



## MINNEHAHA ACADEMY CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

One hundred years ago, a dedicated group of individuals inspired by God came together to build a school offering high quality education that would serve future generations. Through hard work, sacrifice and God's blessing, Minnehaha Academy was founded in 1913 by Covenant pastors.

With a commitment to its original mission, Minnehaha Academy has continued to flourish because of its mission to provide high quality education integrating Christian faith and learning. This year, Minnehaha has a student body of 900 students, with a Lower and Middle School that serves PreK through grade eight and an Upper School that serves grades 9-12, both located in Minneapolis along the Mississippi River.

"With God's help, Minnehaha Academy has left an indelible mark on the world. The school has been blessed with wise and effective leadership, talented faculty and staff, and lasting student contributions in ministry, music, art and athletics," said Dr. Donna Harris, president of Minnehaha Academy. She added,

"With each new generation of students, the institution has remained vibrant and relevant, and we are now meeting the needs of 21st Century learners."



### WELL-BALANCED STUDENTS

At Minnehaha Academy, strong academics are driven by passionate teachers. Minnehaha's advanced curriculum prepares students for challenging post-secondary opportunities. The teachers are experts in their subject areas and committed to offering excellent educa-

tional experiences to students. The school offers 18 Advanced Placement courses (courses that earn college credits) in the sciences and humanities—more than any other private school in the state.

Inclusive extra-curricular activities are an integral part to the Minnehaha experience. At all ages, Minnehaha encourages students to explore a wide range of experiences.

While demonstrating excellence, athletic teams and fine arts programs are flexible, allowing students to participate in a variety of activities. The school showcases 20 performing groups providing opportunities for every age and ability level in band, orchestra, choir, and drama. The school also offers 25 Varsity sports, plus additional athletic activities for younger students.

At Minnehaha Academy, it is recognized that each student comes at a different place in their faith journey. The school is founded on belief in the Bible as God's true word and the need for a personal relationship with Christ. Through stimulating classroom discus-

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Minnehaha is the **first and only school in the Midwest** to offer a program where Upper School students develop a science experiment for the International Space Station

1

Through cultural immersion, all students in grades 9-11 annually pursue opportunities that **create local, national and global connections** among people of diverse circumstances and backgrounds

Virtually the entire Upper School student body participates in a **sport, the fine arts or an extracurricular activity**

3

In spring 2012, film students entered the Children's Hospital and Kohls video contest, winning **first, third and fifth place in the state**

Minnehaha students are the **2012 Debate State Champions**

5

The Middle School has a unique advisory program where teacher-advisors serve as advocates, ensuring that students are **on-track for growth and success**

During Alaska month in Pre-school, students **Skype with Alaskans** and experience dog-sledding first hand

7

Minnehaha uses a variety of **21st Century technologies** in classrooms, and Grades 5 and 6 have a 1:1 iPad program

8

# NWC AND MINNEHAHA'S CONNECTION RUNS DEEP

*Excerpt from "A Century of Faith and Learning" by Justin Ekstedt '01*

The Evangelical Covenant Church was established in 1885 in Chicago as the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America. The Northwest Conference (NWC) was established in 1884 as the Swedish Christian Mission Association of the Northwest in Minneapolis. A year after its founding it became a regional branch of the larger Covenant denomination. Today, the NWC is made up of approximately 140 churches in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa and western Wisconsin.

The NWC owns Minnehaha Academy as an important extension of its commitment to Children, Youth & Family Ministry and its vision to develop leaders for thriving churches. Pastors of Covenant churches and the Superintendent of the Northwest Conference sit on the school's Board of Education along with other local leaders. The Board is accountable to the Conference when undertaking major building or fundraising campaigns, while the Academy's day-to-day operation remains the responsibility of the school's administration, faculty and staff.

For many years the Northwest Conference office was located in the former President's house on 47th Ave. in Minneapolis. In late 1978 a new building was constructed at the North Campus, which stood until it was taken down in 2001 in preparation for construction of the new gymnasium. After the former President's house was remodeled, the Northwest Conference once again moved back into that space.

In addition to extending the ministry of the



Conference and the Covenant, Minnehaha has also been a source of strength for both. Throughout its history, students from Covenant families across the United States have come to Minneapolis to attend Minnehaha Academy. The school has been a place where generations of conference and Covenant pastors, missionaries and lay leaders have learned, taught and experienced God's call on their lives.

The Academy has also hosted both conference and denominational annual meetings. For many people, Minnehaha Academy has been and continues to be one of the most visible expressions of the Covenant's ministry in the Northwest.

