



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District 625
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Phone: (651) 293-8740 | Fax: (651) 293-8742 | <https://www.spps.org/murray>

January 20, 2021

Dear Murray Parents/Guardians,

I am messaging today to provide updates as we prepare to offer an on-site support model for our Murray Pilots. We are still working through the planning and preparations for full implementation of this model. I will share with you today the information that is solidified and will continue to provide you updates as we finalize finer details.

What is On-Site Support? - On site support is a way to provide academic and social/emotional support during distance learning to students who are missing that in-person connection with their teachers and school community. This is not a hybrid learning model with new instruction, rather live academic support with licensed teachers. In-person time will be used to support distance learning, not to teach new material. When staff and students are on-site, the SPPS [COVID-19 guidelines](#) (Translated) will be strictly enforced to ensure a safe learning environment for all. Here is the link to the SPPS web page for Secondary On Site Support (With Translations)- [SPPS Secondary On-Site Support](#)

Students who do not want in-person support or have already registered for the Virtual Learning School are not expected to attend. (And WILL NOT be penalized) **If you have not previously registered for the Virtual Learning School and want to opt out of on-site support, please [fill out this form](#) by Friday, January 29.**

What are the times for Murray On-Site Support? - On-Site support for Murray Middle School will take place from 8:30AM-11:00AM Monday through Thursday. Your child will be assigned by SPPS one of those four days based their foundations classes and transportation routes. Friday will be an asynchronous learning day for all students. All students will be home on Fridays.

What if I choose to NOT participate in On-Site Support - Students are NOT required to attend On-Site support. On-Site support is an opportunity for students to receive academic support from licensed teachers for their distance learning classes, to familiarize themselves with in-person school at Murray and receive in person social/emotional opportunities. Students that do NOT attend On-Site Support will continue to engage with their distance learning courses and will enter their own attendance through campus. All students that are absent from their scheduled On-Site Support day will receive an automated attendance robocall from SPPS. This is simply notifying families that your child was not on site for that day.

What about transportation? - Bus transportation will run routes similar to the regular school year. Our transportation department will communicate to families if any changes are made to normal routes.

Will my child receive breakfast and lunch if they are On-Site? - Yes. We will create a system for all students to have the option of safely eating breakfast while on site. Lunches will be distributed to all



students as they exit the building and will be taken home. (Lunch-to-go) Students will NOT be eating lunch on site. Meals are being provided to ALL students at no cost to families.

What will be the framework for Murray’s On-Site Support Model? - Murray students that choose to participate will be assigned one specific day that they will attend each week. SPPS is creating cohorts of students that allow for an equitable distribution of students across grade levels which aids the school in daily planning/scheduling. SPPS will be communicating in the near future what cohort your child will be assigned to. (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday for 2.5 hours) Once on site, your child will follow a process to receive breakfast and will report to their assigned teacher. The majority of their time on-site will be spent in a small cohort of students with the same teacher. Information will be forthcoming explaining our systems for academic and social/emotional support that will specifically be implemented while students are in class with their teacher. This small cohort model allows us to provide support in a safe manner by being able to minimize unnecessary interactions with large volumes of people. We are working with our teams to ensure that students are receiving the necessary Special Education, English Language Learner and other prioritized support that we know our students require.

Students WILL:	Students WILL NOT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students will be onsite at Murray 2.5 hours one day per week. → Students will receive support from their assigned Teacher to complete coursework assigned in Schoology. → Students will be able to connect in a socially-distanced way with their Teacher and a small number of students in their cohort class → Students will properly wear face coverings and follow all COVID safety guidelines at all times while on-site, except when actively eating breakfast in the assigned space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students will not receive in-person direct instruction from all of their core content or elective teachers. → Students will not be permitted to socialize with any students outside of their foundations class. → Students will not be able to switch any classes at this time. → Students will not use lockers during this time and will be responsible for managing their belongings in their small cohort classroom.

What would my child need to bring to school? - They would need to bring a fully charged iPad and any writing materials necessary for their distance learning classes.

What about the time to transition to this new model and the end of the semester? - Communication is scheduled to go out to families from SPPS later this week explaining the transition window, the end of the semester and any additional preparation points for our SPPS staff.



