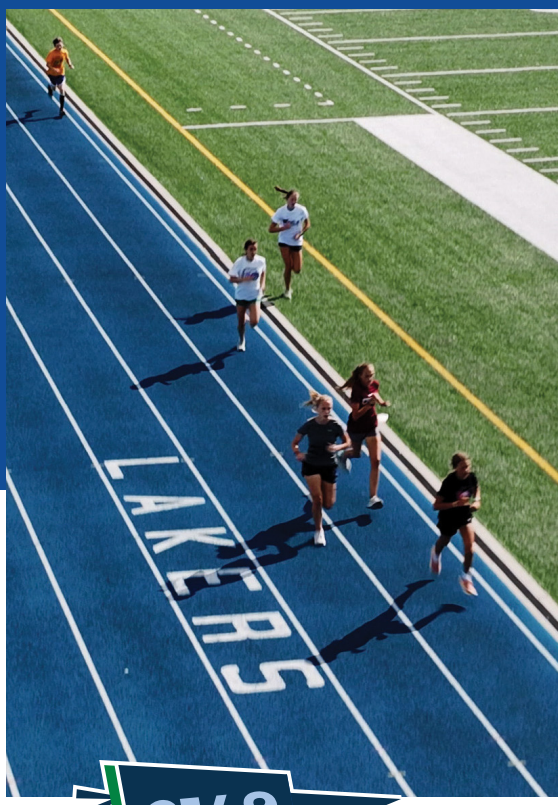
Minnewaska Area Schools

FALL 2026

Minnewaska Messenger

DISTRICT 2149





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District News

Scott Lempka, Superintendent





Dear Minnewaska Area Schools Community,

I am deeply honored and excited to serve as your next superintendent. Having previously served the district as the principal of both Minnewaska Area Elementary and Minnewaska Area Middle School, I know firsthand the incredible warmth and passion of this community. Our schools are fortunate to be supported by dedicated families, an invested public, and an outstanding staff of educators and professionals who put students first every single day.

As we look ahead, my first priority is simple: to listen and learn. Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting with our students, staff, parents, and community members. I want to hear about what you love most about Minnewaska, where you see opportunities for growth, and how we can work together to ensure every single student has the tools they need to thrive.

We have a bright future ahead of us. Together, we will continue to build on the strong foundation already in place, fostering an environment where innovation, inclusion, and excellence are at the forefront of everything we do.

I am eager to get to work, and I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming school events and community gatherings. Please feel free to reach out, say hello, and share your excitement and vision for our schools.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Heard about Homecoming?

Homecoming Week
September 21–26

Check the website for more information coming soon!



Join Us for an Open House

Grades 9–12

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
4–7 p.m.



Grades K–8

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
4–7 p.m.

School pictures **will** be taken during the open houses.
Palmer Bus will be available onsite during both open houses.

Pictures

9–12
Tuesday, August 25
4 – 7 p.m.

K–8
Wednesday, August 26
4 – 7 p.m.

Preschool–3 Retakes
September 9 & 10
7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

4–12 Retakes
September 16
7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Preschool Information

Meet and Greets
Preschool teachers will reach out to schedule individual meet-and-greets with all families for Monday, August 31, or Tuesday, September 1.

Classes Begin
Wednesday, September 2, for the all-day, every-day classes and MWF classes.

Classes begin Thursday, September 3, for the T/TH classes.

There is NO School Friday, September 4, or Monday, September 7 (Labor Day).

Kindergarten Registration

Open Now

For Kids Turning 5 by Sept. 1, 2026

ENROLL & REGISTER



2026 – 2027 School Calendar

AUGUST

17 New Employee Inservice
24 *Flex Inservice Day*
25-27 Teacher Inservice
25 9-12 Open House 4:00-7:00pm
26 K-8 Open House 4:00-7:00pm
31 First Day of School

T = 5.5
S = 1

AUGUST '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					

SEPTEMBER '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			

SEPTEMBER

4 No School
7 No School-Labor Day

T = 20
S = 20

OCTOBER

12 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
14 K-6 NO SCHOOL- P/T Conferences 7:30am-3:30pm
7-12th Grade & W.I.N in Session
15-16 NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
19 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice

T = 20.5
S = 19/18

OCTOBER '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

NOVEMBER '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					

NOVEMBER

5 End Quarter 1
6 No School-Teacher Workshop
26-27 No School - Thanksgiving

T = 19
S = 18

DECEMBER

23-31 No School - Winter Break

T = 16
S = 16

DECEMBER '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		

JANUARY '27

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
15 End Quarter 2
18 No School-Teacher Workshop
19 No School-Teacher Inservice

T = 20
S = 18

FEBRUARY

12 No School
15 No School - Presidents' Day
18 K-7 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
8-11 Registration 3:30-7:30pm
22 K-12 Conferences 3:30-7:30pm

T = 19
S = 18

FEBRUARY '27

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 '27

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			

MARCH

12 No School-Spring Break
25 End of Quarter 3
26 No School-Easter Break
29 No School-Teacher Workshop/Inservice

T = 21
S = 20

APRIL

16 No School

T = 21
S = 21

APRIL '27

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 '27

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					

MAY

27 Last Day of School
28 Teacher Workshop
28 Graduation

T = 20
S = 19

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 '27

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	51
Quarter 2	40	42
Quarter 3	44	46
Quarter 4	42	43
	170/169	182

Minnewaska Area Elementary School
K-3 SUPPLY LIST
2026-2027

NEW THIS YEAR!

ORDER YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLY KIT ONLINE!

- Convenient & Saves You Time
- Delivered to Your Child's Classroom Before School
- All Items Match Our List

SCAN TO ORDER!

or visit www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us

KIT PRICING AT A GLANCE

KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE	THIRD GRADE
$40	$45	$45	$45

Supply kits cover all grade-level school supplies. **Headphones and a water bottle are not included and must be purchased separately.**

KINDERGARTEN $40

- 1 large school bag (no wheels) labeled with child's name
- 3 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 4pk black Expo fine-tip dry erase markers (low odor)
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- Last name: A-H snack size Ziploc bags, I-P sandwich size Ziploc bags, Q-Z gallon or quart size Ziploc bags
- Clorox wipes
- Portfolio binder (includes page protectors)
- $60 for snacks to be purchased by the teacher. (Please make checks payable to classroom teacher)

Crayons, markers and glue sticks for Kindergarten students have been donated by Chippewa Falls and Barsness Lutheran Churches

FIRST GRADE $45

- 12 No. 2 pencils – Ticonderoga brand
- 3 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 box Crayola colored pencils (12 count)
- 2 boxes Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 2 boxes wide Crayola markers (classic colors)
- 1 folder
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 1 4pk black Expo dry erase markers (low odor)
- 6 small Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 water bottle (labeled)
- 1 Crayola watercolor paint set (8 count)
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- 1 box of Graham Crackers
- Last name: A-H: 1 box of Kleenex I-P: 1 container of Clorox wipes Q-Z: 1 roll of paper towels
- $20 cash for parties & misc.

SECOND GRADE $45

- 24 No. 2 pencils – Ticonderoga brand (sharpened)
- 2 boxes basic crayons (24 count)
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 box Crayola washable markers
- 1 box Crayola fine-tip washable markers
- 3 large glue sticks
- 1 spiral bound notebook (wide ruled)
- 1 spiral drawing pad (for art)
- 1 4pk dry erase markers (low odor)
- 1 Fiskars scissors
- 3 pocket folders (red, blue, green)
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 water bottle
- 1 large pink 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 $45

- 24 No. 2 pencils – Ticonderoga brand
- 1 box of Crayons (24 count)
- 1 box classic colored pencils
- 1 box classic Crayola markers
- 1 4pk black Expo fine tip dry erase markers (low odor)
- 1 4pk black Expo chisel tip dry erase markers (low odor)
- 1 dry erase board eraser
- 2 highlighters (any color)
- 1 spiral bound sketch book (for art)
- 2 composition notebooks
- 1 Fiskars 7" student scissors
- 3 pocket folders (solid colors)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 4 large glue sticks
- 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.

GRADES K-3: ORDER YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLY KIT ONLINE!

