

Students Earn Record Number of Scholastic Art Awards

Arts Education in Minnetonka Public Schools Uncovers Talent and Encourages Self-Discovery

Minnetonka High School (MHS) students recently received a record number of art awards through the 2016 Scholastic Art Awards. Of the 311 state Gold Key Award winners, 23 were from MHS and all went on to earn Regional Gold Key honors, the largest number in school history. Students also earned 11 Silver Key Awards and 23 Honorable Mentions. Seniors Arianna Dixon and Brenna Molnau were designated "American Vision Nominees," two of only five selected at the state exhibition. Dixon's work earned a National Gold Medal, placing her drawing in the top one percent of nearly 320,000 works submitted nationally.



"Gwyneth & Harold" by Brenna Molnau

In 2008, Minnetonka Public Schools made a firm commitment to provide world-class fine arts programs to students from early childhood through high school. Programs and student participation have expanded greatly over the ensuing years in art, music, writing and drama. To celebrate student achievement, Minnetonka teachers and staff encourage students to enter regional, state and national exhibitions.

"Scholastic Arts is such a well-respected program, both within our area and nationally. This recognition completely elevates the experience and raises awareness of the truly exceptional work students are doing," said Melanie Mozingo, MHS art instructor with 17 years in the District. "This acknowledgment lights a fire that makes students want to continue in art."

Minnetonka's Gold and Silver Key Award winners were honored during a reception at the University of Minnesota with submissions on display at the campus' Regis Center for Art. Custom matting of Minnetonka students' two-dimensional works was contributed by The Great Frame Up—Minnetonka.

The District believes that art is a key part of educating the whole student. "Art is about the life you are living right now," Mozingo said. "I want students to be reflective, to care, to be passionate."

For some students, a passion for the arts can lead to a career in art and design. MHS senior Emily Hogan is applying artistic principles she learned in high school photography classes to her coursework in VANTAGE Design and Marketing, fields she intends to pursue at Iowa State University next fall. "It was photography that really made me think about going into an art field as a career. Everything I learned in photography—composition, color, contrast, hues—all of it really goes hand-in-hand with design."

Junior Jorge Nunez, a VANTAGE Design and Marketing student, is gaining knowledge in contemporary marketing and skills in interactive, graphic and product design. He has completed multiple creative electives at MHS: drawing, photography, wood shop, and architecture. "There are so many different design careers and my art electives have definitely helped me narrow my options and shape the course of design I want to go into," Nunez said.

Furthermore, the Board has approved the remodeling of several classrooms into science labs to accommodate the demands students are placing on those programs. All of the construction will be completed by late August.

Message

from the Superintendent

This school year is rapidly headed to conclusion and graduation of another outstanding class. It has been an incredible year with many important achievements and our voters overwhelming approval of two ballot issues to secure future funding.

Minnetonka has gained a reputation as a highly academic district, with our high school considered one of the most rigorous in Minnesota. We have used technology to increase student performance and prepare them for work styles that they will need in the future. We have also become an innovative district that constantly seeks to meet the needs of our students.

Our next major venture will be the Minnetonka Research program that will take students to levels of learning experienced by just a few students across America, and it will launch our students into opportunities to lead our country and state to great achievements during their careers. The students who are eligible for this course have already taken virtually all of the courses we have for their level of learning and are now ready to cap that learning in high school.

I invite our entire community to enjoy the performances of fine arts students during our "Arts Twist" events in May.

Respectfully,
Dennis Peterson, Superintendent

Register now at www.minnetonkacommunityed.org



YOUTH TRIATHLON
SATURDAY, MAY 7



FIRECRACKER RUN
MONDAY, JULY 4



TOUR de TONKA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Authentic Research Opportunity Begins Fall 2016 at MHS

Renovation is underway at Minnetonka High School to create laboratory and collaborative workspace to support *Minnetonka Research*, a new opportunity for students to conduct authentic scientific research, as well as new science labs for all science classes. This fall, 45 students will be in the new Scientific Research course. They bring a record of success in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate science coursework and the drive to propose a research question, gather and analyze data, and present their findings. The District will connect students with researchers and leaders from academia and industry, including Cargill and St. Jude Medical. This is a unique program that can be found in just a handful of America's top high schools.

"I am excited about the opportunity for in-depth examination of a research topic I choose," junior Sky Sotto said. Until now, he has pursued interests in astronomy and biology as a Science Olympiad competitor. "I like astronomy because it combines a lot of fields: physics, chemistry and earth science. I don't know if biology is ultimately what I want to pursue, so I would like to learn more now," Sotto

said. "To research topics I am passionate about will be a cool experience before college."

Junior Rachel Adamek can link her interest in research to Groveland Elementary, where fifth-grade teacher Brent Frank introduced students to science experiments. Adamek is also self-driven, and her interest in astrophysics prompted her to compile a research paper on black holes as a fifth-grader and attend a summer course at Macalester College in middle school. Adamek completed accelerated science curriculum at MME and is now finishing her third AP science course.

"I was so glad to hear it was research."

