Dear HPE Families,

I hope that you are all healthy, safe, and connected to your lifeline - the iPad! Our teachers are working extremely hard to make sure your children have engaging, rigorous lessons online. Please remember to enter attendance **every day**! If you have not had the chance to pick up school supplies, you can still come by school between 9:30 and 3:30 and pick them up.

I’d like to introduce our new staff. We’re very pleased to have them joining our HPE team. Crystal Ku is our new first grade teacher. She is taking Ms. Jannett’s place. Ms. Ku comes to HPE from Bruce Vento Elementary, where she also taught first grade. Profi (Professor) Kristi Papenfuss is our new Spanish teacher. She has lived in many Spanish-speaking countries and has taught Spanish for many years. Kaitlynn Mackie is our new special education teacher. This is her first year teaching special education, and will be teaching here at HPE as well as at Horace Mann Elementary. Tracy Steiner is our new special education paraprofessional who will be working with our students in K-6. Rachel Stohlmann is our new ECSE teacher. She will be working with our three and four-year olds in the full day class.

Next week, we will have our IB PYP evaluation and recertification. Every five years, IB schools are required to undergo an extensive review of the programme, and our IB coordinator, Michelle Strecker, has done a tremendous job of working with our staff to prepare for this evaluation. And, like everything else, the evaluation will be done virtually this year. Experiencing this virtually is, of course, a new experience for all of us, but thanks to Michelle, and the entire staff’s dedication and hard work, we are very well prepared!

Even though we are distance learning, we are continuing our tradition of monthly awards assemblies. I will be taping the award winners and they will be announced during morning announcements the first Monday (or the first day) of every month, starting on October 5th. I know there is no replacing receiving an award in person with your family there to cheer you on, but the nice thing about having the awards pre-recorded is that you can watch it at any time, and if you want, you can even watch it more than once.

Saint Paul Schools is looking for Somali Educational Assistants. If you are interested in working for Saint Paul Schools as an EA, supporting students, and interpreting and translating English into Somali, please go to the Human Resources web page at spps.org/hr for more information and to apply.

Lastly, I want to stress how important your vote is on November 3rd. You can still register to vote, and this year you can vote by mail in advance of Election Day, or, you can vote at the polls on November 3rd.

Stay safe, and I’ll see you online!

Sincerely, Nancy Flynn, Principal
Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

I am the PYP Coordinator at Highland Park Elementary IB World School. My job as the PYP Coordinator is to be a resource for teachers, students and families. I am excited to help us continue to grow as an IB World School as we integrate the IB philosophy with our St. Paul Schools’ curriculum.

My experience comes from being involved in a PYP school for eight years. I have been a teacher for 27 years. I have a good understanding of children’s development in the elementary years from teaching all grades Pre-K through fifth. I also worked at a science and inquiry school which gave me a good base for my work with IB. I am a St. Paul girl through and through, growing up in St. Paul and attending St. Paul Schools.

I hope to give you some good information about our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program here at Highland Park Elementary in our monthly newsletters. We commonly refer to the program as IB and PYP. International Baccalaureate (IB) strives for international mindedness and to provide opportunities for learning where students can make connections and find commonalities in the human experience. The Primary Years Program (PYP) is the IB program in an elementary school setting where we build a framework for learning the essential parts of the IB program to move on to the Middle Years Program (MYP). Highland Park Middle School is a MYP school. This year, Highland Park is in a reauthorization year. We will have IB evaluators visiting our school and meeting with teachers, parents and students on October 12-13. The evaluators will observe our students' start to the year.

Our teachers and students started out the year creating Essential Agreements for their classrooms. These are what we would consider the classroom rules and expectations. These essential agreements incorporate the Learner Profile which are the characteristics that we want the learner to embody. The learner profile is integrated into everything we do at HPE. Ask your child to tell you about each of the attributes:

Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Communicator, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, Reflective

I will continue to highlight parts of the IB/PYP program throughout the year in the school newsletters. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions at any time.

Michelle.strecker@spps.org

Flu vaccine

With both the flu and COVID-19 circulating this fall and winter, Minnesotans can protect themselves by getting a flu vaccine. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year unless they cannot because of medical reasons. Cover your cough, wash your hands, stay home when sick, clean frequently touched surfaces, wear a mask, and stay 6 feet from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and flu.

spps.org/studentwellness

VERY IMPORTANT TO DO ITEMS!

iUpdate CAMPUS Portal Login Information
If you have not completed the iUpdate on-line, please do this as soon as possible by going to:

spps.org/onestop
Your User Name starts with a g and is followed by 6 numbers (ex. gXXXXXX). Once you are logged in, click Fall iUpdate in the lower left hand corner. If you cannot remember your User Name or Password, please email the school clerk at terri.obrien@spps.org. If you are having technical difficulties, contact the Office of Teaching & Learning at 651-744-5145. Your child needs to have this filled out in order to go on field trips, use iPads, etc.