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Next Murray Communications - I am planning on communicating again with our families early next week with more details about the day to day detailed schedule for students. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions along the way. jamin.mckenzie@spps.org

Additional announcements -

1 - End of 2nd Quarter is Thursday, January 28th

Please check in with your students and reach out to our staff if you have questions or are in need of support. Staff Directory - <https://www.spps.org/domain/2631>

2 - Message from our Counselors

Hello 8th grade students and parents. Counselors at Murray would like for you to schedule an appointment with them. Every 8th grade student needs to complete a goal setting advising meeting with their School Counselor for this school year. Please reach out to them as soon as possible. Counselor contact information is located in Schoology inside the 8th grade counseling folder and listed at the bottom of this communication under "Resources". Please email your student's appropriate counselor if you have any questions.

Links for scheduling appointments -

Ms. Whittaker - last names A-L

<https://calendly.com/lashay-whittaker-school-counselor/meeting-with-school-counselor>

Ms. Engelstad - last names M-Z

<https://calendly.com/lisa-engelstad-school-counselor/meeting-with-school-counselor-1>

3 - School Choice and Enrollment Season is Here!

Please visit the link below to see information regarding enrollment, open houses and deadlines. The PRIORITY deadline for 21/22 applications is Friday, March 5th.

[Link to School Choice Information](#)

4 - A Message from Como Senior High School Athletics

Hello Como and Murray communities,

Winter sports have finally started, and there is still time to join. We need more athletes in all the sports.

Hope to see you out there practicing and competing soon. Currently, our district has a no fans policy, but we are installing cameras in the main gym so we can livestream games for our communities and fans. We will send out the logistics of how to subscribe to the livestream by next week. Here is the link to our winter sports **home** schedule: [Como Winter Athletic Schedule](#). Co-op sports schedules will be available at the host school.



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More information is available in the athletics tab of our [school home page](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email. Here is a list of coaches and their emails if you want to contact them directly for practice/tryout logistics:

Alpine Skiing: Tim Shasky / tim.shasky@spps.org

Boys Basketball: Donnell Gibson / mrdonnellg@gmail.com

Girls Basketball: Olonda England / olonda.england@spps.org

Gymnastics: Co-op with Central: Tammy Little / tammylittle@comcast.net

Adaptive Hockey: Malachi Long / malachi.long@spps.org

Girls Hockey: Co-op with SPPS & Henry Sibley: Tim Blase / tim.blase@gmail.com;

Allie Duellman / allie.duellman@isd197.org

Boys Hockey: Co-op with Johnson: Steve "Moose" Younghans / moose@shopstrauss.com

Nordic Skiing: Alexander "Sasha" Van Voorhis / sasha.vanv@gmail.com

Boys Swimming: Steve Conery / sjconery1@gmail.com

Wrestling: Tiji Vanderwege / tijlovdw@gmail.com; David Elson / davidelson22@gmail.com

Best regards,

Koua Yang / Athletic Director

koua.yang@spps.org

651-744-3104

Ricky Moua / Assistant Athletic Director

ricky.moua@spps.org

651-744-1975

I look forward to our continued partnership as we move forward to support all of our families and students.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie

Principal, Murray Middle School



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Resources

SPPS ONE STOP for various needs and solutions - <https://www.spps.org/ONESTOP>

Murray website - <https://www.spps.org/murray>

Nurse - Diana Dishop (Diana.Dishop@spps.org)

Counselor (Schedule questions) - Lisa Engelstad (Lisa.Engelstad@spps.org)

Counselor (Schedule questions) - Lashay Whittaker (Lashay.Whittaker@spps.org)

Social Worker (Special Education Questions)- Pam Lombardi (Pam.Lombardi@spps.org)

Social Worker (Special Education Questions)- Jessie Phillips (Jessie.Phillips@spps.org)

Principal - Jamin McKenzie (Jamin.McKenzie@spps.org)

Assistant Principal - Michelle Bierman (Michelle.Bierman@spps.org)

Assistant Principal - Ryan Eggers (Ryan.Eggers@spps.org)

Technology Info. - <https://www.spps.org/Page/39811>