

NORTH OTTAWA COUNTY USD 239

MINNEAPOLIS GRADE SCHOOL

Launch Date:

September 12, 2018

Number of Students Enrolled:

325

Vision:

The mission of USD 239 is to create a nurturing environment in which all students master the intellectual and personal skills to be participating, responsible citizens in both the local and global community. They will develop self-respect, respect for others, a lifelong love of learning, commitment to family and community, respect for work and the ability to both respond to change and to initiate change.

Goal Areas:

District Goal Area 1: Increase the number of students who graduate from high school with college credit, CTE certifications and are prepared for post-secondary opportunities including military service. With this in mind we have developed this MGS Goal: Increase student success at grade level.

District Goal Area 2: North Ottawa County Schools will strive to develop a culture of servant leadership in action and to provide a school to community connection. The MGS Goal matches the District Goal.

Pertaining to MGS as a building, MGS has this building specific goal: At MGS, we will decrease the number of student office referrals for inappropriate behaviors and will increase more positive, acceptable behaviors.

What to Look for During Your Visit:

Project Based Learning

These are the topics at each grade level.

- Kindergarten - *Animals Around the World*
- First Grade - *Acorns to Oaks*
- Second Grade - *Teamwork and Friendship*
- Third Grade - *Ag Heroes*
- Fourth Grade - *Kansas Wildlife* (Fall semester); *Wildlife Habitat* (Spring Semester)
- Fifth Grade - *High Quality Work* integrated with Summit Learning and Financial Literacy
- Sixth Grade - *Biographies/Memoirs; Summit with Rigor and Relevance; Story Building; Ancient Civilizations*

Summit Learning

This year, MGS teachers in grades 5 and 6 are implementing the Summit learning model. For these students and teachers, the daily experience of school has changed. There's more collaboration between students and more one-on-one support from teachers. Students also work with a dedicated mentor who supports them in setting and achieving their short and long-term goals. Students learn how to set goals,



make plans, demonstrate their skills and knowledge, and reflect.

Co-Teaching

The Kindergarten staff applies the co-teaching strategy as part of their PBL topic of *Animals Around the World*. All Kindergarten students meet together every Thursday afternoon in Mrs. Noon's to learn information on animals. Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Noon, and Mrs. Shaft work together as an instructional team to present this information. The Kindergarten students are also involved in a Road Trip to the Rolling Hills Zoo on every first Friday of each month. These road trips tie directly into the instruction presented during the Thursday PBL classroom presentation. Instruction for *Pathways to Reading* is presented using co-teaching.

Whenever there is a New Skill to introduce in PBL, the First Grade students meet together with the entire teaching staff to gather pertinent information to move into the next section in their PBL topic of *Acorn to Oaks*. On other occasions, the First Grade students meet together under the direction of Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Pratt, and Mrs. Sanders to work as a whole group. These whole-group sessions center on a particular topic with students usually producing a finished product.

In Second Grade, Mrs. Hauck, Mrs. Mortimer, and Mrs. Worlock bring the entire class together for an Entry Event for each phase of their PBL topic on *Teamwork and Friendship*. They will also co-teach when all second graders are on a shared topic. These sessions involve problem solving or a group presentation.

In PBL, the Fourth Grade is involved in a shared learning program with the Cosmosphere. Representatives from the Cosmosphere visit monthly to present a topic of interest for the Fourth Grade students. This involves co-teaching during the presentation phase with individual classroom instruction and activities to follow. The Fourth Grade incorporates co-teaching while participating in the *Willie and the Beanstalk* contest sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Agronomy.

Twice each semester, students in Grades 3-6 attend an Art Class taught by Tamara Noble, Art instructor at the MJSHS. Grade level teachers co-teach with Mrs. Noble during these sessions.

Depending on the topic, co-teaching is implemented between Physical Education and Music. Mrs. Corman and Mrs. Lonberger will team together for whole-school activities, presentations, and for topic-specific units such as dance.

To Learn More:

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For more information, visit the [Kansas Building Report Card](#)