



MINOOKA

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

District #111 mchs.net

*Mission: Strengthen **M**astery, **C**ollaboration, **H**igh Expectations, and **S**uccess for All Students.*

To: Dr. Robert Schiffbauer, Board of Education

From: Jamie Soliman

Date: August 20, 2025

Subject: August Board Report

Special Education Open House

On August 5th we offered an Open House at South Campus to our freshman students with IEPs, and their families. Families enjoyed refreshments and a presentation by Mr. Matt Shanahan with important information about MCHS. Students were then given time to meet their case manager, walk their schedule, and find their locker. Thank you to Mr. Matt Shanahan, Shawn Mannion, and the South Special Education Department for offering this special night to our students and families.

Freshman Experience

Freshmen Experience was August 6th from 7:35 am to 10:00 am. We welcomed over 600 freshmen who were able to meet fellow students, teachers, and administrators. Mr. Kevin Murphy, Assistant Principal at South Campus, was instrumental in the organization and execution of this experience. Thank you to Mr. Anthony Babich, Mr. Chris Erickson, Mrs. Katie Cassidy, and Ms. Meghan Bednarz for their support through NHS and Connections Crew. In addition, thank you to Mrs. Hillary Holden, Mr. Matt Williams, and all the activity and athletic sponsors that volunteered their time to showcase what we offer for students to get involved. Finally, thank you to John Taylor and his crew from HES for their hard work and effort to make sure South Campus was ready for students and staff.

Institute Days

Our first two institute days were August 11th and August 12th. The days included general sessions, department meetings, teacher work time, mentor meetings, and dual credit teacher meetings. Informational sessions included nurse information, Strategic Plan updates, evaluation reminders, safety and drills, construction updates, literacy, Ellevation software, 5Star Hall Pass, Kami, ClassLink, field trips and professional development. Thank you to all of our presenters for their efforts in creating meaningful days for our staff.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

This summer I had the opportunity to become a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider. After taking the course, I will continue to encourage all our staff to consider enrolling. The information provided is important for any individual working with children of all ages. Thank you to Jennifer Hamiti (Central Campus Social Worker) and Katie Diaz-Hughes (VP and Co-Founder of Mental Health Matters) for leading this meaningful training.