



Sue's News

Dear parents,

Our third through eighth graders have been impressive over the last two weeks as they tackled the **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) in English and Mathematics!** Each day to kick off the day and set the tone for the grade levels that were testing we held a "Breakfast of Champions". As we munched on cereal, fruit, go-gurt, and nutri-grain bars, we walked the students through the day's schedule and students shared brilliant test-taking strategies with their peers. I actually had the pleasure of proctoring the 3rd graders for their first ever MCA exams, and they amazed me. They were focused, took notes, highlighted answers within the stories, and were thorough as they went back over the test to check their answers. They read quietly as they respectfully allowed fellow classmates all the time they needed to complete their exams. As you may have heard from your children, each student got a ration of mints; as we shared with the kids, "experts" strongly tout the benefits and so we carry on this tradition at Yinghua. Needless to say, we are all relieved to have these required exams behind us and to turn our attention to science fair projects and preparation for Academic Presentations. Rehearsals are underway.

This week provided opportunities for *adult* education. We learned about the advantages of Singapore Math especially relative to preparation for algebra. Did you know that because of this curriculum Yinghua students are typically a year ahead of other American students? Not only is the pace brisk, but initial and unofficial MCA math results prove that solid curriculum + outstanding teachers + bright, hardworking kids = SUCCESS!

Yinghua's first ever Futures Panel featuring representatives from DeLaSalle, Mounds View High School, Minnetonka High School, and Minnesota Online High School was a lively gathering of students, parents, and teachers who are interested in the possibilities beyond Yinghua. While the experts were engaging, informative, and passionate about their respective institutions, it was Yinghua graduates who stole the show! Aaron Corpstein from DeLaSalle, Gretchen Glewwe from Mounds View High School, and Tillian Teske from Minnetonka High School shared their experiences and advice with the audience. Without solicitation, Tillian sent me the attached document, highlighting her insights about her freshmen year. All I could say was "Wow"! See what you think.

Here's to a dry, sunny weekend!

Warm regards,

Sue Berg
Executive Director



A Yinghua Graduate's Preparation for High School

Insights from Tillie Teske — Minnetonka High School

How prepared are Yinghua students for high school? Minnetonka High School?

- Very well prepared
- I am taking almost all Honors classes and one Advanced Placement class
- I'm on the A honor roll

What are some of your classes?

- English Honors
- Spanish I
- Physical Science Honors
- Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography
- Geometry Honors
- Photography II

Why are you not taking Chinese?

- Because I wanted to take Spanish. I am keeping up my Chinese with a tutor.

How is the experience at MHS?

- Classes are engaging
- Teachers are helpful and fun
- Made many friends
- Next year, I am taking part in the International Studies class, where you study one country and have a partner from the country you choose and meet twice a month during Zero hour (before regular classes). There are a variety of countries to choose from such as China, the Netherlands, Germany, India, Peru, South Africa, Spain, and Russia. Some countries include hosting your partner and trips to the country.
- Getting engaged in extracurricular activities and community service is strongly encouraged at MHS
 - I'm a part of two extracurricular activities: Earth club, Interact, which is a community based club, and the Class of 2017 Legacy Project.
 - Each class is required to do one local community project and one international project each year. Since my class is comprised of about one thousand students, the Legacy team chooses the projects for them.

Do you recommend MHS for a Yinghua Student?

- Yes. I highly recommend MHS because of its level of internationality, and they are really welcoming to new students.

What do you suggest a Yinghua student do if they are to be enrolled at MHS?

- Get involved. You will definitely find many friends that way.
- Do what you love. Enroll in classes that you think you would love and enjoy, and yet learn from them.
- Don't change who you are. High school may seem like a huge change, but don't let that get in your way, just be yourself and you will find many friends!
- Study hard. High school is a very important part of your life.

Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents!

Happy Friday! Unfortunately, I had computer trouble last Friday and wasn't able to submit my blog for the last newsletter. What follows is what I had wanted to talk about. Better late than never!

We finally had a gorgeous day! I really appreciated that today when we were outside on the curb helping everyone get used to the new morning arrival and afternoon dismissal procedures. As a whole, it went really, really well. I don't think we clogged up 18th at all this afternoon! I know the neighbors on Pierce will appreciate having less congestion in front of their homes too.

On that note, many of you have asked why the change. I just mentioned a couple of the reasons. In addition, you may or may not be aware that they are about to close Central Ave from 14th Ave to 18th Ave while they rebuild the railroad bridge there. This project will go well into next fall and will cause much more traffic on 18th so we cannot block it up any more. We will also have our new kindergarteners back with us at the Main Campus starting autumn. That will bring in more parent vehicles. By moving the buses over to Fillmore, we take them out of the congestion. This frees up the flow of traffic tremendously in the mornings and more importantly, it gives us the whole length of 16th Ave for the queue during dismissal pick-up. Lastly, by starting the new plan now, everyone will know the drill when school starts again in September. In case you missed the previous emails about this (we've been having technical difficulties), I have attached the new Traffic Map and a letter that will answer any specific questions you may have about the traffic plan. All things considered, I think it has been going really well and it will only get better!



On a separate note, I wanted to share a few pics from recent Student Life events. First, please check out the pics from the MS Glow Dance. Unfortunately, I couldn't shut my flash off so you won't be able to see all the glow in the dark stuff. But, believe me, it was super cool and the kids had a blast!



Second, check out the pics from our Earth Day Trash Clean-Up event that we held on April 22nd. To help celebrate the day, we asked for student volunteers to assist us in picking up trash around the school. We were over-whelmed by the response. Dozens of students from all grade levels came to help clean-up the grounds. I was so impressed by the kids. They did a wonderful job!



