

# Our Kindergarten Program

Minnewashta Elementary

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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

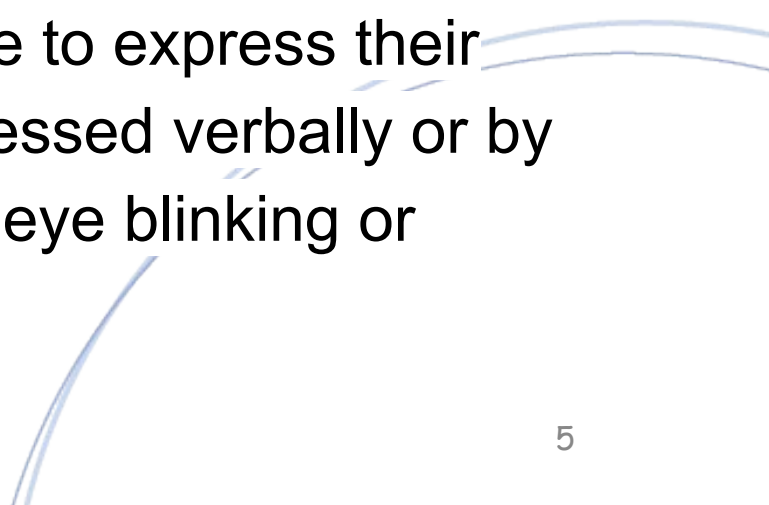
## **What are speech and language?**

(Your baby's hearing and communicative development checklist)

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.



# If you have a concern about speech or language...

1. Go through Early Childhood Screening (ECS)
2. If you have completed ECS, contact Beth Grover (our ECSE office assistant) to get put on our referral list  
([elizabeth.grover@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:elizabeth.grover@minnetonkaschools.org) or 952.401.6806).
3. If you have tried to get into ECS but there are no appointments, email Kate Van Horne (the ECS office assistant)  
([kate.vanhorne@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:kate.vanhorne@minnetonkaschools.org)) to get put on the waiting list and/or email list for when new appointments open up.

# Inspiring a Love of Learning

- **Instruction**—individual small and large-group designed to meet the learning needs of all children
- **Play**—choice time, learning through creative play
- **Social Thinking**—Group Plan, Whole Body Listening, expected & unexpected, think with your eyes, body, brain in the group, size of the problem

**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 Mtka Kindergarten: 20.3 (Metro is also 20.3)
- Classroom paraprofessional support



# Learning Models

- 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** (TONKA ONLINE) options again for the 2023-24 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**.

# 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
- TONKA ONLINE Full 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 (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~



# Strong Results by Minnetonka Students

## RECENT MCA RESULTS

### SPRING 2022 MCA III STATE READING, MATH AND SCIENCE COMPARISONS

District	Reading	Math	Science
<b>Minnetonka</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>
Eastern Carver County	60.6	55.6	53.8
Eden Prairie	68.1	59.2	54.7
Hopkins	51.8	41.6	34.9
Orono	73.2	68.2	65.0
Wayzata	77.1	77.8	67.6
Westonka	72.6	68.4	59.9
<b>State of Minnesota</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>41.0</b>

## RECENT NWEA RESULTS

### SPRING 2022 RESULTS: NWEA MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Minnetonka	Reading level:	Math level:
Kindergarten	Early 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>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 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Early 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 5	Mid 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Beyond 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Grade 6	Beyond 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Beyond 12 <sup>h</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 (TPR) 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