"In middle school they told us, 'with accelerated science, you can be a year ahead so that senior year you can have this big opportunity.' I was so glad to hear it was *research*," Adamek said. "This will help me decide whether I want to pursue biology or pre-med, because I have this whole other interest in international studies. Next year is going to be exciting not just for the students but for Minnetonka. I don't know any other school that has a program like this. I can't wait for next year."



New authentic scientific
 research lab opening fall 2016
 at Minnetonka High School



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 Dennis Peterson, PhD, Superintendent
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School Board
 Pam Langseth, Chair
 Lisa Sumner, Vice Chair
 Mark Ambrosen, Treasurer
 Lisa Wagner, Clerk

Katie Becker, Director
 John Holcomb, Director
 Heidi Garcia, Director

Calendar

April

- 8 Gr 5 Finale (CS, EX, MWA), MMW, 6:30pm
- 14 Groveland Night of Art & Heart, 5pm
- 15 Scenic Heights Kindergarten Bkfst, 7:30am
- 18 Preschool/ECFE Earth Day Event, 6:15pm
- 19 Elementary Band Try-It Night, MHS
- 22 Tonka Pride Spring Store, DSC, 3-7pm
- 23 Tonka Pride Spring Store, DSC, 8am-1pm
- 23 Trash into Treasure, MHS, 10am-1pm
- 27 Excelsior Kindergarten Open House, 9am
- 29 Clear Springs Parent Party, 6:30pm
- 29 La Copa Mundial, Minnesota United at MHS, 6pm
- 29 Spirit Day—Wear Tonka Pride

May

- 3 Gr 5 Parent Meeting, MMW, 6pm
- 5 Gr 5 Parent Meeting, MMW, 11am
- 6 Deephaven Mini-Kindergarten Experience, DH, 8:30am
- 7 Youth Triathlon, MME, 7:30am
- 12 Celebration of Excellence Reception/Program, Arts Center, 6pm
- 14 Groveland Shred Event, GR, 10am-1pm
- 20 Grade 5 Finale (DH, GR, SH), MME, 6:30pm
- 21 MMW PTO Color Run, 8am
- 25 Minnetonka Scholar Awards, Arts Center, 7:15pm
- 26 MME's Got Talent, MME, 7pm
- 26 MMW Talent Show, MMW, 7pm
- 30 No School K-12, District Office Closed, Memorial Day
- 30 MME/MMW Band, Excelsior Memorial Day Parade, 11am

Minnetonka
Arts

Twist

A District-Wide
 Celebration of the Arts

All events are open to the public

April

- 6 AP and IB Studio Art Exhibition, Arts Center Gallery (April 6-May 2)
- 21 Excelsior Gr 2 Program, EX, 6:30pm
- 21 Scenic Heights Gr 2 Choir Concert, 6:30pm
- 23 MHS Musical, "Pippin" (April 23-May 7)
- 26 MME/MMW Gr 6 Choir/Orchestra Concert, MHS, 6:15pm

May

- 1 Elementary/Middle School Art Exhibition, Arts Center Lobby (May 1-31)
- 3 MHS Art Exhibition, Arts Center Gallery (May 3-June 3)
- 3 District Elem Orch Concert, MHS, 7pm
- 6-7 MMW Spring Play, MMW
- 9 District Children's Choir, Arts Center, 7pm

- 9 MME Band Concerts, MME: Gr 7, 6:45pm; Gr 8, 8pm
- 9 MMW Band Concerts, MMW: Gr 7, 6:45pm; Gr 8, 8pm

- 10 Gr 7, 8 Orchestras with Minnetonka Philharmonic, Arts Center, 7pm
- 13 Skipper Showstoppers Cabaret, Arts Center Studio, 7pm

- 16-17 MHS Choirs, Arts Center, 7pm
- 17 MME Choir Concerts, MME: Gr 7, 6:45pm; Gr 8, 8pm

- 17 MMW Choir Concerts, MMW: Gr 7, 6:45pm; Gr 8, 8pm
- 17 Scenic Heights Gr 5 Choir Concert, Scenic Heights, 6:30pm
- 18 Gr 5 Band Festival, Arts Center (Clear Springs & Scenic Heights, 5:30pm; Deephaven & Minnewashta, 6:45pm; Excelsior & Groveland, 8pm)

- 18 MHS Percussion Ensemble, Arts Center Studio, 7pm

- 19 MHS Orchestras, Arts Center, 7pm
- 19 Deephaven and Excelsior Gr 5 Choir Concert, Excelsior, 6:30pm
- 19 Groveland Music & Lyrics Concert, 7pm
- 21-22 Minnetonka Music Academy Spring Recitals, Arts Center Studio, various times

- 24 Minnewashta Gr 5 Choir Spring Concert, MWA, 6:30pm

- 26 Arts Twist Encores (formerly "Finale"), Arts Center, 7pm

- 27 Minnetonka Music Academy Honor Recitals, Arts Center Studio, 6:30pm
- 31 MHS Bands, Arts Center, 7pm

June

- 2 MHS Jazz Concert, Arts Center, 7pm

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