KIPP Minnesota, (part of the national Knowledge Is Power Program), is a network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public charter schools dedicated to preparing students from low-income communities for success in college and in life.

At KIPP, teachers, students, and families are all united around the same goal: college and a choice-filled life. We believe that an excellent college-preparatory education will set students up for success in whatever life path they choose.

High Expectations
We create a culture of support and achievement, and personalize learning based on a student’s needs, skills, and interests.

KIPP Through College
Our counselors and advisors support students as they prepare for college and career, and help KIPP alumni navigate social, academic, and financial challenges they might encounter while in college.

Strength of Character
Success in life depends on both academics and character. We help students foster character strengths that are essential to their success and well-being.

Safe, Structured & Nurturing Environments
Our schools provide a safe, structured, and nurturing environment so that our students love school and maximize their learning.

Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders
We empower our educators to lead school teams and invest in training to help them grow as professionals.
Great education transforms lives. This past year I had the privilege of watching transformation at our middle school in subtle and profound ways. Schoolwide, our students grew 1.8 times more than the typical student academic growth over the course of the school year. This magnitude of growth demonstrates that all students will learn and achieve at high levels if given the opportunity to do so.

We are so excited to provide that opportunity starting in kindergarten this year. Last year Principal Amanda Dahm completed a Fisher Fellowship including training with other future KIPP school leaders and visits to 13 high performing elementary schools across the country. During her fellowship, she developed a comprehensive school design plan, hired outstanding staff, and equipped the vacant wing of our school building as a warm and nurturing environment for our newest KIPPsters.

In June our founding class of KIPPsters passed an exciting milestone as most of them graduated from high school on time and the majority headed to two or four year colleges this fall. Lexi Lee-Johnson, a member of that first class of KIPP 5th graders, graduated from De La Salle High School and is now at Jackson State University, a historically black college in Mississippi. One line from Lexi’s speech at our KIPP:tastic event last April has stuck with me: “I want to give back to my community and I know that I will.” I am proud of our founding class and know that future KIPP alumni classes will keep raising the bar, graduating from college, enriching their lives, and giving back to their community.

Together, we are working toward the vision that all students get an education that allows them to lead choice-filled lives. Thank you for your support.

Warmly,

Alvin Abraham
Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

200 STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8

92% ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL LUNCH AID

96% STUDENTS OF COLOR

24% RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION

93% AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

KIPP North Star Academy

Student Demographic Profile
When KIPP students know how much they grew - an average of 1.8 times higher than typical - they internalize the message that with continued hard work, they can and will graduate from college.

KIPP North Star Academy students demonstrated that academic achievement gaps can be closed with hard work, outstanding teaching, and a supportive environment. For the fourth consecutive year our students exceeded our school wide goal of academic growth that is 1.5 times higher than typical growth.

The Multiple Measurements Rating (MMR) quantifies Proficiency, Growth, and Achievement Gap Reduction in Minnesota’s Title I schools. Middle schools can earn up to 25 points in each of the three categories. KIPP North Star Academy’s MMR for 2015-2016 was 60.1%, placing us second of all 19 middle schools in North and Northeast Minneapolis (including seven district schools), bested only by a Chinese immersion school.
Success in life depends on both academics and character. We help students foster character strengths that are essential for their success and well-being. We also empower them to express their voice and to improve the world around them.

Morrell has been a KIPPster for all four years of middle school. When asked which character trait he exhibits the best he quickly rattled off four - “Social Intelligence because I work well with everyone. Grit because I never give up. Zest because I am very energetic. And Curiosity because I always want to learn more.”

This type of self-awareness and appreciation of quality personal interactions is invaluable as our students learn, grow, and thrive. While their academic performance will set the stage for college acceptance, their strength of character and ability to enhance those character traits will ensure they are successful and ultimately graduate.

“THE STRENGTHS ARE IN YOU, KIPP JUST HELPS YOU FIND AND DEVELOP THEM FOR THE FUTURE.”

ANGELIQUE JACKSON, MORRELL’S MOM
Ms. Wheaton sees her role as an educator, a cheerleader, and an advocate. She describes her relationship with Trey, a student who struggled in class at the beginning of the year, but surprised everyone when his fall test scores came back, reflecting a highly intelligent young man.

Ms. Wheaton discovered he is a “relationship person” and she began to build on that - encouraging him, noticing him, and supporting him. His classroom engagement improved and Trey blossomed. The progression was not without hurdles, but when Trey needed to calm down, he retreated to Ms. Wheaton’s room. She challenged him with IQ tests and math quizzes, which settled and refocused him. Ms. Wheaton is quick to point out that all her colleagues are equally compassionate and supportive - and each probably has a similar “Trey” story.

After teaching 4th grade for four years in rural Alabama, Camille Wheaton moved to Minneapolis and has taught 6th grade for the past two years at KIPP North Star Academy.

“SOMETIMES A STUDENT JUST NEEDS TO HEAR ‘I BELIEVE IN YOU. I NOTICE YOU. I CARE.’”
CAMILLE WHEATON, 6TH GRADE ELA TEACHER
KIPP provides a safe, structured, and nurturing environment with minimal distractions and more time for both academics and extracurriculars, so students love school and maximize their learning.

One of the benefits of our spacious campus on Shingle Creek Park is having room for outdoor activities. Students have the opportunity to explore Shingle Creek during science class and enjoy sledding during enrichment. The school garden, developed in partnership with A Backyard Farm with a grant from Accenture, has produced an abundance of fruits and veggies, which students and families are encouraged to sample and bring home.

