



ACADEMY OF WHOLE LEARNING

The Exceptional School for Exceptional Learners

The BRIDGE

Thursday, January 21, 2016

We provide a personalized learning path integrating academic, social and life skills for qualifying students with autism spectrum disorder or related learning differences.

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Snapshot from The Nest

Academy of Whole Learning invites you to enjoy a spontaneous view of school life.



Students in St. Croix have been working hard to begin their research projects on influential African Americans. Students created a portfolio to organize and keep all of their research information. Students will be asked to find credible sources, take notes on key information, organize their research, cite their sources, and present their research during Black History Month in February.

Quick Links

[2015-2016 School Calendar](#)

[I CAN! Tutoring Registration](#)

[Home Base Registration](#)

[Co-Curricular Winter
II Registration](#)



Upcoming Events & Reminders

Mandatory Parent Meeting

Thursday, January 21; 6:30 p.m.

Evening Conferences

Tuesday, February 9

Thursday, February 11

Conferences;

No School

Friday, February 12

Mid-Winter Break

No School

February 15 - 19

Wyayn's Words

In December I shared our recent accreditation approval letter. What I didn't mention were the areas of improvement they recommended and/or required. They gave us 7 recommendations. Three of their recommendations were validations of areas we already wanted to improve: 1) research assessments to better measure, track and communicate academic, social and life skills progress. 2) a new facility that can be customized to better meet the individual learning needs and provide a greater sensory friendly environment 3) develop a broad fundraising/development plan.

We had four areas of improvement the accreditation noted independent of our self-evaluation. 1) to publish the mission statement consistently in all communications 2) develop and publish written philosophies for all subject areas, 3) consistently enforce attendance/tardiness policies and 4) develop and implement formal board recruitment and self-evaluation processes. We have begun working on many of their recommendations already (see Attendance) and will keep you updated on our progress.

[Strategic Vision and Recommendations](#)

- *Wyayn Rasmussen, Head of School*

February Break Adventure Camp

Are you wondering what to do when school is out? Send your student(s) to Academy of Whole Learning **Adventure**



Camp! Siblings are welcome too! Each day your student(s) will have a different adventure. Please see the attached [brochure and registration sheet](#). If you have any questions contact Sarah Fitzgerald, Sarah.Fitzgerald@aowl.org.

Mandatory Parent Meeting

A graphic with a rainbow gradient background and the text "Co-curricular Activities" in a white, serif font.

Co-curricular
Activities

Winter II Co-Curricular
Registration is Now
Open!

Winter II offerings include:



Teacher Blogs



Want to keep up with what your student is learning? Check out our teacher's blogs to see lessons and activities taking place inside the classroom.

[Lake Itasca](#)

[Minnehaha Falls](#)

[St. Croix River](#)

[Cedar Lake](#)

[Lake Nokomis](#)

Accreditation & Memberships



Minnesota Non-Public School
Accrediting Association

- American Sign Language Club (Grades 4-12)
- Chess Club (Grades 4-12)
- Dance Club (Grades 4-12)
- Forensics Club (Grades 4-12)
- Karate Club (Grades 4-12)
- Lego Club (Grades 1-3)

For more information about the Winter II offerings and registration information please visit our [co-curricular activities page](#) on our website.

Winter Conferences



It is time to sign up for Winter conferences. Please complete the [conference sign up form](#) and return it to your student's homeroom teacher by Friday, January 29, 2016.

Conferences will take place on the evenings of Tuesday, February 9 and Thursday, February 11 as well as during the day on Friday, February 12.

If your student is in grades 4-12, please plan on bringing your student, as students will lead the conference.

Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Special Olympics of Minnesota is a highly cherished partner of Academy of Whole Learning. Through this partnership, our students have the opportunity to compete in tournaments, develop sports skills, and participate in unified teams with youth from all over the metro. It is for this reason and more that we ask you to join us in giving back to Special Olympics of Minnesota this year at the Eden Prairie Polar Plunge on.

There are a few ways you support team Academy of Whole Learning:

- [Register](#) and take the plunge with team AOWL - select and join Academy of Whole Learning team.
- Support team AOWL with pledges - Here is the [link](#).
- Come out to the event in your AOWL spirit wear and cheer us on - no registration necessary.

On the day of the event, plungers (and supporters) will be meeting at the home of Jeff and Liz Sloan and then walking to the plunge site, Lake Riley. All families and friends are welcome to join our team. You will be jumping with AOWL Staff, their families and some of our amazing students!

What happens to the pledge money? That's the best part - 50% of the money raised through the Polar Plunge pledges goes to support Special Olympics, the other 50% comes back to AOWL!

www.mnsaa.org

We are proud to be an Accredited School through MNSAA.



