



Minnesota Internship Center

2507 Fremont Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55411

October 11th, 2022

MNIC Students, Families, Staff, and Community,

Similar to many other schools, MNIC has faced enrollment and attendance challenges correlated with this school year's return to in-person learning. Our top priorities are to continue to educate our students, serve our community and keep our staff employed. MNIC has formulated a plan to do just that.

Effective Monday, November 14th, 2022 MNIC's SOAR campus will merge with the Unity campus within the existing Unity building located at 2507 Fremont Ave North. Students who currently attend the SOAR campus will also have the option to attend the Downtown (Minneapolis) or Rondo (St. Paul) campuses instead of moving to Unity. Our blended learning program will move to the Downtown Campus. MNIC staff will meet individually with all current SOAR students and their families to create a transition plan that meets each student's needs. The timing of this change coincides with the end of Progress Period 2 and the beginning of Progress Period 3 to allow for a seamless academic transition. MNIC is committed to doing whatever is necessary to ensure that all current SOAR students are able to successfully transition to their new campus without disruption to their education.

We recognize that the challenges we've experienced this year are reflective of a changing world and that as a school, we must be innovative and transformative in how we respond. As a smaller charter school, we are able to adapt to new challenges faster and more efficiently than larger, traditional school districts which often take many years to implement these types of changes. While making these types of changes mid-school-year may pose additional challenges, we are confident that we will be able to implement this plan successfully.

As we considered the available options, it became clear that merging SOAR with our Unity Campus is the best decision for our students as well as from a finance and operations perspective. Our current program at SOAR has seen significantly lower enrollment than what our strategic plan and budget require. Additionally, while MNIC's other buildings are either owned by the school or subject to longer-term leases, our lease on the SOAR building concludes at the



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end of this school year. Finally, SOAR's proximity (2.5 blocks) to our Unity campus in North Minneapolis means that current SOAR students will be able to get to Unity using their current modes of transportation.

Most would allow their obstacles to keep them from excelling, but MNIC is known to thrive through the worst of times. The challenges that we have faced have made us stronger, more resilient, and prepared us to find creative ways to strengthen our community presence.

With the merging of SOAR and Unity, MNIC will launch a new Outreach and Engagement department to focus directly on community involvement and student re-engagement through retention, recruiting, family partnerships, community partnerships and presence, and social media outreach. This team will transform MNIC's role in the community to ensure that we are able to reach all the young people in need of our services and rebuild our student body to the enrollment level seen prior to this year's return to in-person learning.

Looking forward, MNIC will be in a great place to continue serving students for many years to come and will continue to create new opportunities and programs. All current SOAR staff will be offered positions either at one of MNIC's existing campuses or with MNIC's new Outreach and Engagement Department. MNIC will also continue in our current efforts to open an additional campus in the Northwest Metro serving students who reside in Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

MNIC Leadership Team