



Minnewaska Area Schools

District 2149



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A note from Chip Rankin, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome back, students, staff, and parents, to the start of another year full of potential.

As always, I would like to welcome our new families. I am excited to begin my 6th year working with the talented Laker team of professionals assembled here at Minnewaska Area Schools.

As we begin the fall season, I wanted to update you on the latest news and developments within our school district.

Our teachers, staff, and administrators have worked tirelessly to ensure our students receive the best education possible. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to our students' education and well-being.

In addition to our academic offerings, MAS has mental health and wellness staff and programs available at all age levels to support our students' social and emotional needs.

We know the last few years have impacted many students and families, and we are here to provide the necessary support and resources.

We encourage every member of our school community to get involved in their child's education. Whether volunteering at school events, attending parent-teacher conferences, or joining our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), your involvement is critical to your child's success.



Welcome back, students, staff, and parents, to the start of another year full of potential.

This school year, we are excited to introduce new programs and initiatives made to enhance the learning experiences of our students. The district will work on the new Health and English curriculum for grades 7-12. We aim to use blended learning approaches in this new curriculum so students can experience both traditional and technology-enhanced learning.

We hope that learning experiences such as welding, precision agriculture, drone operation, and college-level science labs will remain part of our future. This November, you'll see a technology levy measure on your local ballot. This tech levy is critical to the success of our current and future students. It would secure essential funding for new and updated technology resources for Minnewaska schools and ensure students have access to career readiness opportunities.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our district's administration. Together, we can make this school year a success.





Technology Levy to Support MAS Students and Staff

For our students and staff at Minnewaska Area Schools, technology has been an essential component of our curriculum for years. One that has provided our students with more valuable opportunities to connect, learn, grow, and prepare for the future than ever before.

On November 7th, as a member of our MAS community, you'll have your own opportunity to ensure our students continue to have access to the resources they need. The technology levy that was passed by our community in 2014 will be up for renewal or a renewal and funding increase. As the dedicated source of funding for MAS technology solutions for the next decade, the tech levy represents a critical investment for our students and staff.

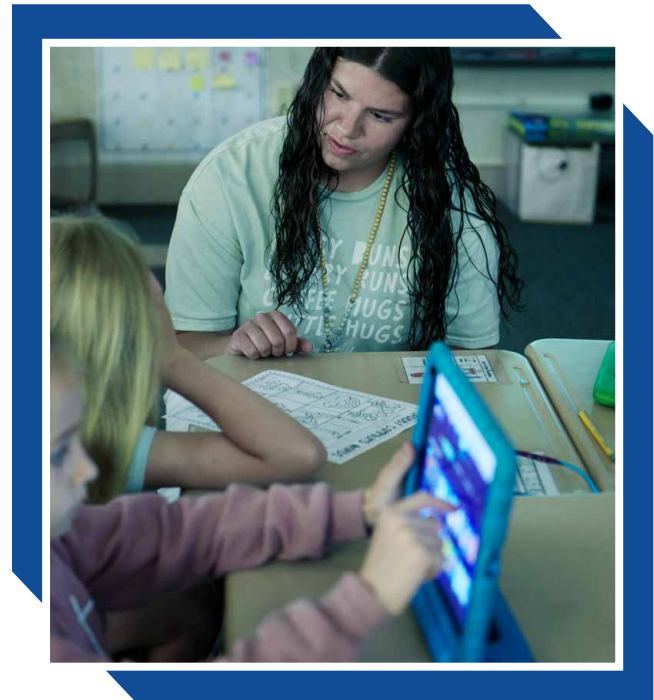
Investing in Current and Future Students

If approved to be renewed, the tech levy would continue to provide MAS with \$350,000 annually over the next 10 years. If approved for renewal plus an increase, this would provide the renewal amount plus an additional \$500,000 annually over the next 10 years. This level of funding would allow the district to purchase, upgrade, and support a wide range of technology for MAS over the next decade. The impact of technology on learning is undeniable, and the tech levy will help us maintain our investment in technology for current and future students.

100% of these funds will go toward technology needs for students and teachers, which would make a large impact at a relatively low cost to our community. If the tech levy is approved for renewal and increase, a family living in a \$200,000 home would pay an estimated \$32 per year in new tax dollars towards the levy. By funding technology through the levy, we can ensure that all students have access to the necessary tools without families having to bear the full financial burden.

How Technology Helps Students Better Prepare for the Future

Often, when people think of technology in schools, they think of portable devices like tablets or laptops.



That's true — and these devices help make learning more accessible and engaging for students.

But it's also true that the tech levy funds so much more than just devices. It funds classroom technology that helps students collaborate and better retain what they learn. It funds innovative learning initiatives that allow students to get hands-on experience with everything from welding to plant-growing. It also enables MAS to provide assistive technologies that improve accessibility for all students.

With the potential funds from the renewed and increased tech levy, MAS students will benefit from a wide variety of upgraded and new technology over the next 10 years. Some examples include student subscriptions to learning and curriculum platforms, devices for at-home and remote learning, 3D pens, precision manufacturing tools, STEAM learning resources, precision agriculture and drone technology, and more.

Moreover, the tech levy would create opportunities for MAS to maintain a 1:1 device-to-student ratio, update outdated technology, and lay a foundation of success for future students, ensuring they have the necessary tools to thrive in today's tech-forward world.



Answering Your Tech Levy Questions

We understand you may have some questions about the tech levy, so let's address a few of them.

How was the 2014 tech levy used?

The 2014 tech levy has already made a significant impact on MAS. It supported the expansion and update of student computing devices, the implementation of smart TV systems in classrooms, the upgrade of the point-of-sale system for Food & Nutrition Services, the modernization of instructional presentation systems, and much more. The tech levy also facilitated professional development for staff and central office staffing associated with supporting technology projects.

Why is MAS asking for an increase in funding?

Unlike traditional school supplies that can be handed down or reused, technology is an essential component of our curriculum that requires more frequent replacement to stay effective. Inflation is also driving the cost of technology upwards. To continue upgrading the technology tools we currently provide to our MAS students, a larger amount of funding is needed.

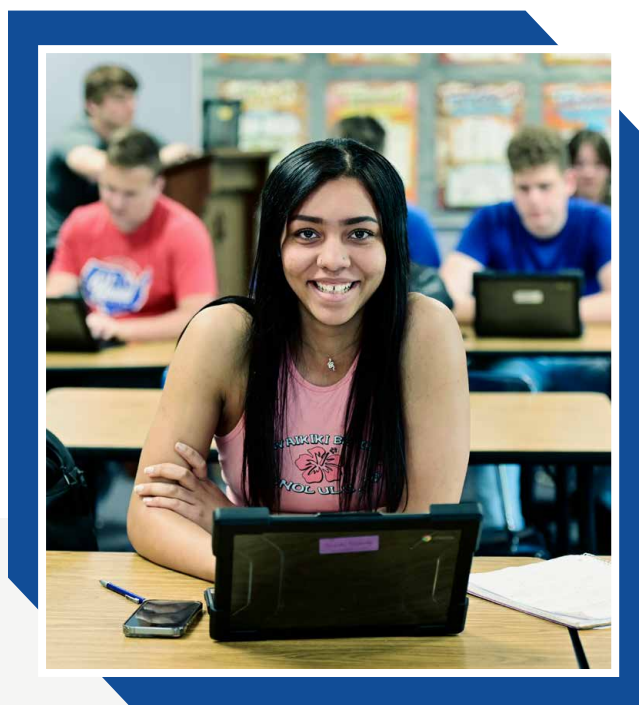
What happens if the tech levy isn't renewed?

