Admission, MHS Forum, 7pm
31	Clear Springs Open House, 3-3:45 (A-L) and 3:45-4:30pm (M-Z)
31	Deephaven Open House, 8-9am
31	Excelsior Open House, 8-9am (A-L) and 9-10am (M-Z)
31	Minnewashta Open House: Gr K-2, 8-8:45am; Gr 3-5, 8:45-9:15am
31	Scenic Heights Open House: 8-9am (A-L) and 9-10am (M-Z)
31	MHS Freshman Retreat, 8am-2:40pm
31	MHS Gr 9 Parent Night, 6:30-8:30pm
31	MHS Gr 10 & 11 Picture Day, 12-5pm
31	MME Gr 6 Back-to-School Open House, 4-7pm

### Important September 2016 Dates

1	Groveland Back-to-School Open House, 8-9:30am
1	MMW Back-to-School/Curriculum Night, 4-8:30pm
1	College Admissions 101, MHS Forum, 3:30pm
6, 7	Kindergarten Assessments
7	Selective College Admission, MHS Forum, 3:30pm
8	MHS Curriculum Night, 6:30-8:30pm
12	MHS College Common App/Coalition App, Forum, 7pm
16	MHS Homecoming
19	MHS Senior Parent Program, Auditorium, 7pm
20, 22	Elementary School Curriculum Nights



MINNETONKA THEATRE STUDENT SUMMER STOCK  
 JULY 23—AUGUST 6, 2016  
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