2018 is right around the corner! The new year always brings new opportunities for success. We have the opportunity to create the best school possible for our scholars. The Heights Community School has a group of dedicated teachers and support staff who are willing to make changes so that our scholars are successful.

I am also hoping that in the new year our parent participation increases. We need you, we want to see you and we want to hear from you. Please dust off your family calendar and plan to attend family events we have planned this school year. We have an opportunity for parents/guardians to join our leadership team and offer input on the work we’re doing at our school.

Congratulations to the winners of the survey that parents took during conferences. The winning families were: Her (scholars in grades 4th, 3rd and PreK), Cordon (scholar in grade 5), Dittel (scholar in kindergarten), Her (scholar in grade 4), Swift (scholar in grade 4) and Dew (scholar in grade 4).

Thanks to everyone who took the survey to give us your feedback on how The Heights is doing. Thank you, PTA, for providing the $25 Target gift cards to our winning families.

**Reminder: Toys at School**

After the winter break students may wish to bring items to school to show their friends. While we know that children like to share their favorite items with one another, we must emphasize that bringing these items to school may have serious consequences as outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. This includes toys that look like weapons.

Please remember to check your child's backpack daily to ensure that dangerous items, toys and non-educational items are left at home. Thank you for your help.

Enjoy a safe and happy holiday break.

See you next year!

Principal Jones
**Morning Schedule**

8:05-8:15 Patrols on duty for walkers

8:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go

8:30 All students must be in their classrooms or they will be marked tardy.

---

**Vacation Procedure**

If your student will be missing school due to a planned vacation, send a note to school stating the reason the student will not be in school and the days the student will be absent. The principal will make the decision as to whether or not the absence will be excused.

---

**Save the Date!**

The Heights will be having a Multicultural Family Night on Wednesday, January 30.

We’d like your input and help!

We’d love to have as many of our diverse backgrounds represented at this event as possible.

Think about the talents of your household such as music, dance, art, crafts, traditional dress, demonstrations, etc. and how you might be willing to share these talents during the event.

Please save and send in egg cartons to make Mancala games!

Look for a flier with a survey and sign-up sheet the first week of January or call Julie Wellman at 651-293-8815 with your ideas!

---

**PTA News**

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for:

**Thursday, January 10**

5:00-7pm

Please join us!

2018-19 PTA meetings
10/10, 1/10, 3/7, 4/18, 5/9

***********************************************************

Saints North
Family Skate Center
1818 Gervais Ct, Maplewood
(651) 770-3848

Tue, Sep 25 6:00-8 pm

Thu, Dec 6 6:00-8 pm

Fri, Feb 8 5:15-7:15 pm

Tue, April 16 6:00-8 pm

Chuck E Cheese
445 Commerce Dr, Woodbury, MN

Wed, Oct 17 3:00-9 pm

Fri, Jan 18 3:00-9 pm

Fri, March 15 3:00-9 pm

Fri, May 10 3:00-9 pm

---

**Order Heights T-shirts and jackets all year round at:**

http://stores.inksoft.com/heightscommunityschool/shop/home

Many styles, colors and sizes to choose from!

Apparel is delivered to the school and passed out to the student to take home.

---

**Box Tops for Education**

Keep collecting:

Keep collecting:

---

**PTA News**

Please, always use the Attendance Line to call in an absent student! (use even during regular school hours!)

**651-744-2273**

The Attendance Line is Available 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week!

---

**Reporting Absences**

Office Hours
7:30am-3:45pm

---

**Save the Date!**

Students should not be bringing cell phones to school, unless it is required for a safety
Background Check Required for Field Trips

All volunteers who wish to chaperone field trips are required to have completed a background check. The cost is $15 (cash only). The background check is good for one year only.

Please allow 2 weeks for processing.

A background check is not required for volunteering in classrooms.
Dear parents/guardians,
Most of you whose child/children are not up to date with their shot record have received multiple phone calls from us urging you to take the students to the clinic to complete their immunization. We still have some students not up to date with their immunization. We are requesting that parents schedule an appointment to get the missing shot. Our exclusion will soon start and we would not like to exclude any student. Staying in school and remaining in class is necessary for students to achieve their academic goals. Remember, any school day missed due to exclusion is an unexcused absence.

Our goal is to exclude no student. In order to avoid this, please make an appointment to make sure that the students get their immunization up to date before the end of December. If insurance is the issue, you can go to The Dept. of Public Health Center, 555 Cedar St, St. Paul, 55101 (651-266-1200) or pay $10/shot at the Student Placement Center, 2102 University Ave W, St. Paul, 55114 (651-632-3700).