If the tech levy isn't renewed, MAS will run out of funds from the current tech levy by 2025. Without tech-specific funds available to update

and maintain technology throughout MAS, the district would have to pull from general funds usually reserved to pay for teachers, transportation, classroom supplies, and other resources. This could result in substantial cuts to these resources and technology across the district over the next decade.

These are just a few of the questions that may come to mind, and we want to ensure you have all the information you need to make an informed decision.

Please feel free to reach out to the District Office at 320.239.4820 if you have any additional questions.



Vote Twice for Our Students

Voting day for the tech levy is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Voting day for the tech levy is Tuesday, November 7, 2023. In-person voting will take place in the Minnewaska High School auditorium from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. We encourage you to exercise your right to vote and play a role in shaping the future of technology in our district.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and support of Minnewaska Area Schools!

2023 – 2024 School Calendar

| AUGUST '23 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

14 New Employee Staff Day
21 FLEX Staff Day
22-24 Staff Days
22 9-12 Open House 4-7
23 K-8 Open House 4-7
28 First Day of School

S: 4
T: 8.5

| FEBRUARY '24 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

16 No School
19 No School-President's Day
29 Conferences 3:30-7:30

S: 19
T: 19.5

| SEPTEMBER '23 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

1 No School
4 Labor Day-No School

S: 19
T: 19

| MARCH '24 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

5 Conferences 3:30-7:30
14 End of Q. 3
15 No School-Staff Day
18-19 No School-Spring Break
29 No School

S: 17
T: 18.5

| OCTOBER '23 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

9 No School K-12
Conferences 11:30-7:30
12 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30
19-20 Fall Break
23 No School-Staff Day

S: 18
T: 20.5

| APRIL '24 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

1 No School

S: 21
T: 21

| NOVEMBER '23 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

2 End of Qtr. 1
3 No School-Staff Day
23-24 Thanksgiving Break

S: 19
T: 20

| MAY '24 | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

23 Student Last Day
24 Graduation
24 Staff Day-1/2 Day
27 Memorial Day

S: 17
T: 17.5

| DECEMBER '23 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

22-29-No School Winter Break

S: 15
T: 15

| JUNE '24 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| JANUARY '24 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

1 No School Winter Break
2 No School Staff Day
12 End of Q2
15 No School Staff Day

S: 20
T: 22

| | <u>St. Days</u> | <u>T. Days</u> |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Quarter 1 | 43 | 50 |
| Quarter 2 | 40 | 40.5 |
| Quarter 3 | 41 | 44 |
| Quarter 4 | 45 | 45.5 |
| | 169 | 182 |

Join us for an OPENHOUSE!

Grades 9-12

Tuesday, Aug. 22
4-7 p.m.

School pictures will be taken.

Seniors are required to have pictures taken for their IDs.

Grades K-8

Wednesday, Aug. 23
4-7 p.m.

School pictures will be taken.

Palmer Bus will be available on site during both open houses!



Reminders:



- Be sure to update your online enrollment on the website.
- You can pay any dues, device payments, lunch, yearbook, parking, and more via school pay.
- All students can also view their teachers and schedules online.





Preschool SCHOOL SUPPLIES



3-4 Year Olds

M/T/TH OR T/TH

- 1 backpack—large enough to easily fit a standard folder **(labeled with child's name)**
- 1 sturdy pocket folders **(labeled with child's name)**
- 1 - 1" 3 ring binder with plastic cover pocket in front **(labeled with child's name)**
- 1 napkins
- 1 box Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola Broad Line markers (10 count)
- 1 Elmer's glue bottle
- 1 Dixie or plastic cups (5 oz)
- \$10 Preschool supply fee (checks made to Minnewaska Schools) for additional classroom supplies, special days, etc.
- Include a labeled pair of extra clothes to be kept in your child's backpack.**

Optional

Additional supplies: stickers, Velcro strips or dots, page protectors, magnetic dots, tacky glue, flour, shaving cream, cotton balls, Q-tips, laminating pouches, packaging tape.

4-5 Year Olds

M/W/F

- 1 water bottle to be kept at school
- 1 backpack--large enough to easily fit a standard folder **(labeled with child's name)**
- 2 sturdy pocket folders **(labeled with child's name)**
- 1 - 1" 3 Ring Binder with front cover pocket **(labeled with child's name)**
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 watercolor set
- 2 boxes of Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola Broad Line markers (10 count)
- 1 child scissors (blunt tip)
- 2 Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 package of page protectors
- 2 Expo dry erase markers (chisel tip)
- \$10 Preschool supply fee (checks made to Minnewaska Schools) for additional classroom supplies, special days, etc.
- Include a labeled pair of extra clothes to be kept in your child's backpack.**

Students attending a **full-day program**: Please send a beach towel or small blanket that will be kept at school for rest time. They will be washed weekly at school.

Optional

Additional supplies: dot stickers, magnetic dots, food coloring, laminating pouches, two-sided tape, packaging tape, Clorox wipes

MINNEWASKA
little LAKERS

GRADES K-3 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Kindergarten

- 1 large school bag, no wheels (**labeled with child's name**)
- 4 boxes basic Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola Broad Line markers (classic colors)
- 1 box Crayola Fine Line markers (classic colors)
- 1 box Crayola colored pencils (12 count)
- 4 large glue sticks (1 oz. or larger)
- 1 set Expo dry erase markers (fine tip, low odor)
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 1 box of tissue (250 count)
- Ziploc bags by last name: A-H snack size, I-P sandwich size, Q-Z gallon or quart size
- \$40.00 for snacks to be purchased by the teacher. Also includes portfolio binder. (Please make checks payable to classroom teacher)

Optional

- Clorox Wipes
- 1 bottle Elmer's Glue - "Glue-All"

Please have your child wear tennis shoes to school with Velcro or elastic and **label all items** sent to school with your child's name.

First Grade

- 1 box #2 pencils (24 count, Ticonderoga brand)
- 2 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola colored pencils (12 count)
- 2 boxes Crayola Fine Line markers (classic colors)
- 2 boxes Crayola Broad Line markers (classic colors)
- 1 spiral bound notebook
- 1 folder
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 4 black Expo dry erase markers (low odor)
- 4 small Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 Fiskars scissors
- 1 backpack (**labeled with child's name, no rollers**)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 highlighter
- 1 water bottle (**labeled with child's name**)
- 1 Crayola watercolor paint set (8 count)
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- \$40 cash for daily snack to be purchased by the teacher
- Boys - 1 container of Clorox wipes
- Girls - 1 box of Kleenex

Second Grade

- 2 boxes #2 pencils (Ticonderoga brand recommended)
- 2 boxes basic crayons (24 count)
- 2 boxes colored pencils (sharpened)
- 1 box Crayola washable markers
- 1 box Crayola Fine Line washable markers (classic colors)
- 2 large glue sticks
- 1 spiral bound notebook (wide ruled)
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 1 Fiskars scissors
- 3 pocket folders (red, blue, green)
- 1 pencil box (8x5x2)
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- 1 box of tissue (250 count)
- 1 water bottle
- 1 set dry erase markers (low odor)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 dry erase board eraser
- 1 Crayola watercolor paint set (8 count)
- Girls - 1 box quart or gallon sized Ziploc bags
- Boys - 1 container of Clorox wipes
- \$25 cash for planner, parties, misc.

