

from the superintendent

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for your interest in Westonka Public Schools! We would love for you to visit us and learn more about our small schools with big opportunities for you and your children.

In Westonka Schools, we give our students the edge they need to succeed in higher education by offering personalized learning experiences and competitive class sizes, along with the same advanced courses and extracurricular opportunities seen in larger districts. In a district the size of Westonka, your child won't have to compete with 600 others just to experience the thrill of performing on stage, competing in DECA or playing hockey. Every child has a chance to shine.

Westonka students—from the primary schools to the high school—consistently rank among the best in the state on MCA tests. We are home to two National Blue Ribbon primary schools, a Reward School-recognized middle school and a high school ranked among the top in the state by Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report and the Washington Post. We also offer a four-star rated early childhood program and a vibrant community education program.

We have many new initiatives that are changing the way our teachers teach and our students learn. Our Edge21 technology plan addresses the changing needs of today's students by personalizing learning and embedding 21st century skills. The initiative includes a 1:1 technology device program for grades K-12 and increased technology integration at all levels. We have also expanded our engineering curriculum to offer students career readiness in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Thanks to the generous support of our community, we have several construction projects in the works. In May 2016, Westonka residents approved \$22.95 million in bond funding to build a 600-seat performing arts center and community athletics and recreation center at Mound Westonka High School. These new facilities will expand opportunities for students and community members alike. Additionally, we opened a new early learning center in 2017 which houses our four-year-old preschool program.

Finally, with the lowest effective tax rate in Hennepin County, Westonka Schools continue to be a great return on your investment. The district received the 2017 School Finance Award and holds a very high "Aa2" credit rating. We have worked hard to establish a strong financial position that supports the achievement of our students.

For more information about our award-winning schools, please call 952.491.8000 or visit www.westonka.k12.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Kevin Borg
Superintendent
(952) 491-8001
borgk@westonka.k12.mn.us



www.westonka.k12.mn.us | 952.491.8000

westonka fast facts



15 Consecutive Years of Best in State MCA Performance

Westonka students scored in the Top 10 districts in the state on 2017 MCAs. Overall, Westonka is ranked #4 in the state in math and #6 in the state in math.

- Grade 4 is ranked #1 in state in reading, #7 in state in math
- Grade 5 is ranked #2 in state in reading, #5 in state in math, #8 in state in science
- Grade 6 is ranked #3 in state in reading, #4 in state in math
- Grade 7 is ranked #9 in the state in reading
- Grade 8 is ranked #8 in the state in reading
- Grade 10 is ranked #9 in the state in reading
- Grade 11 is ranked #2 in the state in math

National Blue Ribbon Awards

Both of Westonka's primary schools—Hilltop and Shirley Hills—are National Blue Ribbon schools.

'Best High School' Recognitions

Mound Westonka High School is the proud home of 2017 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Corey Bulman. MWHS is recognized as one of the top high schools in the country by national publications. MWHS was one of only 26 Minnesota schools included on the Washington Post's 2017 list of "America's Most Challenging High Schools" and was included on U.S. News & World Report's 2016 "Best High Schools" list.

21st Century Skills

- Westonka's Edge21 Technology Plan transforms the method by which curriculum is delivered to students and personalizes the learning experience for students
- Westonka students in grades K-12 are 1:1 with mobile devices
- Project Lead the Way engineering program offers two- and four-year college credit
- Middle school Future City & Future Problem Solvers engineering/critical thinking/problem solving courses
- Engineering is Elementary (Eie) at the primary level



westonka fast facts

AP District Honor Roll

Westonka was one of only 11 Minnesota districts named to the College Board's 2012 AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP Exams as well as the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher (usually the minimum to earn college credit).

Strong College Prep Program

- College counseling and planning begins in 7th grade
- 11 Advanced Placement courses
- College-in-the-Schools (CIS) Spanish
- Post-secondary enrollment options
- 36 AP Scholar Awards in 2016
- 60% of students taking AP Exams in 2016 scored a 3 or higher (usually the minimum to earn college credit)
- 2016 ACT composite score: 23.6—exceeds the 21.1 state average and 20.8 national average

Competitive Class Sizes

Average Class Sizes in 2015-2016:

Kindergarten: 17.38

Primary School: 21.21

Middle and High School: 22.90

High Ability Student Choices

- Full primary school Gifted and Talented program
- Accelerated and honors courses for middle school
- Strong portfolio of Advanced Placement courses and advanced, honors and CIS courses

Building Connections

- Student leadership programs at all schools
- Preschool Spanish; grades K-7 before- and after-school Spanish; high school Mandarin Chinese and CIS Spanish
- Beijing Sister School
- Foreign exchange mentorship program

Generous Community Support

- Financial support from local educational foundation
- Nine of 11 local operating levies passed since 1995
- Over \$75,000 in locally-sponsored scholarships awarded to the class of 2017

Award-Winning Activities (2016-2017)

Athletics:

- Four state tournament teams—Gymnastics (5th), Jazz Dance (6th), High Kick Dance, Girls Hockey
- 12 individual state tournament competitors; seven All-State athletes
- 50+ All-Conference athletes
- Five Conference/District Champion teams; three Section Champion teams
- Two Section Coaches of the Year
- Team Academic All-State Award, four Team Academic Gold Awards and two Team Academic Silver Awards

Business:

- 83 students competed at the state DECA meet
- 10 students qualified for DECA Internationals

Band:

- Superior ratings for MWHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band in Region 2AA contests
- Seven WCC Honor Band members, four U of MN Honor Band members and two MBDA Honor Band members

Vocal:

- Superior ratings for Concert Choir and Madd Jazz in Region 2AA contests; Madd Jazz earned "Best in Site"
- Three ACDA Honor Choir members, five middle school state choir members
- Two All-State Choir members

Drama:

- Four individual SpotLight Awards for "Little Shop of Horrors," including two for Outstanding Performance
- Production earned Outstanding Vocal Performance by an Ensemble and honorable mention awards for Acting Performance by an Ensemble, Overall Technical Team, A/V Board Operators and Student Orchestra

Fine Arts:

- 11 Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards with four Silver Key and seven Honorable Mentions
- 14 Section 2AA Visual Arts awards, including one Best in Show
- 98 ribbons and one Grand Prize at 2016 MN State Fair

Future Leaders:

- Nine Future Problem Solvers Internationals competitors
- 17 Destination Imagination Globals participants