## **World Language** opportunities:

- 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



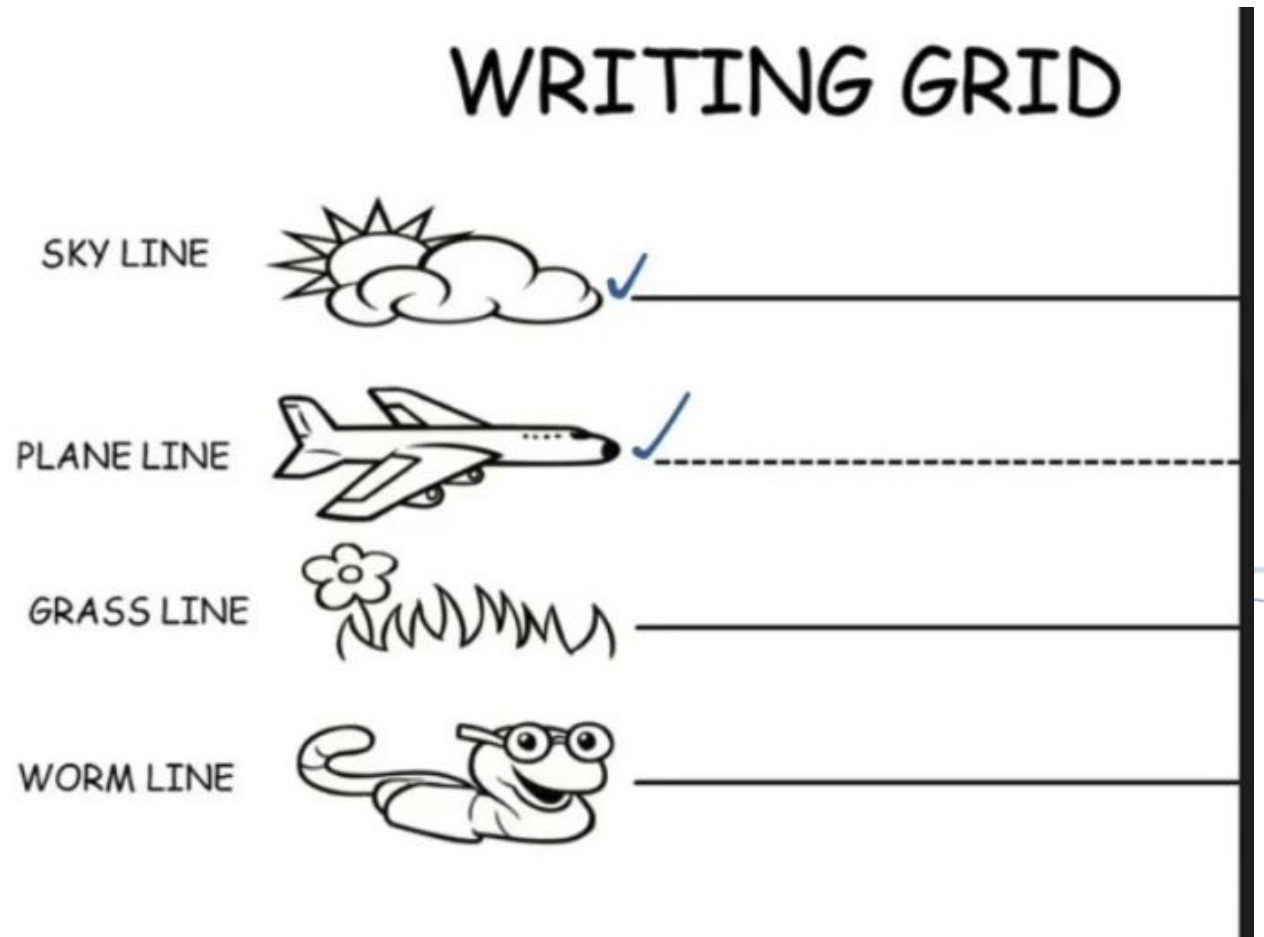
# Our English Program

- 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 to provide a gift of time
- 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?
- TONKA ONLINE 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.**  
[www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll](http://www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll)
- You will hear more from the enrollment office by February 15, 2023.
- Contact our Enrollment office with questions:
  - Last names A-L contact Monika Salden at [monika.salden@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:monika.salden@minnetonkaschools.org)
  - Last names M-Z contact Lori Schwartz at [lori.schwartz@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:lori.schwartz@minnetonkaschools.org)



# Transportation:

- Please refer to our District transportation department for your busing-related questions:  
<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/district/departments/transportation>

# Upcoming Dates:

- January 15 - priority registration deadline for resident families and open enrollment state deadline
- February 15 - open enrollment families notified by this date
- May 11 from 1:00-2:30 Kindergarten Visit and Practice Bus Ride
- August 22 New Family and Kindergarten Picnic 6-7:30pm
- August 30 Open House (Save the date school hours)
- August 30 Kindergarten Parent Orientation 5-6:30pm
- September 5 & 6 Kindergarten Assessments
- September 7 First Day of School for Kindergarten



# Questions?



# 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?



# Reassuring Your Child About Immersion



- The teacher speaks to children in Spanish 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!

# Goals of our Kindergarten Program:



Inspire a love  
of learning!

Prepare students for  
first grade.