Third Grade

- 1 box #2 pencils (24 Count, black Ticonderoga brand)
- 1 box of crayons (24 count)
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 highlighter (any color)
- 1 box Crayola markers
- 1 spiral bound sketch book (for art, 9x12 or 9x13 Strathmore or Mondo Llama brand recommended)
- 2 composition notebooks
- 1 adult sized scissors
- 3 pocket folders (solid colors, 1 with prongs)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 small handheld pencil sharpener
- 2 large glue sticks
- 1 dry erase board eraser
- 6 dry erase markers for white board
- Girls - 1 box Ziploc bags (quart or gallon size)
- Boys - 1 container of Clorox wipes
- Headphones (no earbuds or Bluetooth headphones)
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 pencil box or bag
- \$25 cash for misc. items (planner, parties, snacks)
- Mrs. Weltzin's class ONLY: Crayola watercolor paints (8 count)

No Trapper Keepers

GRADES 4-6 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Fourth Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 pencils (48 count, Ticonderoga brand recommended, no mechanical pencils)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 box colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 box crayons (24 count)
- 1 box markers (10 count, classic colors)
- Watercolor paints
- 1 pack of eraser tops or pink erasers
- 3 glue sticks
- 2 spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
- 1 spiral drawing pad for Art class (Target, Walmart, etc.)
- 2 folders
- 2 red pens
- 8-10 Expo dry erase markers
- 1 pair scissors
- 1 box of Kleenex (250 count)
- 1 container disinfecting wipes
- 1 mouse with cord/ USB connection
- 1 calculator Model TI 30XIIS calculator
- Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- \$20.00 class dues payable to your classroom teacher (reward parties, special projects, and classroom necessities throughout the year)

Fifth Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 pencils (48 count, Ticonderoga brand recommended)
- 1 box colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 box markers (10 count, classic colors)
- 1 or 2 black fine tip Sharpie(s)
- 1 scissors
- 1 spiral drawing pad for Art class(Target, Walmart, etc.)
- 5 Expo dry erase markers
- 1 whiteboard eraser
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 highlighter any color (optional)
- 3 one subject notebooks (1 red, 1 blue, 1 green)
- 1 composition notebook (wide ruled)
- 3 folders (1 red, 1 blue, 1 green)
- 1 box of Kleenex (250 count)
- 1 container of disinfecting wipes
- Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- 1 - 2 pack(s) jumbo erasers
- 1 pack of pencil top erasers (optional)
- \$15.00 class dues payable to your classroom teacher (reward parties, special projects, and classroom necessities throughout the year)

Sixth Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 pencils (48 count, Ticonderoga brand recommended, no mechanical pencils)
- 1 box colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 box markers (10 count, classic colors)
- 4 pack of Expo dry erase markers
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 pair scissors
- 2 highlighters (one yellow & one your choice)
- 2 spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
- 1 composition notebook (wide ruled)
- 1 spiral drawing pad for Art class (Target, Walmart, etc.)
- 5 pocket folders
- 1 box of Kleenex (250 count)
- 2 containers of disinfecting wipes
- 1 calculator (any model)
- 1 ruler
- Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- \$10.00 Class Dues payable to your classroom teacher (reward parties, special projects, and classroom necessities throughout the year)

Purchase the following items
at www.SchoolPay.com

MAMS School Planner - \$3 each

Required for Modahl, Poegel, Gruber,
J. Greene, Skoglund, Ver Steeg, C. Greene



GRADES 7-12 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Seventh Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils (24 count)
- 1 box colored pencils (12 count, Science, English, & Social)
- 3 three ring binders with pockets
- 1 package loose leaf notebook paper
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 4 folders
- 1 pocket folder with 3 hole punch fasteners (Science)
- 1 package highlighters
- 1 set 5-tab notebook dividers
- Metric ruler (Science)
- 2 boxes of Kleenex (250 count)
- Calculator Model TI 30XIIS
- \$10 School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com

Seventh & Eighth Grade Physical Education Supplies

- Combination padlock or \$5 deposit (to rent one at www.SchoolPay.com)
- Shorts
- T-shirt
- Socks
- Tennis shoes
- Towel
- Deodorant
- Soap/Shampoo
- Comb or Brush
- Swimsuit

Eighth Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils (24 count)
- 1 box colored pencils (English)
- 3 three ring binders with pockets
- 1 package loose leaf notebook paper
- 2 spiral notebooks (one for English 8 Journaling)
- 4 folders
- 1 pocket folder with 3 hole punch fasteners (Science)
- 1 - 2 pocket folder(s) (Spanish)
- 1 package highlighters
- 2 dry erase markers (low order, chisel tip, black, Spanish rotation)
- 1 set 5-tab notebook dividers
- Ruler
- 2 boxes of Kleenex (250 count)
- Calculator Model TI 30XIIS
- \$10 School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com

GO LAKERS!

High School

- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils (12 count)
- Headphones **or** earbuds
- 1 package highlighters
- 1 package blue or black pens
- College ruled notebook & folder or binder with paper for the following classes, please refer to your schedule:
 - Math
 - Science
 - English
 - Social
 - Health
 - Spanish
- 1 box of Kleenex (250 count)
- School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com

Spanish Class:

- 2 packages dry erase markers (4 count, low odor, chisel tip, black)

Physical Education:

- Combination padlock or \$5 deposit (to rent one at www.SchoolPay.com)
- Shorts/sweatpants per weather
- T-shirt/sweatshirt/jacket per weather
- Socks
- Tennis shoes
- Towel
- Deodorant
- Soap/Shampoo
- Comb or Brush
- Swimsuit
- May need jacket/gloves for cold weather related activities



Elementary

Sue Currens , Principal

Hello Laker Families,

It is with great excitement that I write to you to introduce myself as the new Elementary Principal of Minnewaska Area Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

I started teaching at Minnewaska last fall as a preschool teacher and also served as the Special Education Coordinator at the elementary building. In February, I moved into the role of Early Childhood Coordinator. Prior to coming to Minnewaska, I started my career in the Paynesville school district where I taught Special Education for nineteen years. In 2010, I became a Special Education Supervisor at the Benton-Stearns Education District where I worked with six school districts and supervised special education and early childhood programs.

I grew up in Wheaton, MN, and attended Jamestown College and St. Cloud State where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Special Education. I obtained a Masters of Arts in Education from St. Mary's University, and in 2012, I completed licensure as a K-12 Principal and Director of Special Education through St. Cloud State University.

My husband Dave and I have two grown children and three grandchildren. When I'm not at school or busy with family, I enjoy kayaking, being at the beach, playing piano and taking our labradoodle, Tikka, for long walks.

I am honored to be the next leader at Minnewaska Elementary!

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to observe the amazing staff here. This building is full of quality educators and top-notch support staff who are innovative, collaborative, and always put the needs of the students first. I'm thrilled to be a part of this team and work alongside them to continue to provide high quality education to our E-3 learners.

I firmly believe that a collaborative partnership between home and school helps to build confidence in students which leads to improved student outcomes. Communication is key in building these partnerships and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. Please join us on Wednesday, August 23rd for Open House from 4-7 p.m.



I'd like to welcome several new teachers to our E-3 building this fall, including Raquel Schmitz (Early Childhood Coordinator/Teacher), Bryce Bergeron (Early Childhood Special Education Teacher), Grace Gerads (Elementary Physical Education for K-2), and Bailey Gronner (Physical Education for Grade 3).

In closing, please know that my door is always open. I welcome your conversation and positive input throughout the year. If you see me out and about in the community, please stop and introduce yourself!

Sue Currens

scurrrens@isd2149.org
320.634.4567 ext 2203





Middle School

Scott Lempka, Principal

Minnewaska Area Middle School Families,
I am excited to join the 4-8 team as Principal of Minnewaska Area Middle School. Previously, I served as principal of Minnewaska Area Elementary School from 2020 to 2023. Before that, I worked as a principal in the Elk River and Anoka Hennepin school districts. The Minnewaska community is a special one. I have enjoyed becoming part of the Laker family and look forward to serving as your principal in 2023-2024.

