



ACADEMY OF WHOLE LEARNING
The Exceptional School for Exceptional Learners

The BRIDGE

Monday, October 19, 2015

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.



Structured lunch consists of active conversations with the students and a teacher at each table. When the students are done eating, they enjoy playing games with their peers.

BULLETIN BOARD

Words from Wyayn

Quick Links

[2015-2016 School Calendar](#)

[I CAN! Tutoring Registration](#)

[Home Base Registration](#)

[Co-Curricular Fall Registration](#)



Upcoming Events & Reminders

Unity Day

Wednesday, October 21

Accreditation Site Visit

Tuesday, October 27

Wednesday, October 28

Give to the Max Day

Thursday, November 12

Fall Open House

Thursday, November 19

Special Person's Day

Tuesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 25 - 27; No School

In January of 2012 I re-entered school as a doctoral candidate; now I am just 8 weeks away from completing my coursework. I have at times questioned my sanity to embark on this educational journey while recreating this beautiful school during the same time frame. And yet in many ways, completing my doctorate has been a complementary effort to seeking accreditation for the school.

I think of accreditation as analogous to earning a doctorate. Attaining the bachelor's degree is fairly standard. The master's degree is considerably more focused. But a terminal degree requires the intensive study and implementation of researched based practice and perhaps most importantly, the defense of your work and ideas before a body of your peers. You must undergo a careful scrutiny before you are found worthy. Then, once you have attained that distinction, you must maintain your body of expertise or lose credibility. That's what accreditation is like for schools.

The Minnesota Department of Education has authorized the Minnesota Nonpublic Schools Accrediting Association (MNSAA) the authority to grant accreditation to nonpublic schools in Minnesota. Accreditation implies approval of a school's programs and their implementation. It implies ongoing development and adherence to established standards. It demonstrates to present and future families that the institution is serious about its mission.

Accreditation is an expression of confidence in the institution's purposes, performances, and human and financial resources. It establishes a level of acceptable quality for all accredited institutions while respecting the unique missions of the institutions involved.

We are honored to host the MNSAA accreditation site team on Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28. Five leaders from private schools in Minnesota will not only review our body of work in curriculum planning, human resources, board of directors management, financial resources and overall leadership, they will validate our strengths and give suggestions for improvement. They will be calling parents to help gauge family satisfaction. I look forward to showcasing our school and learning from other leaders.

To be honest, I'm looking forward to accreditation; I wish I could say the same about defending my dissertation.

--Wyayn Rasmussen, Head of School

Donations



We are in need of noise canceling headphones for the students. If you are willing to donate a pair of headphones please drop any donations off at the front office. Thank you for your support!

Stay Connected



Accreditation & Memberships



**Minnesota Non-Public School
Accrediting Association**

www.mnsaa.org

*We are proud to be an MNSAA
Candidate.*

Unity Day -- Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Make it **ORANGE** and make it end! Unite against bullying! [Sponsored by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center](#) since 2011. Show you care about safe and supportive schools and communities. Make your color **ORANGE** on Unity Day. That's the day everyone will come together at AOWL and send one large **ORANGE** message of support, hope and unity. Wear **ORANGE**! It can be an orange t-shirt, tie, hat, sweatshirt, wristband, socks or even shoelaces.



Special Person's Day



On Tuesday, November 24, grandparents and special friends are invited to join Academy of Whole Learning for our annual Special Person's Day. This event is a wonderful opportunity for guests to experience the excellence of an Academy of Whole Learning education through hands-on classroom activities. Special Person's Day will take place from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Please complete and return the [Special Person's Sign-Up Form](#) by Tuesday, November 17.

Important Details to Remember

- For privacy reasons, guests will not receive an invitation from the school, so please share all essential information with them.
- We will allow up to four guests per student.
- All guests must be over the age of 18.
- If your family would prefer not to participate or if special arrangements need to be made, please let [Sarah Fitzgerald](#) know as soon as possible.

Leaving with a Special Person?



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

<http://www.case.org>



Association of Fundraising Professionals

www.aefnet.org

If your child plans on leaving with his/her Special Person(s), please let the office know.

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 purchases to AOWL. Thank you for your support!

Thank You!!



Thank you to all the wonderful families who donated to provide meals, beverages, grab and go snacks for the Staff conference meals last week. A special thank you to the PTO for the coordination and logistics to ensure everything went well. The food was plentiful, scrumptious and greatly appreciate by the staff!

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	



Minnesota School Counselors Association

www.mnschoolcounselors.org



American Counseling Association

<http://www.counseling.org>



Nonprofit Financial Group

<http://www.nfgmn.org>

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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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