The former President's house at 3106 47th Ave. S. was originally built for T. W. Anderson. The house now provides space for the offices of the Northwest Conference.



## MINNEHAHA ACADEMY ALUMNI ARCHIVE HOUSE

Minnehaha Academy has created an Alumni Archive House (a museum of sorts) at 3105 46th Ave. S., Minneapolis, behind the offices of the NWC. It is the home of 100 years of archives with a rich Covenant history. The Archive house will be open to the public by appointment. Please email [advancement@MinnehahaAcademy.net](mailto:advancement@MinnehahaAcademy.net) if you'd like to visit Archive house.

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2013.** We invite you to the Minnehaha Academy Centennial Celebration and Worship—the same weekend as the 2013 NWC Annual Meeting—at Hognander Chapel, North Campus, 3100 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis. Help us celebrate and give thanks for God's faithfulness to Minnehaha Academy and our Covenant roots for 100 years. Visit [MinnehahaAcademy.net/100](http://MinnehahaAcademy.net/100) for information.

## MINNEHAHA CENTENNIAL FROM PAGE 1

sion, Bible classes, advisory group and weekly chapel meetings, faculty and staff model Christian values and encourage students to think personally about faith and belief.

**“Minnehaha students are not only honor students, but honorable students,” said Mark Stromberg, class of ‘74 and superintendent of the NWC.**

## CHRISTIAN VALUES

Minnehaha challenges students to grow in thoughts, words and actions guided by Christian values and principles. School life centers on a Christian viewpoint and servant leadership.

As part of the Centennial celebration, Minnehaha is encouraging students, parents, alumni and friends to be a blessing in service to others on projects with local, national and international reach. The local project is called the Covenant Partners Community Service Day and is Saturday, April 27, from 12-4 p.m. The Minnehaha community will work alongside members of NWC churches to assist those in our neighborhood with home projects. The school hopes to recruit 100 volunteers. The National project will be working with the nonprofit Good Neighbors, founded by Minnehaha Academy alum, Jason Benedict ('96), helping to repair low-income homes and restore hope while bringing God's love to the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky.

Minnehaha is excited to partner with Covenant Kids Congo for the international project. Students, Pre-K through Grade 12 are learning about the Congo with a goal to raise \$10,000 for a clean water project.



Fifteen student service interns from the Upper School are taking the lead on this project and are looking for ways to be involved with Covenant Kids Congo long-term. Minnehaha Academy students are eager to be the hands and feet of Christ alongside the people of the Congo. The Lower and Middle School has already raised more than \$6,000 of Minne-

haha's total goal of \$10,000 for the project.

Minnehaha's Centennial is a time of honoring a rich heritage, but also charting the future with celebration and thanksgiving.

“We hope you are inspired to renew the promise that is Minnehaha Academy today. Please join us in celebrating our Centennial and help launch Minnehaha Academy into its second century,” said Harris, who is a member of Community Covenant Church and serves on the Board of North Park University. She continued that as the school looks forward, “it will be important to be sharply attuned to the education horizon to maintain our position in the marketplace, but even more critical, we must remember our God-inspired mission, lest we drift from it.”

### MINNEHAHA DISTINCTIVES:

- Being a parent of a Minnehaha student means being a partner in education. Minnehaha parents are valued contributors at every step of the educational journey.
- Minnehaha Academy seeks to have a student body that reflects the diversity of the Twin Cities metro area. Our student body is 21 percent students of color.
- Minnehaha Academy offers bus transportation throughout the Twin Cities metro area



### LEARN MORE:

Covenant families receive 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for tuition at Minnehaha Academy. To see if you qualify or to schedule a personal tour, e-mail [admission@MinnehahaAcademy](mailto:admission@MinnehahaAcademy) or call 612-728-7756. Learn more about Minnehaha Academy at an upcoming Admission Program:

**Upper School Information Program**  
(Grades 9-12)  
3100 West River Parkway, Minneapolis  
Jan. 29, 2013, 6:45 p.m.

**Lower and Middle School Information Program** (Grades PreK-8)  
4200 West River Parkway, Minneapolis  
Jan. 31, 2013, 6:45 p.m.

## IMAGINE ATTENDANCE DOUBLES AT NOVEMBER EVENT WITH TIGER MCLUEN

Children & Family Ministry in the Northwest Conference is off to a good start! Crossroads Covenant in Forest Lake, MN, hosted IMAGINE on Nov. 10 for children's ministry volunteers. Over 100 people came from 27 churches, which more than doubled our attendance from last year.



