



Good afternoon Murray families,

The first day of school was fantastic! It was wonderful to see all of our new and returning students walk through the doors. There were smiles, hugs and of course some anxiety. Our staff and student leaders worked throughout the day to make sure students could navigate their schedules, were clear on transportation questions and that they felt welcomed in their classes. It's going to be a great year!

### **Reminder about school start and end times -**

Please remember that our school day times have changed from last year. Our school day is now **8:30AM - 3:00PM**.

### **6th Grade Math Placement -**

Greetings on behalf of the Murray Middle School mathematics staff, along with the SPPS Office of Teaching and Learning Departments of Math and TDAS (Talent Development and Acceleration Services).

At our core, we believe in differentiated mathematics instruction; i.e. every student has unique needs, pace, and consequently requires opportunities and instructional practices that support them as such. There is specific content in our middle school courses that is foundational to students' future math careers, so we have designed our coursework at Murray to provide rich experiences within a classroom learning community for all of our courses - Math 6, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Intermediate Algebra and Geometry.

To ensure we're collecting accurate data and scaffolding our curriculum appropriately, all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be given a placement exam during the first full week of school. This exam will determine which math class your child will be in for the year and will help our math department better design targeted interventions that align to the needs of the students in their classrooms. If you have any questions, please reach out to Math Teachers, Mr. Michael Lee ([Michael.lee@spps.org](mailto:Michael.lee@spps.org)) and/or Mr. Deacon Klemme ([deacon.klemme@spps.org](mailto:deacon.klemme@spps.org)).

### **Schoolwide grading for this year -**

Murray is a standards based grading school. This means that all assessments are graded on a 4 point narrative rubric. The term narrative means that for every point on the rubric, there will be a description that is directly connected to the skills/standards of what it means to meet that level of learning. Weights for Formative (practice) work and Summative (tests/projects) work are listed below based on the grade. For the younger students, we are working to help them understand the importance of practice work as well as build the habits necessary to help them be successful in their classes. As students get older, the weight shifts more toward the summative assessments as these are what will show us where the student is at with their



learning. All students have the ability to reassess on any summative assessment. Teachers will review this process with their students.

Progression of Formative and Summative weights -

6th - 70% Summative. / 30% Formative

7th/Mixed - 80% Summative / 20% Formative

8th - 90% Summative / 10% Formative

4 = **Mastery** at advanced level  
(same grade level -- more Depth of Knowledge)

3 = **Meets** Standard at a Basic level

2 = **Progressing** Toward meeting standard

1 = Response given is **beginning** to address the standard, but incorrect

0 = No evidence or answer is not related to the standard

Scores of 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5 could be given for work.

**Athletics -**

Information regarding schedules, start of practice and transportation information on practice days will be shared later this week from our athletic director, Mr. Little. Games for our fall season will take place on Saturdays. Transportation for these games will be the responsibility of the family.

**Flipside after school programming -**

Our coordinator is Ms. Jenna (Joswiak) Kruzeski. Programming begins October 10th. The program will run Monday through Thursday from 3:00PM-5:00PM. Transportation will for sure be provided 2 days with hopes of additional days being added as transportation continues to hire more drivers. Please reach out with questions.

**New family presentation given by Mr. McKenzie during orientation -**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wWFvh0frTF7qkFSyO35CuepvVCvxfRsTyRkcE6akIAE/edit?usp=sharing>

**We are looking to hire two Teaching Assistants -**

If you know of anyone that loves working with students, please have them reach out to Mr. McKenzie ([jamin.mckenzie@spps.org](mailto:jamin.mckenzie@spps.org)) or give Murray a call at 651-293-8740. We are looking to fill our two final remaining vacancies we have for staffing to support our Murray Pilots. Looking for energetic, committed, relationship driven individuals that want to make a difference in students' lives! Please pass this message along if you know of anyone that fits this description.



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

**Murray Middle School**

2200 Buford Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55108

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

## **Murray Spiritwear! -**

Go Pilots! If you are interested in ordering Murray spiritwear, be on the lookout for the form, which will be included in our first Murray newsletter of this school year and will be shared with families this Friday.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie  
Principal, Murray Middle School

## **Important Contacts -**

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

Principal - Jamin McKenzie ([Jamin.McKenzie@spps.org](mailto:Jamin.McKenzie@spps.org))

Assistant Principal - Michelle Bierman ([Michelle.Bierman@spps.org](mailto:Michelle.Bierman@spps.org))

Assistant Principal - Ryan Eggers ([Ryan.Eggers@spps.org](mailto:Ryan.Eggers@spps.org))

Office Manager - Melissa Robl ([Melissa.Robl@spps.org](mailto:Melissa.Robl@spps.org))

Counselor (Schedule questions) - Lisa Engelstad ([Lisa.Engelstad@spps.org](mailto:Lisa.Engelstad@spps.org))

Counselor (Schedule questions) - Justine Revermann ([Justine.Revermann@spps.org](mailto:Justine.Revermann@spps.org))

Attendance/Registration - Adriana Cruz-Trevino ([Adriana.Cruz-Trevino@spps.org](mailto:Adriana.Cruz-Trevino@spps.org))

Nurse - Diana Dishop ([Diana.Dishop@spps.org](mailto:Diana.Dishop@spps.org))

Social Worker (Special Education Questions) - Jessie Phillips ([Jessie.Phillips@spps.org](mailto:Jessie.Phillips@spps.org))

Social Worker (Special Education/General Ed. Questions) - Noah McGurran-Hanson  
([Noah.McGurran-Hanson@spps.org](mailto:Noah.McGurran-Hanson@spps.org))

Family Involvement Coordinator - Stefanie Folkema ([Stefanie.Folkema@spps.org](mailto:Stefanie.Folkema@spps.org))