



# Bits 'n Pieces

## Summer 2018

For use by School Leaders

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## Did You Know?

### State Smarts

- Minnesota was ranked as the second smartest state by CNBC.
- Minnesotans have received 20 percent of the nation's Nobel Awards for Literature.
- For nine years in a row Minnesota placed #1 in ACT scores.

### Safety Smarts

According to the StarTribune poll conducted from April 15 through 18, 2018, of Minnesotans...

- 56 percent support stricter gun laws.
- 90 percent support a mandatory criminal background check on all gun sales, including those sold privately and at gun shows.
- 63 percent support raising the legal age to buy a gun from 18 to 21.
- 54 percent believe our communities would be less safe if more people owned guns.

### Summertime and the water is lovely...

- Minnesota is 8 percent water.
- Minnesota is actually the land of 11,842 lakes.
- Minnesota is the only state with three major headwaters: The Red River, the Mississippi River, and waters supplying Lake Superior.
- Minnesota is #1 in the nation in surface water acreage with 2,500,000 acres.
- Minnesota's aquifers, although reduced somewhat, are in the best condition in the nation.
- Minnesota has the #1 wilderness area in the nation, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.
- The Boundary Areas Canoe Area (BWCA) has some of the oldest rick formations on Earth, estimated to be at least 2.7 billion years old.
- In 2016 Minnesota ranked #1 in overall environment quality. – WalletHub 2016

### Midsummer Message from schools to home:

Students who have experience summer learning loss over the years are an average of two years behind their peers by the end of sixth grade. Two to three hours per week of maintenance learning is required during summer vacation to prevent any learning loss.

### Reading

- On average students lose 2 months of reading skills over the summer months. (Oxford Learning)
- Studies show that reading four to five books over the summer has a positive impact comparable to summer school enrolment.

### Math

While summer learning loss has been shown to affect all areas, math skills are the hardest hit. Students can lose up to 2.6 grade levels in math over the summer. But, there are plenty of ways for children to keep their math skills active and avoid the summer brain drain. Studies have found that:

- Regular physical activity can lead to increased concentration and improved mathematics and test scores.
- 40% of parents feel their child has difficulty with math, or at best, are just getting by.
- Grade 6 students who fail math have less than a one-in-five chance of beginning Grade 12 on time.
- Students can increase their math retention by two-thirds simply by doing 10 minutes of math per day in the summer.
- Adding 10 minutes of math homework per day can reduce students' lost progress in math by one-third.

### **Tips to pass along to parents**

- Sign your child up for a team sport or other organized group experiences.
- Encourage learning a new skill such as swimming or a language.
- Go on walks and explore your city.
- Challenge your child to a new high score on an educational app.
- Start a tech project together – like a robotics kit.
- Teach kids through your own tasks – ie. baking a cake or fixing a bicycle.

## **Quotes and Quotables**

### **Environment**

- “Minnesota’s water future looks positive due to our continuous investment in clean water and a traditional respect for water conversation.” – Dr. Deborah Swackhamer, Professor of Science technology and public policy, Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- “Minnesota is positioned to become the national leader against climate change.” – MinnPost Dec. 2015

### **Sense and Sensibilities**

- “Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars.” – Less Brown
- “Trust yourself. Your perceptions are often far more accurate than you are willing to believe.” – Claudia Black
- “What I am actually saying is that we need to be willing to let our intuition guide us, and then be willing to follow that guidance directly and fearlessly.” – Shakti Gawain
- “Man can learn nothing except by going from the known to the unknown.” – Claude Bernard

### **Creativity**

- “Creativity is...seeing something that doesn’t exist already.” – Michele Shea

### **Preparation**

- “A discovery is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind.” – Albert Szent-Gyorgyi
- “Did you ever observe to whom accidents happen? Chance favors only the prepared mind.” Louis Pasteur

These materials are provided by:

**Minnesota Association of School Administrators**

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Information in this piece has been liberally extracted from [Amazing MN](#), by Lee Lynch, 2017 as well as from Oxford Learning and listed public sources.