Thanks for your co-operation and have a wonderful holiday.

Mrs. Obasi (School Nurse)

---

**SPPS Winter Weather Plan**

**COLD**
School will be canceled if the forecast for 6 a.m. the following morning shows:
- Wind Chill is below -35 degrees Fahrenheit OR
- Air Temperature is below -25 degrees Fahrenheit

**SNOW**
The decision to cancel school for snow or hazardous driving conditions will continue to be made by 5 a.m. the morning of a cancellation.

**RECESS**
Schools will keep students inside if the wind chill is expected to be colder than -10 degrees below zero.

Families can view the complete winter weather plan, recess plan, clothing guidelines, safety tips and school bus safety at [spps.org/winter](http://spps.org/winter). Translations are available for download.

**Cold Weather Guidelines from the Heights Family Handbook.**
Our students have daily recess except in extreme weather conditions such as rain or severe cold/wind chill.

*Our cold weather policy will be updated to align with the district guidelines:
Students will have indoor recess on any day with a wind chill expected to be colder than -10 degrees below zero.*

Please consider these factors related to weather as you and your child make decisions for winter clothing. Students must have a WARM coat, hat, and mittens/gloves for outdoor recess. Boots, snow pants and scarves are highly recommended.

Please remember that you may need to allow extra time in the morning to get your student to school on time. Students are allowed in the building at 8:15am to line up for Breakfast to Go. Students not in their classrooms at 8:30am will be marked tardy.

**Bad weather and cold temperatures are not accepted as excused absences.**
Patrols will not be on duty when the wind chill is below -10 degrees.

Find the complete Family Calendar and Handbook on The Heights’ website at spps.org/heights

---

**Parent Reminder**

Parents please remember that if your child has had a fever (over 100), diarrhea or vomiting, please wait 24 hours of symptoms free before you send your child back to school.
Physical Education-Mr. Guthrie

For the month of January, our 3rd-5th grade students will be learning how to not only bowl, but how to score their own game as well. We will start by learning how to set up a scoring sheet, how to properly hold and roll the ball, and how to score a basic game. Once students learn the basics, we will start to add in scoring strikes and spares. To finish the unit, students will have to play and score their own game of bowling.

For grades K-2nd, we will be focusing on throwing and catching. We will work on throwing and catching yarn balls by ourselves, while standing still, walking, and using both and single hands. The second week of our rotation, we will focus on throwing and catching different objects with a partner. We will also be playing games that require throwing and catching, like Clean Out Your Back Yard, and Flag Relays.

Science-Ms. Saunders-Pearce

Greetings from the science room!

Here is what we are working on:

5th grade- Finishing our investigation with pendulums and moving on to environments.
4th grade- Building an electromagnet and investigating its strength.
3rd grade- Learning about the adaptations plants and animals have for survival.
2nd grade- Studying the life cycle of a mealworm.
1st grade- Separating rocks by size and learning their different names.
Kindergarten- Investigating how different leaves are shaped.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
Becky Saunders-Pearce 651-293-8815 becky.saunders-pearce@spps.org

Music-Mr. Claver

This unit, scholars worked on music literacy and consistency. Grades 3-5 worked on identifying the notes of the treble clef, while grades 1 and 2 started identifying quarter and eighth notes. Starting this month, 3rd grade also started our recorder unit, and 4th and 5th grade started their ukulele unit. All students continue to reinforce basic music skills such as keeping a steady beat and pitch matching. Scholars in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade are working on developing their singing voices, moving to music, and performing rhythms with eighth note difficulties.

Looking ahead!

Our Spring Music Concerts are Friday, May 17, 2019.
K-2 – 9:45am
3-5 – 2:10pm

Conversation Corner

A conversation with your child is a great way to encourage children to increase vocabulary and gain confidence with speaking. Mrs. Galowitz and Mrs. Johanson have worked together to give you some ideas to help you get more than a “yes”, “ok”, or “no” answer when asking your child about their school day. On the way home, at dinner or even bedtime is a great time for these simple questions.

1. What did your teacher talk to you about today?
2. What are you looking forward to the most tomorrow?
3. What do you do when you need help with something at school?
4. Tell me about a time today when you did something kind for someone else.
5. If you could have a superpower, what would you choose and why?

As answers develop using a phrase such as, “tell me more” will help your child make more connections to school. It is a busy day full of learning and we hope children begin to talk more about the wonders of their school day.

Enrichment-Ms. Clardy

December lessons continued to focus on Growth Mindset.
1) Knowing that mistakes are part of the learning process, understanding that mistakes are opportunities to grow our brains. We even learned about inventions made because mistakes were made.
2) The power of YET- knowing there is a difference between not knowing and not knowing yet!
3) Knowing the difference between fixed and growth minded voices, practicing positive self-talk and complete a growth mindset self-reflection.