Free & Reduced Lunch Form applications
Application forms are online at:

www.spps.org/nutrition
This is a quick, easy way to update the lunch forms that we request every year. You can also register there for home delivery. If you have questions, you can please call Nutrition services at 651-603-4950 or email: ns@spps.org
This is Ms. Sunny’s Office - click on Ms Sunny's Virtual Office in the email to open it!

Parents - Check out Ms. Sunny’s flyer re: Growth Mindset attached to the email.

Is your family in need of food?
Each Wednesday this school year food will be available at Highland Park Elementary from 5:30-6:00 PM. Please come and take what you need. All are welcome!

If you have questions or can’t come on a Wednesday evening e-mail Kate at katemeixell@gmail.com or text Eleanor at 651-321-3717 and we can get food to your family.

Want to donate food?
Partner with others from the community and help a family from HPE. Sign up to donate a bag of food on Wednesday between 5-5:30 PM at:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e4ca9ab2ca3fa7-weekend3

In community,
HPE PTA and the Food for Families Team

PTA and Title 1 Meeting - Monday, October 19, 7:00 PM via Zoom (watch for an email that will be sent out soon with information on how to join the meeting). All families are welcome to attend this virtual meeting that will include the following:

- **Annual Title 1 Meeting** – learn more about the Title 1 program and how these funds are used to support student achievement at HPE
- **School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) Implementation Update** – learn more about HPE’s 2020-21 SCIP and the school’s goals for improving student achievement in various academic areas
- **PTA Business** – learn more about our dedicated PTA and what they are doing to support our students and teachers during Distance Learning

HPE students benefit when parents/caregivers, school staff and the community work together. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) helps bring these groups together to share thoughts and ideas about programs and activities that benefit HPE students and our school community. PTA meetings give families an opportunity to meet some school staff and other families while becoming more familiar with what is going on at HPE. Your voice, thoughts and ideas are important to HPE’s PTA. Attending meetings will allow you to help make a difference in the education of all HPE students. We hope you can join us for this important meeting.
Hello! My name is **Ms. Ku** and I am the **new first grade teacher** here at HPE! I am a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, where I received my bachelor's in Elementary Education. This is my second-year teaching and I absolutely love first grade, as well as helping students with their light bulb moments. A few things about me: I love music and play a bit of guitar, my favorite food is chicken & waffles, and I enjoy being active outdoors! If you have any questions, please contact me at crystal.vang@spps.org.

Hello. I am the new **K-5 Spanish teacher, Kristi Papenfuss**. Students call me Profe Kristi. I am thrilled to join the team at Highland Park Elementary.

I learned Spanish while attending high school in Montevideo, Uruguay. I also lived in Guatemala and Paraguay. My travels have taken me to many Latin American countries and Spain. I am excited to help develop the language program at Highland Park Elementary. The program will use two curriculums: **Risas y Sonrisas** and **Sonrisas Spanish**. Both curriculums are engaging, and activity based. Learning Spanish will be fun!!

The World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages will provide the framework to develop communication skills and cultural competence at each grade level. As a PYP school, the Spanish program will strive to make connections with the grade level planners.

I look forward to working with all the students and families at Highland Park Elementary. Let’s have a great year!

Greetings, my name is **Rachel Stohlmann**. Please call me: Ms. Rachel. I have been a Special Education Teacher in St. Paul for the last four years at Benjamin E Mays. There I worked in a self-contained classroom with students with Autism. I actually got to work with several Highland Park ECSE students when they were in Kindergarten and 1st Grade! I'm so excited to start my fifth year of teaching in a new grade: **ECSE 3 & 4 year olds** AND in a new school. I look forward to meeting lots of new people.

Hi! My name is **Kaitlynn Mackie** and I am a new **special education teacher grades 1-5** at HPE this year. I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, but I am proud to now be a Minnesotan. My hobbies are dance, dogs, going to the cabin, listening to music, and eating ice cream. I love going to the Grand Ole Creamery. Over the past year, I completed the St. Paul Urban Teacher in Residence Program (SUTR) through the University of St. Thomas and earned a Master’s of Teaching. While completing the SUTR program, I co taught 4th grade at Benjamin E. Mays. This is my first year of teaching and I am honored to be at HPE!! Go Scotties!!!