



Battle Creek Middle School

Welcome Zoo Siab Txais Tos တာ်တူာ်လိာ်မုာ် Soo Dhawoow Bienvenidos

Greetings Battle Creek Middle School Families:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! All of us at Battle Creek Middle School look forward to seeing your student on Thursday, September 9th for in-person learning.

I am excited to join the Battle Creek Middle School community as principal. This school year, I am starting my 19th year with St. Paul Public Schools. My career in education started at Central Senior High School, Harding Senior High School and then to Como Park Senior High School where I served as an assistant principal the last 5 years.

I recognize the last 18 months has been challenging on many levels for our families and community with the global pandemic and systemic barriers we continue to face. I believe it will take a collaborative effort to help move all of us forward together. Here at Battle Creek Middle School, we are committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students to succeed at the highest level.

As you may be aware, there are worker shortages all over the country, and here in St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS), we have a shortage of bus drivers. Due to the extreme shortage of school bus drivers, Battle Creek Middle School will begin each school day 30 minutes later than originally scheduled. That means your child's school day will begin at **9:00 a.m.** instead of 8:30 a.m. The school day will end at **3:30 p.m.** instead of 3:00 p.m. This schedule will remain in effect at least through the middle of October and possibly longer. SPPS is committed to providing safe and reliable transportation to Battle Creek Middle School families.

I recognize that there are changes made outside of our control and this may create stress, but I am committed to serving the Battle Creek community. The first day of school can also be overwhelming for students. Enclosed with this letter are important information and updates for the new school. I am sharing a lot of information in this letter. Please review the information thoroughly to help prepare your student for the new school year.

Thank you for choosing Battle Creek Middle School and please reach out if you have any questions.

In partnership,

Oulia Yang, Principal
Battle Creek Middle School

BATTLE CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION 2021-2022

School Hours

NEW: School begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.

There are worker shortages all over the county, and here in district, we have a shortage of bus drivers.

SPPS is committed to providing safe and reliable transportation to Battle Creek Middle School families who request it. Due to the extreme shortage of school bus drivers, Battle Creek Middle School will begin each school day 30 minutes later than originally scheduled.

That means your child's school day will begin at **9:00 a.m.** instead of 8:30 a.m. The school day will end at **3:30 p.m.** instead of 3:00 p.m. This schedule will remain in effect at least through the middle of October and possibly longer.

We know making this change will not be easy for many families, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Open House

Please join us at our Open House to welcome students and families to a new year on **Thursday, September 2 from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.** In following with COVID guidelines regarding large gatherings, there will not be any formal presentations this year. Instead, this is an opportunity for students to see our school, meet staff and locate their classes. A folder of helpful information will be available to parents for you to take home.

In keeping our school environment as safe as possible for everyone, we need your cooperation with the following:

- Everyone is required to wear a mask.
- Families enter and sign in at the main entrance.
- Families limit the number of people they bring to walk through the school with their Battle Creek Middle School student.
- Battle Creek Middle School student should bring their school issued iPad to access their class schedule to find their classrooms. Counselors will be available to answer schedule questions.
- Families should limit their visit to no more than 30 minutes in the building.
- Teachers will be available in their classrooms to briefly connect with students and families.

Virtual Family Meet and Greet

This is an opportunity for students and families to have questions answered from school administrators and educator staff. Please join us on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** using the following Google Meet link:



Google Meet joining info

<https://meet.google.com/bqs-eaci-xaw>

Or dial: +1 413-351-2994 PIN: 684 840 138#

COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines

Families should familiarize themselves with [these guidelines](#), which are updated regularly and cover prevention strategies, health screening and monitoring, exclusion guidance and the SPPS COVID-19 Reporting System.

Health Screening Guidelines and Expectations

Families should conduct a [health screening for COVID-19 symptoms](#) every morning before sending their student to school or the bus stop. School staff will also monitor for symptoms throughout the school day. If your child is exhibiting any symptoms, do not send them to school. Please report the absence and submit a report to the [COVID-19 Reporting System](#) as soon as possible.

Face Coverings

SPPS will require face masks for all teachers, staff, students and visitors (ages 2 and older) in all SPPS buildings, regardless of a person's vaccine status, unless they have a qualifying exemption. This will include indoor physical education classes and during meal times when not eating or drinking. Masks are also required on school buses. In general, people do not need to wear masks outdoors (e.g. recess).

Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own clean, well-fitting masks to school each day, including extras. Disposable masks are available at all schools and on buses for students who forget theirs.

Find more information on COVID-19 guidelines for the 2021-22 school year, including social distancing, quarantine protocols, field trips, athletics and more, at spps.org/safelearningplan.