To make back-to-school season easier, we are offering a convenient fee that covers your child's classroom supplies for the school year. Simply scan the QR code above to purchase your kit today!

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., please call the school office at 320.634.4567

School Supplies

GRADES 4–6

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
- ☐ 2 glue sticks
- ☐ 2 spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
- ☐ 1 spiral drawing pad for Art class (Target, Walmart, etc.)
- ☐ 3 folders
- ☐ 8-10 Expo dry erase markers
- ☐ 1 pair scissors
- ☐ 3 boxes of Kleenex (250 count)
- ☐ 1 mouse with cord/USB connection
- ☐ Tennis shoes for Phy Ed.
- ☐ Pencil box
- ☐ 1 container of disinfecting wipes
- ☐ Student planner for Martinson, Modahl and Poegel's students
- ☐ $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 Martinson, Modahl, Poegel, C. Greene, Larsen, Resch

5th Grade Music Fee

All 5th Grade student pay "5-6 Muisc Shirt" fee (Worn for all music performances)

Band Students

Pay for your "Band Book" fee for your grade level

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)
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Minnewaska music t-shirt for ALL music performances
- ☐ $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 books, materials, and binder for class)
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Student planner for C.Greene, Larsen and Resche's students
- ☐ $15 Class Dues payable to your classroom teacher (reward parties, special projects, and classroom necessities throughout the year)

6TH GRADE BAND SUPPLIES

- ☐ Pay the "6th Grade Band Fee" on SchoolPay
- ☐ 3-ring binder (if binder from last year is lost or broken)
- ☐ Instrument supplies (reeds, oil, sticks, etc)



GRADES 7–8

Seventh Grade

- ☐ Headphones or earbuds
- ☐ #2 Pencils or mechanical pencils (24 count)
- ☐ 2 twelve-pack colored pencils
- ☐ 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 HS office)
- ☐ School dues - visit School Pay at www.SchoolPay.com
  9th–11th: $15
  12th: $20
  Parking permit: $30

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

- ☐ Combination padlock or rent on www.SchoolPay.com
- ☐ Shorts/sweatpants per weather
- ☐ T-shirt/sweatshirt/jacket/hat/gloves per weather
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Tennis shoes
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Towel

SPANISH CLASS:

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

ART CLASS:

- ☐ Sketchbook

Activities

Phil Johnsrud, Activities Director



We are excited about the upcoming school year and the many opportunities for participation our Laker students have at Minnewaska Area Schools. A new school year brings change, and 2026–27 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 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 completed and fees paid before the first practice. Varsity, JV, and 9th-grade (most junior high) practices begin on Monday, August 17th, while a couple of junior high practices start on the first day of school, Monday, August 31st.

JH Sports that begin on Aug. 17

- Girls Tennis (7–12)
- Boys & Girls Cross Country (7–12)
- Girls Swim & Dive (7–12)
- Boys Soccer (7–12)

JH Sports beginning on Aug. 31 (2nd day of school)

- Football
- Volleyball



FALL PARENT/PARTICIPANT SPORTS MEETING

The 2026–27 Minnewaska **Laker Sports Meeting for all parents/guardians, participants, and coaches in grades 7–12** will take place on Wednesday, August 12th, at Minnewaska Area High School. **This year, the meeting's focus will be on addressing all Laker student-athletes and families, as Sports Anchor for the Minnesota Lynx & Timberwolves, Marney Gellner, will kick off the evening by speaking about high school sports.** Marney's message will take place in the main gym at Minnewaska Area High School. Following Marney Gellner'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 that Laker families and coaching staff can avoid surprises during the season. As mentioned earlier, the evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with Marney Gellner in the main gym and will be open to parents/guardians, participants, and coaches of all seasons. Following Marney Gellner, Minnewaska Area Activities Director Phil Johnsrud will speak briefly to athletes and parents, then breakout sessions for each sports program will be 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 2026 fall season. Physicals can be completed at a medical facility of your choice. Schedule your appointment at your convenience, keeping in mind that they must be completed before August 17th, 2026. The MSHSL requires physicals, meaning 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 13th due to the merger of our Laker Activities registration provider. Minnewaska Area Schools website (minnewaska.k12.mn.us). For those without internet access, please visit the Minnewaska Area Activities Office for assistance with registration.

R-Schools, the Minnewaska Area School activity registration platform, has merged and is now called Arbiter. Keep in mind that registering in advance and providing all appropriate contact information are critical in this process, as they're 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 on the school website under the Community Ed or Activities tab, or by calling the Principal/Activities office at (320) 239-1520.

ONLINE TICKETING LAKER EVENTS

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

Online ticketing for school activities is now a staple for many local schools and is expected to continue expanding. MSHSL State Tournaments and several section tournaments have also moved to online ticketing only (No Cash). Online ticketing is a significant advantage for school districts across the state, as it expedites account preparation and closure and improves efficiency. With that said, the Minnewaska Activities Department will move to all-online purchasing for admission to the events mentioned above. The following activity payment options will continue this upcoming 2026–27 school year.

MINNEWASKA LAKER ACTIVITY ADMISSION OPTIONS

- **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** 2026–27 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 Principal's 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 GoFan App and purchasing a season pass or showing their Laker Student ID at the admission table.*
- **Adult Spectators:** Adults can purchase an Individual 2026–27 Season Activity Pass by using the GoFan App or the online GoFan 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 in advance via the GoFan App or Vanco Website, or at the door by scanning the Laker QR Code or using a credit or debit card. The cost is $8 for adults or $5 for students.
- **No Cash Box or Cash Payments for Admission for the 2026–27 School Year for Volleyball, Football, Dance, Swim & Dive, Boys & Girls Basketball, Wrestling.**

VANCO EVENTS LINK

Fall Activities Schedule

Football

GRADES 9–12
Monday, Aug. 17, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Practices at MAHS

GRADES 7–8
Monday, Aug. 31, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Volleyball

GRADES 9–12
Monday, Aug. 17, 8–10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Main and auxiliary gyms

GRADES 7–8
Monday, Aug. 31st (1st Day of School)

7th and 8th Grade Practices will be held at WIN Academy (Starbuck) from 3:30 p.m. – 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)

Boys and Girls Cross Country

GRADES 7–12
Monday, Aug. 17, 7 a.m.
Stadium football field

Girls Tennis

GRADES 9–12
Monday, Aug. 17, 7:30–10:30 a.m.;
Tuesday, Aug. 18–Friday, Aug. 21st, 4–6 p.m.
Tennis Courts

GRADES 7–8
Monday, Aug. 24, 7:30–9 a.m.
Tuesday–Thursday evening practices from 5–7 p.m.
Tennis Courts

Girls Swim and Dive

GRADES 7–12

Swimmers: Monday, Aug. 17, 8–11 a.m.
MAHS
For the first day of practice, please bring a suit, swim cap, googles, towel and water bottle.

Divers: Monday, Aug. 31, 3:15–5:15 p.m.

Boys Soccer

GRADES 9–12
Monday, Aug. 17, 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. 17, 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, Monday, Aug. 31.





SAVE THE DATE

Veterans Day Program

Nov. 11, 2026 • 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend



Purchase a Paver to Honor a Veteran

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 ⅜ x 3 ⅜ 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.

SCAN TO PURCHASE

A Letter From Angie VanZee, Community Education Director



Minnewaska Families and Community Members,

Welcome to another exciting season of learning, growth, and connection through Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education!

As we begin the fall season, we are proud to continue offering opportunities for learners of all ages. From our youngest learners to adults seeking new hobbies, wellness opportunities, and lifelong learning experiences. Community Education plays an important role in strengthening the connection between our schools and communities, and we are excited to continue building partnerships that enhance opportunities for students, families, and community members throughout the Minnewaska area.

This fall brings many exciting opportunities, including youth recreation programs, enrichment classes, fitness and wellness offerings, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes, school-age child care, and much more. We are especially grateful for the collaboration and support from local organizations and community partners who help make some of these opportunities possible. These partnerships continue to strengthen our schools and communities while creating meaningful experiences for learners of all ages.

One exciting update this year is the continued rollout of our new registration platform, Arux. This new system will help streamline registration, communication, and program management for families participating in Community Education programming. When creating or updating your Arux account, please make sure to select that you would like to receive marketing and communication content. This will be one of the primary ways instructors and Community Education staff communicate important program information, updates, and reminders. It will also be how we share monthly flyers and information regarding upcoming opportunities and events offered through Community Education.

