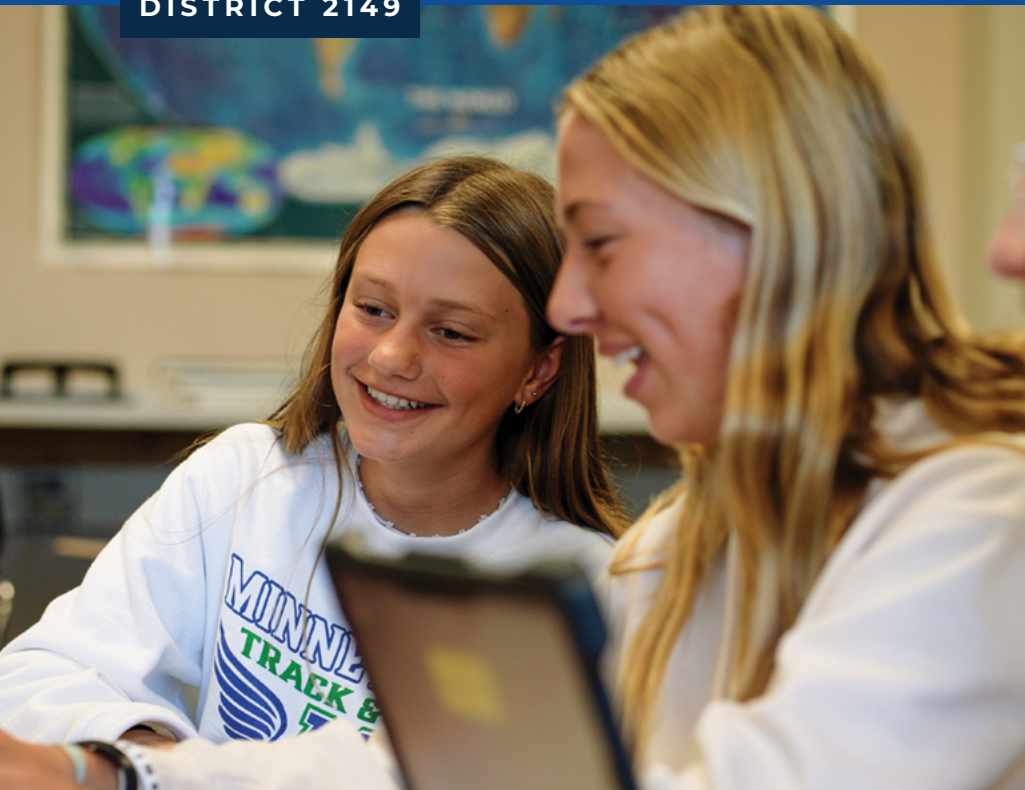


FALL 2025

Minnewaska Messenger

DISTRICT 2149



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District News

Chip Rankin, Superintendent



Superintendent’s Message: A Critical Investment in Our Schools and Community

Dear Students, Families, and Community Members,

As we launch into the 2025–2026 school year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the strong partnership we share between school and community. That spirit of collaboration has never been more important as we look ahead to a major decision that will shape the future of Minnewaska Area Schools.



Bond Renewal/Referendum

On Tuesday, November 4, 2025, voters in our community will be asked to consider a \$25 million bond renewal for reinvesting in the safety, function, and future-readiness of our existing school facilities. This proposal is the result of years of planning, expert facility assessments, and, most importantly, extensive input from our residents and staff.

THE PRIORITIES IN THIS BOND REFLECT WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TOLD US MATTERED MOST:

- **School safety and site security improvements**
- **Modernized learning environments**, including CTE labs, media centers, and flexible spaces
- **Upgrades to aging infrastructure**, including HVAC, pool filtration, and ADA access
- **Expanded early childhood and childcare programming** to support families and enhance school readiness
- **Sustainable enhancements to shared spaces** like our pool, auditorium, and wellness facilities

This is a renewal, not a replacement—and it ensures that Minnewaska remains a place where students can learn in safe, modern, and welcoming spaces without asking for unnecessary expansions.

One of the most exciting components of this proposal is our partnership to address the region’s childcare crisis. Thanks to the Pope County Commissioners’ \$1 million matching grant, and additional private business support, we are positioned to maximize a \$1.8 million USDA grant and build a modern, community-focused childcare center on our Glenwood campus. This facility would create up to 100 new childcare slots, directly benefiting working families and our regional economy.

Strong schools are the backbone of strong communities. This bond renewal ensures we continue to protect that foundation for generations to come—responsibly, transparently, and with broad community backing. **In fact, our spring 2025 community survey showed over 58% support for this reinvestment.**

More information, including public meetings and detailed project plans, will be shared throughout the fall. I encourage all residents to stay informed and engaged as we approach this important decision.

Thank you for your continued support of Minnewaska Area Schools. Let’s make 2025–2026 a year of growth, achievement, and bold steps forward—together.

LEARN MORE



Join Us for an Open House

Grades 9–12

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26
3:30–7:30 p.m.



Grades K–8

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
3:30–7:30 p.m.

School pictures **will not** be taken during the open houses.
Palmer Bus will be available onsite during both open houses.

Pictures



K-8

Thursday, September 4
7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

K-12 RETAKES

Wednesday, October 2
7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

9-12

Thursday, September 11
7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Preschool Information

Meet and Greets

Preschool teachers will reach out to schedule individual meet-and-greets with all families for Tuesday, September 2, or Wednesday, September 3.

Classes Begin

All-day, every-day and T/TH morning classes: Thursday, September 4. MWF all-day classes: Friday, September 5.

Pictures

Preschool pictures will be scheduled for later in September.

Homecoming Week

September 21–26

Check the website for more information coming soon!



School Supplies

GRADES K-3

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)
- 2 boxes of Kleenex (250 count each)
- Ziploc bags by last name: A-H snack size, I-P sandwich size, Q-Z gallon or quart size
- \$60 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)
- 3 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola colored pencils (12 count)
- 2 boxes narrow Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 3 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)
- 6 small Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 glue bottle
- 1 Fiskars scissors
- 1 pack of highlighters
- 1 water bottle (labeled)
- 1 Crayola watercolor paint set (8 count)
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- Supplies by last name:
 - A-H: 1 box of Kleenex
 - I-P: 1 container of Clorox wipes
 - Q-Z: 1 roll of paper towels
- 1 box of Graham Crackers
- \$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 Crayola washable markers (classic colors)
- 1 box Crayola fine-tip 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 Kleenex (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 (Ticonderoga brand)
- 1 box of Crayons (24 count)
- 1 box colored pencils
- 2 highlighters (any color)
- 1 box Crayola markers
- 1 spiral bound sketch book (for art, 9x12 or 9x13 Strathmore or Mondo Llama brand recommended)
- 1 composition notebook
- 1 adult sized scissors
- 3 pocket folders (solid colors, 1 with prongs)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 small handheld pencil sharpener
- 4 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 of gallon sized Ziploc bags
- Boys - 1 container of Clorox wipes
- \$20 cash for planner, parties, misc.

Tennis shoes are required for K-3 Physical Education classes. K-1 students should wear tennis shoes every day. Please print your child's name on clothing and other items for easy identification. If you have any difficulty purchasing any of these items due to cost, etc., call the school office at (320) 634-4567.

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)
- 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.)
- 3 folders
- 2 red pens
- 8-10 Expo dry erase markers
- 1 pair scissors
- 2 boxes of Kleenex (250 count)
- 1 mouse with cord/USB connection
- Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- \$20 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 Hoelscher, Modahl, Poegel, Greene, Gruber, Olsonawski, Skoglund, Larsen, Resch

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.
- Pencil pouch
- 1-2 pack jumbo erasers
- 1 pack of pencil top erasers (optional)
- \$15 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 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)

School Supplies

GRADES 7-8

Seventh Grade

- Headphones or earbuds
- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils (24 count)
- 2 packs colored pencils (24 count total)
- 1 three ring binder
- 1 pkg loose leaf notebook paper
- 3 spiral notebooks
- 3 folders
- 1 pocket folder with 3 hole punch fasteners (Science)
- 1 pkg highlighters
- Metric ruler
- 2 boxes of Kleenex (250 count)*
- 1 container of Clorox wipes*
- Calculator Model TI 30XIIS
- \$10 School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com

*Wipes and Kleenex turned into Advisory teacher

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
- 2 three ring binders with pockets
- 1 pkg loose leaf notebook paper
- 3 spiral notebooks
- 3 folders
- 1 pkg highlighters
- 4 dry erase markers (low order, fine tip)
- 1 pkg regular colored markers
- Ruler
- 2 boxes of Kleenex (250 count)*
- 1 container of Clorox wipes*
- 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 Book Fee (Paid on SchoolPay)
- Band instrument supplies (reeds, oil, sticks, etc)

GRADES 9-12

High School

This list is generic as several high school classes use Schoology or Google Classroom as a platform. Individual classes may recommend additional supplies.