With that, I will wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Families, & Community

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Helmet Reminder: All students in Grades 1-8 will need a helmet for the week of May 19-23. More details in next update.

Popsicle Run Practice: Monday May 5 during recess for Grades 2-8.

Popsicle Donators: We need parent volunteers who are willing to buy Popsicles for their child's whole class. Please buy only regular Popsicles with the one stick. We are trying to be consistent with the type of Popsicles so all kids get something similar. NO FREEZIE POPS.



POPSICLE RUN The popsicle run is a fitness run for grades 1-8. Students are encouraged to do their best and to work toward a personal record (PR). All participants receive a Popsicle upon finishing. *Parents and teachers are welcome* to join in on the fun as a participant/runner, fan or a helper.

May 12: Grade 5 2:36pm



May 14

- Grade 2A/B 9:15am
- Grade 2C/D 10:10am
- All Grade 3 11:00am
- All Grade 4 11:25am
- Grade 1A/C 1:00pm
- Grade 1B/D 1:50pm
- Grades 6-8 2:40pm

Training Tips for the Popsicle Run

1. **Practice, practice, practice.** *You have to use your muscles to build muscle.*
2. **Take care of your feet.** *Have a good pair of running shoes.*
3. **Good nutrition and rest.** *Eat healthy foods and get plenty of sleep.*
4. **Set a goal.** *Pick your training days and how far you want to run.*
5. **Good attitude.** *Have a positive attitude. You can do it.*



Pre-race Day Tips

1. Early to bed the night before.
2. Healthy breakfast: high in protein, low in sugar.
3. Be prepared: shoes, clothing, attitude.

Popsicle Run Tips

Do your best.
Stay on trail.
Cheer on your classmates.
Finish strong.



Expansion Updates

Be sure to check out the new expansion updates at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/about/expansion/>. You can start to see the interior really taking shape from the pictures included.

No Newsletter Next Week (5/9)

We will not be sending out a newsletter next Friday. Watch out for our next newsletter on May 16.

Orchestra Update

Audition for 2014-2015: Audition dates are May 27, 28, and 29 in the morning meeting time and noon time. Sign-up is available at http://www.ptcfast.com/schools/Yinghua_Academy. Please sign up by May 19th!

UPCOMING DATES

May 8 9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour
May 9	NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development Day
May 16	Academic Performance (Grades 1-8)
May 17	Music Conservatory Recital
May 19 6:00PM-8:00PM	School Board Meeting

Rev Sports: May 9th and Summer Camps

We still have room in our May 9th no-school day camp. We also have a special 50% deal for all summer camps if you register by May 15th. Visit www.RevolutionarySports.org. To register for summer camp use coupon code YINGHUA50% .

Art Opportunity: Minneapolis Institute of Arts' Art in Bloom Event May 1-4, free!



Enter a world of *timeless art and fresh flowers* during the 31st annual Art in Bloom. Delight in over 150 floral arrangements designed to interpret pieces of art from the MIA's permanent collection.

Great way to prepare yourself for your student's portfolios. Walk the museum together, spot some artwork that we studied this year with art adventure, begin asking questions. Ask them what they like. What do they like about it? Do you notice themes in the artwork they are drawn to?



A Note from the Health Office

Just a reminder to parents:

All illnesses need to be reported to the school and with diagnosis if known.

Should my Child Stay Home from School?

- If your child has had a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher in the past 24 hours.
- If your child has vomited/ or has diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- If having your child at school would significantly put others at risk for contracting your child's illness (strep throat, pink eye, etc)
Children are to not return to school under these circumstances unless they have been on antibiotics for a full 24 hours.
- If your child feels ill enough that he/she would not be able to benefit from being at school.



May YACA Meeting—cancelled

The regularly scheduled monthly YACA meeting on Monday, May 5 has been cancelled.

2014 Parent Survey

All current Yinghua families should have received an email invitation to the annual parent survey on April 29 or 30. This survey will close on Thursday, May 8th at 11:45pm. Please complete the survey; we appreciate and want to hear feedback.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Science

Update: The Science Fair is two weeks away! Students have been working on their projects with experiments and research. Each group should have done a trial run of the experiment that was documented with pictures or video. They should also have a couple rough draft paragraphs of research about their topic and how their experiment shows evidence of the science concept. Now is the time to finalize the experiment and organize the presentation. Presentation boards are available from Mr. Scheid for \$5. A helpful template and example presentation will be sent out to students by email and these are also available on the Science classroom page.



MCA: Next week students will take the Science MCA. 5A is on Tuesday, 8th grade on Wednesday and 5B on Thursday. Students have been reviewing in class and have a review packet for weekend homework. Review materials are also available on the Science classroom page.



ELA

Students are in the revising stage of their dramatic writing projects (sixth grade--radio dramas; seventh grade--stage plays; and eighth grade--screenplays) After academic performances, students will become poets for a few weeks! They will both analyze poems and write poems of their own: Sixth graders will be writing narrative poems; seventh graders, sonnets; and eighth graders, villanelles. This is in addition to the vocabulary and grammar they will continue to do each week right up until exam week.

Book -- Science -- Event!

A brand new book called *Plant A Pocket of Prairie* has been published. Meet author Phyllis Root (one of Mr. Scheid's favorites), hear passages from the book, learn science facts at one of these upcoming events.

Saturday May 10, 2014, 12 - 1:30 pm
Birchbark Books, 2115 West 21st Street, Minneapolis

Sunday May 18, 2014, 2 pm
Wild Rumpus, 2720 West 43rd Street, Minneapolis