We encourage you to explore the many opportunities included in this newsletter and find ways to get involved, stay active, learn something new, and connect with others in our communities.

Thank you for your continued support of Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education. We look forward to connecting with you this fall!



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 Education Office at (320) 239-1304 for more information.

National Community Education Day



Thank You to Our Community Education Instructors

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our Community Education instructors. Your dedication, passion, and willingness to share your time and talents make a meaningful difference in our community.

Because of you, we can offer a wide variety of engaging, enriching, and valuable learning opportunities for people of all ages. Your commitment helps create connections, inspire lifelong learning, and strengthen our community in countless ways.

Thank you for all that you do—we are truly grateful for each of you and the important role you play.







Community Education

How to Register Online

Introducing Arux, your new digital home for Enrichment at Minnewaska Community Education!

Minnewaska Area Schools
District 2149

Arux Guide Access

For more info on account management, adding family members and emergency contacts, scan the QR code or see the **For Community Members** section at

- https://guide.arux.app/docs/for-parents.

You'll access Arux to:

- View and Download Receipts and Tax Statements
- Register for Community Education programs
- List and Update Emergency Contacts
- Manage Payment Methods

Getting Started

To get started using Arux, follow these steps:

1. Scan the QR code or visit: **https://minnewaska.arux.app/**
2. Click **Sign In** to start creating your account and use the link to **Create one now**.
3. Complete the Register a New Account form.
4. Once your account is created, select **Explore Programs** to view available course programming.

Access Arux

arux

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

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: Aug. 18–20
- Who: Students entering 5th grade or beginning an instrument
- Cost: $20
- Schedule:
  - 1–1:30 p.m.: Flutes and Percussion
  - 1:30–2:00 p.m.: Tubas, Baritones, Trombones
  - 2:00–2:30 p.m.: French Horns and Trumpets
  - 2:30–3:00 p.m.: Clarinets and Saxophones
- Location: MAHS Band Room
- Registration Deadline: Aug. 18

Maker Mondays

Start your week with curiosity, creativity, and hands-on fun! Maker Mondays is back and better than ever, giving 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

- Dates: Nov. 9, 16, 23
- Time: 2:45–4:15 p.m.
- Cost: $50
- Location: MAES Media Center

All About Farm Animals (Grades 4+)

Join us for a fun-filled program offered in partnership with Pope County 4-H to learn all about animals on the farm! Participants will enjoy barnyard-themed crafts, a farm-inspired snack, games, and hands-on activities as they explore life on the farm. Held annually in the fall.

DETAILS

- Date: Oct. 1
- Time: 3:15–4:45 p.m.
- Cost: $15 per participant
- Location: MAHS Art Room #168
- Maximum: 15
- Presented in partnership with Pope County 4-H



Babysitting Clinic (Grades 5+)

Learn to be a successful babysitter through this 4-H program offered in partnership with Pope County 4-H. Sessions will cover Emergency Prep, Food & Safety, Ages & Stages, and Being a Babysitting Entrepreneur. Held annually in the fall and late winter.

DETAILS

- Dates: Sept. 14, 15, 17, 18
- Time: 3:15–4:45 p.m.
- Cost: $30 per participant
- Location: MAHS FACS Room #E156
- Maximum: 10
- Presented in partnership with Pope County 4-H

Resume Workshop: Preparing for Work and for Life (Grades 9+)

This workshop, offered in partnership with Pope County 4-H, is designed to help youth prepare for employment opportunities now and after graduation. Participants will learn how to build a professional resume, practice interview skills, and gain confidence in presenting themselves to employers. In addition to career-readiness skills, the workshop will also explore ways to balance personal success, goals, and overall well-being while entering the workforce. Held annually in the fall.

DETAILS

- Date: Sept. 28–29
- Time: 3:15–4:45 p.m.
- Cost: $30 total
- Location: MAHS Room #E164
- Maximum: 14
- Presented in partnership with Pope County 4-H

In-Person Driver's Education–Classroom Instruction (30 Hours)

Offered through MAS Community Education in partnership with Roadworthy Driver's Education.

For teens ready to begin their journey toward earning a driver's license, the State of Minnesota requires **a minimum of 30 hours of classroom instruction** before taking the written permit exam. While online options are available, we know that online learning isn't the right fit for every student. That's why we're excited to bring an **in-person classroom experience** to Minnewaska, with a knowledgeable Roadworthy instructor leading every session. Students will benefit from real-time conversation, hands-on learning, and a structured environment built for success.

In addition to classroom instruction, Minnesota also requires **6 hours of Behind-the-Wheel training** with a licensed instructor before a student may take their road test. Students who have completed Roadworthy's classroom training can sign up for the 6 hours of Behind-the-Wheel training through Roadworthy for an additional $300. This will be billed through Roadworthy. Information for this will be provided by the last day of class.

This in-person program offers another great option for students who are ready to get started on the path to earning their driver's license, supported, engaged, and learning in a real classroom.

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION DETAILS

- 30 hours of classroom instruction
- Dates: Aug. 3–7 and Aug. 10–14
- Time: 1:30–4:30 p.m. (Monday–Friday)
- Location: MAHS Room #A115
- Cost: $156
- Minimum: 10 students; Maximum: 30 students

BEHIND-THE-WHEEL TRAINING DETAILS

- 6 hours of behind-the-wheel (BTW) training with a licensed instructor
- Cost: $300

MUSIC

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.

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 DATE

- Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026, 6:30–9 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.

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 DATE

- Monday, Nov. 23, 2026, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

NEW! Instant Ukulele for Hopelessly Busy People

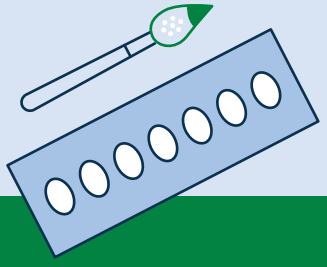
In just a few hours, you can learn enough about playing the ukulele to give you years of musical enjoyment—and you won't have to take private lessons to do it. This crash course will teach you some basic chords and get you playing along with your favorite songs right away. Fee includes the online book, online recorded follow-up lessons, a recording of the class, and access to optional live periodic question-and-answer sessions at no additional cost. Class is conducted online using Zoom and is partly hands-on instruction and partly lecture/demonstration.

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 DATE

- Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, 6:30–9 p.m.



ART

MAES Art Club Fall Session (Grades K–3)

This creative extracurricular cohort offers young artists additional time to explore and experiment with various skills and media. The young artists' interest and curiosity lead to choice-based studio time. Options may include drawing, painting, clay, printmaking, and assemblage of recycled materials.

DETAILS

- Dates: Tuesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29
- Time: 2:45–4 p.m.
- Cost: $56
- Location: Elementary Art Room
- Instructor: Bryan Draxten
- Minimum: 5; Maximum: 20

MAMS Art Club Fall Session (Grades 4–8)

This creative extracurricular cohort offers young artists additional time to explore and experiment with various skills and media. The young artists' interest and curiosity lead to choice-based studio time. Options may include drawing, painting, clay, printmaking, and assemblage of recycled materials.

DETAILS

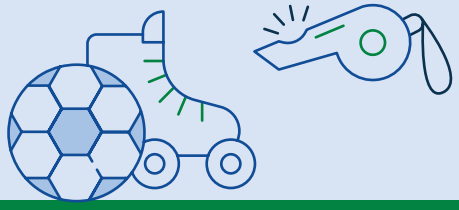
- Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
- Time: 3–4:15 p.m.
- Cost: $56
- Location: HS Art Room E168
- Instructor: Bryan Draxten
- Minimum: 5; Maximum: 20

Summer Art Camp–Session 3: Afternoon (Grades K–8)

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

- Date: Aug. 10–13 (Monday–Thursday)
- Time: 1–4 p.m.
- Cost: $85
- Location: MAHS Art Rooms
- Instructor: Bryan Draxten



YOUTH RECREATION

Fall Girls Basketball Skills and Drills (Grade K–3)

Come learn the fundamentals of basketball, and work on your individual skills with your teammates! This camp will include skill work as well as age-appropriate mini games to grow your daughter's confidence on the court.