- #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils
- Highlighters
- Blue or black pens
- College ruled notebook
- Folders or binders
- Kleenex (bring to Laker Time)
- School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com
9th-11th: \$15
12th: \$20

SPANISH CLASS:

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

- Combination padlock or \$5 deposit (to rent on www.SchoolPay.com)
- Shorts/sweatpants per weather
- T-shirt/sweatshirt/jacket/hat/gloves per weather
- Socks
- Tennis shoes
- Towel
- Swimsuit

2025 – 2026 School Calendar

AUGUST

18 New Employee Inservice
Learning day for staff
25 *Flex Inservice Day*
26-27 Teacher Inservice
26 9-12 Open House 3:30-7:30pm
27 K-8 Open House 3:30-7:30pm
T = 4.5
S = 0

AUGUST '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						

SEPTEMBER

2 First Day of School

T = 21
S = 20

SEPTEMBER '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				

OCTOBER

13 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
15 K-6 NO SCHOOL- P/T Conferences 7:30am-3:30pm
7-12th Grade in Session
16-17 NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
20 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice

T = 21.5
S = 20-19

OCTOBER '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	

NOVEMBER

6 End Quarter 1
7 NO SCHOOL- Teacher Workshop
27-28 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving

T = 18
S = 17

NOVEMBER '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						

DECEMBER

23 *Early Out 1 pm
24-31 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

T = 17
S = 17

DECEMBER '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			

JANUARY

1-2 NO SCHOOL-Winter Break
15 End Quarter 2
16 NO SCHOOL-Teacher Workshop
19 NO SCHOOL-Teacher Inservice

T = 20
S = 18

JANUARY '26						
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

13 NO SCHOOL
16 NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
19 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
23 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm

T = 19
S = 18

FEBRUARY '26						
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

19 End Quarter 3
20 NO SCHOOL-Teacher Inservice/Workshop
23 NO SCHOOL-Spring Break

T = 21
S = 20

MARCH '26						
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

3 No School
6 No School

T = 20
S = 20

APRIL '26						
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

25 NO SCHOOL
28 Last Day of School
29 Teacher Workshop & Graduation

T = 20
S = 19

MAY '26						
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 '26						
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	39-38	40
Quarter 3	41	44
Quarter 4	45	46
	170/169	182

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 2025–26 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 MAS.

In the 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, and 9th-grade (most junior high) practices begin on Monday, Aug. 11, while some junior high practices start on the first day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 2.

JH Sports that begin on Aug. 11

- Girls Tennis
- Boys & Girls Cross Country
- Girls Swim & Dive
- Boys Soccer

JH Sports beginning on Sept. 2 (1st day of school)

- Football
- Volleyball



FALL PARENT/PARTICIPANT SPORTS MEETING

The 2025–26 Minnewaska Laker Sports Meeting for all parents/guardians, participants, and coaches in grades 7–12 will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Minnewaska Area High School. This year, the meeting's focus will be on addressing all Laker student-athletes and families, as WCCO TV's Sports Director, Mike Max, will kick off the evening by speaking about high school sports. Mike's message will take place in the main gym at MAHS. Following Mike Max's presentation, we will discuss the upcoming seasons in each respective activity. 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 staff can avoid surprises during the season. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with Mike Max in the main gym, open to parents/guardians, participants, and coaches of all seasons. Following Mike Max, 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 7 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 2025 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 Aug. 11, 2025. The MSHSL requires physicals, which means that all student-athletes entering 7th and 10th grade must have an updated physical on file. This also includes participants who are not entering 7th or 10th grade and have not had a physical examination in the last 3 years.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration and payment for the upcoming fall season will become available after July 10 due to the merger of our Laker Activities registration provider. For those without internet access, visit the Minnewaska Area Activities Office for assistance with registration.



R-Schools, the Minnewaska Area School activity registration platform, has merged with a new platform called Arbiter. This may impact registration as your login credentials and previous history of use will not be transferred. We have been reassured that the transition will be straightforward; however, please be assured that we will do everything possible to make this transition as smooth as possible. Keep in mind that registering in advance is critical in this process, as well as providing all appropriate contact information, as it's the only way the Minnewaska Area Activities Office and coaches can contact Laker families.

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.

ONLINE TICKETING LAKER EVENTS

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

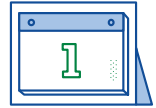
Online ticketing for school activities has become a staple in many local schools and is expected to continue expanding. MSHSL State Tournaments and several section tournaments have also moved to online ticketing only. Online ticketing is a significant advantage to school districts across the state, as it expedites the time and efficiency of account preparation and closure. With that said, the Minnewaska Activities Department will continue to move forward with its plan to eliminate cash boxes at future home events. To accomplish this process, the following activity payment options will continue this upcoming 2025–26 school year.

MINNEWASKA LAKER ACTIVITY ADMISSION

- **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+ are eligible to receive a FREE 2025–26 Individual Season Pass (Non-Transferable) to all Laker regular season athletic events that charge admission. To receive the pass, individuals must complete a brief questionnaire in the MAHS Activities office.
- **Laker Students:** All Minnewaska 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 purchasing a season pass or showing their Laker Student ID at the admission table.
- **Adult Spectators:** Adults can purchase an Individual 2025–26 Season Activity Pass by using the Vanco App or 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 website in advance or at the door by scanning the Laker QR Code with a smartphone camera. The cost is \$8 for adults or \$5 for students.
- **Pay with Cash:** A cash box will be available at the admission table. Admission cost for BOTH adults and students not using Vanco is \$10.

**VANCO EVENTS
LINK**





Fall Activities Schedule

Football

GRADES 9–12

Monday, Aug. 11, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Practices at MAHS.

GRADES 7–8

Monday, Aug. 25, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Volleyball

GRADES 9–12

Monday, Aug. 11, 8–10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
Main and auxiliary gyms.

- Any 8th-grade players who would like an opportunity to try out for an ABC squad are invited to attend the 9–12 practices on Aug. 11–13. Not mandatory.

GRADES 7–8

Tuesday, Sept. 2 (1st Day of School)

- 7th grade practice 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, #16)
- 8th grade practice 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 #4 and #6)

Boys and Girls Cross Country

GRADES 7–12

Monday, Aug. 11, 7 a.m.
Meet on the stadium football field.



Girls Tennis

GRADES 9–12

Monday, Aug. 11, 7:30–10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 12, Friday, Aug. 15th, 4–6 p.m. Tennis Courts.

Park Rapids Tourney: Aug. 15–16, Time TBD

GRADES 7–8

Monday, Aug. 11, 7:30–9 a.m. Tennis Courts.
Tues–Thurs, evening practices from 5–7 p.m.

Girls Swim and Dive

GRADES 7–12

Swimmers: Monday, Aug. 11, 8–11 a.m., MAHS. For the first day of practice, please bring a suit, swim cap, goggles, towel and water bottle.

Divers: Monday, Aug. 11, 3:45–5:15 p.m. Coach Kathy Walker will pick up the divers from MAHS to bring to Morris to practice.

Boys Soccer

GRADES 9–12

Monday, Aug. 11, 7–8:30 a.m., MAHS Veterans field. There will also be evening practice the first week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 6–7:30 p.m.

GRADES 7–8

Monday, Aug. 11, 7–8:30 a.m.,
MAHS Veterans 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, Sept. 2.



Community Education

Angie VanZee, Community Education Director



I am honored and excited to step into the role of Community Education Director at Minnewaska Area Schools.

As someone who believes deeply in the power of lifelong learning and community connection, I look forward to building on the strong foundation that has been established here.

I want to extend a huge thank you to Bill Mills for his years of dedicated service and leadership in Community Education. His mentorship during this transition has been invaluable, and we congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

As we head into the 2025–2026 school year, the Community Education office is looking to expand our offerings to better serve learners of all ages. If you have a special skill, hobby, or area of expertise you'd like to share, or if you have ideas for classes you'd like to see, we encourage you to contact our office. Community ideas help our program grow and thrive.

