



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Urban Education. Global Citizens.

807 NE Broadway  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413-2398  
Phone: 612.668.0200  
Fax: 612.668.0195

Bernadeia H. Johnson  
*Superintendent of Schools*

October 8, 2010

Dear Families of North Community High School:

The Minneapolis Public Schools are committed to providing every student in the city with a high quality education. That means your child receives all essential classes in a school where your family feels welcomed and respected. As the number of families choosing North Community High School has declined, we have been challenged to offer the students at North the range of courses and extra-curricular activities available to other Minneapolis high school students.

For this reason, next Tuesday I will recommend to the Board of Education that we phase out North High School beginning next school year. The board is scheduled to vote on the recommendation on November 9. You can watch the meeting on Minneapolis cable channel 15, which airs the board meeting live at 6:00 p.m., or listen to the meeting that evening at 8:00 p.m. on radio station KBEM 88.5.

This year's ninth-grade students will be the final class to graduate from North. North will no longer be offered as a high school option for current eighth-grade students. Current North students may continue attending school at North until they graduate or they may choose to attend a different comprehensive high school in their attendance area. North will remain a citywide option for the high school classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

I know that this change will be painful. North has a rich history and a strong connection to the community. We value the efforts that families, alumni and individual community members have made to help increase enrollment and support North students. Despite many reform and recruitment efforts at North, enrollment and academic performance continue to decline. As far as I am concerned, we only have one option: we must do better.

I am committed to making certain all current students continue to receive the highest level of education throughout their time at North. I want you to be aware that this plan is dependent on enrolling the minimum number of students necessary to sustain an academic program. We need to have an adequate number of students attending North to continue offering its school program for current students through their graduations. If we do not receive sufficient requests for North, the program phase out would not be possible and outright closure would occur.

Principal Birch Jones will address North students at an assembly on Monday, October 11. You are invited to learn more about these changes and what they mean for you at a school meeting on Thursday, October 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at North. At the meeting, Principal Jones, Associate Superintendent Mark Bonine and I will discuss the plan and address questions and concerns. I hope you will be able to join us.

Sincerely,

Bernadeia H. Johnson  
Superintendent of Schools