DETAILS

- Dates: Oct. 12, 19, 26, and Nov. 2
- Time: 5:30–6:15 p.m.
- Cost: $25
- Location: Minnewaska Area High School Auxiliary Gym
- Instructor: Nick Danielson, Girls Basketball Head Coach, and Eric Kolstoe
- Age: Currently in grades K–3

Fall Girls Basketball Skills and Drills (Grades 4–6)

Come learn the fundamentals of basketball, and work on your individual skills with your teammates! This camp will include skill work as well as age-appropriate mini games to grow your daughter's confidence on the court.

DETAILS

- Dates: Oct. 12, 19, 26, and Nov. 2
- Time: 6:15–7:15 p.m.
- Cost: $25
- Location: Minnewaska Area High School Auxiliary Gym
- Instructor: Nick Danielson, Girls Basketball Head Coach, and Eric Kolstoe
- Age: Currently in grades 4–6

Minnewaska Mallards Soccer

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 2026–2027 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. 5–Oct. 10
- Times: Pre-K (age 4)–2nd Grade: 9 –9:55 a.m., Grades 3–6: 10–10:55 a.m.
- Cost: $60 per child (includes a T-shirt)

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

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

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Soccer-specific cleats (no front toe spike)
- All other equipment will be provided by Minnewaska Mallards Soccer.

QUESTIONS?

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



Fall Youth Volleyball (Grades K–4)

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

DETAILS

- Mondays: Sept. 14, 21, 28
- Time: 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Cost: $40 per athlete
- Location: MAHS Main Gym

Fall Youth Volleyball (Grades 5 & 6)

Join the Minnewaska Volleyball community this fall! Athletes will learn the fundamentals of volleyball through fun, 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

- Cost: $45 per athlete
- Location: MAHS Main Gym,
  Scrimmage also uses Auxiliary Gym
- T-Shirt: Provided to 5th & 6th-grade participants for the scrimmage
- Coaches: C-Squad Athletes & Coaches
- Refs & Line Judges: JV and Varsity Players

PRACTICE DATES

- Mondays: Sept. 14, 21, 28
- Time: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

SCRIMMAGE DATES

- Sunday, Oct. 4
- Time: 1–4:30 p.m.

Save The Date
Minnewaska Youth Wrestling

Minnewaska Youth Wrestling will return for the 2026–2027 season beginning Monday, November 30, 2026! Youth wrestling is a great opportunity for students to build confidence, learn valuable skills, stay active, and have fun throughout the winter season.

Parent Meeting: Monday, Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m. MAHS Auditorium

DETAILS

- Grades Pre-K–2: Mondays & Thursdays | 6–6:45 p.m.
- Grades 3–6: Mondays & Thursdays | 7–8:15 p.m.
- Location: MAHS Wrestling Room

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration will open on Nov. 1.
- Additional registration details, program information, and online registration instructions will be available through Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education.
- For questions regarding the youth wrestling program, please contact Kevin Mau at (218) 770-8506 or email mwrestlingbc@gmail.com.

Flag Football (Grades 3–4)

In-house 7v7 flag football league for boys and girls in 3rd and 4th grade. This league will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Barsness Park and will consist of practices and games. The season will run from September 8th to October 8th. This will be a great opportunity for kids to be introduced to organized football, build confidence, learn the game, and have fun!

DETAILS

- **Practice Schedule:** Tuesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and Thursdays Sept. 10, 17
- **Game Schedule:** Tuesdays Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and Thursdays Sept. 24, Oct 1, 8
- Time: 5:30–7 p.m.
- Location: Barness Park
- Cost: $45 (includes T-shirt)
- **Equipment Needed:** Cleats (rubber only)/ shoes
- Class Size: 60

If you're interested in volunteer coaching, please contact Ryan Scheevel at scheevelryan@gmail.com or Shawn Grossman at shawn.grossman@northstarmutual.com

Tackle Football (Grades 5–6)

Basic football techniques, position techniques, team plays, and SAFETY will be the key elements taught in this program. This is a padded, full-contact activity. The Minnewaska Football Association will provide helmets, pads, pants, jerseys, and mouth guards. Cleats (rubber soles only)/ shoes, athletic cup, etc., will be the player's responsibility.

Approximately six games are to be played within the Willmar football league.

USA Football-certified coaching staff.

Equipment handout/Parent meeting is on August 8, time TBD.

DETAILS

- **Practice Schedule:** Mondays Aug. 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 14, 21, 28, and Oct. 5 | 5:30–7 p.m.
  Wednesdays Aug. 12, 19, and 26 | 5:30–7 p.m.
  Saturdays Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3 and 10 | 8:30–10:30 a.m.
- **Game Schedule:** Tentative games are on Thursday nights at 7 p.m., Game Schedule TBD. Possible other scrimmages throughout the season.
- Cost: $150 (includes T-shirt), $80 Equipment Deposit (due at equipment handout day, will be refunded to you once all equipment is returned and in good condition.
- Class Size: 60
- **Registration Deadline: Aug. 7**



Junior Laker Dance (Grades K–1)

The Junior Laker Dance program offers youth dancers the opportunity to learn and grow in both kick and jazz styles. Dancers will gain skills in technique, teamwork, and performance in a fun and supportive environment. This session culminates in a performance to showcase what participants have learned throughout the fall season.

DETAILS

- Dates: Thursdays Sept. 10–Dec. 10 (No Practice 11/26)
- Time: 4:30–5:15 p.m.
- Cost: $100 per athlete
- Location: Central Square
- Performance Shirt: Included at no cost
- Performance Opportunity: Show on December 10th
- Instructor: Kristen Glover
- Note: Jazz shoes are required but not included in the registration fee. Shoes may be ordered through Ms. Kristen on the first day of practice if dancers do not already have a pair from previous dance classes.

Junior Laker Dance (Grades 2–4)

The Junior Laker Dance program offers youth dancers the opportunity to learn and grow in both kick and jazz styles. Dancers will gain skills in technique, teamwork, and performance in a fun and supportive environment. This session culminates in a performance to showcase what participants have learned throughout the fall season.

DETAILS

- Dates: Thursdays Sept. 10–Dec. 10 (No Practice 11/26)
- Time: 5:15–6:15 p.m.
- Cost: $115 per athlete
- Location: Central Square
- Performance Shirt: Included at no cost
- Performance Opportunity: Show on December 10th
- Instructor: Kristen Glover
- Note: Jazz shoes are required but not included in the registration fee. Shoes may be ordered through Ms. Kristen on the first day of practice if dancers do not already have a pair from previous dance classes.

Junior Laker Dance Competition Team (Grades 5–6)

The Junior Laker Dance Competition Team offers dancers the opportunity to further develop their kick and jazz skills while building confidence, teamwork, and performance ability in a positive and encouraging environment. This extended season includes multiple performance opportunities and the chance to compete against other schools' dance teams.

DETAILS

- Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays Sept. 10, 2026–Jan. 7, 2027 (No Practice 11/26, Practice Held on 12/29 During Winter Break)
- Time: 6:15–7:30 p.m.
  Jazz: Tuesdays | Kick: Thursdays
- Cost: $225 per athlete
- Location: Central Square
- Performance Shirt: Included at no cost
- Competition Uniform: Thanks to the donation of gently used youth competition uniforms from a former dance coach, no uniform fee will be charged this season for youth dancers. Uniforms will be provided at no additional cost. Future fundraising opportunities are being explored to help offset competition-related expenses for families.
- Performance Opportunities:
  December 10th Performance Showcase
  Minnewaska Dance Team Invite on January 7th
  Possible additional away competition (TBD)
- Instructor: Kristen Glover
- Note: Jazz shoes are required but not included in the registration fee. Shoes may be ordered through Ms. Kristen on the first day of practice if dancers do not already have a pair from previous dance classes.



Minnewaska Laker Dance Team Fall Performance Team (Grades 7–12)

Come join the Minnewaska Laker Dance Team Fall Performance Team! Participants will learn and perform in the dance genres of Hip Hop and Pom while building confidence, teamwork, and performance skills in a fun and energetic environment. Athletes do not need to be a member of the winter competitive dance team to participate.

