



Minnewaska Area Schools

District 2149



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A note from Chip Rankin, Superintendent of Schools



Dear Students, Parents, and Community Members,

As we embark on another exciting Minnewaska school year, I am filled with immense LAKER pride and optimism about the opportunities that lie ahead. Minnewaska Area Schools are not just places of learning; but communities where students can grow, explore, and achieve their fullest potential.

New Initiatives and Programs

This year, we are thrilled to introduce several new initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational experience for all our students. These include expanded STEM programs to include DRONES I and II, increased mental health support, and increased career exploration opportunities designed to engage students' diverse interests.

Utilizing technology appropriately to increase student success

As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education, the role of technology, particularly mobile phones, has become increasingly significant in our daily lives. While phones can be valuable tools for learning and communication, it is crucial to manage their use effectively within our school settings to ensure a positive and productive educational environment.

Guidelines for Phone Use

To maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, we have established the following guidelines for phone use in our schools:

- During Instructional Time:** Students are expected to keep their phones turned off or on silent mode and store them away during class time. Phones should only be used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher.
- Breaks and Lunchtime:** Students may use their phones during breaks and lunchtime, provided it does not disrupt the school environment or the well-being of others.
- Emergencies:** In case of an emergency, students can use their phones to contact parents or guardians with permission from a teacher or school staff member.
- Respect and Responsibility:** Students must use their phones respectfully and responsibly, avoiding inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and any activities that may harm others.

Parental Support and Involvement

We ask for the support of parents and guardians in reinforcing these guidelines at home. Please discuss with your children the importance of responsible phone use and monitor their phone activities to ensure they are adhering to school policies.

Community Involvement

Our schools thrive on the strong partnerships we have with parents and the community. We encourage you to participate in school events, join our parent-teacher organizations, and volunteer your time and talents. Together, we can create a supportive environment that nurtures academic and personal growth.

Safety and Well-being

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. We have implemented comprehensive health and safety protocols to ensure that our schools are safe spaces for everyone. Please stay informed about these measures and cooperate with us in maintaining a healthy school environment.

Celebrating Achievements

I am constantly inspired by the achievements of our students and staff. From academic accolades to athletic victories, and artistic accomplishments, their hard work and dedication are truly commendable. Let us celebrate these successes and encourage each other to strive for excellence in all endeavors.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, I am confident that we will continue to overcome challenges and embrace opportunities with resilience and enthusiasm. Let's work together to make this school year a remarkable one, filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our schools. Here's to a fantastic year!

Respectfully,
Chip Rankin, Superintendent

Join us for an **OPEN HOUSE!**

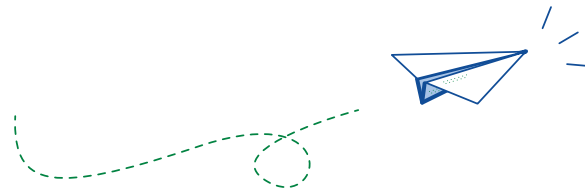
Grades 9-12

Tuesday, Aug. 27
3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

Grades K-8

Wednesday, Aug. 28
3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



School pictures WILL NOT BE TAKEN
during the open houses

Pictures

K-8
Thursday, September 5, 2024
7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

RETAKES:
Wednesday, October 9, 2024
7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

9-12
Date TBD



GRADES K-3 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Kindergarten

- 1 large school bag (no wheels) **labeled** with child's name
- 4 boxes basic Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 2 boxes wide Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 1 box skinny Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 1 box Crayola colored pencils (12 count)
- 4 large glue sticks (1 oz. or larger)
- 1 set Expo fine-tip whiteboard markers (no chisel 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
- \$60.00 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

- 12 No. 2 pencils (Ticonderoga brand)
- 2 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola colored pencils (12 count)
- 2 boxes narrow Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 2 boxes wide Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 1 spiral bound notebook
- 1 folder
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 1 4pk black Expo dry erase markers (low odor)
- 8 small Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 Fiskars scissors
- 1 backpack (**labeled** with child's name, no rollers)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 pack of highlighters
- 1 water bottle (**labeled**)
- 1 Crayola watercolor paint set (8 count)
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 box of Graham Crackers
- Boys – 1 container of Clorox wipes
- Girls – 1 box of quart or gallon sized Ziplock bags
- \$20 cash for planner, parties, misc.