We're also pleased to shine a spotlight on Little Lakers Child Care located in Starbuck, which currently has openings available for families seeking a safe, nurturing,

and enriching environment for their young children. Our dedicated staff provides quality care that supports early learning and social development, creating a strong foundation for future success. Whether you're looking for full-time care for an infant or toddler or a preschool program that prepares your child for kindergarten, Little Lakers is here to support your family's needs.

For families with school-aged children, we're excited to continue offering our before and after-school care program throughout the school year. This program provides a fun, structured, and supportive setting where students can start and end their school day with engaging activities and positive social interactions.

Registration for the 2025–26 school year opens on August 15, and spaces tend to fill quickly. We encourage you to register early to secure your child's spot.

I hope you take a few minutes to look through this catalog and find a class, activity, or event that sparks your interest. Whether you are a returning participant or new to our programs, there is something here for everyone.

**FACILITY RENTAL
REQUEST**



How to Register Online



Go to the Minnewaska Area School website

<https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us>



Click on Community Ed



Login or create an Account



Add the course(s) to your cart and check out

Registration is not complete until payment is made. No refunds will be made after the class begins. A full refund will be made if enrollment is not sufficient to run the class. If you do not have access to a computer (or do not feel comfortable registering online), please call (320) 239-1305. Questions, please contact (320) 239-1305.

All registrations taken after the registration deadline will have a \$5 flat charge added to the total fee. Shirts are not guaranteed if registered after the deadline.

Child Care

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



We offer a Before School Program (BSP), an After School Program (ASP), and Non-School day child care (NSD) for Minnewaska students attending all-day preschool through 6th grade.

These programs will be offered during the 2025–26 school year at Minnewaska Area Elementary School (MAES). The cost is \$5.50 per day for the morning program and \$8 per day for the afternoon program. Morning care will run from 6:30–8 a.m., while afternoon care will run from 2:45–6 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 MAES if staff and enrollment numbers allow. Non-school day care will run from 7:30 a.m. – 6 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 two weeks before the non-school day(s), which will determine if child care will be available for that day. **Non-school day child care may be canceled because of a staff shortage or low enrollment numbers.** A two-week notice will be given either way.

NON-SCHOOL DATES, CHILD CARE MAY BE OFFERED:

- Oct. 15, 16, 17, 20
- Nov. 7
- Dec. 26, 29, 30, 31
- Jan. 2, 16, 19
- Feb. 13, 16
- Mar. 20, 23
- Apr. 3, 6

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, email Audrey Frey at afrey@isd2149.org.

Now Enrolling at Little Lakers Child Care!

Minnewaska Area Schools' Little Lakers Child Care offers high-quality care and early education for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment. Open Monday–Friday from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., our licensed program helps children thrive. Now offering full-time, part-time, and drop-in care options.

INTERESTED IN ENROLLING?

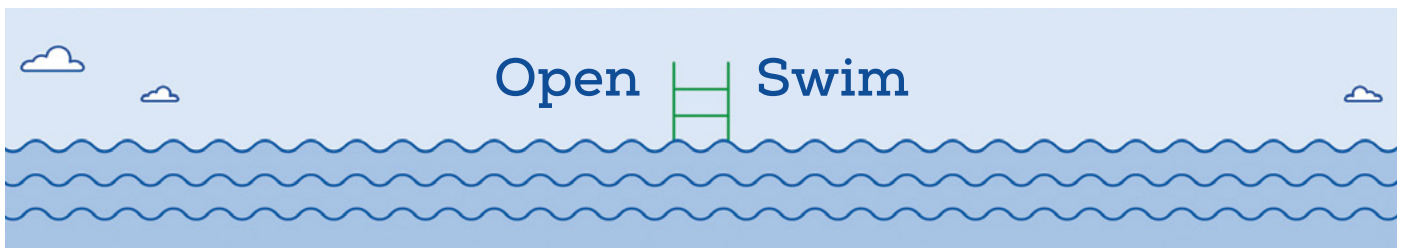
Email Sarah Traphagen at straphagen@isd2149.org.



Have A Talent You Would Like To Share?

Do you have a special talent or ability that you would like to share with others? Have you considered teaching a Community Education Class? Instructors can design their class and pick their schedule. Instructors are paid! You do not need a teaching license to teach a class.

Call the Community Ed Office at (320) 239-1305 for more information.



Open Swim

Let's make a splash as summer break is coming to an end.

We would like to invite you to **2 FREE open pool days**. Please spread the word and come see us on Aug. 12 and 13 from 1–3 pm.

AUGUST OPEN SWIM

Aug. 19 and 20 from 3:30–5:30 pm

SUNDAY OPEN SWIM

Aug. 31 from 3–5 pm

Sept. 7, 21 from 3–5 pm

Oct. 5, 12, 19 from 3–5 pm

Halloween Party in the Pool

Thursday, Oct. 29, 5–7 pm

Punch Cards Are Available!

You can purchase a 10-punch pass for just \$25, or pay \$3 per individual swim. Pay at the pool upon arrival.

We Want Your Input on Expanded Pool Hours!

Minnewaska Community Education is exploring ways to increase access to the pool and better meet the needs of our community.

Would you be interested in participating in an early morning lap swim from 5:30–6:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, on school days? If we can secure additional lifeguard coverage, we may be able to extend the time to 7 a.m.

We're also looking to offer more open swim opportunities throughout the week. What ideas do you have? What pool times would work best for you or your family? Send your ideas and suggestions to avanzee@isd2149.org.

Looking for a Unique Party Spot? Rent the Pool!

Did you know the Minnewaska Pool is available to rent for birthday parties and family events? Whether you're planning a celebration, family gathering, or just want to have fun in the water, the pool is a great option for all ages!

Availability is limited, and lifeguard coverage is required, so be sure to plan ahead.

National Community Education Day: A Sweet Surprise!

Minnewaska Area Schools is proud to celebrate National Community Education Day, a time to recognize the lifelong learning opportunities we offer for learners of all ages.

To celebrate, we've delivered cookies to each school building and hidden two \$25 Community Education gift certificates. One in Glenwood and one in Starbuck. These can be used toward any upcoming class, trip, or event.

If you find one, bring it to the Community Education Office to redeem. While you're there, we'd love to tell you more about what's coming up and help you register for your next adventure.

You never know what you might discover when you stop by. Thank you for supporting Community Education and helping us make learning a lifelong pursuit.



Purchase a Paver

Minnewaska Area District #2149 named Veterans Field in honor of all Veterans who have served and especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

In addition to Veterans Field, it is the Minnewaska Area Schools' honor to dedicate a section of our plaza, located between the baseball field and football field, to honor individuals who have served.

You can purchase an engraved, personalized paver to be displayed in the plaza. Each engraved paver is 7-³/₈ x 3-³/₈ and can be purchased for \$35. Placement of pavers within the plaza is random, and installation may not happen right away.

If you would like to purchase a paver, please fill out the form and send it to our office via email or mail. To access the form, visit our website, Community Education tab > scroll to the bottom of the page, in the blue box named "Resources," click on "Veteran Paver Order Form."

Please email the completed form to avanzee@isd2149.org or mail it to the school.

**PURCHASE
A PAVER**





Community Education Classes



MUSIC



Beginning Band Kick Start Lessons

Incoming 5th grade (or brand new) band students are invited to be part of a “kick off” week before school starts to get a jump start on their instruments. We directors highly recommend students attend if possible as it really helps students get started successfully!

Students will learn the basics of their instrument and leave with resources to get started playing. Cost is \$20. We hope ALL incoming band students can attend! Please contact Jen Germundson to request financial assistance or with any questions at jgermundson@isd2149.org.

DETAILS

- Dates: August 19–21, 2025
- Who: Students entering 5th grade or beginning an instrument
- Cost: \$20
- Location: MAHS Band Room
- Registration Deadline: August 19

SCHEDULE

- 9–9:30 a.m.: Flutes and Percussion
- 9:30–10 a.m.: Tubas, Baritones, Trombones
- 10–10:30 a.m.: French Horns and Trumpets
- 10:30–11 a.m.: Clarinets and Saxophones

LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

- Opening case, parts of instrument, put together, how to hold, take apart, how to oil valve, how to clean
- Mouthpieces: Reeds, embouchure, sound
- Breath and posture
- Put back together: make a sound
- How to read fingering chart and note names
- How to practice: LONG tones
- Percussion: Steady beat/metronome; Stick hold: Full and tap strokes
- Mallets: how to read keyboard

Instant Guitar for Hopelessly Busy People

Have you always wanted to learn the guitar but never found the time? In just one fun and engaging evening, this crash course will have you playing basic chords and strumming along to your favorite songs—no previous experience or private lessons required! Each session includes hands-on instruction, lecture/demonstration, and online resources to keep you learning after the class ends.

