Did You Know?

Mental Health Red Flags (for staff and students)
- Socially withdrawn
- Acting out in ways that are unusual for their temperament
- Negative self-talk
- Preoccupation or fixation on death or self-harm
- Abrupt change in relations
- Periods of tearfulness
- Changes in productivity or performance

Gen What?!
- Traditionalists – Born before 1946 – patriotic, fiscally conservative and loyal.
- Baby boomers – Born 1946 to 1964 – idealistic and optimistic
- Gen X – Born 1965 to 1979 – independent, entrepreneurial and comfortable with change
- Millennials – Born 1980 to 1994 – secure and hopeful. They feel responsible and hold others responsible for global issues. They are tech savvy and collaborative.
- Gen Z – Born 1995 to 2012 – pragmatic and focused on success. They don’t know life without Internet connectivity.

Minnesota Public Schools include the following according to the Minnesota Department of Education Analytics:
- 328 public operating elementary and secondary independent school districts
- 128 charter schools
- 128,064 students receiving special education services
- 20,556 Native American students
- 61,109 Asian/Pacific Islander students
- 70,376 Hispanic students
- 97,036 Black students
- 593,855 White students
- 329,131 students eligible for free and reduced lunch
Teacher Supply (taken from Solving the Teacher Shortage: Revisiting the lessons we’ve learned, Barnett Berry, Center for Teaching Quality and Patrick M. Shields executive director of the Learning Policy Institute as republished in Phi Delta Kappan, May 2017)

- “Over the next decade, we will recruit and hire more than 2 million teachers for America’s schools. – National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future, 1996. Two decades later the challenge continues.
- Student enrollment is on an upward trend and expected to grow by 3 million nationally in the next decade.
- Fewer individuals are entering the teaching profession: Between 2009 and 2014, enrollments in teacher preparation programs dropped 35% nationwide."
- Minnesota Public Schools (most recent data 2014-2016) employ over 55,000 (FTE) teachers among which are approximately 2,500 new teachers.
- In the 2015-2016 school year
- 48 states and the District of Columbia reported shortages of teachers in special education
- 42 reported shortages of math teachers
- 40 reported shortages of science teachers
- 30 reported shortages of bilingual/ESL teachers

Values and Variables

- Clergy median pay: $47,000
- Audiologist median pay: $74,890
- School administrators median pay $76,700
- Occupational therapist median pay: $80,150
- Congress person: $174,000
- Neurosurgeon median pay: $385,000
- Timberwolves basketball player Jimmy Butler $16.4 million
- Comedian Amy Schumer: $17 million

Information to share with parents: taken from The Power of Play, Rachel E. White for MCM. CE+HD Connect, The University of Minnesota, Spring/Summer 2017. There are many valuable types of play including the following:

- Social play: Interacting with adults or other children
- Object play: Interacting with objects, including toys like a rattle or blocks
- Pretend play: Creating pretend objects, like a banana “telephone,” or enacting different characters, places, and times
- Physical Play: Engaging the body in activities, such as running or ball play
- Media Play: Interacting with electronic and digital environments, such as iPads and video games
Quotes and Quotables

Kids and Character

- “Each child is distinctly imperfect – to be anything else is in itself imperfection.” – anonymous
- “Children engage in all kinds of play, with benefits across the spectrum of emotional, social, cognitive, and physical realms.” – The Power of Play, Rachel E. White for MCM
- “Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honour for me.” A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- “Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.” H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Leadership

- “If we seek a society of caring, creative, and committed people, and leaders who feel called to service rather than to stature, then we need to do a better job of making that clear.” – The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking, Susan Cain, The New York Times, March 24, 2017

Purpose

- “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson
- “The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experiences.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

Future

- “What we really need are fewer people that think there is one single thing that will solve all the problems in public schools.” – Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA President
- “In the absence of meaningful training and support, teachers tend to exit the profession as quickly as they enter it. (Marinell et al., 2013)