Participants will perform pom drill sidelines alongside the Pep Band and perform halftime routines at both football and soccer games throughout the fall season.

DETAILS

- Dates: Aug. 10–Oct. 1
- Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays
- Time: 6–8 p.m.
- Cost: $115 per participant plus the cost of poms and team gear
- Location: MAES Gym
- Performance Opportunities: Football games, soccer games, and halftime performances throughout the fall season

Scoreboard Advertising Opportunities

Elevate your brand's visibility and support Minnewaska Area School District's vibrant community!

Advertise your brand on scoreboards at Minnewaska sporting events and showcase your business to a captivated audience. Scan the QR code to learn more.



LEARN MORE





ADULT ENRICHMENT

55+ Driver Discount Program

Qualify for a 10% discount on your auto insurance by completing the **55+ Driver Improvement Program**! This four-hour in-person refresher course is designed for drivers age 55 and older who have previously completed an eight-hour defensive driving course approved by the state of Minnesota. Minnewaska Area Community Education will offer an **in-person** class at the Minnewaska Area High School Media Center **if at least 10 people are enrolled.**

Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate eligible for a 10% auto insurance discount.

CLASS DATES

- Wednesday, Aug. 19 | 3–7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 30 | 3–7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 28 | 3–7 p.m.

DETAILS

- Cost: $27
- Location: MAHS Media Center
- Instructor: Minnesota Highway Safety and Research Center
- Registration: Call (320) 239-1305

Women's Strength & Conditioning Class

Are you ready to sculpt your body, boost your confidence, and embrace your inner strength? Join our Women's Strength Training Class and embark on a transformative fitness journey like never before!

What to Expect:

- Expert Guidance: We will guide you with personalized workouts, ensuring you reach your fitness goals effectively and safely, whatever they may be.
- Progressive Workouts: Say goodbye to monotony! Our classes offer a variety of exercises, from resistance training to functional movements, keeping you engaged and excited about every session.

DETAILS

- Sundays, Mondays & Wednesdays; 7–8:05 p.m. (times are flexible on Sunday)
- Fall session: Oct. 18–Dec. 9
- Cost: $125 for the full 8-week session
- **What's Included:** 30 minutes of Strength Training, 25 minute of High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), 10 minutes of Core/Abs
- Location: MAHS Weight Room

Barn Quilt Painting Workshop—Fall Leaf

Create a beautiful fall-inspired barn quilt to display in your home or give as a gift! Participants will receive a 12" x 12" wooden board with a pre-drawn quilt pattern and be guided step by step through painting a colorful fall-leaf design. No painting experience is necessary, and all supplies are included.

DETAILS

- Date: Thursday, Oct. 22
- Time: 6–8 p.m.
- Cost: $35 per person
- Location: MAHS Room #E168
- Instructor: Danielle Lien
- Maximum: 20



Fall Sunflower Paint Night

Celebrate the beauty of autumn by creating your own sunflower masterpiece! Participants will be guided step-by-step through the painting process, using warm seasonal colors and simple brush techniques to create a beautiful work of art to take home. No painting experience is necessary, and all supplies are included.

DETAILS

- Date: Thursday, Sept. 24
- Time: 6–8 p.m.
- Cost: $35 per person
- Location: MAHS Art Room #E168
- Maximum: 20

Fall Artificial Planter Arrangement Class with Uptown Florist

Minnewaska Community Education is partnering with Uptown Florist to offer a Fall Artificial Planter Arrangement Class on Saturday, September 19. Participants will create a beautiful autumn-themed arrangement featuring a mix of seasonal florals, foliage, and decorative accents arranged in a rustic wooden planter box.

With guidance from a professional florist, participants will design and assemble a custom arrangement that brings the warmth and beauty of fall into their home or office. Best of all, this artificial arrangement can be enjoyed all season long with no watering or maintenance required.

DETAILS

- Date: Saturday, Sept. 19
- Time: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Location: MAHS Industrial Arts Room
- Cost: $50 per person

All supplies are included. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Come enjoy a creative morning and leave with a beautiful handcrafted fall centerpiece to display throughout the season.



MAS Community Ed at Central Square

Register for these classes through Minnewaska Area Schools Community Education. Registration is required for all classes, even free ones, to help us plan and ensure the best experience for everyone.

Open Art Studio

Open Art Studio is a relaxed, self-directed creative gathering rather than a formal class. Participants are welcome to bring their own projects or explore a variety of art materials and simple guided activities available in the studio. Whether you're an experienced artist or simply looking for a creative outlet, all skill levels are welcome.

CLASS DATES (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE)

- July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

DETAILS

- 6–8 p.m.
- Location: Central Square, Suite 209
- Cost: Free
- Instructor: Danielle Lien
- Class maximum: 12

Open Pottery Studio

An open studio session for participants with basic pottery experience to practice hand-building, glazing, or refining personal projects. Instructor support is available as needed, with time and space to work at your own pace. Clay and tools are provided. Projects will be fired in the kiln at a later date and made available for pick-up.

CLASS DATES (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE)

- July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17

DETAILS

- 6–8 p.m.
- Location: Central Square, Suite 207
- Cost: Free
- Instructor: Shauna Loxtercamp
- Class maximum: 12

Ceramic Mug-Painting Class

Create a one-of-a-kind ceramic mug in this fun and beginner-friendly workshop. Participants will choose a pre-made mug and learn decorative painting techniques to personalize their piece before it is glazed, kiln-fired, and ready to take home. No prior experience is necessary, and all materials are included.

DETAILS

- Monday, July 20, 6–8 p.m.
- Location: Central Square, Suite 207
- Cost: $25
- Instructor: Shauna Loxtercamp
- Class maximum: 12





Adult Beginner Wheel-Throwing Pottery Class

Designed for beginners, this three-session pottery course introduces the fundamentals of wheel throwing. Participants will learn how to center clay, shape functional pottery, trim finished pieces, and apply glaze before their work is fired and ready to take home. No prior pottery experience is necessary, and all materials are provided.

CLASS DATES

- Session 1 (Wheel Throwing): Aug. 4
- Session 2 (Trimming): Aug. 11
- Session 3 (Glazing): Aug. 25

DETAILS

- 6–8 p.m.
- Location: Central Square, Suite 207
- Cost: $75
- Instructor: Shauna Loxtercamp
- Class maximum: 12

Poetry & Writing Workshop

Explore the creative process through writing exercises, discussion, and guided activities in this welcoming three-session workshop. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their writing skills, spark new ideas, and connect with fellow writers in a supportive and encouraging environment. Writers of all experience levels are welcome.

CLASS DATES

- Session 1: Thursday, Sept. 17
- Session 2: Tuesday, Sept. 22
- Session 3: Thursday, Sept. 24

DETAILS

- 6–8 p.m.
- Location: Central Square Community Room
- Cost: $75
- Instructor: Athena Kildegaard
- Class maximum: 12

Free Adult Basic Education Classes

Locations in Alexandria, Melrose, Morris, Sauk Centre

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 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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

NEW YORK BROADWAY TRIP: JUNE 14–18, 2027

Registration Now Open!

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
- $2,400 (2 people in a room with KING bed)
- $2,450 (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, 2026 (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. 1, 2027 (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 trip?

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



TRIPS



World War II History Day Trip

SEPT. 9, 2026

Join us for an engaging day exploring history at the Fagen Fighters WWII Museum, home to fully restored, operational World War II aircraft and immersive historical exhibits. Participants will experience aviation history up close while learning about the people, aircraft, and stories that shaped WWII. The trip will also include a lunch stop at Prairie's Edge Casino Resort. For more information about the museum visit: www.fagenfighterswwiimuseum.org

DETAILS

- Time: 8:15 a.m.–≈4:30 p.m.
- Location: Departing from MAHS
- Cost: $30 per participant (Includes museum admission; lunch cost is not included.)
- Minimum: 4; Maximum: 18

TRIP ITINERARY

- Depart MAHS: 8:15 a.m.
- Arrive at Fagen Fighters WWII Museum: 9:45 a.m.
- Museum Visit: 9:45 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Lunch Stop at Prairie's Edge Casino Resort: 1:15 p.m.–3 p.m.
- Depart Granite Falls: 3 p.m.
- Return to MAHS: ≈ 4:30 p.m.