Second Grade

- 2 pkg of No. 2 pencils (Ticonderoga brand recommended)
- 2 boxes basic crayons (24 count only)
- 2 boxes colored pencils (sharpened)
- 1 box classic colors Crayola washable markers
- 1 box classic colors Crayola washable markers (fine tip)
- 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 pkg 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
- \$20 cash for planner, parties, misc.

Third Grade

- 24 No. 2 pencils (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
- 4 pack dry erase markers for white board
- Headphones (no earbuds or Bluetooth headphones)
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 pencil box or bag
- Girls – 1 box of quart or gallon sized Ziploc bags
- Boys – 1 container of Clorox wipes
- \$20 cash for planner, parties, misc.
- 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
- 12-pack colored pencils
- 24-pack crayons
- 10-pack markers (bold classic colors)
- Ziploc bags (any size)
- 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
- Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- \$20.00 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 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade

Fifth Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 pencils (48 count, Ticonderoga brand recommended)
- 12-pack colored pencils
- 10-pack markers (bold 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.
- 2-pack 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)

5th Grade Band Supplies

- Pay the "5th Grade Band Fee" on SchoolPay (covers band book, concert shirt, and binder)
- Instrument supplies (reeds, oil, sticks, etc)

Sixth Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 pencils (48 count, Ticonderoga brand recommended)
- 12-pack colored pencils
- 10-pack markers (bold 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 ruler
- Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- \$15.00 Class Dues payable to your classroom teacher (reward parties, special projects, and classroom necessities throughout the year)

6th Grade Band Supplies

- 3-ring binder (if binder from last year is lost or broken)
- Instrument supplies (reeds, oil, sticks, etc)

GRADES 7-12 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Seventh Grade

- Headphones **or** earbuds
- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils (24 count)
- 12-pack colored pencils (Science, English, & Social)
- 3 three ring binders with pockets
- 1 pkg loose leaf notebook paper
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 4 folders
- 1 pocket folder with 3 hole punch fasteners (Science)
- 1 pkg 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)
- 12-pack colored pencils (English)
- 3 three ring binders with pockets
- 1 pkg loose leaf notebook paper
- 2 spiral notebooks (one for English 8 Journaling)
- 4 folders
- 1 pocket folder with 3 hole punch fasteners (Science)
- 1 two pocket folder (Spanish)
- 1 pkg 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

Seventh & Eighth Grade Band and Choir Supplies

- Blue MAHS MUSIC Polo worn for 7th/8th band and choir performances (ordered through the music directors, paid for on SchoolPay)
- Black pants/shoes

Band students ONLY

- 3-ring binder (if current band binder is lost or broken)
- Band instrument supplies (reeds, oil, sticks, etc)
- 7th grade only: Band Book Fee (Paid on SchoolPay)

High School

Individual classes may recommend additional supplies.

- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils
- Highlighters
- Blue or black pens
- College ruled notebook
- Folders or binders
- Kleenex
- School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com

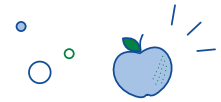
Spanish Class:

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

GO LAKERS!

Physical Education:

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



Elementary

Sarah Suchy, Principal

Welcome to the 2024-25 School year at Minnewaska Area Elementary!

We've been busy planning and preparing for an incredible school year and are so excited to meet everyone! My name is Sarah Suchy, and I am honored to have stepped in as the elementary principal this year. I am excited to embark on this journey with all of you, and I am committed to ensuring a smooth and successful year for our students, staff, and families. I've been part of Minnewaska as a student, parent, and principal. As a staff member, I was an elementary and middle school principal for 7 years and was the Director of Teaching, Learning, and Technology last year. I look forward to working with the incredible teachers and families again!

We understand that starting a new school year brings a mix of excitement and nervousness, especially for our youngest learners. To help ease the transition, we will be hosting our Open House on Wednesday, August 28th beginning at 4:00. This will be an opportunity for students to meet their teachers, explore their classrooms, drop off supplies and reconnect with friends.

As a staff, we're working hard to meet the requirements of The Read Act. This is a legislative shift for how we teach reading across our state. As we learn more about the Science of Reading and the latest research, we recognize the need

to stretch and grow. Our entire early childhood through 3rd grade teaching staff will be participating in significant learning experiences throughout this school year. It's likely you'll see shifts in how reading has been taught throughout the year.