Your Middle School staff have already been working hard to prepare for the coming school year. Many staff have already signed up for training taking place this summer on the topics of Blended Learning Technology Integration as well as English Language Arts and Health curriculum implementation. Minnewaska Middle School has a highly dedicated staff, and I am excited to be a part of this talented group as we work to do great things for kids.

The transition from elementary to fourth grade at our main campus is an important one. Our MAMS staff does a great job of ensuring a smooth transition for these students as they make their way to a new building. Coming from elementary, I am excited to know our fourth-grade students and be part of this journey. I also look forward to partnering with all of our middle school families to support our students and ensure a positive and successful school experience in 2023-2024.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our main office at 320.239.1320. We will be happy to serve you!

Sincerely,
Scott Lempka
Principal, Minnewaska Area Middle School

Reach Thousands of Area Fans with MAS Scoreboard Advertising Opportunities



We greatly value the unwavering support of our dedicated parents, staff, community, and local business partners. It is through your support that we can continue to provide affordable student activity fees while positively impacting the lives of our students.

We're excited to offer various advertising opportunities that allow you to showcase your brand to our passionate fan base. By becoming a sponsor, you'll not only promote your business but also directly contribute to the success and growth of our students.

We look forward to partnering with you. Thank you for your continuous support of MAS and our Lakers!

Choose from four tiered options of advertising opportunities on MAS scoreboards:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Elite - \$1,000 61,643 impressions per year | 3. Champion - \$5,000 398,693 impressions per year |
| 2. Premier - \$2,500 297,893 impressions per year | 4. Marquee - \$10,000 436,993+ impressions per year |

To learn more about advertising opportunities on MAS scoreboards, including pricing and availability, please contact Angie VanZee, Superintendent's Administrative Assistant, via email at avanzee@isd2149.org or by phone at 320.239.1304.

Available advertising tiers are subject to change.

ENGAGE EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY

Greetings from Minnewaska Area High School,

My name is Mr. Nate Meissner, the high school principal here at Minnewaska. I am so excited for the 2023-2024 school year to begin! For those who are new to our district, I extend a warm welcome to you all. We are excited you chose to be a LAKER! I hope you are having a fantastic summer break. Our buildings are full of summer activities and staff preparing the building for a great fall startup. Before you know it, fall activities will be upon us and we will be back at it. If you have questions about the upcoming school year, do not hesitate to email me at nemeissner@isd2149 or call 320.239.4820 with any questions.

New LAKER Staff

I also want to welcome some new staff members as we begin the new school year.

- **Sierra Leighton** - Family and Consumer Science (FACS)
- **Mitch McGuire** - Art
- **Tate Card** - Science
- **Luke Barkeim** - Science
- **Alan Uphoff** - Special Education

Welcome to Minnewaska!

At MAHS, our dedicated staff encourages students to take risks in their academics and strive to reach their full potential. We have an outstanding balance of classes in our core academic areas and elective programs, as well as 19 college semester courses and eight Advanced Placement courses. We also offer a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) course partnered with Alexandria Technical College.

Here are some new courses for the 2023-2024 school year:

Shop 101, Landscape Design, Child Development, Laker Manufacturing, AG Careers/Work Experience, Local Foods, and Digital Art.



As our leadership team meets this summer to gear up for the start of the school year, we will continue focusing on creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students and staff. We have survey data from last year that our teams will use to promote a positive school culture where all students feel comfortable at MAHS. We will also be working on our intervention process, both academically and behaviorally, to support all LAKERS! And finally, our team will be exploring career academies with the goal of creating unique learning opportunities for students as they collaborate with local businesses and explore their interest in careers and relevant learning experiences.

Here are a few reminders as we approach the school year:

Back to School Open House will be held Tuesday, August 22nd from 4-7 p.m. We encourage you all to come to meet our staff, find your classrooms, and ask any questions that you might have for the upcoming school year.

August 22 MAHS Open House Schedule:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 4-7 p.m. | Pictures in the gymnasium (dress code applies) |
| 4-5 p.m. | New family orientation/tours (high school office) |
| 5-5:30 p.m. | 9th grade student/parent meeting (auditorium) |
| 5:45-6:15 p.m. | Seniors meeting with parents (auditorium) |
| 6:15-7 p.m. | Required ATCC college courses (auditorium) |

GO LAKERS!



Instruction and Curriculum

Sarah Suchy, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Technology

I hope this newsletter finds you all ready to gear up for a new, exciting academic year. As the Director of Teaching, Learning, and Technology, it is my pleasure to welcome you all back to school and share some exciting changes as we roll into the 23-24 school year.

As many of you know, the role I'm filling is new this year and we're excited to build on what we already have happening at Minnewaska and make it even greater for our kids. As we work to embrace technology, we know in today's ever-evolving world, technology plays an essential role in education. Our commitment to integrating technology into the curriculum remains strong and an opportunity to build skills and resources. We will continue to provide students and teachers with the necessary tools and resources to create engaging and interactive learning experiences.

In the curriculum world, we're looking forward to implementing a new English Language Arts curriculum in our 7th-12th grades and Health curriculum in 8th and 9th grade. We also will have a PAES Lab which will support students building functional skills for career and employability. In addition to this, we're still focused on ensuring success with our recent addition of a new Science and Math curriculum that we experienced our first year of teaching with during the 22-23 school year. Lastly, we're excited to unpack all the changes our Minnesota legislature has approved.

New legislation includes The Read Act, which provides a large shift of literacy to focus on the science of reading along with required new classes of Personal Finance and Citizenship.



We are also excited to welcome 10 new teachers to Minnewaska Area Schools. Through each teacher's first year we provide a mentorship program that introduces them to the education field, best practices in education and what to expect as a Laker. All new teaching staff have veteran mentors who work closely to provide support through the school year.

Together as Lakers, we're excited to create an environment where all students can thrive, explore their passions, and achieve their goals.

I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities the new academic year brings. As the Director of Teaching, Learning, and Technology, I am dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and collaboration.





W.I.N. Academy

Susan Knutson, W.I.N. Principal/Special Education Coordinator

We hope that you're keeping cool this summer because before you know it, things will heat up with back to school planning! Summer school at WIN was busy this year with many new faces and exciting activities. We are prepping for our August 15th & 16th intake meetings to welcome new WIN families and are excited to see our returning students on Monday, May 28th. We are also excited to welcome our new teacher Sara Maasjo to the W.I.N. Team.

W.I.N. (What I Need) Academy is a learning environment focused on meeting students where they are at.

We work hard to provide academic, relevant, and personalized learning and the best practices for mental health services. We are a Federal Setting 4 Special Education School and are CTSS (Children's Therapeutic Support Services) certified through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Students receive academic instruction in their core subject areas and two to three hours per day of mental health services. We serve the Minnewaska District, as well as students from surrounding districts.



W.I.N. is a Minnesota State Certified PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) School. PBIS creates a climate where students and staff feel welcomed and safe. Staff are trained on how to provide proactive, positive interventions to our students.

We have fun and love to celebrate success. Every student's plan is different, and our goal is to provide students with the skills they will need to be successful in their home school as quickly as possible. We have committed, skillful, and compassionate staff who care deeply about our students and their education.

ECFE

“ You are your child's first, best, and most important teacher! ”

This fall, we will be offering many of the familiar ECFE classes for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children. This includes one-time events and seven-week sessions.

ECFE registration is completed online by visiting the Minnewaska Schools website at minnewaska.k12.mn.us and clicking on the Community Ed tab.

We understand that parents are the most important teachers, and we partner with our parents and families to offer the very best in Early Childhood and Family Education. Our Early Childhood staff is looking forward to a fun fall session filled with many class offerings for all age groups. Registration for Fall ECFE classes begins in mid-August. Visit the Community Ed page for class offerings and to register.