GT classes will meet every Monday and Friday. We have begun working on our research for our Living Museum.

Student Council is working on bulletin boards and writing letters to local “celebrities” to invite them to the Heights. Dominos Club and 4th and 5th grade Chess Club meets on Fridays.

Hmong dance begins December 13th… It is being taught by one of our very own 5th grade students.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.
Mary.frances.clardy@spps.org
School Bus Transportation

St. Paul Public School Bus Transportation is a privilege. It is offered to students if they can ride according to the School Bus Safety rules and if they are visibly waiting at their stop location 5 minutes earlier than the stop time. The School Administrator is the only person authorized to suspend this privilege.

In winter weather, students are still expected to be waiting outside at the stop location 5 minutes early and should not be held inside a car, house, or building waiting for the bus to arrive. This helps the driver keep on schedule.

Your driver is expected to drive safely, to be respectful and professional in their dealings with your child and you. Your driver is expected to comment on safe behavior in a positive way and to intervene into misbehavior in a firm and professional manner. Any concerns about your route or your driver should be addressed to your school administrator.

If you have questions about the behavior of your driver or your child, please contact your school administrator. In order for your driver to stay on schedule and to protect the privacy of your child, they are trained not to get into a discussion with you and politely refer you to the school officials with your concerns and questions about behavior.

Most school busses are equipped with video cameras. School officials can request video about incidents of concern. Privacy issues are respected, but the school can give you feedback about what they see on video.

Drivers are trained to not allow unauthorized persons onto the bus. Please help your driver by not entering the bus. Brief comments can be made at the open door, but, other than that, parents can call the school official with concerns.

Drivers are also trained to protect their riders from angry or aggressive persons at bus stops. Drivers are not expected to address issues or enter into conflict with parents. They are not trying to be rude if they close the door after stating that they must continue on with the route.

Drivers are expected to write incident reports on students whose behavior is not safe and who do not respond to a verbal warning and intervention made by the driver. That report goes to the school official who can inform you as to what safety concerns there may be for your child. You can support your child and driver by checking in with your child and school officials about “how things are going on the bus ride”.

Please understand that Drivers cannot hear and see all that happens on a bus and is primarily paying attention to safe driving. You are in a powerful position to support the safety of your child by reviewing school bus expectations and encouraging your child to always follow the driver’s directions.

Parents can go to heights.spps.org/bus to check bus delays every day and/or download the app to access the information on your phone.

Become a Reading Corps Tutor

Get a Jump Start on your New Year’s Resolution - Now Hiring Reading Corps positions at The Heights Community School!

We are looking for Minnesota Reading Corps Tutors to start this January at The Heights. You would serve Kindergarten-3rd grade students every day during the school day to help them become successful readers!

We also have an opening for a 3-day/week Reading Corps position for individuals who are interested in service but cannot commit to a full-time position.

Translations & Interpreters

School documents can be translated upon request or interpreters made available upon request.

Āmarinya (Amharic)
yeti / bëti sene'doči bet’iyak’ē weyimi äsiterigwamñwochi ëtëregomu yichilalu.

Myanmar (Burmese)
kyanngghcaroate hcartwactamymarr
taunggomsomhshoetmahto m r shine lote hccakrrpyan
apawsohoet bharrsarpayn hcartwarr nineparsai .

Népali (Nepali)
Amarodhamā skūla kāgajāthārū anuvāda garna sakinchā vā vyākhyaśaktāhārū upalabdhā gari’unā sakinchā.

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

Hmong
Tej ntaub ntawv tom tsev kawn ntawv uas xa los rau nej, peb yuav pab txhais thab nriav neeg txhais lus rau nej yok nej hais qhia peb

Somali
Dhammaan dukumiintiyada iskuulka waa la turjumaha karaa ama waxaa la heli karaa turjumaan haddii la codsado”

Karen
“นักเรียนความสามารถอย่างต่ำให้ถูกลงโทษหรือถูกย้ายไปยังโรงเรียนที่นักเรียนสามารถสื่อสารได้”

Discover an SPPS school you’ll love! Learn • Decide • Apply
spps.org/schoolchoice

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Date: Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019
Where: Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd.
• Learn about elementary, middle and high school opportunities
• Meet our fantastic teachers and principals
• Free, onsite early childhood screenings (ages 3-5)


Submit a kindergarten application to your community school at the School Choice Fair and receive early notification.

Reminder: The Heights 2019-20 start/end time will be 7:30am – 2:00pm.