2020 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 students. The Heights Community School has a group of dedicated teachers and support staff who are willing to make changes so that our students 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.

Thanks to everyone who took the survey to give us your feedback on how The Heights is doing. Congratulations to the Bradley, Alvarez, Her, McGee, Roman and Jackson/Johnson families.

Thank you, PTA, for providing the $25 Target gift cards to our winning families. Remember to take the parent survey at March conferences for your chance to win!

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 Hatti Moeller

Free Food Over Winter Break

Free Food Available Over Winter Break!
When: December 21, 2019 - January 5, 2020
What: 4-5 pound bag of non-perishable food items
Where: All Twin Cities YMCA branch locations and additional community sites.
How: Simply go to the front desk of your nearest YMCA partner location and request a bag of food. Membership is not required and no information will be collected. To find the nearest location, visit: https://www.thesheridanstory.org/winter-break/
Office Hours
7:15am-3:00pm

Morning Schedule
7:05-7:15 Patrols on duty for walkers
7:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go
7:30 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!
Attention Families!
The Heights will be having a Multicultural Family Night on Wednesday, January 29.
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!

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](http://spps.org/heights)
Enrichment - Ms. Clardy

December lessons continued to focus on Social Studies and the world around us. Please look for and ask your students to share their Time For Kids with you. You can also sign in to https://www.timeforkids.com/ to see part of the most recent addition that we discuss in class. These issues highlight grade level vocabulary that should be known.

Results of the 2019-2020 CogAT test - testing to qualify for GT services will be mailed to families over winter break. Please contact me with any questions.

GT classes will meet every weekly. We will be working on……
1- 1st-5th grades will be involved with Socratic seminars to continue to develop Higher Order Thinking.
2- Creating our own iMovie’s/ or Keynote presentations based on our individual research.
3- Math and Engineering Spatial exploration
Reading Strategy groups- We are focusing on fluency and comprehension
1) Students are asked to find evidence in the text to back up them retells.
2) Students reread text until their reading sounds conversational.

Student Council is working on 1) writing letters to local “celebrities” to invite them to the Heights. 2) Creating Spirit week 3) Developing a mentor groups 4) Yearbook development 5) Pennies for Patients

Lego League will be competing in a regional competition on Saturday January 18th at Capitol Hill from 7:30-5. Please come out and support us.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Mary.frances.clardy@spps.org

Music - Mr. Claver

This unit, scholars worked on music literacy and consistency. Grades 3 -5 were getting ready to start their Recorder and Ukulele units upon the return from winter break. All scholars were able to correctly identify the notes of the treble clef. In grades K-2 we introduced instrument families. Scholars learned about woodwind, brass, percussion, and string instruments. Also, they were able to correctly categorize a variety of instruments into those four categories.

Looking ahead!

Our Spring Music Concerts are Friday, May 15, 2020.
K-2 – 8:45am
3-5 – 9:30am

Science - Ms. Kartes

Greetings from the science room!
Here is what we are working on:
5th grade- Working on ecosystems and their different environments.
4th grade- Building electricity circuits.
3rd grade- Learning about the adaptations plants and animals have for survival.
2nd grade- Studying the life cycle of a mealworm and butterfly.
1st grade- Finishing learning about different rocks and starting balancing and motion.
Kindergarten- Learning the 4 seasons and what it looks like in the seasons.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

---

Conversation Corner

A conversation with your child is a great way to encourage children to increase vocabulary and gain confidence with speaking. Mrs. Galowitz has worked 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’s the word of the week?
2. Did anyone do anything silly to make you laugh?
3. Did anyone cry?
4. What did you do that was creative?
5. What made you laugh?

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.
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.

Family Engagement

Parents are welcome at The Heights at any time. Families are encouraged to participate at The Heights throughout the year in a variety of ways:

1. Volunteer (PTA, library, classroom, field trips, family events, etc)
2. Participate and/or observe in your child’s class
3. Communicate with your child’s teacher

Please call or email Julie Wellman for more details!
651-293-8815

julie.wellman@spps.org

Translations & Interpreters

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

Āmarinya (Amharic)
yeti / bëti senedochi bet’iyak’ē weyimi āsiterigwamāwochi līteregomu yichilalu.

Myanmar (Burmese)
kyawngghcaroate hcararrwcharmyarr
taungsomhukshoetmahote m r shine shine hcahrwpryan aapawshoet bharsarpyan htarraaw nineparsai

Nepāli (Nepali)
Aaurādhamā skūla kāgaṟjātarū anuvāda garna sakincha vā vyākhyākardharū upalabdha garī’una sakincha.

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

Hmong
Tej ntaub ntawv tom tsēv kaws ntau vus xā lōs rau nej, peb yuav pab txeis thìab nhrįi neeg ntxis lus rau nej yōg nej hais qhia peb

Somali
Dhammaan dukumintiyada iskuulka waa la turjuma kaara ama waxaa la heli kaara turjumaan haddii la cədsəd" Karen

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. 25, 2020
Where: Union Depot Station, 214 4th St E, St Paul
This is your opportunity to:
• learn about what each school offers
• meet school staff and other SPPS families
• enroll on-site for 2020-21 school year - deadline February 28, 2020
• get questions answered
Join us and discover an SPPS school you’ll love!