Welcome! On behalf of our Early Childhood staff, we are excited about the start of a new school year and look forward to helping prepare your child for kindergarten! Our staff is busy preparing for another year of hands-on learning and exploration to support each preschooler's social and emotional development and pre-academic skills. Preschool begins on September 5 & 6.

Again this year, before and after school care is an option for 4-5-year-old preschoolers. Before school care is available for children in the half-day morning or all-day preschool class. After school care is available for children in the half-day afternoon or all-day preschool class. Registration for before and after school care can be done online through Community Ed, and registration will open in August. For questions about before or after school care, please contact Audrey Frey at afrey@isd2149.org.

New this year, all children will receive a meal at school. Morning classes will be served breakfast and afternoon classes will be served lunch. Full day students will receive both breakfast and lunch. All meals are free.

Preschool classes are filling up, but we still have a few slots available. Register at: minnewaska.reg.eleyo.com/child-care/2/preschool

Meet & Greet visits and Parent Meeting

Meet & Greet is an individualized time to meet your child's teacher, explore the preschool classroom, turn in supplies and paperwork, and help make the first day of preschool a smooth transition. Teachers will be contacting families to schedule meet & greet times for August 30-31.

On August 30 at 6:30, there will be a parent meeting for all preschool families at the elementary school. Preschool information, policies, and other resources will be shared at this meeting. This also allows families to ask any questions they may have.

Little Lakers Staff

We welcome several new faces to our Little Laker staff this year. Raquel Schmitz is the new Early Childhood Coordinator and she will also be teaching some classes. Raquel comes to us from the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District with nine years of experience in Early Childhood programming. She will be a great asset to our program.

Jessica Wilmes and Amber Braaten, both previous first grade teachers in our district, are excited to join the Little Laker Team and will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our programs. Jess will be teaching the all day, every day program and Amber will be teaching morning 3's and afternoon 4's classes.

In addition, we welcome back Nancy Hoffmann to teach our three-day-a-week, full-day program and all of our amazing teaching assistants are also returning.

Early Childhood Screening

If your child will be starting school this fall, it's time for their Early Childhood Screening! This free screening is a requirement for children entering school in the state of Minnesota. At your child's Early Childhood Screening, a professional will check the following:

- Vision & Hearing
- Growth, immunizations, and movement
- Thinking, language, and communication skills
- Social and emotional development

Please visit the school website for more information and to register:

minnewaska.reg.eleyo.com/courses/category/ecfe/34/early-childhood-screenings



Before-School & After-School Fun

Audrey Frey, SACC Director

Before School, After School and Non-School Day child care for students will be available!

We are continuing a Before School Enrichment Program (BSEP) along with our highly successful After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) for students attending all-day preschool through 6th grade. These programs will be offered during the 2023-2024 school year at Minnewaska Area Elementary School. The cost is \$5.50 per day for the morning program and \$8 per day for the afternoon program. Morning care at Minnewaska Area Elementary school will run from 6:30 a.m.–8 a.m. while afternoon care will run from 2:45 p.m.–6 p.m. This includes a snack and activities. Some of the activities will include crafts, scientific experiments, speakers and demonstrations, library, and music. We will take some local field trips, and there is plenty of good free time for kids to enjoy games, puzzles, and free play.

Non-school day child care for students attending all-day preschool through 6th grade will also be available if staff and enrollment numbers allow. The cost for a full day is \$30/ day. This includes snacks and activities; however students need to bring their own lunch. The registration cut off will be three weeks prior to the non-school day(s) which will determine if child care will be available for that day. A two-week notice will be given either way.

Non-school day child care may be canceled because of a shortage of staff or low enrollment numbers.

Non-school dates child care may be offered:

- Oct. 9, 19, 20 & 23
- Nov. 3
- Dec. 22, 26, 27, 28 & 29
- Jan. 2 & 15
- Feb. 16 & 19
- Mar. 15, 18, 19 & 29
- April 1



All School Age Child Care registration is completed online and will open Aug. 1.

Registration can be found under the Community Ed tab on the Minnewaska Area Schools website. Attendance can be full-time, part-time, or drop-in; however, students must be registered a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

For more information on the Before School Enrichment Program, After School Enrichment Program, or Non-school day child care, please email Audrey Frey, School Age Child Care Director, at afrey@isd2149.org.





Student Services providers are here to support you and your child and to assist in ensuring the best experience possible at Minnewaska.

Our diverse staff is skilled in areas to promote the emotional, academic, physical, and developmental well-being of the student body. We work in both the prevention and intervention arenas, collaborating with families, school staff, and community stakeholders to meet students' individual needs.

Support Groups and Individual Counseling

As the new school year begins, we understand that many students come to us needing a little extra support or a great deal of support. The student services staff will offer support groups and individual sessions for students at all grade levels, K-12. If we cannot meet your child's specific needs, we will assist in making referrals to other providers to serve your child better. Please contact any of us if you are looking for support for your child in any way. Sometimes kids just need someone to talk to!

Backpack Attack

Once again, Minnewaska Area Schools is partnering with United Way of Pope and Douglas Counties to provide nutritious meals for students who may need a little extra on the weekends. Backpack Attack bags are distributed on Fridays and holiday breaks to students in grades K-6 who sign up for the program. You will see a letter this fall to sign and return if you are interested. If older students (grades 7-12) are in need of meals, please contact Mary Walsh directly, and we will get your child signed up. We are so grateful to our community donors who continue to make this program possible!! Thank you so very much!

The Lighthouse Food Shelf

We are incredibly proud to be able to continue to provide students with food from our very own food shelf at the Middle School and High School building. We have worked closely with Horizon Public Health, and with generous donations from community organizations and individuals, The Lighthouse will again be open in the fall. Watch for more details regarding The Lighthouse and how students may access it. Contact Mary Walsh for more information or with any questions.

Student Support Services

Mary Walsh, School Social Worker
MAMS/MAHS 320.239.1317

Jen Ring, 9-12 Counselor
MAHS 320.239.4800

Hannah Meagher, 4-8 Counselor
MAMS 320.239.4800

Jon Weaver, K-3 Counselor
MAES 320.634.4567



Early Childhood Special Education and Early Intervention Services



Stephanie Swalla / Mindy DeGeer

What Do We Do?

Our services help young children (birth through kindergarten) who demonstrate or are at risk for a developmental delay in the following areas: cognitive, speech and language, large and fine motor skills, adaptive/functional skills, vision or hearing loss, and social/emotional skills. Early Intervention Services are delivered to a child primarily in their home or childcare center. From ages 3 – 5, children receive these services at Minnewaska Little Lakers Preschool or at a community preschool.



IDEA and Help Me Grow

ECSE can be confused with Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE). While ECFE is separate, ECSE is a district program run through the Minnesota Department of Education and is governed by a special education law called IDEA. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures that intervention services are provided to young children with developmental delays. Minnesota's Help Me Grow initiative provides information and resources to help parents, professionals, and community members identify children who may be experiencing developmental delays and better monitor their developmental progression. When concerns arise, parents or caregivers are encouraged to make a referral online at helpmegrowmn.org or by calling 1-866-693-GROW (4769).

Head Start

Jodi Femrite, Family Education Specialist

Our mission in Head Start, a child, and family development program, is to provide each child with an opportunity to grow in a safe and nurturing environment. A caring and professional staff not only administers the social and emotional needs of the children but also encourages and supports the skills needed for the families to thrive. Both Head Start and Early Head Start are taking applications at wcmca.org for the 2023-2024 school year.