“I TRULY APPRECIATE KIPP BECAUSE THEY CHALLENGE MY CHILDREN ACADEMICALLY AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WHILE DOING SO. THEN THEY CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESSES. MY KIDS LIVE FOR ZEST FEST EVERY FRIDAY.”

**TRISTOFAH IVORY**, KIPP PARENT AND MEMBER OF KIPP MN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Daria proudly displays kohlrabi from the school garden.*
WE WALK WITH OUR STUDENTS ALL THE WAY

KIPP Through College works with students, alumni, and their parents on:

**High School Placement & Transition**
80% of our 8th graders enrolled in a high school that offers Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate classes, has college access programs like AVID or College Possible, and graduates 75% or more of students.

**High School Support & Advising**
69% of our founding class graduated from high school in June. This rate exceeds last year’s 64% on-time graduation rate for Minneapolis Public School students of all backgrounds.

**College Counseling**
31% of our founding class headed to four-year colleges and 27% are attending two-year degree programs. We pay close attention to colleges’ Estimated College Completion rate for students of color and help students develop a strong wish list of schools.

**College Persistence Advising**
We look forward to helping our alumni navigate the social, academic, and financial challenges they might encounter while in college.

“KIPP STAFF HELPED INCREASE MY WORK ETHIC THROUGH THE SHEER AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK AND LONG SCHOOL HOURS. I LEARNED THAT IT TAKES HARD WORK TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL.”

MARQUICE, KIPP ALUMNUS

Marquice, a member of KIPP’s founding 5th grade class in 2008, is now a freshman at Bemidji State University. He credits the KIPP Through College program with helping him stay ahead in the college application process. He is the first recipient of our Louis Harris Foundation scholarship.
KIPP Minnesota values its partnerships with other organizations that are committed to educational excellence and equity — working together so that all children have the opportunity to lead choice-filled lives.

**Our Key Partners**
- A Backyard Farm
- Breakthrough Twin Cities
- Carlson Family Foundation
- John and Denise Graves Foundation
- Loppet Foundation
- Northside Achievement Zone
- Riley Hayes
- Sheridan Story
- Wilderness Inquiry

**Partner Spotlight: Wilderness Inquiry**

KIPP has partnered with Wilderness Inquiry (WI) to offer active end-of-year outdoor trips since 2012. The progression of experiences WI provides – from day paddles in 5th grade to multi-day trips in 8th grade – allow students to build their skills and confidence in the outdoors as they celebrate their accomplishments and friendships of the school year. WI staff member Julia Schweitzer reflected on her experiences with KIPP students:

“KIPP students were some of the most observant, inquisitive and smart kids I’ve ever worked with. When they found themselves in a new environment, they wanted to investigate and learn as much as they could. They embraced new situations during the entire trip by splashing and paddling in Lake Superior’s almost freezing waters, hiking through mud, and stargazing as they discussed complex scientific theories.”

**Eighth graders paddle on Bark Bay Slough near Lake Superior. Many of these students first learned canoeing skills as 5th graders on a day trip down the Mississippi River with Wilderness Inquiry.**

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  KIPP North Star Academy, 7th Grade
  Math Teacher and Chief Talent Officer

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Thank you to our generous supporters. Like most public schools, KIPP schools raise private funding to strengthen the impact of our programs. Your gifts make it possible for our KIPPsters to be successful in school and in life.

Listed below are donors who have given $500 or more. All other supporters are recognized on our website.

**$250,000 Plus**
- Carlson Family Foundation

**$50,000 Plus**
- Fisher Foundation
- The Minneapolis Foundation
- Prospect Creek Foundation
- Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe
- WEM Foundation

**$25,000 Plus**
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- Medtronic Foundation
- Sara Meslow and Paul Vahle
- John and Karen Meslow
- Metropolitan Transportation Network

Supporter Spotlight: Linda Lonn

Linda Lonn, a senior marketing leader at Medivators, attended a KIPP tour in April 2015 and has been an ardent supporter ever since. At KIPP:tantastic that year, Linda made her first gift to the school and subsequently volunteered to be a host for the fundraiser in 2016. Linda and her nine guests heard from KIPP alumni who are proving that demography does not determine destiny.

“Having grown up in North Minneapolis, I know firsthand that opportunities are not handed to kids. KIPP provides the opportunity for students to dream, achieve, and set their course for a bright future. What impresses me about KIPP is not just the commitment to academic achievement but also the character building skills that are essential for success beyond the classroom. My decision to invest in KIPP was simple to make. The dollars I give are getting results.”
Lynnell Mickelson and John Bellaimey
Matching Grant Program Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
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Donor list reflects gifts and pledges to KIPP Minnesota during the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year as of June 30, 2016.

- Donors who have supported KIPP Minnesota for three years or more.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. If your name is listed incorrectly, please contact Alison Balan, Director of Development at (612) 999-3020.

FINANCIALS

Revenues

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Total Revenues: $5,396,902

Expenses

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<td>Instruction/Programming</td>
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Total Expenses: $4,939,901

TOTAL NET INCOME: $457,001
The mission of KIPP Minnesota is to create and sustain a respected, influential, and inspiring network of public schools that battles educational inequity by helping students develop the knowledge, skills, character strengths, and habits to succeed in college and the competitive world beyond.