Note: Participants must register separately for each date listed below.

DETAILS

- Instructor: Craig Coffman
craigcoffman@justonceclasses.com, chordsarekey.com
- Location: Online via Zoom
- Ages: 13+
- Fee: \$55 per session (includes online book, follow-up lessons, professionally recorded class, and unlimited Q&A)

CLASS DATES (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE)

- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People

Learn how to play the piano the way the pros do—using chords! In this one-session crash course, you’ll discover how playing piano can be fun, simple, and rewarding without years of traditional lessons. No experience necessary. This course is partly hands-on instruction and partly lecture/demonstration, all delivered online via Zoom. You’ll walk away with skills that can give you years of musical enjoyment.

Note: Participants must register separately for each date listed below.

DETAILS

- Instructor: Craig Coffman
craigcoffman@justonceclasses.com, chordsarekey.com
- Location: Online via Zoom
- Ages: 13+
- Fee: \$55 per session (includes online book, follow-up lessons, professionally recorded class, and unlimited Q&A)

CLASS DATES (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE)

- Monday, Sept. 22, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, 6:30–9:30 p.m.



ECFE



Little Explorers: Infants–Toddler Class (non-separating class)

Explore why babies do what they do and how parents can guide them during their first two years of life. Meet other parents and enjoy the play areas that will be set up for parent and child to interact. Time will be set aside for Parent Education discussion topics. Sibling care is available.

DETAILS

- Age: Birth–2
- 7 sessions
- Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18
- Time: 8:30–9:30 a.m.
- Location: MAES Room 111
- Fee: Sliding Fee Scale
- Sibling care is available for an additional fee of \$10/child for 7 weeks.
- Class limit: 12
- Registration closes: Sept. 19
- Instructors: Sue Currens, Child Educator; Stephanie Thoen, Parent Educator

Explore & Learn: Ages 2–5 (separating class)

This multi-age class for children ages 2 and up will have a wide range of early learning activities! Each week will feature a new theme with a variety of

literacy, math, sensory exploration, art and motor activities. Parent education discussion topics will be chosen based on the interests of the group.

DETAILS

- Age: 2–5 years (not in Kindergarten)
- 7 Sessions
- Date: Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18
- Time: 10–11:30 a.m.
- Location: MAES, Room 111
- Fee: Sliding Fee Scale
- Sibling care is available for an additional fee of \$10/child for 7 weeks.
- Class limit: 12
- Registration closes: Sept. 19
- Instructors: Sue Currens, Child Educator; Stephanie Thoen, Parent Educator

Afternoon Adventures: Ages 2–5 (separating class)

This multi-age class will have a wide range of early learning activities! Each week will feature a new theme with a variety of literacy, math, sensory exploration, art and motor activities. Parent education discussion topics will be chosen based on the interests of the group.

DETAILS

- Age: 2–5 years (not in Kindergarten)
- 7 Sessions
- Date: Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18
- Time: 4–5:30 p.m.
- Location: MAES Room 111
- Fee: Sliding Fee Scale
- Sibling care is available for an additional fee of \$10/child for 7 weeks.
- Class limit: 12
- Registration closes: Sept. 19
- Instructors: Sue Currens, Child Educator; Stephanie Thoen, Parent Educator

Grandparents Are Special

Join us for a heartwarming one-time ECCE event celebrating the special bond between grandparents and their grandchildren! Designed for children ages 3–5 and their grandparents (or a special grand-friend), this class will include fun activities, stories, songs, and time to play and connect. Come make memories together and celebrate the love only grandparents can give! (Due to space limitations, we ask that only one adult attend with each child)

DETAILS

- Date: Monday, Oct. 20
- Time: 5–6 p.m.
- Location: MAES Room 111
- Fee: \$10
- Class limit: 12
- Registration closes: Oct. 10
- Instructors: Sue Currens, Child Educator

Dad and Me: Fun with Forest Animals

FOR AGES 3–5 WITH DAD OR A SPECIAL MALE CAREGIVER

Calling all dads and little explorers! This special ECCE class is designed for dads and their preschoolers to explore the wonders of the forest together through hands-on learning, play, and discovery. In addition to the fun, this class provides a great opportunity to bond with your child and connect with other dads. Come ready to learn, laugh, and create lasting memories with your little explorer!

DETAILS

- Age: 3–5 years (not in Kindergarten)
- Date: Monday, Nov. 24
- Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.
- Location: MAES Room 111
- Fee: \$15
- Class limit: 12
- Registration closes: Nov. 14
- Instructor: Sue Currens, Child Educator

ECCE Class Fees

Class fee covers the cost of the entire 7 week session. Pay according to your family income.

- Sibling care for seven 7-week sessions: \$10/child
- One Time Events have a one time fee. Contact Sue Currens if fee arrangements or a waiver are needed. **No families will be turned away due to inability to pay.**
- If you have any questions regarding the online registration process, contact (320) 239-1305.

Family Income	Cost per child for entire session
Under \$20,000	\$5
\$20,000–\$35,000	\$25
\$36,000–\$50,000	\$40
\$50,000–\$75,000	\$45
Above \$75,000	\$50



SPORTS



Youth Football Grades 1–6

Minnewaska Youth Football is open to students entering grades 1–6 and is a great opportunity to build fundamental skills, learn teamwork, and have fun on the field! Practices will take place on Tuesday evenings at the practice fields west of Glenwood State Bank Stadium (or on the game field if available). A special performance will also take place at halftime of a varsity football game.

DETAILS

- Grades: 1–6 (2025–26 school year)
- Fee: \$35
- Registration Deadline: Sept. 3, 2025

Note: T-shirts may not be available for those who register after the deadline.

PRACTICE & GAME SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m., Practice Fields
- Friday, Sept. 12, Approx. 8 p.m., Halftime of Varsity Game vs. Pierz
- Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6 p.m., Practice Fields
- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m., Practice Fields

Note: All youth football information is subject to change due to fall weather conditions.

Tackle Football Grades 5–6

This youth tackle football program is open to students entering 5th and 6th grade for the 2025–26 school year. Participants will learn basic football techniques, position-specific skills, team play, and the importance of safety in a full-contact, padded environment.

The Minnewaska Football Association will provide helmets, shoulder pads, pants, jerseys, and mouth guards. Players are responsible for cleats (rubber soles only), athletic cups, and any additional personal gear.

Teams will compete in approximately six games within the Willmar Football League, typically held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Additional scrimmages may be scheduled. All coaches are USA Football Certified. Maximum of 60 participants. Deadline to register is Aug. 8, 2025.

EQUIPMENT HANDOUT

- Date: Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025; Time: TBD

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- Mondays, 5:30–7 p.m., Aug. 11, 18, 25; Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6
- Wednesdays, 5:30–7 p.m., Aug. 13, 20, 27
- Saturdays, 8:30–10:30 a.m., Aug. 16, 23, 30; Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11

COST

- Registration: \$150 (includes team T-shirt)
- Equipment Deposit: \$80 (refunded when equipment is returned in good condition)

Junior Laker Dance (Session 1)

The Junior Laker Dance program offers youth dancers the opportunity to learn and grow in **kick** and **jazz** styles. Dancers will gain skills in technique, teamwork, and performance in a fun and supportive environment. The session culminates in a performance to showcase what they've learned!

DETAILS

- Dates: Sept. 11–Dec. 11, 2025
- Days: Thursdays
- Location: MAHS Cafeteria
- Performance Shirt: Included at no cost
- Performance Opportunity: One scheduled event during the session

Note: Jazz shoes are required but not included in the registration fee.

GRADES & TIMES

- Grades K–2: 5:30–6:15 p.m., \$125/dancer
- Grades 3–6: 6:15–7:45 p.m., \$130/dancer

Fall Youth Volleyball Grades K–4

Join the Minnewaska Volleyball community this fall! Athletes will learn the fundamentals of volleyball through fun and engaging practices led by our 7th, 8th, and C-squad athletes and coaches.

DETAILS

- Grades: K–4
- Cost: \$40 per athlete
- Location: MAHS Main Gym (scrimmage also uses Auxiliary Gym)

PRACTICE DATES (K–4)

- Monday, Sept. 8, 2025
- Monday, Sept. 15, 2025
- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025
- 4–5 p.m.