This program serves children ages 3 – 5, four half days a week in a classroom setting. Head Start utilizes the Teaching Strategies Gold curriculum and assessment to prepare children for kindergarten. Head Start is a 4-Star Parent Aware Rated Program (the highest possible score). We are currently located in Starbuck and are free for families who qualify. **Lunch is provided.**

Early Head Start

This free home-based program serves pregnant mothers and children from birth to age three. We promote comprehensive early childhood development and support family development.

Goals of Program

1. To promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women.
2. To enhance the development of young children.
3. To promote healthy family functioning.





Community Education

Bill Mills, Director of Community Education

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, we encourage all of our area citizens and students to get involved with any number of programs offered through the Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education.

Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education is offering a number of exciting activities and courses for all ages. There's something to involve everyone as we anticipate the approach of fall. From our highly popular water aerobics classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at the MAHS pool, to our youth activity programs beginning in early September which include football and volleyball, these have all been well-loved programs over the past several years.

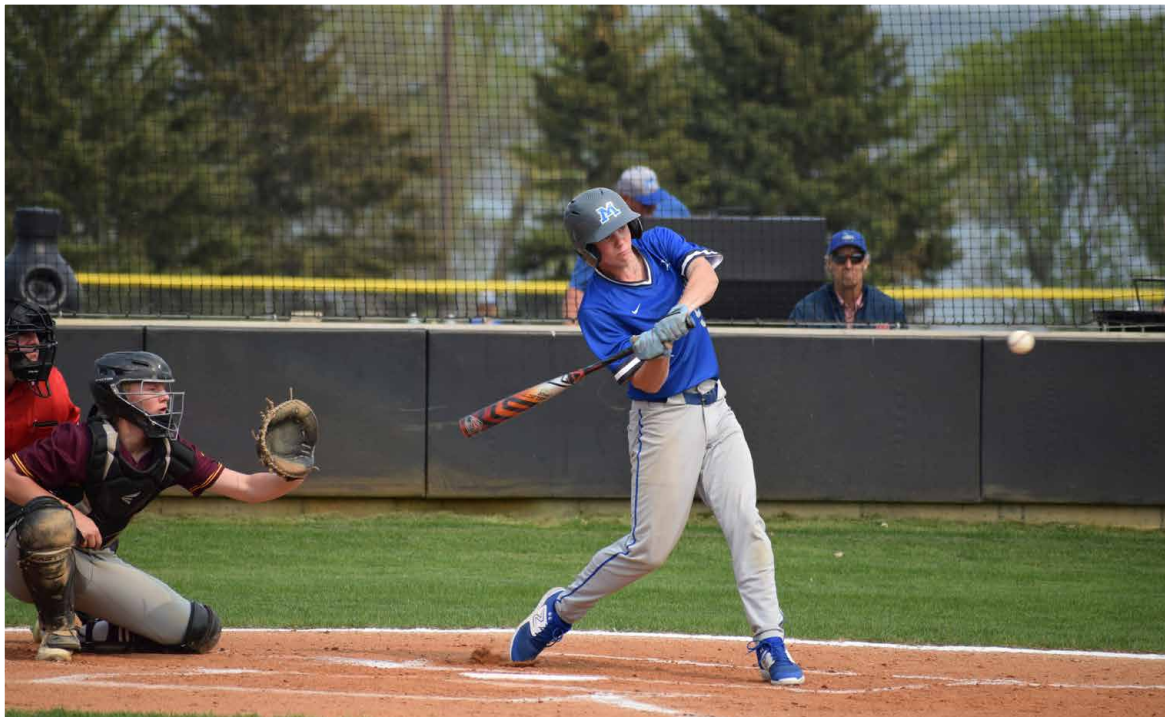
All other information concerning MAS Community Education can be found online by going to the school website at www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us under the Community Ed tab or by calling Administrative Assistant Carrie Janu in the MAS Community Education/Activities office at 320.239.1305.

As we move into the 2023-2024 school year, our programs of early childhood, before and after school, and Laker Legends are now using a new registration system called Eleyo.



We have found it to be much more user-friendly for parents as they sign up their children online for these important programs!

As the 2023-2024 school year approaches, the Minnewaska Area Schools Office of Community Education is excited to welcome you back and encourages everyone to participate in the wide variety of programming offered to those of all ages!





Activities

Phil Johnsrud, Activities Director

We are excited about the upcoming school year and all the opportunities for participation that our Laker students have at Minnewaska Area Schools. A new school year brings change and 2023-24 will be no different! New seasons and new levels of competition bring optimism and excitement to individuals as well as teams. Being part of a team is the ultimate opportunity to grow as an individual, compete, and learn life lessons. As it is, we encourage all students to get involved with our programs offered at Minnewaska Area Schools.

In the area of Minnewaska Area Activities, students in grades 7-12 may choose to participate in cross country, football, boys' soccer, girls' swimming, girls' tennis, and volleyball. Moving forward, interested participants must have all Minnewaska Activities and Minnesota State High School League online forms and fees completed and paid before the first practice. Varsity, JV, & 9th-grade practices begin on Monday, August 15, while most junior high practices begin on Monday, August 29.

Fall Parent/Participant Sports Meeting

The 2023-24 Minnewaska **Laker Fall Sports Meeting for all parents/guardians, participants, and coaches in grades 7-12** will take place on Thursday, August 3 at Minnewaska Area High School. The Minnewaska Area Activities Department and our coaching staff can't emphasize enough how important your attendance at this meeting is for families and programs. The most important part of this meeting is the delivery of valuable information that will address a full season of details so no family or coaching staff faces surprises that could have been avoided by being in attendance. Beginning at 6 p.m. on August 3, there will be a meeting in the auditorium for all parents/guardians, participants, and coaches. At that time Minnewaska Area Activities Director, Phil Johnsrud will speak briefly about important topics for athletes and parents, followed by breakout sessions for each sport program led by the head coach and their assistants beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Activity Registration Help

In addition to the meetings, for those families that don't have internet access or need help with online registration, we will offer an activity registration session in the computer lab from 4–5:45 p.m.

This session will be led by our activities office staff in our MAHS computer lab in (G-120). Those interested in online registration assistance can simply attend the session between 4 p.m.–5:45 p.m. for one-on-one help on Thursday, August 3.



Physicals

Athlete physicals are extremely important to have taken off your checklist before the start of the fall season. For the safety and liability on behalf of Laker participants and the Minnewaska School District, please take care of this before your family member begins the season on the court, pool, or field. Physicals can take place at a medical facility of your choice so make your appointment at your convenience so they are completed before August 14, 2023. The MSHSL requires physicals, which means all student-athletes going into 7th and 10th grade must have an updated physical on file. **This also includes participants that are not going into 7th or 10th grade that have not had a physical in the last 3 years.**

Online registration and payment for the upcoming fall season beginning on Monday, August 14 is now available on the Minnewaska Area Schools website (minnewaska.k12.mn.us). For those without internet access, you will be able to stop in the CE/Activities Office at Minnewaska Area High School to access a computer to register your child or utilize the registration help session on Thursday, August 3 from 4–5:45 p.m.

All other information concerning MAHS fall activities and schedules can be found online by going to the school website under the Community Ed or Activities tab or by calling the MAS Community Education/Activities office at 320.239.1305.





Activities, continued

Phil Johnsrud, Activities Director

Online Ticketing Laker Events

Volleyball, Football, Dance, Swim & Dive, Boys & Girls Basketball, Wrestling

Online ticketing to school activities has become a staple in many area schools and will continue to expand. MSHSL State Tournaments and several section tournaments have also moved to online ticketing only. Online ticketing is a significant advantage to school districts across the state as it expedites the time and efficiency of the preparation and closure of accounts. With that said the Minnewaska Activities Department will continue to move forward with our plan to eliminate cash boxes in the future at home events. To accomplish this process, the following activity payment options will be implemented this upcoming 2023-24 school year.