We know communication is vital for the success of every child!

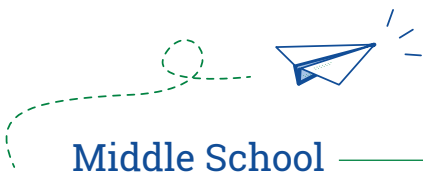
You'll receive regular updates and information throughout the year through newsletters, emails, and online. As questions arise, please reach out to our staff and let us know how we can assist your child in having their best year yet!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will make this school year a fantastic one for our students. I am looking forward to meeting each of you and working together to create a nurturing and enriching environment for our children.

Wishing you all a wonderful rest of the summer, and see you soon!

Sarah Suchy
Elementary Principal & Director of Teaching, Learning and Technology





Middle School

Blake Karas, 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 Activity Director/Dean of Students at Morris Area Schools. Before that, I worked as a 7-12 Principal and Activity Director in East Grand Forks at Sacred Heart School. With Morris and Minnewaska both a part of the West Central Conference, I have had a front-row seat to the wonderful facilities, programs, and people of the Minnewaska Area District. I look forward to becoming part of the Laker family and serving the families of the district.



Vision and Goals

At the heart of my vision for our school is a commitment to creating a supportive, inclusive, and stimulating environment where every student feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. We hope to engage every student, every day. This year, we will focus on:

- Academic Excellence:** We will continue to uphold rigorous academic standards while integrating innovative teaching methods to inspire and engage our students.
- Student Well-being:** The emotional and social well-being of our students is a top priority. We will enhance our support systems and ensure every student has access to the resources they need to thrive.
- Community Engagement:** I look forward to building strong partnerships with families and the wider community. Your involvement and feedback are vital to our collective success.

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!

Blake Karas
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.

High School

Greetings from Minnewaska Area High School,

My name is Nate Meissner, and I am the high school principal here at Minnewaska. I am so excited for the 2024-2025 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.org or call 320-239-4820 with any questions.



Coinciding with the new courses, we continue to offer students an excellent balance of classes in our core academic areas and elective programs, as well as 66 college credits and eight Advanced Placement courses. We also offer a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) course partnered with Alexandria Technical College for students interested in the nursing field.

New LAKER Staff

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

- **Braden Okerlund** - Career and Technical Education/Agriculture Education
- **Jeff Iverson** - Choir Director
- **Hunter Infinger** - Social Studies

Welcome to Minnewaska!

Career Pathways

We are so excited to launch our new Career Pathways this fall, focusing on the areas of Agriculture, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology (AEMT), Business, Communications, and Entrepreneurship (BCE), and Health Sciences and Human Services (HSHS). Students will be able to take courses focusing on these areas with additional experiences as they progress through high school, including job shadowing, career exploration opportunities, and even paid work experiences. Pathways will launch student's interest, exploration, and inquiry into career and college opportunities after graduation.



A few exciting new courses will be offered this school year, focusing on Career Pathways: Drones I and II, Advanced Health, Medical Terminology, and Career Exploration and Planning.

Communication Updates

This fall, we will also be moving to a new form of communication with parents regarding student attendance. Parents will now receive a text message and an email if their child is not present during a class period. These messages will go out during 2nd period and at the end of the school day. This proactive approach to student attendance will allow students, parents, and staff to all be on the same page regarding class period attendance and support all of our Minnewaska students.

We are so excited about the opportunities and experiences our students will be getting in their high school years at Minnewaska. Thank you for your continued support!

Reminders for the New School Year

Back to School Open House will be held Tuesday, August 27th, from 4 to 7 p.m. We encourage you all to come to meet our staff, find classrooms, and ask any questions that you might have for the upcoming school year.

August 27 MAHS Open House Schedule:

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)



Instruction and Curriculum

Sarah Suchy, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Technology

Welcome back to Minnewaska! It's been a busy year since I last wrote an update about the State of Teaching, Learning and Technology.

Since then we've been extremely fortunate to have the community's support to further support technology in our district. In addition, we've been approved for a couple new grants that are providing exciting changes across our district!