Washington, D.C. Trip

JUNE 1–7, 2027

Experience the history, culture, and excitement of our nation's capital on this exciting 6-night trip to Washington, D.C.! This tour is designed with a more relaxed pace, allowing participants plenty of free time to explore, enjoy local restaurants, shop, or simply take in the sights at their own pace.

Participants will stay in historic Alexandria, Virginia, just steps away from a Metro station and the free King Street trolley. The area offers beautiful views of the Potomac River along with countless restaurants, shops, and attractions.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Evening Alexandria tour with a costumed guide
- National Mall tour
- National Archives
- Ford's Theatre
- Capitol Building tour
- Library of Congress
- Supreme Court
- Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Smithsonian Museums with free time to explore
- Mount Vernon tour and Potomac River cruise
- Pentagon 9/11 Memorial
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Washington National Cathedral

DETAILS

- Cost: $2,100 per person
- Registration Deadline: December 14, 2026
- The trip includes roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations, select admissions, and guided tours.
- This trip is intentionally planned with a smaller group size to provide a more enjoyable and flexible travel experience. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.
- Tentative flight plans include departure from Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) with arrival in the Washington, D.C. area. Final travel details and itinerary information will be provided closer to departure.
- Come explore the landmarks, history, and energy of Washington, D.C. with us in June 2027!

Little Lakers Preschool & ECFE

Sue Currens, Early Childhood Coordinator



Welcome Back to School!

We are excited to welcome you and your child to another wonderful year of learning, growth, and discovery. Whether your family is returning or joining us for the first time, we look forward to partnering with you throughout the year.

Below, you'll find important information about Minnewaska Early Childhood programs, including resources to help your family prepare for a successful school year.

Thank you for being a valued part of our LIttle Laker community. We can't wait to see all the learning, laughter, and friendships that this year will bring!

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

> **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.**

Registration for the upcoming school year begins each February. At this time, all classes that meet three days per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) are full and have waiting lists.

Limited openings remain in our All-Day, Every-Day class for four-year-olds and our Tuesday/Thursday morning class for three-year-olds.

REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL

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. Meals will be provided at no cost to families. Children attending half day receive breakfast and full day students receive breakfast and lunch.

A limited number of scholarships are available for families who qualify for tuition assistance based on eligibility guidelines. Application and income verification required.

LITTLE LAKERS PRESCHOOL INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED:

- Teacher assignments and additional information will be emailed to families in **mid-August.**
- Please note: Any parent-requested class changes made after August 15 will incur a $15 administrative fee.
- The **first day of classes will be on September 2-3, 2026 for Preschool.** Your child's teacher will contact you in later August to schedule an individual Meet and Greet appointment for Monday, August 31 or Tuesday, September 1.

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 your are automatically billed on the 15th of each month.

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

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.

Classes are offered quarterly and are promoted in the *Minnewaska Messenger*.

ECFE OFFERINGS AND REGISTRATION

REGISTER FOR A SCREENING

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.

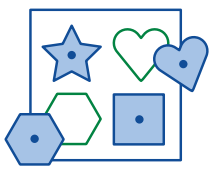
Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

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.



Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all Little Lakers happenings, upcoming events, and important program announcements! #MinnewaskaLittleLakers



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 (thin, 4 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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY EDUCATION

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

- Ages: 0–20 months
- 6 Sessions
- Dates: Mondays, Oct. 5, 12, 26, & Nov. 2, 9, 16
- Time: 10:30–11:30 a.m.
- Location: MAES Room 111
- Fee: Sliding Fee Scale, Sibling care is available for an additional fee of $10 per child for the 6 weeks.
- Maximum: 10
- Registration closes: Sept. 23
- Instructor: Sue Currens, Child Educator

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

This multi-age class for children ages 20 mos 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

- Ages: 21 months–5 years
- 7 Sessions
- Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, & Nov. 3, 10, 17
- Time: 10–11:30 a.m.
- Location: MAES Room 111
- Fee: Sliding Fee Scale, Sibling care is available for an additional fee of $10 per child for the 7 weeks.
- Maximum: 12
- Registration closes: Sept. 23
- Instructors: Sue Currens, Child Educator; Stephanie Thoen, Parent Educator



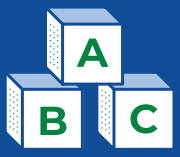


ECFE Class Fees

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



How Do I Register?

1. www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us
2. Click Community Education Tab
3. Click Early Childhood Programs
4. Click View Details to choose the class you prefer
5. Select a class and register!

If you have any questions regarding the online registration process, contact the Community Education office at (320) 239-1305.

Minnewaska ECFE and Little Lakers Preschool

Located in the south wing of the Minnewaska Area Elementary School located at 409 4th Street SE, Glenwood MN 56334

ECFE REGISTRATION

All ECFE classes will have a designated registration closing date to allow staff adequate time to prepare materials, finalize plans, and ensure a high-quality experience for participating families.



Lakes Area Enrichment Center Child Care

Sarah Traphagen, Coordinator



Building a Stronger Future for Children and Families in Pope County

Lakes Area Enrichment Center (LAEC) continues to make significant progress in addressing the growing childcare needs of Pope County. Through strong partnerships, community support, and strategic planning, LAEC is helping create long-term childcare solutions that benefit families, employers, and the entire region.

This year marked a major milestone for the Pope County Childcare Hub Project as funding commitments were secured through a collaborative effort involving Pope County, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), local businesses, community partners, and Minnewaska Area Schools. This partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to expanding access to high-quality childcare throughout our communities.

The new childcare hub, planned adjacent to Minnewaska Area Elementary School in Glenwood, is designed to help address the childcare shortage in Pope County while creating additional opportunities for families seeking reliable care. Construction planning continues, with a community groundbreaking celebration scheduled for this summer.

While planning for the future continues, LAEC remains committed to providing quality childcare services today. Our current center serves children from infancy through preschool age in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment designed to support each child's growth and development.

Our Classrooms

- **Infants:** 6 weeks to 16 months—Families expecting an infant are encouraged to contact us to learn more and reserve a future spot.
- **Toddlers**: 16 months to 24 months
- **Young Preschool:** 24 months to 36 months
- **Preschool:** For children who are 36 months to kindergarten

Learn More

Families interested in enrolling, scheduling a tour, learning about current openings, or joining our waitlist are encouraged to contact Lakes Area Enrichment Center. We are excited to continue growing with our community while providing a warm, caring, and enriching environment for every child.

Thank you to our families, staff, community partners, Pope County, USDA, and local supporters for helping us build a brighter future for children and families throughout Pope County.

Hours

- Monday–Friday
- 6 a.m.–6 p.m.

Now Enrolling: Infants Through Preschool-Aged Children

Rates

Infants (6 weeks–16 months)
- Full Time: $235/week

Toddlers (16–33 months)
- Full Time: $210/week
- Part Time (3 Days): $130/week

Preschool (33 months until fully potty trained)
- Full Time: $200/week
- Part Time (3 Days): $120/week

Preschool (Fully potty trained)
- Full Time: $190/week
- Part Time (3 Days): $115/week

Drop-In Care
- $50/day

Questions? Contact Sarah Traphagen at (320) 239-5213 or straphagen@isd2149.org.

Before School, After School, and Non-School Day Child Care

Audrey Frey, School-Age Child Care Director



School-Age Child Care Available

Looking for quality child care before or after school? Minnewaska offers convenient, affordable child care options for students in all-day preschool through 6th grade. All programs are located at Minnewaska Area Elementary School. Busing is provided for students in 4th-6th grade.

Our programs provide a safe, welcoming environment with caring, professional staff. Children enjoy a balance of structured and unstructured activities, including outdoor play, gym time, creative learning opportunities, and experiences that support social and emotional growth.

Non-School Day Child Care Information

Non-School Day child care is available for students in all-day preschool through 6th grade, pending staffing availability and enrollment. The program includes snacks and planned activities; however, students must bring their own lunch.

Registration for Non-School Day care closes two weeks prior to the scheduled non-school day(s). Enrollment numbers and staffing availability will determine whether care can be offered. Families will be notified at least two weeks in advance if a Non-School Day program must be canceled due to low enrollment or staffing shortages.