Activity Admission Options

Vanco Events Link: www.vancoevents.com/us/events/eventlist/eventListingAccount/minnewaska

- **Military Veterans:** Will be admitted FREE to all Laker regular season athletic events that charge admission.
- **Super Senior Passport:** All Minnewaska School District #2149 citizens age 60+ will be eligible to receive a FREE 2023-24 Individual Season Pass (Non-Transferrable) to all Laker regular season athletic events that charge admission. To receive the pass, individuals must complete a brief questionnaire in the Minnewaska Area High School Activities office.
- **Laker Students:** All Minnewaska Laker Students (K-12) will be admitted FREE to all Laker regular season athletic events that charge admission. Students will need to register for this option by downloading the Vanco App and registering for a season pass or showing their Laker Student ID at the admission table.
- **Adult Spectators:** Adults can purchase an Individual 2023-24 Season Activity Pass by using the Vanco App or the online Vanco Website. The cost for an individual season pass is \$100 and is good for all Laker regular season athletic events that charge admission.
- **Pay by Event:** Adults and visiting students can purchase tickets using the Vanco App or online Vanco Website in advance or at the door by scanning the Laker QR Code with the camera on a smartphone. The cost is \$8.00 for adults or \$5.00 for students.
- **Pay Cash:** There will be a cash box at the admission table. Admission cost for BOTH adults and students not using Vanco is \$10.00





2023 Fall Sports and Practice Information

Football

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 14, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. at MAHS

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 28 (First day of school) after school until 5:30 p.m. at MAHS.

(Note - all 7th & 8th graders participating in a fall activity will meet with Activities Director Phil Johnsrud during the lunch hour in the MAHS Auditorium on the first day of school - Monday, August 28.)

Volleyball

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 14, 8–10:30 a.m. and 6:30–8 p.m. in the Main & Auxiliary Gyms.

- Also any 8th Grade players who would like an opportunity to tryout for a ABC squad are invited to attend captains practices August 9–11 as well as the 9-12 practices August 14–16. Not mandatory for all 8th graders
- The second week there will only be a morning practice. Time (TBD)

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 28 (1st Day of School)

- 7th Grade Practice will be held at MAES from 3:30–5:15 p.m. You will take a bus from HS to MAES and will need to be picked up from MAES once practice is over. (Bus #9, #12, and #16)
- 8th Grade Practice will be held at WIN Academy (Starbuck) from 3:30–5:15 p.m. You will take a bus from the HS to Starbuck and will need to be picked up in Starbuck once practice is over. (Bus Number #4 and Bus Number #6)

(Note - all 7th & 8th graders participating in a fall activity will meet with Activities Director Phil Johnsrud during the lunch hour in the MAHS Auditorium on the first day of school - Monday, August 28.)

Boys and Girls Cross Country

GRADES 7-12

Monday, August 14 at 7 a.m. on the stadium football field.

(Note - all 7th & 8th graders participating in a fall activity will meet with Activities Director Phil Johnsrud during the lunch hour in the MAHS Auditorium on the first day of school - Monday, August 28.)

Girls Tennis

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 14, 8–10:30 a.m. at the Tennis Courts.

- There will be evening practices the 1st week, Tuesday through Thursday from 4–6 p.m.
- **Friday/Saturday 18/19, Park Rapids Tourney, Time-TBD**

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 14, 8–9:30 a.m. at the Tennis Courts.

- Evening practices, Tuesday through Thursday from 4–6 p.m.
- **No junior high practice on Friday, August 18.**

(Note - all 7th & 8th graders participating in a fall activity will meet with Activities Director Phil Johnsrud during the lunch hour in the MAHS Auditorium on the first day of school - Monday, August 28.)

Girls Swim and Dive

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 14, 3 p.m.

- For the first day of practice, please bring tennis shoes, a shirt, and shorts for dry land practice.

Tuesday, August 15, and on - Grades 9-12 will practice from 8–11 a.m. at Minnewaska Area High School.

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 14, 3 p.m.

- For the first day of practice, please bring tennis shoes, a shirt, and shorts for dry land practice.

(Note - all 7th & 8th graders participating in a fall activity will meet with Activities Director Phil Johnsrud during the lunch hour in the MAHS Auditorium on the first day of school - Monday, August 28.)

Boys Soccer

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 14, from 7–8:30 a.m. at the MAHS Veterans field.

- There will also be evening practice the first week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6–7:45 p.m.

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 28 (First day of school) after school for grades 7-8 at 3:30–5 p.m. near the MAHS softball complex behind the school.

(Note - all 7th & 8th graders participating in a fall activity will meet with Activities Director Phil Johnsrud during the noon hour in the MAHS Auditorium on the first day of school - Monday, August 28.)



Building and Grounds



Jeremy Armstrong, Building and Grounds Director

Our custodial and maintenance staff have been hard at work deep cleaning and preparing our facilities for the upcoming school year. We look forward to serving the students, teachers, coaches, and community members that utilize our facilities.

Our WIN campus has added some new carpet and paint to our preschool classrooms, as well as paint and carpet in other classrooms. A new hydration station has also been installed to replace one of the original drinking fountains. We will be installing a new boiler in this facility as well. Boiler install will begin in August.

MAES has also had some new carpet installed and classrooms repainted.

The high school has new carpet in 12 rooms, as well as new paint in some of our classrooms. We will be replacing the iron filter system for our drinking water and replacing some HVAC equipment that services our auditorium. These projects are scheduled to be completed between late summer and early fall.

Let's have a great year, Lakers!



Health Services

Megan Boutain, Licensed School Nurse, RN, BSN, PHN, LSN

What We Do

The Health Services department collaborates with the educational team to help create an environment that supports student health and limits barriers to learning. We work towards protecting and promoting student health, facilitating optimal development, and advancing academic success. We are grounded in ethical- and evidence-based practice and are the bridge between healthcare and education.

Services Provided

- Basic Illness and Injury Care
- Medication Administration
- Health Education for Students
- Hearing and Vision Screening
- Immunization Data Collection and Monitoring

When to Keep Your Student Home From School

Deciding when to keep your child home from school can be tough when they are not feeling well. Here are a few guidelines to help (please view our school website for a complete list). Please inform the school when you plan to keep your child home.

- If they have a fever of 100°F, stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- If they have vomited or had diarrhea, stay home until 24 hours after the last episode.
- If they have any unidentified rash, check with your primary care provider before sending them to school.



Immunization Spotlight

Check out the Minnesota Department of Health's [Immunization Form](#) to help document your child's immunization history.

7th Grade and 12th Grade Students

Don't forget to get your meningococcal booster vaccine! Most students receive their initial meningococcal vaccine when they enter 7th grade and their second dose when they enter 12th grade. Teenagers and young adults are at high risk for meningococcal disease. This dose is important to ensure they are fully protected through their highest-risk years.



We strive daily to utilize Palmer Bus core values:

SAFETY · INTEGRITY · DIGNITY · HELP · COMMUNITY

Palmer Bus Service takes pride in serving our community by safely transporting students. We look forward to a fun-filled 2023-2024 school year creating positive connections with students, schools, and families. Please reach out to us at 320.634.3272 with any questions or concerns that arise, as we want all students to have a joyful transportation experience. United with an excellent Minnewaska District, we will address any issues that may occur.