Fall Youth Volleyball Grades 5–6

Join the Minnewaska Volleyball community this fall! Athletes will learn the fundamentals of volleyball through fun and engaging practices led by our 7th, 8th, and C-squad athletes and coaches. Participants will also have the opportunity to showcase their skills in a scrimmage setting, receiving guidance and support from experienced student-athletes and coaching staff.

DETAILS

- Grades: 5–6
- Cost: \$40 per athlete
- Location: MAHS Main Gym (scrimmage also uses Auxiliary Gym)
- T-Shirt: Provided to 5th and 6th-grade participants for the scrimmage

PRACTICE DATES (5–6)

- Monday, Sept. 8, 2025
- Monday, Sept. 15, 2025
- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025
- Time: 4–5 p.m.

5TH & 6TH GRADE SCRIMMAGE:

- Date: Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025
- Time: 1–4:30 p.m.
- Location: MAHS Main & auxiliary gyms
- Coaches: C-Squad Athletes & Coaches
- Refs & Line Judges: JV & Varsity Players

Fall Youth Soccer Grades Pre-K–6

Minnewaska Mallards Soccer is excited to offer a fall soccer league for boys and girls in Pre-K (age 4) through 6th grade for the 2025–26 school year. Players will build skills, stay active, and have fun on the turf while being part of a great team experience. All participants receive a Minnewaska Mallards T-shirt!

DETAILS

- Dates: Saturdays, Sept. 6–Oct. 11, 2025
- Location: Turf Field, MAHS
- Fee: \$45 per child (includes a T-shirt)

PRACTICE TIMES

- Pre-K (age 4)–2nd Grade: 9–9:55 a.m.
- 3rd–6th Grade: 10–10:55 a.m.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Shin guards and soccer socks (must cover the shin guards)

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Soccer-specific cleats (no front toe spike)

All other equipment will be provided by Minnewaska Mallards Soccer.

QUESTIONS?

- minnewaskamallards@gmail.com
- David Vinje: (320) 219-9197

Fall Youth Wrestling Grades K–6

LAKER TAKEDOWN CAMP

This free, two-day youth wrestling camp is designed for students in grades K–6 who want to learn the fundamentals of wrestling in a fun and supportive environment. Campers will practice skills, drills, and basic techniques while building strength, confidence, and sportsmanship.

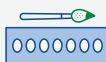
DETAILS

- Dates: Aug. 4–5, 2025
- Time: 6–8 p.m.
- Grades: K–6
- Location: MAHS Wrestling Room and Auxiliary Gym
- Cost: FREE

Even though this camp is free, registration is required so coaches can plan accordingly.



ART



Summer Art Camp (Session 3: Afternoon)

Let your imagination and creativity flourish while experimenting various 2D and 3D studio art mediums! Drawing, screen-printing, painting, clay, and everything in between. Projects will be differentiated and tiered so everyone will be challenged.

Family and friends are invited to an Art Show at the end of camp as artists will present their achievements and creations. Snacks will be provided.

- Projects will differ from Art Camp Session 1 & 2. Projects will also be differentiated if sent to both Morning & Afternoon of Session 2.
- If signing up for both sessions, please plan on sending lunch with the artist as they will eat in the art room and have recess.

DETAILS

- Dates: Aug. 18–21 (Monday–Thursday)
- Time: 1–4 p.m.
- Cost: \$85
- Who: Students entering K–8
- Location: MAHS Art Rooms
- Instructor: Bryan Draxten
- Registration: Online
- Registration Deadline: Aug. 13
- Minimum: 5, Maximum: 30

Spooktacular Halloween Crafts

Get into the Halloween spirit with a craft class that's all treats and no tricks! In this Spooktacular Halloween Crafts class, students will have a blast creating festive decorations, creepy critters, and boo-tiful keepsakes to celebrate the season. This session features hands-on, age-appropriate projects using a variety of fun materials. From pumpkin lanterns and haunted house scenes to ghost garlands, kids will explore their creativity while building fine motor skills and holiday excitement. Come dressed for mess and ready for some spooky fun!

DETAILS

- Date: Monday, Oct. 27, 2025
- Time: 3:15–5 p.m.
- Grades: K–6
- Location: MAHS FACS Room E156
- Fee: \$22
- Minimum Participants: 6
- Instructor: Kasey Douvier



YOUTH ENRICHMENT



Central Lakes Driving School

Meet Minnesota State Requirements with Ease. If you're under 18, MN law requires:

- 30 hours of classroom instruction
- 6 hours of behind-the-wheel (BTW) training with a licensed instructor

For more information, visit:

<https://centrallakesdrivingschool.com/>

Kids Safety Camp

The Starbuck 9th Annual Safety Camp is a free two-day camp designed to get kids going into 4th–7th grade. Learn about important safety topics and participate in fun activities. Members of Starbuck Police Department and other Public Safety Partners will be hosting this event.

DETAILS

- Aug. 20 and 21; 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Minnewaska Area High School

TOPICS

- Compass Reading
- K9 Demo
- Bullying and Internet Safety
- First Aid/EMS
- Tour of Fire Truck and Squad Cars
- Medical Helicopter Tour
- Powerline Safety
- Fire Safety
- Weather Safety and 911 use
- And more

Kids will have the opportunity to build positive relationships with local Police, Fire, and EMS staff, all while learning and having fun. This is also a great opportunity for high schoolers and early college students to receive volunteer hours.

Register on the Starbuck Police Department website or Facebook page. Check-in starts at 7:50 a.m., and Camp starts at 8 a.m. Check-out starts at 3 p.m. Camp will be held rain or shine.

Questions? Contact Starbuck Police Officer Ryan Franks at (320) 239-8477 or Charleen Drewes at charleen.drewes@starbuckpolice.com.

All About Space

This hands-on science class will have students exploring the mysteries of outer space through fun, interactive activities. From planets to stars and everything in between, young scientists will investigate the wonders of the universe in an engaging and educational setting.

DETAILS

- Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025
- 3:30–5 p.m.
- Grades: 3–6
- Location: MAHS Art Room 168
- Fee: \$10
- Maximum Participants: 20

Presented in partnership with Pope County 4-H

Babysitting Clinic

Interested in babysitting? This clinic is the perfect starting point for youth looking to gain the skills and confidence needed to care for children. Learn the basics of child care, safety, emergency response, and age-appropriate play through interactive lessons and discussions.

DETAILS

- Oct. 1, 2, 8, and 9, 2025
- 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Grades: 5th grade and older
- Location: MAHS FACS Room E156
- Fee: \$30
- Minimum: 5, Maximum: 10

Presented in partnership with Pope County 4-H

Making Machines

This class introduces students to the world of engineering and design through hands-on activities focused on simple machines. Participants will explore how everyday tools work and build their own mini machines to take home. A fun and engaging way to spark interest in STEM!

DETAILS

- Nov. 3–6, 2025
- 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Grades: K–12
- Location: MAHS Art Room E168
- Fee: \$15
- Maximum Participants: 15

Presented in partnership with Pope County 4-H

Kids in the Kitchen: Spooky Snacks & Creepy Creations!

In this Halloween-inspired Kids in the Kitchen class, students will whip up spooky snacks and creepy creations perfect for the season. Young chefs will learn basic kitchen safety while making fun recipes like mummy pizzas, monster tacos, ghostly fruit kabobs, and more.

DETAILS

- Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025; 3:15–5 p.m.
- Grades: K–6
- Location: MAHS FACS Room E156
- Fee: \$22
- Minimum Participants: 6
- Instructor: Kasey Douvier

Kids in the Kitchen: Pizza Party Edition

Designed for students in grades K–6, this hands-on class will teach basic kitchen safety skills while introducing kids to the joys of cooking.

Students will explore the delicious world of pizza-themed foods, from classic pies and pizza muffins to creative twists like pizza quesadillas and dessert pizzas. This class emphasizes safe kitchen practices, basic cooking techniques, and teamwork in a fun and supportive environment. No experience necessary.