The Read Act

In May of 2023, Minnesota passed a law called the Read Act. As we work to implement requirements of The Read Act, we are embracing a transformative approach to literacy instruction by undergoing training in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling), rooted in the Science of Reading research. This comprehensive professional development equips teachers with evidence-based strategies grounded in neuroscientific principles, enabling them to effectively teach foundational reading skills to young learners. By integrating LETRS training into their professional development plans, educators are not only meeting the requirements outlined in Minnesota's Read Act but also taking proactive steps to address the literacy needs of their students. Through LETRS, teachers gain a deeper understanding of phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, laying a solid foundation for literacy success. As a result, educators are better equipped to support students at all levels of reading proficiency, ensuring that every child receives the instruction and support they need to become proficient readers. By May 2026, we will have all our K-3rd grade teachers, all Interventionists and all Special Education teachers trained across our district.

Career Pathways

At our high school, we are expanding our course offerings to prepare students for an increasingly dynamic world. In collaboration with Minnesota's Department of Labor and Industry's Youth Skills Training Grant, we have been able to build career pathways and build coursework that will work to support students making purposeful choices to prepare them for their next steps after graduation.

With the support of the YST Grant, we have added 5 new courses for students to experience. Among the new additions are courses focused on cutting-edge technologies like drones, providing hands-on experience in piloting and programming these aerial vehicles, tapping into fields from agriculture to cinematography. Advanced health classes delve deeper into the intricacies of human anatomy and physiology, equipping students with the knowledge to pursue careers in medicine

or allied health fields. Medical terminology courses offer a foundation in the language of healthcare, essential for those aspiring to work in medical settings.



Additionally, career exploration courses help students identify their strengths and interests, guiding them toward fulfilling professions. Meanwhile, journalism courses foster critical thinking and communication skills, nurturing the next generation of reporters, editors, and media professionals. It is our goal with Minnewaska's Career Pathways that we are preparing students for success in a rapidly evolving job market.

At Minnewaska, we are continuing to be intentional with funding from our community and ensuring students have the best possible experiences with innovation and technology.

Technology

As we prepare to have funds to further support these areas, we have been embarking on the journey of integrating technology standards into curriculum, marking a significant step towards preparing students for the digital age. This summer, a team of educators have been collaborating to develop comprehensive standards that outline the core competencies students should attain, encompassing areas such as digital citizenship, information literacy, and proficiency in utilizing various digital tools and platforms. By embracing these standards, the school district aims to empower students to navigate the complexities of the digital world confidently, fostering a generation of tech-savvy individuals poised for success in the 21st century.

No Child Left Inside Grant

The No Child Left Inside Grant from Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources was awarded to Minnewaska Area Schools to allow us to add learning experiences like snowshoeing and add even more cross country skis for our students. We look forward to our physical education courses providing instruction in life long activities across our vast grounds that will support student activity in the winter.

As we look forward into the school year, we will continue to review current standards and make purchases where we need. We anticipate much more work in the area of reading with The Read Act for our whole district along with spending a significant amount of time reviewing the new Social Studies standards that were approved in 2024.



W.I.N. Academy

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

I hope this newsletter finds you well and getting prepped for the upcoming school year. Our mental health team has had an exciting summer with one of the largest summer enrollments that W.I.N. has ever experienced. Our teachers have been busy getting trained in LETRS so that they can provide the most relevant and scientifically supported reading methods to all of our students. We are prepping for our August 19th intake meetings to welcome new WIN families and are excited to see all students on Tuesday, September 3rd.

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.

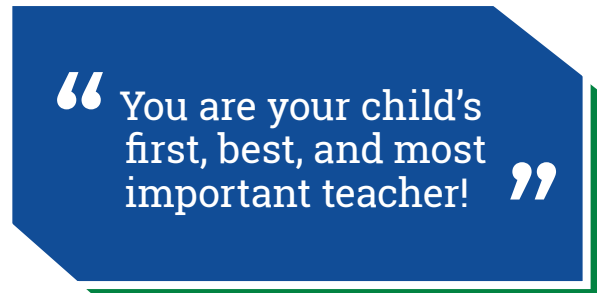


Each day we focus on S.T.A.R. expectations of Safety, Teamwork, Accountability and Relationships. W.I.N. is a Minnesota State Certified PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) School. Staff are trained on how to provide proactive, positive interventions to our students. PBIS creates a climate where students and staff feel welcomed and safe.