School Bus Safety / Know the rules for riding the bus

1. It is a privilege to ride a school bus, not a right to ride.
2. A student must be on their best behavior on the bus. Keep voices low, keep hands and heads inside the bus at all times, and remain seated and facing forward. Do not throw things or play rough with friends. Doing so can distract the driver from driving.
3. Get to the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes prior to the assigned pickup time.
4. Remain on the sidewalk or grass at the bus stop until the bus stops and opens its door for you to get in.

5. When boarding the bus, go directly to a seat and sit down.
6. You must remain seated in the seat while the bus is in motion.
7. There will be no food of any kind on a school bus like; pop, candy, gum, chips, or cookies.
8. Please help the bus driver keep the bus clean by picking up the trash and placing it in the garbage.
9. When getting off the bus, wait for the bus driver to signal you to cross in front of the bus.
10. Be careful when getting off the bus (always use the handrails), and only get off at your designated stop.
11. If you've forgotten something on the bus, do not run back and attempt to get it. The driver might not see you and start moving the bus to go to the next stop. Go home, call Palmer Bus Service Minnewaska, and see if you can pick it up later.
12. Please do not get into a strange car that is waiting at a bus stop that you do not know, even if they offer to take you home.
13. No bad language, no bullying, and no fighting with other students or the driver.

Contact Information

Lars Ossmo, Site Manager
larso@palmerbusservice.com
17631 210th Ave. Glenwood, MN 56334
Phone: 320.634.3272





Quality Educational Staff

Did you know the Minnewaska School District has 102 full-time teachers averaging 11 years with our program? Our educators are empowered with new teacher mentorship opportunities, staff development training sessions, and continuing education programs to consistently deliver quality education to our community.

Extraordinary Support Employees

How many of your students know a custodian, paraprofessional, food service worker, or secretary by name? They all know the helpers they meet in their day. Whether finding their favorite hat in the lost and found or needing a safe space to test their boundaries, Minnewaska Area Schools strives to hire not just a warm body- but a service leader.

Are you Laker material?

Three separate properties, before and after school care, allergy needs, multiple sports, dizzying logistics; HOW DO WE DO IT? Amazing staff.

Employment Opportunities

- Early Childhood Special Education Teacher
- Maintenance/Custodian
- Paraprofessionals
- Preschool Classroom Teacher
- Substitute Paraprofessionals
- Substitute Teachers

Check our website at www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us for all our up-to-date openings.

Make the 2023-2024 school year AMAZING!

New Staff Spotlight

- Luke Barkeim, Science/STEM Teacher
- Tate Card, Science Teacher
- Grace Gerads, Physical Education Teacher
- Bailey Gronner, Physical Education Teacher
- Sara Maasjo, Special Education Teacher
- Austin Maxwell, Special Education Teacher
- Mitchell McGuire, Visual Arts Teacher
- Jessica Nelson, Payroll/Benefits Manager
- Raquel Schmitz, Early Childhood Teacher/Coordinator
- Kaley Poegel, 4th Grade Elementary Teacher
- Sierra Leighton, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher





All student devices that have been turned in for the summer are being cleaned, repaired and prepped for the upcoming school year.

If you or your student has a device that was kept for summer school or your student is a 10th-12th grader who kept it for the summer, and the device needs to be repaired, please contact massupport@isd2149.org or call 320.239.1322 to make arrangements to drop it off. We will need to have these devices back ASAP to see if they can be repaired and returned in time for the start of school.

Once again, new Chromebooks with cases have been purchased for grades 5 and 9. We were also able to replace some older iPads at the elementary school.

Device insurance is available for purchase for students 7-12 who take their Chromebooks home each day during the school year. The cost is \$45.00 per year per student. Insurance does not cover loss of the device, damage to the power adapter, or any damage that occurs when the protective case we provide has been removed. The protective case must remain on the device at all times.

Insurance Information

The insurance information is listed below and can be purchased through [SchoolPay at www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us](http://SchoolPay.at.www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us). Insurance must be purchased by the end of the first week at school or within a week of enrollment for new students.

| Annual Premium Due at Registration | Deductible Claim #1 | Deductible Claim #2 | Deductible Claim #3 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| \$45 per device | \$0 | \$45 | \$90 |

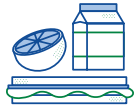
Families who opt not to purchase insurance are responsible for the cost of any damage that occurs to the district-provided device.

Students in grades 7-12 will be asked to sign the Device Use Policy in homerooms during the first week of school. A copy of the policy can be found on our website under the technology department.

Any questions or concerns about devices should be directed to massupport@isd2149.org.

THANK YOU!





The New Free School Meals Bill is Here!

Exciting news for all students...breakfast and lunch will be FREE for all students for the 2023-2024 school year! The Minnesota Free School Meals (MN-FSM) Program began on July 1, 2023. **This is a permanently funded program written into state law.** This legislation reimburses one free breakfast and lunch to students who previously had to pay for their meals. This will include our PreK students participating in half-day programs as well.

This funding complements federal meal reimbursements that schools currently receive through participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). While we no longer need the Application for Educational Benefits form to determine if your student qualifies for Free/Reduced Lunch, it is still essential to fill out this form for other benefits.

Our staff works very hard to create healthy menus consisting of meals that are filling and interesting for our students. You can view our weekly/monthly menus in the Quick Links on the school website.

Meal to Go

We'll be bringing back the "Meal to Go" program for our students who travel out of town for events and want extra nourishment for the day/night. We will also be adding an "Elementary Birthday Treat" program so busy parents can leave it up to food services to provide a smart snack for their student's special day.

Check the food service page on the school website for updates!

Join us for HOMECOMING!



HOMECOMING WEEK September 25 - September 30

Check the website for more information coming soon!



Minnewaska Laker Foundation's Endowment Program

Building A Legacy of Excellence In Minnewaska Area Schools

The Minnewaska Laker Foundation was formed in 2007 as a non-profit organization to support and improve activities and programs for students in the Minnewaska Area School District. The mission has since expanded also to support classroom excellence. We seek to emphasize the academic and personal development of students in the classroom and quality activity programs, as well as create meaningful ties among the schools, alumni, and greater community.

Endowment Fund

The purpose of the Minnewaska Laker Foundation Endowment Fund is to:

- raise a significant amount of money,
- invest and preserve the principal, and
- use the earnings generated to enhance and support programs, facilities, and scholarships for current and former students in the Minnewaska Area Schools. The Fund earnings would be used for items "above and beyond" the items that are typically funded in the school budget (for example, classroom textbooks, furniture, and staff development are paid for by the School and not the Fund)

The Fund will provide lasting financial support for the Laker Foundation's mission to support student excellence. The Foundation's initial goal is to raise \$3,000,000 by January 1, 2024.

Donations Offer Special Naming Opportunities

Gifts of \$5,000 or more to the Foundation will entitle the donor to have an area in the Minnewaska schools named as the donor designates. This is an opportunity to recognize businesses or individuals (the donors themselves or in honor of others, such as family, friends, teachers, or administrators). We were excited to receive several donations in the past couple of years, including naming the Art Suite in honor of longtime art teachers Susan Fossen and Ivie Cooley and the Music Suite in honor of choir director Gordy Moeller. There are many other naming opportunities listed on the Foundation's website at www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/foundation

Learn more about the Endowment Program, financial gifts, and Fund distribution. If you are interested in making a gift or have questions, please contact us at Foundationinfo@MinnewaskaLakerFoundation.org or complete the form below and send by email or regular mail.





FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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 @minnewaska_area_schools

DISTRICT OFFICE, HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY ED
25122 State Highway 28, Glenwood, MN 56334
320.239.4820

ELEMENTARY
409 4th St. SE
Glenwood, MN 56334
320.634.4567

W.I.N ACADEMY
500 John St.
Starbuck, MN 56381
320.239.2257