DETAILS

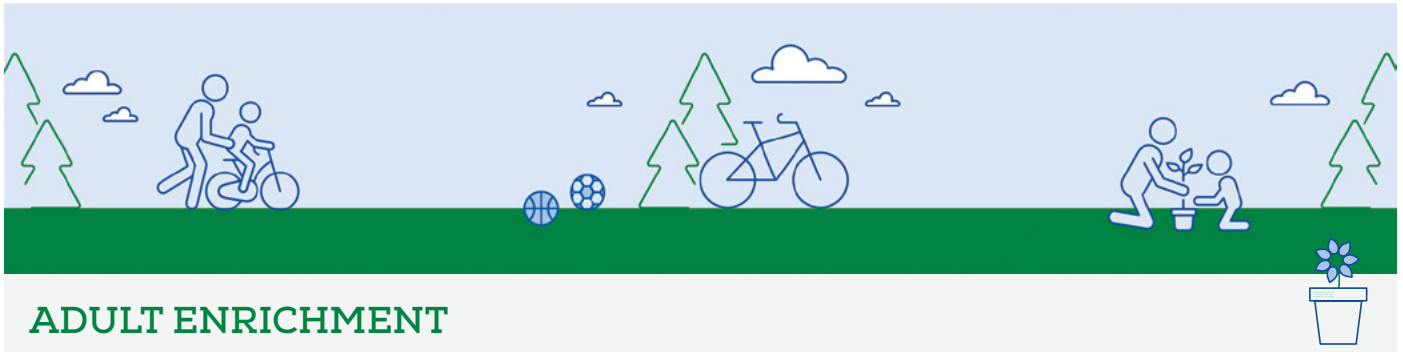
- Tuesday, Sept. 23; 3:15–5 p.m.
- Grades: K–6
- Location: MAHS FACS Room E156
- Fee: \$27
- Minimum Participants: 6
- Instructor: Kasey Douvier

Maker Mondays

Maker Mondays gives students the chance to tinker, design, build, and explore using a variety of exciting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) tools. From Beebots and Osmos to 3-D pens and Puzzlets, students will explore new technology and materials while building critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Risk-taking and learning through mistakes are encouraged in this inspiring, interactive environment!

DETAILS

- Sept. 22, Sept. 29, and Oct. 6, 2025
- 2:45–4 p.m.
- Location: MAES Media Center
- Fee: \$50



ADULT ENRICHMENT

Macramé Plant Hanger Class

Add a handmade touch to your home decor in this relaxing and creative macramé workshop! In just one evening, you'll learn the basic knots and techniques needed to make your own stylish plant hanger. No prior experience necessary. All materials will be provided.

DETAILS

- Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025
- 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- Location: MAHS Art Room E161
- Audience: Adults
- Fee: \$25 per person

Fall Wood Bead Garland Making Class

Celebrate the cozy colors of autumn by creating your own beautiful wood bead garland. In this hands-on class, you will design a seasonal garland perfect for decorating mantels, shelves, or tables. No experience needed. All supplies are included.

DETAILS

- Monday, Oct. 13, 2025
- 6:30–7:30 p.m.
- Location: MAHS Art Room E161
- Audience: Adults
- Fee: \$20 per person
- Instructor: Danielle Lien

Snowman Guided Paint Class

Paint a cheerful snowman to brighten up your winter decor. This guided painting class is perfect for beginners and experienced painters alike. You will be led step by step to create your own seasonal masterpiece in a relaxed and fun environment. All materials are provided.

DETAILS

- Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025
- 6:30–8:30 PM
- Location: MAHS Art Room E161
- Audience: Adults
- Fee: \$35 per person
- Instructor: Danielle Lien

55+ Driver Improvement Program

Qualify for a **10% discount** on your auto insurance by completing this program! This 4-hour in-person refresher course is designed for drivers age 55 and older who have previously completed an 8-hour defensive driving course approved by the state of Minnesota.

Minnewaska Area Community Ed will offer an **in-person** class at the MAHS Media Center **if at least 10 people are enrolled**. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate eligible for a 10% auto insurance discount.

DETAILS

- Instructor: Minnesota Highway Safety and Research Center
- Location: MAHS Media Center
- Cost: \$27
- Registration: Call (320) 239-1305
- <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/mhsrc/55-plus/default.aspx>

CHOOSE YOUR IN-PERSON CLASS

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, 3–7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, 3–7 p.m.

GED, Adult Basic Education

FREE CLASSES OFFERED

Adult basic education and GED preparation classes are free for adults and open to anyone age 17 and older who is not presently enrolled in a regular secondary or day program.

Through Adult Basic Education, participants may take a free online GED or ACCUPLACER test preparation class at their convenience. Classes are ongoing. Both of these online classes provide access via the internet 24/7.

To learn more, contact Alexandria Area Basic Education at (320) 762-3312 ext. 1.





Upcoming Trips



New Orleans

OCT. 16 – 19, 2025

- Day 1: Fly to NOLA, French Quarter Tour, Cafe du Monde
- Day 2: Possible Tours include: City Tour, Swamp Tour, Mardi Gras World, Evening Ghost Tour
- Day 3: Free Day & Evening Dinner Cruise
- Day 4: Fly to Minnesota

COST

- \$1,500 per person (Due in full at time of registration)
- Cost includes: Airfare, New Orleans Airport Shuttle, 3 Nights Lodging, Organized Tour(s), Final Evening Dinner and Jazz Cruise

FINE PRINT

- Registration deadline: Aug. 22, 2025
- Minimum of 12 people, Maximum of 22 people

New York Broadway

JUNE 1 – 5, 2026

- Day 1: Fly to NYC, Central Park, Times Square
- Day 2: Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Financial District, Broadway Show
- Day 3: 9/11 Museum, Observation Deck, Broadway Show
- Day 4: Free Day, Final Broadway Show
- Day 5: Goodbye NYC

COST

- \$2,350 (2 people in a room with KING bed)
- \$2,400 (2 or 3 people in a room with 2 beds)
- Cost Includes: Airfare, NYC airport shuttle to/from hotel, 4 nights lodging in Times Square, tickets to attractions listed above, tickets to 3 Broadway shows, and experienced tour guide
- Cost does not include transportation to/from MSP airport.

FINE PRINT

- \$500 deposit per person due Dec. 1, 2025 (cash or check only)*
- 20 paid participants is the min. number of participants needed. Deposit will be refunded if minimum is not met. Group does not exceed 28 participants.
- Balance due Feb. 2, 2026 (Balance due depends on room type and number of people in room (see above).
- The 3 Broadway shows will be chosen based on availability.

Have questions about the trips?

Tour Leader: Jeff Iverson (MAHS Choir Director)
Trip Questions: jiverson@isd2149.org
Registration Questions: avanzee@isd2149.org

Little Lakers Preschool & ECCE

Sue Currens, Early Childhood Coordinator



Welcome to the 2025–26 school year! I'm excited to serve as the District Early Childhood Coordinator and to support your family as you begin your Laker journey. At Minnewaska, we offer a variety of early childhood program options to meet the needs of all families. We look forward to meeting you and helping your child grow, learn and thrive. Below, you'll find important information about Minnewaska Early Childhood programs.

If you have any questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact me at scurrens@isd2149.org or call (320) 239-1406 and leave a message.

Little Laker Preschool

Minnewaska Schools offers a variety of preschool options for children ages 3–5 through our Little Lakers Preschool program. Our curriculum is aligned with the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress and is designed to help children transition successfully into kindergarten. Little Lakers Preschool has a 4-star rating in the MN Parent Aware System, which is the highest possible rating.

Our preschool features licensed teachers, a strong curriculum, and ongoing assessments to monitor each child's growth.

At Minnewaska Little Lakers, we focus on nurturing the whole child—supporting their health, well-being, and development in social-emotional skills, early literacy, and math. Meals will be provided at no cost to families. Children attending half day receive breakfast and full day students receive breakfast and lunch.

CLASSES

- **For 3-year-olds:** 2 half days per week
- **For 4-year-olds:** 3 half-days, 3 full days, or 5 full days per week
- Full-day students also have access to before- and after-school care.

Spots Remaining

- All-Day, Every-Day 4 year old class: 7 spots
- T/TH: 2 spots
- MWF a.m.: 1 spot
- MWF Full-Day: 0 spots

A limited number of scholarships are available for families who qualify for tuition assistance based on eligibility guidelines.

LITTLE LAKERS PRESCHOOL INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED:

- Teacher assignments and additional information will be mailed to families in **mid-August**.
- The first day of classes will be on **September 4–5, 2025** for Preschool. Your child's teacher will contact you in later August to schedule an individual Meet and Greet appointment for Tuesday, September 2 or Wednesday, September 3. Bring your school supplies when you come for your Meet and Greet.