We are so lucky to welcome our new teacher Sara Geiser to the WIN Team.

Be watching for your back to school packet in the mail. It is essential for us to get all the forms back on the first day of school so that we can focus on serving the kids' needs on day one. The entire W.I.N. Team is looking forward to the 24-25 school year.

ECFE



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 3 & 4.

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.

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 28-29.

Little Lakers Staff

We welcome a new teacher to our Little Laker staff this year. Sarah Traphagen will be teaching MWF All-Day 4's class and working as support in the Elementary T/TH. Sarah has previously been a support staff in our Early Childhood Special Education program. Sarah has many years experience working with children, including previously running her own daycare in the area. She will be a great asset to our program.

Returning staff this year includes our Early Childhood Coordinator and Teacher, Raquel Schmitz; and teachers Michelle Dunn, Jessica Wilmes, and Amber Braaten. Raquel will be teaching MWF morning 4's, Michelle will be teaching MWF morning 3's, Jess will be teaching the All-day, every day 4's; and Amber will be teaching MWF All Day 4's classes and T/TH morning 3's.

In addition, we welcome back all of our amazing teaching assistants who 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!

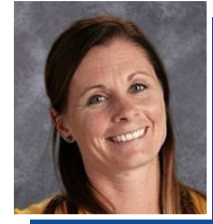
We offer a Before School Program (BSP) and an After School Program (ASP) for Minnewaska students attending all-day preschool through 6th grade. These programs will be offered during the 2024-2025 school year at Minnewaska Area Elementary School. The cost is \$5.50 per day for the morning program and \$8 per day for the afternoon program. Morning care 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. These programs offer a fun environment, professional staff, structured and unstructured play time, gym time, outdoor play, creative learning, and social and emotional growth.

Non-school day child care for students attending all-day preschool through 6th grade will also be available at Minnewaska Elementary School if staff and enrollment numbers allow. Non-school day care will run from 7:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. The cost for a full day is \$30/day. This includes snacks and activities; however, students must bring their own lunch. The registration cut-off will be three weeks before 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 staff shortage or low enrollment numbers.

Non-school dates child care may be offered:

- Sept. 30
- Oct. 16, 17, 18
- Nov. 8
- Dec. 23, 27, 30, 31
- Jan. 17, 20
- Feb. 14, 17
- Mar. 21, 24
- Apr. 18, 21



All school-age child care registration is completed online and will open on 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 Support Services

Mary Walsh, School Social Worker

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.

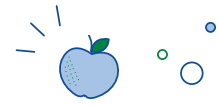


IDEA and Help Me Grow

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 helpmefrowmn.org or by calling 1-866-693-GROW (4769).





Community Education

Bill Mills, Director of Community Education

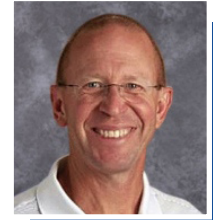
As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint our landscape, we are excited to welcome you to another enriching season of learning and growth with Minnewaska Area Community Education. Our fall programs are designed to offer something for everyone, whether you're looking to pick up a new hobby, enhance your skills, or engage in fun and educational activities with your family and friends. Here are some of the highlights of our upcoming programs:

Adult Opportunities

- **Gopher Football vs. Nevada - Saturday, September 14th - Kickoff at 2:30 p.m.:** Register for this trip to go to Huntington Bank Stadium on the U of M campus to cheer on the Golden Gophers in an early season match-up vs the Wolfpack!
- **Instant Piano & Guitar:** In just a few hours, you can learn enough secrets to give you years of musical enjoyment!
- **55+ Driver Improvement Program:** This is a state approved accident prevention/insurance discount course that is open to the public.
- **Walking at School:** Minnewaska Area High School is open to the public for walking Monday through Friday at various times.
- **GED, Adult Basic Education - Free Classes Offered:** These courses are free for adults and anyone over age 17 and are run through Alexandria Area Basic Education.
- **Open Gym Pickleball:** Offered Wednesdays and Sundays at the WIN Academy gym in Starbuck.

