

# FOCUS ON FRESHMEN 2021

*dispel high school myths • create community • empower each student*

The first year of high school can be one of the most challenging steps in a student's academic career. Increased expectations, changes in school routines, and new social and academic pressures can all result in stress that may affect all four years of high school. That's why Saint Paul Public Schools has strengthened its **Focus on Freshmen**.

As they begin their freshman year, many students are deciding who they want to be and where they want to go after high school. The goal of **Focus on Freshmen** is to give students the support they need to stay connected to their school community, attend class regularly and stay on track for graduation.



[spps.org/freshmen](https://spps.org/freshmen)

## MAKING HIGH SCHOOL A SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

### **High School Orientation**

Your school will provide freshman orientation on or before the first day of school. Orientation is designed to help freshmen start their high school career on the right track with a focus on information, skills and expectations. Support will be provided to students throughout the school year.

### **Personalized Learning**

Freshmen receive instruction and support tailored to how they learn best. Personalized learning considers the developmental needs of teens and motivates them to think critically, demonstrate what they've learned, and stay engaged through the use of technology.

### **Sanneh Foundation Dreamline Program**

Throughout the school year, mentors and tutors create positive relationships with students who may be struggling academically. They provide extra support in the classroom, after-school tutoring, and sports or enrichment activities. The results include improvement in attendance, behavior and grade point average, and participation in after-school activities.

### **Link Crew**

Link Crew is an orientation and transition program designed to welcome freshmen and make them feel comfortable throughout the first year of high school. From the first day of school to the last, juniors and seniors serve as mentors and student leaders to help freshmen discover what it takes to be successful.

### **Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)**

AVID is an in-school academic support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success. AVID adds extra support for students of color, and students whose families live on a low income or don't have a college-going tradition. Learn more at [spps.org/avid](http://spps.org/avid).

### **Parent Academy**

Parent Academy is a program designed for parents and guardians to learn how best to support their child at school and beyond. A series of workshops and seminars bring together parents, schools and the community to help prepare students for college. Learn about academic achievement, school curriculum, and build leadership opportunities. Language-specific groups are also available. Call the Office of Family Engagement for more information at 651-767-8347.

### **Partnerships**

Partnerships through Saint Paul Public Schools help build broad support for our freshman students through truancy intervention, multilingual and parent advisory councils (PACs), and family engagement in their child's education. An important partner is Generation Next, an organization focused on student success from early childhood through college. The program provides technical and financial support through its On-Track initiative.

To learn more about preparing your child for college contact your child's school counselor or visit [spps.org/occr](http://spps.org/occr).

