ANNUAL REPORT CARD 2019
THANK YOU!

Friends of Education wholeheartedly thanks the School leaders, teachers and staff for the extraordinary amount of work they do to ensure that children receive a quality education.
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Friends of Education's mission is to improve the education of children. Improving K-12 education since 1999, Friends supports programs which emphasize foundational skills and critical thinking with demonstrated evidence of increasing student achievement and post-secondary readiness.
Friends of Education started in 1999, under the name “Saving Children Through Education.” The initial focus of Saving Children Through Education was an under-performing grade school in North Minneapolis. Saving Children Through Education assisted this school in implementing the Core Knowledge Sequence developed by E.D. Hirsch, Jr., and the Core Knowledge Foundation, as well as the math program developed by Saxon.

The organization then decided to expand its reach, while maintaining its stated mission to improve the education of children and authorize quality charter schools. In 2009, the organization changed its name to “Friends of Education” to reflect Friends’ broad-based interest in improving the education of children. Friends of Education is not a religious organization, nor does it promote any religious activity or teaching.

Friends of Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Minnesota corporation. It is a member of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and is registered with the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General.
**IN THE NEWS**

**Beating the Odds**

**STAR TRIBUNE**

**Hennepin Elementary School**

For the seventh consecutive year, the Minneapolis Star Tribune recognized Hennepin Elementary as a Beating the Odds school. Hennepin Elementary is one of two schools in the Hennepin Schools District. The Beating the Odds schools are the schools with the highest poverty rates whose students score at grade level or better on the state Math and Reading tests. Poverty has a high correlation to low student achievement.

**2019 Blue Ribbon School**

**Aspen Academy**

The U.S. Department of Education designated Aspen Academy as a Blue Ribbon School for 2019. The recognition is based on the school's overall excellence in academic performance.

Established in 2008, Aspen Academy provides an exemplary education for scholars in Kindergarten through eighth grade. This year alone, Aspen Academy has received the Badge of Excellence in Reading and Attendance and has been designated as a High Quality Charter School from the State of Minnesota.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

**ACT Results**

Friends of Education high schools achieved four of the top ten highest average composite ACT scores for 2019. There are more than 300 high schools in the State of Minnesota. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

1. Nova Classical Academy
2. Nova Classical Academy
3. St. Croix Preparatory Academy
4. St. Croix Preparatory Academy
5. St. Croix Preparatory Academy
6. Parnassus Preparatory School
7. Parnassus Preparatory School
8. Parnassus Preparatory School
9. Eagle Ridge Academy
10. Eagle Ridge Academy
Friends of Education authorizes **two of the top three** high schools in the state, according to U.S. News & World Report 2020 best high school rankings:

**SchoolDigger Results**

Friends of Education congratulates its schools in the 2019 SchoolDigger.com district rankings. SchoolDigger ranks districts based on average score obtained in each grade on state assessments compared to the state average score. Friends has 9 of the top 60 schools (out of 452).

**2019 Minnesota School District Rankings**

1. St. Croix Preparatory Academy
2. Nova Classical Academy
4. Eagle Ridge Academy
7. Yinghua Academy
17. Cologne Academy
35. Parnassus Preparatory School
51. Aspen Academy
52. Seven Hills Preparatory Academy
57. DaVinci Academy

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**Best High School 2020 Rankings**

**U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT**

Nova Classical Academy
**RANKED 2ND IN MINNESOTA**
Ranked 174th nationally
Ranked 43rd among all charter schools nationally

Eagle Ridge Academy
**RANKED 3RD IN MINNESOTA**
Ranked 378th nationally
Ranked 77th among all charter schools nationally

St. Croix Preparatory Academy
**RANKED 62ND IN MINNESOTA**
Ranked 413th nationally
Ranked 3,518th among all charter schools nationally
CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Friends of Education School students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch significantly outperform all of Minnesota students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch and, in many cases, surpass all Minnesota students.

Friends of Education Percent of Economically-Disadvantaged Students Passing 2019 State Test

- Aspen: 90%
- Clarkfield: 70%
- Cologne: 50%
- DaVinci: 50%
- Eagle Ridge: 50%
- Hemepin Elem: 30%
- New Millennium: 30%
- Nova: 30%
- Parnassus: 30%
- Seven Hills: 30%
- St. Croix Prep: 30%
- Yinghua: 30%

State of MN All Students Average Percent Passing: 34.6%
State of MN Economically-Disadvantaged Students Average Percent Passing: 55.5%

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION SCHOOLS
You keep Hennepin Schools and other Friends of Education schools held to high standards. Your work benefits students, families, and staff.