TRANSPORTATION

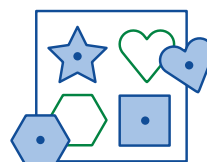
Parents are responsible to secure transportation arrangements for your child. Optional transportation for four-year-old children will be available through the Palmer Bus system. Alternatively, families may choose to utilize Rainbow Rider or arrange for their own transportation.

- Rainbow Rider: 800-450-7770
- Palmer Bus Service (4 year olds only): (320) 634-3272

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information has changed since registering your child, please make sure to update it in the online system or contact us directly. This ensures that any important mailings we send out reach you without delay. A current credit card also must be on file as you are automatically billed on the 15th of each month.

We look forward to partnering with you for a wonderful preschool experience.



REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL



Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

ECFE is a unique program where parents and children—ages birth to kindergarten entrance—attend class together. Classes are either non-separating, where parents and children engage in all activities together, or separating, where the class begins with joint activities before parents meet with a parent educator while children remain with a licensed early childhood educator.

In the fall of 2025 we will offer some 7 week ECFE classes that are taught by a licensed teacher and/or a parent educator. There will also be a few special, non-separating, events offered. Classes are offered quarterly and are promoted in the Minnewaska Messenger.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is a free and simple check to ensure your child is growing, learning, and developing as expected. It's best completed when your child is between 3 and 4 years old, allowing time for early support or interventions if any concerns are identified.

During your appointment, a trained professional will screen your child's:

- Vision and hearing
- Thinking and language skills
- Motor development

In addition, your child's health history and immunizations will be reviewed. Early Childhood Screening is required for enrollment in preschool and/or kindergarten in Minnesota.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Minnewaska Schools provides Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services for children from birth to age five who meet Minnesota eligibility criteria for special education.

- **Children ages 0–3** who qualify, receive services in their home or daycare setting in our Early Intervention Program.
- **Children ages 3–5** may receive special education services in a Little Lakers Preschool classroom, through ECFE, or in a daycare setting, depending on individual needs.

To learn more, visit <https://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/index.htm>. There, you'll find detailed information and a referral form that, once submitted, will be directed to your local school district if you wish to refer a child for evaluation.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, you're also encouraged to speak with your child's preschool teacher or contact the school directly. Stephanie Swalla, ECSE teacher, sswalla@isd2149.org.



Preschool Supply List

- 1 water bottle to be kept at school labeled with child's name
- 1 standard full-sized backpack (big enough to fit winter gear) labeled with child's name
- 1 sturdy pocket folder labeled with child's name
- 1 one-inch three-ring binder with front cover pocket (4yo classes only)
- 1 pkg page protectors (50 count, 4yo classes only)
- Boys – 1 pkg Playdough (4 count)
- Girls – 1 container of Clorox wipes
- 1 watercolor set
- 2 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 2 boxes broad-line Crayola markers (10 count)
- 3 large Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 Elmer's liquid glue
- 1 child scissors (blunt tip)
- 1 set Expo dry erase markers (chisel tip, 2 count)
- 1 box of Kleenex (250 count)
- 1 blanket for rest time (4yo all-day classes only)
- \$10 Preschool Supply Fee for additional classroom supplies, special days, etc. (Please make checks payable to Minnewaska Schools)

OPTIONAL ART OR CLASSROOM SUPPLIES FOR DONATION

- Dot stickers
- Magnetic dots
- Food coloring
- Laminating pouches
- Two-sided tape
- Packaging tape
- Shaving cream
- Ziploc bags
- Coffee filters

SNACKS

You will be assigned TWO weeks throughout the school year where you are responsible to provide a STORE bought snack for the class. Please keep in mind, we want it to be a healthy snack and not high in sugar.

Snack suggestions: Fresh fruit, crackers, jello cups, pudding cups, pretzels, granola bars, graham crackers, fruit cups, applesauce pouches, go-gurt, dry cereal, teddy grahams, popcorn.

ECFE OFFERINGS
AND REGISTRATION



REGISTER FOR
A SCREENING



Elementary School

Sarah Suchy, MAES Principal



Welcome back to a brand-new school year! I hope your summer has been filled with laughter, adventure, and special memories with your families. As we gear up for the 2025–26 school year, I am excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and connection at Minnewaska Area Elementary.

This year, you will continue to see structured literacy practices as an area of focus as our Minnewaska Elementary staff completes our two year LETRS training. Our dedicated team of educators will continue to implement and refine research-based structured literacy instruction to ensure all students build strong foundational skills in reading and writing. We are committed to meeting students where they are and providing

the tools they need to become confident, capable readers.

In addition, we will continue to have our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in near sight as creating a safe, respectful, and positive school climate remains a top priority. Through consistent expectations, positive reinforcement, and a proactive approach to behavior, we will continue building a learning environment where all students feel supported and valued.

We are thrilled to welcome a few new faces to our team from across our district. Each of them brings a wealth of talent and a passion for helping students thrive. Be sure to stop by and welcome them to our school!

As always, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school make a powerful impact.

Your involvement, communication, and support are key ingredients to your child's success.

We encourage you to stay connected throughout the year—whether it's attending school events, volunteering, or simply having regular conversations with your child about their school day.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead, filled with learning, joy, and continued growth. Let's make 2025–26 our best year yet!



Home-School Students Required to File Report

If you are homeschooling, you must file a Non-Public Education Compulsory Report with the District Office at Minnewaska Area Schools. If you did not receive a packet in the mail, please call (320) 239-1305.

W.I.N. Academy

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



We are more than excited for the upcoming school year and hope that you share in that sentiment. Our W.I.N. summer program was jam-packed with activities and full of learning experiences. We are prepping for our August 19 and 20 intake meetings to welcome new W.I.N. families and are excited to see all students on Tuesday, September 2.

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 to prepare students to return to their home schools.

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.

Be watching for your back-to-school packet in the mail. If you are unable to provide items on your class lists, please let us know, and we will make sure your student is ready for their first day. It is essential to complete all the forms and return them to us on the first day of school so that we can focus on serving the kids' needs on day one. If you have questions about your transportation to W.I.N., please contact your home district's provider. The entire W.I.N. Team is looking forward to the 25-26 school year.



Middle School

Blake Karas, MAMS Principal



Welcome back to an exciting new school year at Minnewaska!

We are thrilled to have our 4th through 8th-grade students return, ready to learn, grow, and thrive. Here's everything you need to know to start the year strong and stay connected.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

- 1 **Expanded Personalized Learning Programs:** Our personalized learning offerings are growing! Students from 4th to 8th grade will have access to new science and social studies online learning platforms providing personalized curriculum.
- 2 **New Technology Tools:** We are excited to integrate SmartPass tools to support student breaks and increase classroom instructional time.
- 3 **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Our SEL curriculum continues to grow, helping students build strong relationships and resilience.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

4th–6th Grade: Focus on foundational skills in math, reading, and science, with project-based learning to spark curiosity.

7th–8th Grade: Deeper investigation in STEM, humanities, and the arts, including drones classes for beginning exploration.

All Grades: Emphasis on growth mindset, collaboration, digital citizenship, and reading growth with teachers being trained in the science of reading with OL & LA.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

- Establish a consistent homework routine.
- Encourage reading daily—even 20 minutes every night makes a big difference!
- Support your child's use of technology with balance and safety in mind.
- Stay connected with teachers through email and ParentVue.

HOW FAMILIES CAN GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer for classroom activities or events.
- Join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).
- Attend school events and support your child's learning journey.

REMINDERS

- Please update your contact information in the school office if there has been a change.
- Pack nutritious lunches and snacks.
- Make sure your child has all necessary supplies as listed in the grade-level supply lists available on our website.

We look forward to a fantastic year filled with learning, friendship, and growth. Thank you for partnering with us to make Minnewaska a wonderful place for every student!

Important Dates to Remember

Open House

August 27, 2025
3:30–7:30 p.m.

First Day of School

September 2, 2025

School Picture Day

September 4, 2025

Early Release Days

December 23, 2025

Parent-Teacher Conferences

4th–6th by appointment, 7th–8th Open House

- October 13, 2025, 3:30–7:30 p.m. (4th–8th)
- October 15, 2025, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (4th–6th Only)
- February 19, 2026, 3:30–7:30 p.m. (4th–8th)
- February 23, 2026, 3:30–7:30 p.m. (4th–8th)



Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

We are thrilled to welcome everyone back for an exciting new school year at Minnewaska Area High School! Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we're ready to make this year full of learning, growth, and community.