Youth Enrichment Activities

- **Youth Football, Soccer, & Volleyball:** These very popular programs begin in late August!
- **Youth Tackle Football:** A relatively new program for 5th and 6th graders begins in early September.
- **Minnewaska Laker Dance Team Youth Dance Program:** Designed for grades K-6, this program will also begin in early September.
- **Drivers Education - Virtual Option:** Central Lakes Driving School is offering virtual driving education courses.



Early Childhood Education & School Age Child Care Opportunities

- **Little Lakers Preschool:** Provides quality preschool programming to prepare your child for the first day of Kindergarten.
- **Early Childhood Family Education:** Offers numerous classes for all families and their children ages birth through five. This is a fun way for you and your child to learn and grow together.
- **Before & After School Enrichment:** These highly successful programs are offered before and after school at Minnewaska Area Elementary School for students ages preschool through 6th grade.
- **Laker Legends Childcare for Non-School Days:** School-Age Child Care is available on non-school days for ages preschool through 6th grade.

Registration

Registration for our fall programs is now open! Visit our website at and click on the Community Ed tab. If you have any questions, please stop by our office at Minnewaska Area High School or call 320-239-1305 with any questions you may have as we are always available to help! Spaces are limited in some programs, so be sure to register early to secure your spot.



Community Education

Bill Mills, Director of Community Education

Ideas for a New Program?

Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education is always interested in adding new programs! If you have an idea, please don't hesitate to call our office at 320-239-1305!

Volunteer Opportunities:

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with our programs and events. If you're interested in giving back to the community, please contact us to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

Stay Connected:

You can keep up-to-date with the latest news and updates from Minnewaska Area Community Education in two ways. The Minnewaska Messenger is a digital publication that comes out four times a year and can be accessed by going to our school website at www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us and clicking on the Community Ed tab then scrolling down to the Messenger link. We also have our Minnewaska Area Community Education Recreation and Activities Facebook page which is updated daily.



As we embark on this new season, we look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new participants to our programs. Let's make this fall a memorable and enriching time for all!

Warm regards,

Bill Mills

Director
Minnewaska Area Community Education

Carrie Janu

Administrative Assistant
Minnewaska Area Community Education



Activities

Phil Johnsrud, Activities Director

Fall 2024-25

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 2024-25 will be no different! New seasons and new levels of competition bring optimism and excitement to student athletes and 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 12th, while most junior high practices begin on Tuesday, September 3rd.

Fall Parent/Participant Sports Meeting

The 2024-25 Minnewaska **Laker Fall Sports Meeting for all parents/guardians, participants, and coaches in grades 7-12** will take place on Wednesday, August 7th at Minnewaska Area High School. The Minnewaska Area Activities Department and coaching staff emphasize the importance of your attendance at this meeting. This meeting includes specific information for each activity as well as valuable general details so Laker families and coaching staffs' avoid surprises during the season. The fall activities meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium for parents/guardians, participants, and coaches. At that time Minnewaska Area Activities Director, Phil Johnsrud will speak briefly to athletes and parents, followed by breakout sessions for each sports program led by the head coach and their assistants beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Physicals

Athlete physicals are extremely important to have on 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 complete this before your family member begins the 2024 fall season. Physicals can take place at a medical facility of your choice so make your appointment at your convenience keeping in mind that they need to be completed before August 12th, 2024. 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

Online registration and payment for the upcoming fall season are now available on the Minnewaska Area Schools website (minnewaska.k12.mn.us). For those without internet access, please stop by the Minnewaska Area Activities Office for help with registration.

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 2024-25 school year.

Minnewaska Laker Activity Admission Options:

Vanco Events Link: <https://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** 2024-25 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 2024-25 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.**



2024 Fall Activities and Practice Information

Football

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 12th, Wednesday, August 14th, Friday, August 16th - 9:00 a.m. to 2:30. Tuesday, August 13th and Thursday, August 15th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00. All practices at MAHS.

GRADES 7-8

Tuesday, September 3rd (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 - Tuesday, September 3rd.)

Volleyball

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 12th - 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Main & Auxiliary Gyms.

- Any 8th Grade players who would like an opportunity to tryout for a ABC squad are invited to attend the 9-12 practices August 12th - 14th. Not mandatory.

GRADES 7-8

Tuesday, September 3rd (1st Day of School)

- 7th Grade Practice will be held at MAES from 3:30 p.m. to 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 p.m. to 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 - Tuesday, September 3rd.)