Tiger McLuen from Youth Leadership encouraged volunteers to move from chaperones to shepherds, and also inspired volunteers in their ministry to complicated families. McLuen reminded children's ministers to take the long view of ministry and to look past the challenging behavior of kids so we can let them know they are loved, valued and not alone. Here are a few quotes from the day:

- “I felt like I finally heard a model that relates to where our families really are.”
- “Tiger did an excellent job presenting talks. His insight into youth and family ministry is exceptional. Thank you.”
- “Great event. Time well spent. Good ideas/thoughts to ‘bring home,’ discuss and incorporate.”
- “I really enjoyed the topic and have a lot to think about and process with our team.”

We certainly plan to offer more events like this so if you missed Imagine, don't panic! The Children & Family Ministry Commission is actively working on ways to resource and connect children's ministry teams. Looking to get connected with Children & Family Ministry? Contact Kara Stromberg at [kara@nwc-cov.org](mailto:kara@nwc-cov.org) to be included in our bi-monthly e-news and to see how the Northwest Conference can support your church.



# CHET MINNEAPOLIS CONTINUES TO THRIVE

CHET (centro hispano estudios teologicos) Minneapolis, a Spanish language training institute for Spanish speaking pastors and lay leaders, is well into its second year. CHET is a Covenant training center headquartered in Compton, CA, that was started by North Park University to educate Spanish speaking leaders for the church.

CHET has seen several satellite sites open over the last few years. After much prayer, CHET Minneapolis began last fall with the anticipation of 6-8 students for the first class. Instead, 43 students showed up on the first night of classes. CHET Minneapolis meets at Minnehaha Academy on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Minnehaha Academy, a school founded to educate the children of immigrants, is now reaching another generation of immigrant students.

The class offerings at CHET Minneapolis have now been expanded and six classes were offered this fall quarter. Beginning in January, CHET Minneapolis offered the first ministry level class at this location: "Women,

Men & the Church," taught by Kyliah Villa.

The CHET leadership team, led by the Rev. Mike Brown, director of Church Planting for the Northwest Conference, is very excited about what God is doing through CHET. Recently, flyers were sent to all the Spanish speaking congregations in the Twin Cities and the expectation is that CHET will continue to see an influx of new students.

The Twin Cities currently has the fastest growing Hispanic population in the U.S. The needs are tremendous as we are committed to raising up Godly, biblically literate leaders for the church. While the classes continue to grow, the needs are significant. The Northwest Conference is looking for churches who will partner with CHET through a portion of their mission giving to reach their "Samaria" and find a way to embrace this nearby, cross-cultural ministry.

God is bringing the world to our doorsteps and we have the joy of being able to be involved in training leaders who will impact the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## NWC APPROVES TWO NEW CHURCH PLANTERS

Pastor Touger Thao is currently doing a church planting residency at Maple Grove Covenant Church, with the hope of planting a church that will be intentionally multi-ethnic/cultural with a focus on reaching second generation Hmong in the Twin Cities. Pastor Paul Robinson will begin planting a new

multi-ethnic church this spring in the Coon Rapids area of the Twin Cities. We also have several pastors scheduled to attend Church Planter Assessment Centers this spring. Please be praying for these pastors and their families as they step out in faith and say yes to the challenging work of church planting.

**MAKE & DEEPEN DISCIPLES**

GO GLOBE WATER BOOK HANDS WINE BREAD

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

**2013 ANNUAL MEETING**

APRIL 25-27 • NWC-COV.ORG  
MINNEHAHA ACADEMY, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

## NWC news in your inbox

Get our monthly UPDATE e-mail to learn more about NWC news and events. E-mail [bryan@nwc-cov.org](mailto:bryan@nwc-cov.org) to sign up.

## NORTHWEST CONFERENCE CALENDAR

**JANUARY 12, 2013** // Recharge – St. Andrews Church, Mahtomedi, MN

**APRIL 12-13** // MOVE – First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN

**APRIL 25-27** // NWC Annual Meeting – Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, MN

**APRIL 28** // Minnehaha Centennial Celebration – MA North Campus, Minneapolis, MN

**JUNE 15-22** // Adventures in Leadership – Adventurous Christians, Grand Marais, MN

**JUNE 27-29** // ECC Annual Meeting – Detroit, MI

**AUGUST 15-17** // MUUUCE – Crossroads Church, Woodbury, MN

**AUGUST 15-18** // ECC Triennial – San Diego, CA

**AUGUST 23-25** // Emerge High School Leadership Retreat – Lake Beauty Bible Camp, Long Prairie, MN

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**northwest conference**  
developing leaders. thriving churches.

*The Northwest Conference is a regional conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. We are approximately 140 churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa.*