Important Dates to Remember

First Day of School	Tuesday, September 2
Back to School Open House	Tuesday, August 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4–5 p.m. New family orientation/tours (high school office) If you are new to Minnewaska Area Schools and would like a tour, find your locker and classrooms we will have staff available to help you out! • 5–5:30 p.m. 9th grade student/parent meeting (auditorium) • 5:45–6:15 p.m. Senior meeting with parents (auditorium) • 6:15–7 p.m. Required ATCC college courses meeting (auditorium)
Homecoming	September 21–26
High School Parent-Teacher Conferences	October 13, 3:30–7:30 p.m.
Fall Break	October 16–20
End of Quarter 1	November 6

What's New This Year?

- 1 Personal Finance Requirement:** "Students who began grade 9 in the 2024–25 school year and later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12." Which means this year's Sophomores will need to fulfill this credit in the next three years.
- 2 Expanded Electives:** Intro to Drama/Theatre, College Government, Math Reasoning, an additional CNA section, Small Engines and coming second semester, Sports Medicine.
- 3 Technology Upgrades:** We are excited to announce upgrades to our classroom technology to better support all learners. As part of this initiative, we're beginning a replacement schedule to phase out older smartboards and install new interactive Newline panels. These modern tools will enhance engagement and provide improved functionality for both teachers and students.



Academic Highlights

Coinciding with our new courses highlighted above, we are continuing to build our programming to offer students an excellent balance of classes in our core academic areas and elective programs including 60+ college credits and Advanced Placement courses.

Expanding Career Pathways for Student Success

We are committed to expanding our Career Pathways to help students explore their interests and prepare for future success. Our continued growth with focus on three key areas.



AEMT Pathway

Agriculture, Engineering,
Manufacturing, and Technology



BCE Pathway

Business, Communications,
and Entrepreneurship



HSHS Pathway

Health Sciences and
Human Services

Students will have the opportunity to enroll in specialized courses aligned with these pathways along with access to valuable real-world experiences such as job shadowing, career exploration activities, internships and even paid work experiences.

These pathways are designed to ignite students' curiosity and support their journey toward meaningful career and college opportunities.



Extracurricular Activities

Join clubs, sports teams, and arts programs to explore your passions and make new friends!

Health & Safety Reminders

Your well-being is our priority. Please follow all health guidelines, report any concerns, and make use of our school health resources.

Need Help?

Our staff is here to support you. Reach out to your teachers, counselors, or the front office anytime.

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 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. 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 us if you are looking for support for your child in any way. Sometimes kids just need someone to talk to!

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mary Walsh
MS/HS Social Worker
(320) 239-1317

Jen Ring
MAHS Counselor
(320) 239-4800

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!

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.

Hannah Meagher
MAMS Counselor
(320) 239-4800

Jon Weaver
MAES Counselor
(320) 634-4567



Health Services

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



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
- Care Coordination
- Medication Administration
- Health Education for Students
- Hearing and Vision Screening
- Children's Dental Outreach Services
- 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. 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 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.

Transportation

Palmer Bus Service – Lars Ossmo, Site Manager, larso@palmerbusservice.com, (320) 634-3272



Palmer Bus Service takes pride in serving our community by safely transporting students.

We look forward to a fun-filled school year, creating positive connections with students, schools, and families. 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 the excellent Minnewaska District, we will address any issues that may occur.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY: KNOW THE RULES FOR RIDING THE BUS

- It is a privilege to ride a school bus.
- Students should keep voices down, hands and heads inside, stay seated and facing forward, and refrain from throwing objects or roughhousing for safety and to avoid driver distraction.
- Get to the bus stop 5–10 minutes before the assigned pickup time.
- Remain on the sidewalk or grass at the bus stop until the bus stops and opens its door for you to get in.
- When boarding the bus, go directly to a seat and sit down.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- There will be no food of any kind on a school bus, such as pop, candy, gum, chips, or cookies.
- Please help the bus driver keep the bus clean by picking up the trash and placing it in the garbage.
- When getting off the bus, wait for the bus driver to signal you to cross in front of the bus.
- Be careful when getting off the bus (always use the handrails), and only get off at your designated stop.
- If you forget something on the bus, do not run back to get it. Call Palmer Bus Service Minnewaska to arrange pickup.
- 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.
- No bad language, no bullying, and no fighting with other students or the driver.

Technology

Mark Meyer, IT Systems Manager



Once again, summer has flown by. 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 students in grades 5 and 9.

Email massupport@isd2149.org with questions or concerns about devices.

INSURANCE

Device insurance is available for purchase for students in grades 7–12 who take their Chromebooks home each day during the school year. Insurance does not cover intentional damage, 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.

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.

Insurance Cost	Deductible	Deductible	Deductible
\$45/year/student	Claim #1: \$0	Claim #2: \$45	Claim #3: \$90

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

DEVICE USE POLICY

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.”

Food Service

Bridget Gallagher, Director of Food Service



Minnewaska Area Schools Food Services proudly prepares meals for our students and staff that are healthy and taste great. We serve meals that meet tough federal standards, ensuring that meals are nutritious and well-balanced, while providing students with all the energy they need to succeed at school. We prepare approximately 700 nutritious breakfasts and 1100 lunches daily.

Our menu provides choices that accommodate the wide range of students’ tastes and gives students the opportunity to try new foods. Breakfast includes a main entrée, fruit choices, and milk. Lunch includes a main entrée, fruit choices, vegetable choices, whole grain, and milk.

À LA CARTE

Our à la carte option is available for students to purchase food items individually rather than as a complete meal. À la carte is available at the secondary school only. Students are charged separate prices for each à la carte item. Student à la carte use may be blocked at parent/guardian request by calling the Food Service Office at (320) 239-4800.

MEALS TO GO

We will be offering “Meals to Go” for any after-school activities your student(s) may be participating in. This is a great way to ensure they are getting a healthy meal when a home meal is not an option. Fill out the form on the Food Service site.

FREE MEALS

Meals for all students are FREE for the 2025–26 school year. However, we encourage families who fall within the income guidelines to complete a **confidential** application. Funding for some of the district’s educational programs is based on the number of students who are eligible for and receive free or reduced-price meals. Qualifying families may also receive discounts on school sports/activities and community education fees.

CELEBRATION TREATS

Take the stress and cost out of providing your elementary child’s classroom a treat for a birthday or other celebration! Select from a variety of treats on our Birthday form located on the Food Service site.

Glenwood Public Library Events

Call (320) 634-3375 to register.

Otter Cove on the Go Discover Energy: Chutes & Tunnels



TUESDAY, AUG. 12 AT 1 P.M.

- Glenwood Public Library
- Ages 6–10

Kids will design and test their own water pathways using tubes, funnels, pitchers, water wheels, and stoppers.

Free to attend, but registration is required. This event is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Otter Cove on the Go Hands-On Storytime: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

TUESDAY, OCT. 14 AT 10:30 A.M.

- Glenwood Public Library
- Ages 1–5

Little ones will explore uppercase and lowercase letters through fun, hands-on activities and create their very own coconut trees to take home. **Free to attend, but registration is required.** This event is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Otter Cove on the Go Hands-On Storytime: Not a Box

TUESDAY, AUG. 19 AT 2 P.M.

- Glenwood Public Library
- Ages 3–7

Kids will transform ordinary boxes into anything they dream up—robots, rockets, castles, and more! **Free to attend, but registration is required.** This event is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education.

The Night Before Gettysburg

Written and performed by Chuck Johnson of Perham. Q&A session to follow.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11 AT 6:30 P.M.

- MAHS Auditorium

In this one-act play, President Abraham Lincoln wrestles with the weight of the Civil War, the horrors of slavery, and personal loss, as he prepares the words that would help shape a nation. **Free and open to the public. No registration required.** Sponsored by the Friends of the Glenwood Public Library.



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@minnewaska_area_schools

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

Community Education	(320) 239-1305
Programs, Facilities & Pool	(320) 239-1305
Pool Office	(320) 239-1346
District Business Office (Superintendent)	(320) 239-4820
High School	(320) 239-4800
Middle School	(320) 239-1320
Elementary School	(320) 634-4567

ELEMENTARY
409 4th St. SE
Glenwood, MN 56334

W.I.N. Academy	(320) 239-2257
Food Service	(320) 239-1307
Adult Basic Ed/GED	(320) 762-3312
Palmer Bus Garage	(320) 634-3272
Activities Director	(320) 239-5103
Early Childhood Programs	(320) 239-1406
Little Lakers Child Care	(320) 239-5213
Minnewaska PTO, Kristal Wendt	(612) 270-1263

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