Boys and Girls Cross Country

GRADES 7-12

Monday, August 12th at 7:00 a.m. - Meet 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 - Tuesday, September 3rd.)

Girls Tennis

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 12th - 7:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 13th - Friday, August 16th - 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please meet at the Tennis Courts.

- Friday/Saturday -16th/17th - Park Rapids Tourney Time-TBD

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 12th - 7:30-9:00 a.m. Please meet at the Tennis Courts.

- Tues-Thurs - evening practices from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

(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 - Tuesday, September 3rd.)

Girls Swim and Dive

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 12th - 3:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday, August 13th, and on - Grades 9-12 will practice from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Minnewaska Area High School.

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 12th - 3:00 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 - Tuesday, September 3rd.)

Boys Soccer

GRADES 9-12

Monday, August 12th, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at the MAHS Veterans field.

- There will also be evening practice the first week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

GRADES 7-8

Monday, August 12th, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at the MAHS Veterans field.

(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 - Tuesday, September 3rd.)



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.

We have installed two new boilers in our district since the start of 2024. Our W.I.N. campus as well as MAES have each had a brand new high efficiency boiler installed. MAHS will also see some updates this fall. These updates will include a new rooftop air conditioning unit for our auditorium as well as a new domestic hot water heating system. We have also updated our laundry room at MAHS with two new clothes dryers.

We have also put new carpet in thirteen rooms throughout our district and painted numerous classrooms in preparation for the upcoming school year.

The custodial and maintenance staff as well as myself are looking forward to another great school year!



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.

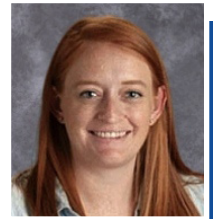
Services Provided

- 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

It can be tough to decide when to keep your child home from school when they are not feeling well. Here are a few guidelines to help (please view our school website for a complete list). As always, please inform the school when you plan on keeping 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 parents document their child's immunization history.

7th Grade and 12th Grade Students

Don't forget when you turn 16 to get your meningococcal booster vaccine. Most students receive their initial meningococcal vaccine when they enter 7th Grade. Teenagers and young adults are at a high risk for meningococcal disease. This dose is important to make sure 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 2024-2025 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 before 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





Once again, summer has flown by. All student devices that have been turned in for the summer are being cleaned, repaired (if needed) 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.

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

Additional insurance information is listed below and it can be purchased through SchoolPay at www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us. Insurance must be purchased by the end of the first week of 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.

A copy of the Device Use Policy can be found on our website under the Technology department at the bottom under Resources with the link labeled "Mobile Learning Parent Sign-off"

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

THANK YOU!





Student Nutrition is an important part of the school day.

Minnewaska Area Schools participates in the National Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Kindergarten Milk Program in addition to other child nutrition programs. School lunches and school breakfasts are served at all schools. Our district provides a great variety of meals packed with the energy children need to learn and grow. If you are unable to find the information you are looking for, please contact the Food and Nutrition Department.

All breakfast and lunches will continue to be FREE to our students for the 2024/25 school year. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other meal programs.

Who should complete this application? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children qualify without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can

qualify if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions. Please see our Food Service site on the school website for more information.

Meal to Go

We will be offering Meals to Go for any after school activities you student(s) are participating in. This is a great way to make sure they are getting a healthy meal with little effort from you. Simply fill out the form on our Food Service site.

Take the stress and high cost out of providing your elementary child's entire classroom a treat for a birthday or other celebration! You are able to select from a variety of treats on our Birthday form, also located on our Food Service site.

A La Carte option is available during our scheduled lunch times. Funds can be deposited into your student's account or they can pay cash. If you would like to restrict any part of this option, please reach out to Food Services and we can accommodate your request.

We look forward to setting your students up for success by providing them with a nutritious breakfast and lunch in the upcoming school year!

Bridget Gallagher
Director of Food Service

Heard About Homecoming?

HOMECOMING WEEK
September 15 - September 20

Check the website for more information coming soon!





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

- Paraprofessionals
- Full-time Food Service
- Part-time Food Service
- Reading Corps and Early Learning Corps Tutors
- Substitute Paraprofessionals
- Substitute Teachers

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

Make the 2024-2025 school year AMAZING!