- Hennepin Schools

"You keep Hennepin Schools and other Friends of Education schools held to high standards. Your work benefits students, families, and staff."

- Hennepin Schools
Friends of Education's strong results not only help build strong charter schools, but you are helping to improve public education for all students in Minnesota. We are happy to be a small part of that.

- Parnassus Preparatory School
Friends of Education
PERFORMANCE
AT A GLANCE

Friends Schools had Six of the 23 High-Quality Charter Schools in Minnesota

171 total MN Charter Schools
23 total High-Quality MN Charter Schools

The Minnesota Department of Education annually designates selected charter schools as High-Quality based on school performance. To receive a High-Quality designation, charter schools must exceed state averages in twelve academic measures in reading, math, and science, including proficiency, individual student growth, and closing the achievement gap; in addition, charter schools must meet financial and compliance benchmarks established by the state. Friends of Education congratulates its schools receiving this selective designation:

- Cologne Academy
- DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science
- Eagle Ridge Academy
- Parnassus Preparatory School
- St. Croix Preparatory Academy
- Yinghua Academy
Friends of Education Students Percent Passing 2019 State Tests

Friends of Education outperforms the state average in all grades and in all subjects on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments.

**MATH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Friends Schools</th>
<th>State of Minnesota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**READING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Friends Schools</th>
<th>State of Minnesota</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</table>

**SCIENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Friends Schools</th>
<th>State of Minnesota</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Friends Schools spend on average $6,522 per student, which is 34% less than the average cost per student of $12,792 for Friends Schools. The traditional district average cost per student is $19,314.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friends School</th>
<th>Friends School per Student Cost</th>
<th>Traditional District in which Charter is Located</th>
<th>Traditional District per Student Cost</th>
<th>Friends School per Student Cost as % of District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>$12,050</td>
<td>Prior Lake Savage</td>
<td>$17,659</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkfield</td>
<td>$15,784</td>
<td>Yellow Medicine</td>
<td>$16,948</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cologne</td>
<td>$12,812</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>$13,396</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DaVinci</td>
<td>$11,338</td>
<td>Anoka</td>
<td>$17,174</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Ridge</td>
<td>$10,833</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>$26,459</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin</td>
<td>$19,269</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>$22,659</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Millennium</td>
<td>$14,322</td>
<td>Robbinsdale</td>
<td>$17,935</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova</td>
<td>$11,882</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>$21,736</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parnassus</td>
<td>$10,502</td>
<td>Osseo Maple Grove</td>
<td>$17,706</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Hills</td>
<td>$12,049</td>
<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>$19,500</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Hills</td>
<td>$12,049</td>
<td>Richfield</td>
<td>$21,052</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Croix Prep</td>
<td>$11,774</td>
<td>Stillwater</td>
<td>$16,199</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yinghua</td>
<td>$11,636</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>$22,659</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Cost per Friends Student</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,792</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Average Cost per Traditional Dist. Student</strong></td>
</tr>
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THANK YOU
to our
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SLK America
TCF Capital Solutions
The Bentson Foundation
Thomson Reuters
ThreeBridge
United Health Care
William Henak
Winthrop & Weinstine P.A.
York Solutions
## Total Enrollment

**10,064**

<table>
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<th>School Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>2020 Enrollment</th>
<th>Website</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Academy</td>
<td>Savage</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>aspenacademymn.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkfield Area Charter School</td>
<td>Clarkfield</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>clarkfieldareacharter.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cologne Academy</td>
<td>Cologne</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>cologneacademy.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DaVinci Academy</td>
<td>Ham Lake</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>davincicharterschool.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Ridge Academy</td>
<td>Minnetonka</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td>eagleridgeacademy.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin Schools</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>hennepinschools.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Millennium Academy</td>
<td>Brooklyn Center</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>newmillenniumacademy.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nova Classical Academy</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>novaclassical.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parnassus Preparatory School</td>
<td>Maple Grove</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>1,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seven Hills Preparatory Academy</td>
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<td>K-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Croix Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>Stillwater</td>
<td>K-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yinhua Academy</td>
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<td>K-8</td>
<td>828</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Thank you for all that you do to make Friends of Education schools the best that we can be. Having such a strong and supportive authorizer has been a key element to the success of our school.

- Seven Hills Preparatory Academy
2020
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Thank you for your encouragement to always strive for excellence.

- St. Croix Preparatory Academy