



**Minnetonka Public Schools**  
Innovate. Inspire. Excel.



Dear Parents and Students,

As we close this final chapter of the most unbelievable school year we've ever had, I have been reflecting with staff on all that we have traversed together over the past several months.

Looking back, it has been a whirlwind of learning model changes, quarantines, masking and distancing ... of difficulties that isolation has caused for students, families and staff ... and of social unrest that we are experiencing throughout the country, the state and here locally.

We have been through an incredibly stressful and challenging year that may continue to impact some of us in the future.

Yet, it was also a year when many of our students made outstanding academic progress—in various learning models. Administrators and teachers brought their very best to the table, discovering new, innovative ways to engage with students and families. We experienced great support from the large number of paraprofessionals who strengthened learning plans. Parents jumped in, ready to assist, wherever needed. And, the community was eager to be part of the solution, no matter what problem emerged.

It struck me profoundly last evening as I looked out at our graduates of the Class of 2021—their faces full of hope and optimism—that the challenges of this year were no match for our amazing school community. Our incredibly resilient students had made it all work.

The silver lining in the events of this challenging year has been that we fought through the obstacles we encountered together. It was not perfect. It was far from it. Yet, each one of you persevered, supporting one another, so that each member of our school community could emerge on the other side of the storm both stronger and wiser and with more compassion, understanding

and trust than when the school year began. It was certainly a year to learn about each other, about our world and about ourselves.

Thank you to each member of this outstanding school community for being thoughtful contributors, for providing feedback all along the way and for helping the community to be cohesive. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to each of you for the role that you played to ensure this school year worked. This is a strong, passionate community, and each person made an enormous difference in ensuring this will be a year to remember.

I look forward to welcoming many of you back to what I believe will be a much more 'normal' year next fall. We expect that no masks will be required, though we will continue our thorough cleaning of facilities and use of the HEPA-grade air filters that help to assure high quality air in our buildings. We will be ready in case there is a new outbreak of COVID-19 or any other virus.

As you head off to enjoy summer, I wish you all the best. May your summer break be celebratory, relaxing and rejuvenating for you, and may you make many wonderful family memories.

Dennis Peterson  
Superintendent of Schools