New Staff Spotlight

Marcie Christenson
Speech-Language Pathologists Assistant

Sara Geiser
Special Education Teacher

Heather Gerlach
Mental Health Professional

Mataya Hoelscher
4th Grade Elementary Education Teacher

Hunter Infanger
Social Studies Teacher

Jeff Iverson
Choir Director

Natalie Johansen
Speech-Language Pathologists

Blake Karas
Middle School Principal

McKenzie Newton
1st Grade Elementary Education Teacher

Braden Okerlund
Agriculture Teacher

Abigail Olson
Behavior Interventionist

Tara Tongen
Early Childhood Special Education Teacher





Minnewaska Laker Foundation's Endowment Program

Building A Legacy of Excellence In Minnewaska Area Schools

Since its inception in 2007, the Minnewaska Laker Foundation has dedicated itself to supporting and enhancing the educational experience for students in the Minnewaska Area School District. Originally focused on extracurricular activities, the Foundation's mission has expanded to include promoting classroom excellence. Our goal is to foster academic and personal growth among students while creating strong connections between the schools, alumni, and the broader community.

Endowment Fund

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

- Raise a substantial amount of money
- Invest and preserve the principal
- Utilize earnings to enhance and support programs, facilities, and scholarships for both current and former students

The earnings from the Fund will be allocated to initiatives that go beyond the standard school budget, such as enriching classroom experiences, upgrading facilities, and supporting professional development. Typical budget items

like textbooks, furniture, and staff salaries remain covered by the school budget, ensuring that the Endowment Fund contributes to truly exceptional opportunities.

Special Naming Opportunities for Donations

Donors contributing \$5,000 or more to the Foundation will have the unique opportunity to name an area within the Minnewaska schools. This is an excellent way to honor businesses, individuals, or groups—be it the donors themselves or in tribute to family, friends, teachers, or administrators. Notable recent contributions include:

- The Art Suite, named in honor of longtime art teachers Susan Fossen and Ivie Coole
- The Music Suite, named in honor of choir director Gordy Moeller

There are many other naming opportunities available. For more details, please visit the Foundation's website at <https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/foundation/>.

Join us in building a legacy of excellence and ensuring a bright future for the students of Minnewaska Area Schools. Your support can make a lasting difference.



2024 – 2025 School Calendar

AUGUST

19 New Employee Inservice
Learning day for staff
26 *Flex Inservice Day*
27-29 Teacher Inservice
27 9-12 Open House 4:00-7:00pm
28 K-8 Open House 4:00-7:00pm
T = 4,5
S = 0

AUGUST '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

SEPTEMBER

3 First Day of School
30 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
T = 20
S = 19

SEPTEMBER '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					

OCTOBER

7 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
16 NO SCHOOL- K-12 Conferences 7:30am-3:30pm
17-18 NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
T = 21.5
S = 20

OCTOBER '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		

NOVEMBER

7 End Quarter 1
8 NO SCHOOL- Teacher Workshop
28-29 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
T = 19
S = 18

NOVEMBER '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

DECEMBER

23-31 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
T = 15
S = 15

DECEMBER '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				

JANUARY

1 NO SCHOOL-Winter Break
16 End Quarter 2
17 NO SCHOOL-Teacher Inservice
20 NO SCHOOL-Teacher Workshop
T = 22
S = 20

JANUARY '25						
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	

FEBRUARY

14 NO SCHOOL
17 NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
T = 18
S = 18

FEBRUARY '25						
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	

MARCH

6 K-8 Conferences
9-12 Registration 3:30-7:30pm
11 4-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
13 K-3 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
20 End Quarter 3
21 NO SCHOOL-Teacher Inservice/Workshop
24 NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
T = 21
S = 19

MARCH '25						
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					

APRIL

18 No School
21 No School
T = 20
S = 20

APRIL '25						
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			

MAY

26 NO SCHOOL
29 Last Day of School
30 Teacher Workshop & Graduation
T = 21
S = 20

MAY '25						
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

JUNE

Up to 5 E-Learning Days may be used
Emergency closing make-up days to be added at end of year, if necessary

JUNE '25						
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					

	Student Days	Teacher Days
Quarter 1	44	52
Quarter 2	39	41
Quarter 3	41	43
Quarter 4	45	46
	169	182



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