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

Minnesota Independent School Forum

www.misf.org

We are grateful for MISF and their continued support.



National Association of Special Education Teachers

www.naset.org

We are proud to be a 2015-2016

School of Excellence

award recipient.



Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

<http://www.minnesotanonprofits.org>



Council for Exceptional Children

www.cec.sped.org



COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION®

Council for Advancement and Support of Education

<http://www.case.org>



Association of

As you can see in the photo below, this event was a blast (of freezing water) last year and this year promises to be even better!

Please contact [Rosey Glynn](#) if you have any questions about pledging, registering, or jumping!



Attendance

Thanks to our hard working Governance Committee we have a formal [Attendance Policy](#) that meets the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law. It is attached here. Please read it carefully as we will begin implementing the policy immediately. This is the same policy in the Family Handbook, with the added school reporting requirements.

From our Family Handbook:

ATTENDANCE

Academy of Whole Learning believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in the academic world, benefits the students socially, provides opportunities for important communication between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. Students are required to attend all assigned classes every day school is in session. Attendance will be taken in homeroom daily.

Chronic tardiness is detrimental to the student as well as to his or her teacher and classmates. Late arrivals are disruptive to an

Fundraising Professionals

www.aefnet.org



Minnesota School Counselors Association

www.mnschoolcounselors.org



American Counseling Association

<http://www.counseling.org>



Nonprofit Financial Group

<http://www.nfgmn.org>

ongoing class, set a poor start to the student's day, and result in the student missing valuable teaching time, requiring the teacher to backtrack and re-teach material already covered.

* Students who arrive to school after 8:25 a.m. are considered tardy.

Academy of Whole Learning will adhere to the regulations as determined by the Minnesota Compulsory School

Attendance Law. The law states that all children must attend school every day **on time** unless lawfully excused by the school.

EXCUSED / UNEXCUSED ABSENCE Compulsory Instruction - MN Statute 120A.22, provides that: "Every child between seven and seventeen years of age must receive instruction." Once enrolled in our school, the student is subject to the compulsory attendance provisions of Minnesota Statutes 120A.22 and 120A.34. Truancy is defined as a child who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of MN Statute 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in MN Statute 120A.05, without a valid excuse within a single school year.

Excused Absences include:

- * Student illness
- * Doctor, Dentist, Therapy, or other medical appointment
- * Funeral
- * Weather or Vehicle Emergency

Unexcused Absences include:

- * Overslept
- * Didn't want to attend
- * Slow to get going
- * Running late
- * Personal vacation or travel
- * Didn't want to go on Community Based Instruction
- * Didn't have help getting the children ready

ABSENCE / TARDY PROCEDURE:

* If a student will be absent, please call or email the school (office@aowl.org) as well as your student's homeroom teacher by 8:20 a.m. to report the absence with the following information:

- Day the absence being reported
- Student's full name
- Reason for absence (including symptoms in the case of illness)
- Name and relation of the person reporting the absence

* We strongly encourage you to schedule doctor and dentist appointments, etc. outside the school day and calendar. Our students benefit from as much continuity and consistency as possible.

* Parents of tardy students must sign their student in at the front

office.

* Students who arrive late to class during the school day without a valid reason will also be considered tardy.

* Parents are responsible for getting their children to school on time. If a student is regularly tardy or absent (unexcused) Academy of Whole Learning administration will conference with parents to review the problem, notify them of the requirements of the state attendance law, and outline corrective action.

* All absences and tardies will be notated on the report cards and student files.

Amazon School Supplies



Academy of Whole Learning now has a published school [supply list on Amazon](#). Throughout the school year teachers are in need of more classroom supplies. This is an easy way to know of teachers needs and requests with a simple click. Don't forget to select Academy of Whole Learning as your preferred Charitable Organization.

Amazon.com will donate a percentage of your purchase to AOWL. Thank you for your support!

Our job is to serve you! Please let us know how we can help make your AOWL experience an even better one!

AOWL Leadership	Board of Directors Officers
Lindsey Brandt - Director of Advancement	Janel Dressen - Board Chair
Sarah Fitzgerald - Dean of Students	Dan Martin - Board Vice-Chair
Rosey Glynn - Director of Outreach	Mark Basco - Board Treasurer
Rachel Houle - Lead Teacher	Chris Elliott - Board Secretary
Carly Rasmussen - Business Manager	
Wyayn Rasmussen - Head of School	

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Academy of Whole Learning values each student's gifts as an individual, regardless of age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or genetic information. Academy of Whole Learning is unable to meet

the needs of students with emotional or behavioral issues that may negatively impact the learning environment. This policy applies to all areas of student concerns; including admissions, athletics, educational policies, tuition assistance, and other school-administered programs.

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