All School-Age Child Care registration is completed online. 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 register at least 24 hours in advance. We look forward to providing a safe, engaging, and enriching experience for your child throughout the school year!

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

Hours & Cost

Before School Program (BSP)

- 6:30–8 a.m.
- $5.50 per day

Afternoon Program (ASP)

- 2:45–6 p.m.
- $8 per day

Non-School Day (NSD) Care

- 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
- $30 per day

Non-School Dates Child Care May Be Offered

- September 4
- October 15, 16, 19
- November 6
- December 28, 29, 30, 31
- January 18, 19
- February 12
- March 12, 29
- April 16





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

KIDS SAFETY CAMP



2 days of hands on learning!

- Water Safety
- Bullying/Internet Safety
- First Aid
- 911 use
- Police/Fire/ Ambulance
- Life Link tour
- Weather Safety
- Lunch / snacks

For incoming kids 4-6 grades

August 19 & August 20, 2026

Wednesday & Thursday 8 AM – 3 PM

MINNEWASKA HIGH SCHOOL

Elementary School

Sarah Suchy, MAES Principal



Welcome back to a brand-new school year!

I hope your summer has been filled with laughter, adventure, relaxation, and special memories with family and friends. As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, I am excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and connection at Minnewaska Area Elementary.

Our dedicated team remains committed to providing every student with a high-quality educational experience. This year, we are excited to implement a new reading curriculum that aligns with the structured literacy practices our staff has been studying and refining over the past two years. This research-based curriculum will strengthen our literacy instruction and provide students with systematic, explicit teaching in foundational reading skills while supporting vocabulary, comprehension, and writing development.

Creating a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment also remains a top priority. Through our Laker Pride Behavioral framework, we will continue to teach, model, and reinforce positive behaviors while building strong relationships with students. Our goal is for every child to feel valued, supported, and connected to our school community.

As we continue to look for ways to streamline the school experience for families, we are pleased to offer convenient options to help simplify back-to-school preparations and celebrations. Families can purchase school supplies online through our school supply program, making it easy to ensure students have everything they need for a successful start to the year. We also offer birthday treats through our food service department. Approved treats can be ordered through School Pay and delivered directly to your child's classroom, making celebrations simple while ensuring district food safety guidelines are followed. Additional information about both opportunities can be found in our back-to-school communications and on the district website.



We are excited to welcome both new and returning families to Minnewaska Area Elementary. Strong partnerships between home and school play an essential role in student success, and we greatly value your support, communication, and involvement. Whether attending school events, volunteering, or simply talking with your child about their school day, your partnership makes a difference.

> **The beginning of a new school year brings endless opportunities for growth, discovery, and achievement.**

We are honored to partner with you and your family and look forward to making the 2026–2027 school year one filled with learning, joy, and lasting memories.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead! We can't wait to welcome our students back through our doors!

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 the District Office at (320) 239-1304.

W.I.N. Academy

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



And we're excited to begin another school year at W.I.N. Academy, welcoming many new students and a returning team of skilled, caring staff. We are preparing for intake and transition planning meetings on August 18 and 19 to welcome new W.I.N. families, and we look forward to seeing all students on Monday, August 31.

> **W.I.N. (What I Need) Academy meets students where they are. We provide personalized, relevant academic instruction along with best-practice mental health services to help students successfully return to their home schools.**

As a Federal Setting 4 Special Education School, we are CTSS (Children's Therapeutic Support Services) certified through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Students receive instruction in core academic subjects plus two to three hours per day of mental health services. We serve the Minnewaska District and students from surrounding districts.

Each day we reinforce our S.T.A.R. expectations: Safety, Teamwork, Accountability, and Relationships. W.I.N. is a Minnesota State Certified PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) school. Staff are trained to provide proactive, positive interventions that help create a welcoming, safe climate for students and staff.

Please watch for your back-to-school packet in the mail. If you are unable to provide items listed on the class supply list, contact us and we will ensure your student is ready for the first day. It is essential that all forms be completed and returned on the first day of school so we can focus on serving students immediately. For questions about transportation to W.I.N., please contact your home district's transportation provider.

The entire W.I.N. team looks forward to the 2026–2027 school year.



Middle School

Joseph Hurlbut, MAMS Principal



Welcome 4th–8th Graders and Families!

Welcome back to an exciting new school year at Minnewaska Area Schools! 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.

FAREWELL

The past two years have been an amazing experience working with the students from the Minnewaska Area Communities. The teaching staff, support staff, students, and families have made me feel welcome and I've appreciated their support in guiding their students' learning. As I step aside to a new principal role in Princeton, MN, I will always hold Minnewaska in high regard for the quality of its outcomes. It's truly a special place to work and live.

With Appreciation,
Blake Karas

WELCOME JOSEPH HURLBUT

As I step into the role of principal, I want to say how excited and grateful I am to join the Minnewaska community. I am eager to build strong relationships with students, staff, and families while supporting a positive environment where students can grow academically and personally.

Minnewaska has a strong foundation and a supportive community, and I am excited to become part of it as we begin the school year together.

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.

Important Dates to Remember

Open House
August 26
4–7 p.m.

School Picture Day
August 26
4 p.m.

First Day of School
August 31

Parent-Teacher Conferences
4th–6th by Appointment
7th–8th Open House Style
Dates TBD

REMINDERS

- Please update your contact information in the school office if there has been a change.
- Pack nutritious lunches and snacks and/or encourage eating school breakfast and lunch..
- 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 Area Schools a wonderful place for every student!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Office
(320) 239-1320

School Principal
Joseph Hurlbut
jhurlbut@isd2149.org
(320) 239-1412

School Counselor
Hannah Meagher
hmeagher@isd2149.org

Website
Minnewaska.k12.mn.us

High School

Nate Meissner, MAHS Principal



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 excitement.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on social media and visit our website for daily updates, event information, and resources.

Classroom Highlights

9th Grade Exploratory:
Freshman year is all about building strong academic habits and discovering new interests. Students take their core academic classes along with Physical Education/Health. In addition, students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of engaging, hands-on elective courses offered at MAHS, including Agriculture, Foods I, Art, Business, Manufacturing, Drones, and more. This is a perfect year to try something new and start thinking about future pathways.

10th Grade Discovery & Develop:
Sophomore year encourages students to dive a little deeper. Core classes continue to strengthen critical thinking and academic skills, while elective options expand to include more specialized courses in our CTE programs and fine arts.



11th Grade Focus & Prepare for the Future:
Junior year is a time to focus and prepare for the future. Students continue with core academic courses, often at more advanced levels, including Advanced Placement or college-level coursework. Electives become pathway-driven, allowing students to concentrate on areas of interest and participate in real-world experiences such as job shadowing and work-based learning programs that connect classroom learning to future careers.

12th Grade Apply & Launch:
Senior year is putting it all together. Students complete graduation requirements while tailoring their schedules to match their post-high school plans–whether that is the workforce, college, or the military. Seniors have the ability to participate in real-world experiences like internships, work-based learning, industry tours and visits and much more. Senior year is all about experiences and helping them graduate confident and ready for their next step.

Important Dates to Remember

Back to School Open House
August 25, 4–7 p.m.

Students and parents are welcome to join us and get acclimated with the classrooms, teachers, lockers, etc.

- **School pictures will be in the gymnasium during open house.**
- 5:45–6:15 p.m. Senior meeting with parents (auditorium)
- 6:15–7 p.m. Required ATCC college courses meeting (auditorium)

First Day of School
August 31

No School
September 4–7
Labor Day Weekend

Homecoming
September 21–25

High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 12,
3:30–7:30 p.m.

Fall Break
October 15–19

End of Quarter 1
November 5

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for updates!

What's New This Year?

New Staff: Welcome back, Ken Anderson! Who will be teaching Business and math classes at the high school! We also want to welcome Emily Britton as a new Special Education teacher at the High School.

Expanded Electives: Sports Medicine, General Chemistry I (college course), Intro to Manufacturing, Advanced Manufacturing, and General Welding.