School Bus Transportation

Students will receive a postcard in the mail with bus information at the end of August. The postcard lists details about where and when to meet the bus. Please arrive at the bus stop **five minutes** before the bus is scheduled to pick up your child. Be sure to track the status of your child's bus on our school's [website](#).

If you believe your student is taking the bus but did not receive a postcard by September 7th, please call our school at 651.293.8960 **as soon as possible**.

Parent School Drop-off and Pick-up

In an effort to ensure student safety, students are not allowed to walk or cross in between buses that are loading and/or unloading on North Park Drive.

- **Morning Drop-Off:**

Students that are being transported to school in the morning by a parent/guardian must be dropped off in the parent pick-up/drop-off zone in the parking lot. Classes begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Please do not drop your child off at school before 8:15 a.m., as there is no staff to monitor students before that time. A staff member will be in the parking lot each day from 8:45 to 8:55 a.m.

- **Afternoon Pick-Up:**

School is dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Students who are being picked up will be directed to the parent pick-up/drop-off zone in the parking lot. A staff member will be in the parking lot each day from 3:30 - 3:40 p.m. helping students load safely.

Breakfast

All students receive a free breakfast at school, served daily from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. through the Breakfast to Go program. As students arrive at school, they can grab their breakfast and eat in

class. Hot and cold breakfast options are available. Students interested in eating breakfast should go to the main entrance area to pick up their food.

iPad Help

If your iPad is damaged or needs to be replaced, please report the issue by emailing or calling Saint Paul Public Schools Technology Services:

- Email: familysupport@spps.org
- Call: 651-603-4348 from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please leave a detailed voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

If you are having problems with your iPad, you may also contact your student's teachers or our school. After a report is made, a member of the SPPS technology support team will contact. If you are having issues logging into Seesaw, Schoology or other district-approved apps, please see the information on spps.org/ipadhelp.

Family/School Contact Information - iUpdate

Must be completed. Relationships and timely communication is more important than ever with all of the necessary electronic communications.

All SPPS families are required to complete the iUpdate each school year as well as the Free and Reduced lunch form. Onestop spps.org/onestop

If you have questions, or need to contact someone at school, please call the Battle Creek Middle School office at 651.293.8960 leave a detailed message and your call will be returned as soon as possible or you can email our clerk at tami.gutz@spps.org.

SPPS uses Blackboard Connect to alert families about important school news and information, events, weather cancellations, emergencies and more through email, phone and text. By completing the iUpdate this communication system will also be updated. Your contact information can also be updated by our clerk Tami Gutz by calling 651.293.8960 or tami.gutz@spps.org.

For the 2021-2022 school year, breakfast and lunch will be free for all students. Students who bring lunch from home can also get a meal from the cafeteria. Students must pick 3 items (such as a fruit, vegetable and milk) to count as a free lunch. Students can still purchase milk separately for \$0.50.

NEW: All students will be issued a lunch ID on a lanyard that they will use to swipe in for lunch instead of punching in their lunch code as previously done. Students will need to have their lunch ID with them every day.

All families are strongly encouraged to complete an Application for Educational benefits. These applications determine how much educational funding our school receives, and there are many other benefits for families who qualify for free or reduced eligibility. The application can be completed online at schoolcafe.com/spps. Paper applications are available at school.

Immunizations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many children missed the opportunity to have their regular well child exams and immunizations. Please check in with your health care provider to make sure your child's immunizations are up to date before school starts in the fall. Visit spps.org/immunizations or call our school nurse Emily Brandt at 651.744.4608 or emily.brandt@spps.org for more information.

Athletics

Students interested in participating in our athletics program, please contact Joe Gwin, Athletic Director at 651.744.6706 or joe.gwin@spps.org. For more information, visit our school's [athletics website](#).

Contact Information

Please check our school website regularly, spps.org/BCMS, for information and updates. If you have questions the website doesn't answer, please call our school at 651.293.8960.

The following are important documents:

- [School Supply List](#)
- [District 2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)
- [District Back to School Information](#)

All school documents can be translated or interpreters upon request.

Hmong

Tej ntaub ntawv tom tsev kawm ntawv uas xa los rau nej, peb yuav pab txhais thiab nrhiav neeg txhais lus rau nej yog nej hais qhia peb.

Karen (Due to formatting this translation is pasted in as an image)

ကိုလံလဲခဲလက်တံသုကွဲးကျိဝ်ထံအီ မုတမုာ် ပျကတိကျိဝ်ထံတံသုတဖဉ်ကအိဉ်ဝဲလၢနယုထီဉ်တံအဖီခိဉ်န့ဉ်လီၤ

Somali

Dhammaan dukumiintiyada iskuulka waa la turjumi karaa ama waxaa la heli karaa turjumaan haddii la codsado.

Spanish

Todos los documentos pueden ser traducidos o interpretados oralmente si usted lo solicita.