Technology Upgrades: We are continuing to replace older smartboards with new interactive Newline panels to enhance classroom engagement and functionality. In addition, we are actively upgrading and refining our Career and Technical Education (CTE) technology and equipment. One exciting addition is a brand-new multiprocess welder, which will expand student learning opportunities by introducing more learners to Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (TIG).

Academic Highlights

Expanding Career Pathways for Student Success
We continue to enhance and expand learning opportunities within our pathways while strengthening connections with local businesses. These partnerships give students valuable opportunities to apply their learning through real-world work experiences.

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 our Career Pathways, along with access to valuable real-world experiences such as job shadowing, career exploration activities, internships, and even paid work opportunities.

These pathways are designed to spark students' curiosity while supporting their journey toward meaningful career and college opportunities.

EARN UP TO 48 COLLEGE CREDITS WITHOUT LEAVING OUR HIGH SCHOOL.

At Minnewaska Area High School, students can earn up to 48 college credits while remaining fully engaged in the academic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities that make high school meaningful. Through our college credit opportunities, students can save both time and money on their future college education while benefiting from the support and guidance of our dedicated staff. Best of all, students can continue building connections with friends, teachers, coaches, and the school community while taking meaningful steps toward their college and career goals. Reach out to the high school office if you have questions.

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



The Student Support Services team is here to support students and families and help ensure a positive and successful experience at Minnewaska Area Schools.

Our dedicated staff provides support that promotes students' emotional, academic, physical, and developmental well-being. We work collaboratively with families, school staff, and community partners to meet the unique needs of each student through both preventative and intervention-based services.

SUPPORT GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

As a new school year begins, we recognize that some students may benefit from additional support. Student Support Services offers individual counseling and support groups for students in grades K–12. Whether a student needs occasional encouragement or ongoing support, our team is here to help.

If your child's needs extend beyond the services we provide, we will gladly assist in connecting your family with appropriate community resources and providers. Please reach out to any member of our team if you have concerns or believe your child could benefit from extra support. Sometimes, having a trusted person to talk with can make all the difference.

BACKPACK ATTACK

Minnewaska Area Schools is proud to continue its partnership with United Way of Pope and Douglas Counties to provide nutritious weekend meals through the Backpack Attack program. Students in grades K–6 who are enrolled in the program receive food bags on Fridays and before holiday breaks to help ensure they have access to meals when school is not in session.

Information and registration forms will be sent home this fall. If your family has a student in grades 7–12 who could benefit from this program, please contact Mary Walsh directly for assistance.

We are deeply grateful to our generous community donors and partners whose continued support makes this program possible. Thank you for helping care for our students and families.

THE LIGHTHOUSE FOOD SHELF

We are pleased to continue offering The Lighthouse Food Shelf, located at the Middle School and High School building. Through our partnership with Horizon Public Health and the generous support of local organizations and community members, The Lighthouse provides food and essential items to students and families in need.

Additional information about accessing The Lighthouse will be shared this fall. For questions or more information, please contact Mary Walsh.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mary Walsh
MAMS/MAHS Social Worker
(320) 239-1317

Jen Ring
MAHS Counselor
(320) 239-4800

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 (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.

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. Students entering 12th grade receive their second dose. 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.

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 2026–2027 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 the excellent Minnewaska District, we will address any issues that may occur.

Always remember! Keep our hands to yourselves and remain seated!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY: KNOW THE RULES FOR RIDING THE BUS

- It is a privilege to ride a school bus, not a right to ride.
- 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 to 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.
- You must remain seated in the seat 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.
- 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.
- 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 (if needed) and prepped for the upcoming school year.

If you or your student has a device that was kept for summer school or some other reason and the device needs to be repaired, please contact massupport@isd2149.org or call (320) 239-4820 option 1 & then option 5 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. The cost is $45.00 per year per student. **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.”

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





Food Service

Bridget Gallagher, Director of Food Service

Greetings Minnewaska Area Families!

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 daily and 1100 lunches each day.

Our menu provides a variety of choices that accommodate the wide range of students' tastes, as well as gives students the opportunity to try and enjoy new foods. Breakfast meals include a main entrée, fruit choices, and milk. Lunch meals include a main entrée, fruit choices, vegetable choices, whole grain, and milk selection. All students have the option of purchasing a second entree by cash or use their lunch account with funds in it. A student is not allowed to have their lunch account go into a negative balance.

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 or daily restrictions placed on it at the parent/guardian request by calling the Food Service Office at (320) 239-4800. Again, a student is not allowed to let their lunch account go into a negative balance when purchasing from a' la carte. .

Meals for all students are FREE for the school year 2026–2027. However, we encourage families who fall within the income guidelines to complete an application. The information on the application is confidential and will never be shared with anyone. Funding for some of the district's educational programs is based on the number of our 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.

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. Simply fill out the form on our Food Service site.

"Celebrations Treat" 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.

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



Minnewaska Area Schools Angel Account

Helping Laker Students in Times of Need

At Minnewaska Area Schools, supporting students goes beyond the classroom. The **Angel Account** was established in **2020** to provide immediate assistance to students and families facing unexpected challenges.

The fund was created following a partnership with Verizon to construct a cell tower behind the main campus. Through this agreement, the district receives approximately $5,000 annually in lease revenue. In addition, Eagle Bank has generously contributed to the Angel Account through its Laker Debit Card program, support that has made a meaningful difference for students in need.

Looking ahead, the district is excited to share that a **second cell tower is currently being constructed** behind Starbuck School. This addition will generate another **$5,000 annually over the next 25 years,** further strengthening the district's ability to support students.

Supporting Students When It Matters Most

The Angel Account exists to help ensure that **no student goes without basic needs or opportunities due to financial hardship.** Funds may be used to assist with:

- Food and meals
- Personal hygiene items
- Activity fees or participation costs
- Clothing or necessities after emergencies (ex: house fire, loss of home)

Support through the Angel Account is available to any Minnewaska Area Schools student. Requests can be made by staff members or families, ensuring help is accessible when it is needed most.

How the Community Can Help

The Angel Account is strengthened through the generosity of the Minnewaska community. Donations from individuals, businesses, and charitable organizations directly impact students and families right here in the district.

Those interested in contributing can:

- **Make checks payable to:** MAS–Angel Account
- **Mail to:**
  Minnewaska Area Schools
  25122 State Hwy 28
  Glenwood, MN 56334

Angel Account

Getting Connected

For more information or to request assistance, families may contact a school principal, counselor, social worker, or the district office.



Celebrating Community & Continuing the Impact:
The Minnewaska Laker Foundation



As we head into another exciting school year, the Minnewaska Laker Foundation continues its commitment to enhancing opportunities for every student in Minnewaska Area Schools. Through the generosity of our community, we are able to support programs and experiences that help students grow academically, creatively, and personally.

A Successful Summer Tradition

This summer's Laker Classic Golf Tournament was a tremendous success, bringing together community members, alumni, and supporters for a day of connection and purpose. The Foundation extends its sincere thanks to everyone who participated, sponsored, and volunteered. Your support plays a vital role in continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for our students. It was truly a great day to celebrate Laker pride and invest in the future of our schools.

Taste on the Lake – A Summer Send-Off

We are excited to invite you to **Taste on the Lake** on Wednesday, August 19, a perfect way to wrap up the summer and connect with our community before the school year begins.

This signature event brings together local flavors and meaningful connections, all in support of Minnewaska Area Schools. It's a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, neighbors, and fellow supporters while celebrating the impact we can make together for our students.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this end-of-summer tradition!

Investing in Students, Strengthening Our Community

The impact of the Minnewaska Laker Foundation is made possible through the continued support of our community. From scholarships and classroom resources to extracurricular enhancements and facility improvements, every contribution helps expand opportunities for our students.

As funding sources continue to fluctuate, local support remains essential in ensuring that our students have access to the programs and experiences that help them thrive. Together, we are building a strong foundation for future generations of Lakers.

Join Us

Whether through attending events like Taste on the Lake, participating in Foundation activities, or making a donation, there are many ways to get involved and make a difference. Your support directly impacts the success of our students and the strength of our school community.

Together, we can continue creating opportunities that inspire, engage, and empower every Laker student.

MINNEWASKA
LAKER FOUNDATION

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@minnewaska_area_schools

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

ELEMENTARY
409 4th St. SE
Glenwood, MN 56334

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