Upcoming Events

Choir Concert
December 16 @7pm

JROTC Winter Festival
December 17

Choir Elementary Tour
December 20

No School Winter Break
Dec 23-Jan 3

From the Principal

Como Park Celebrations

There is a lot to celebrate as a member of the Como learning community. We have a strong and positive learning environment—dedicated and creative staff, supportive families, and talented, motivated students. Our student commitment to learning is evident in the growth and achievement. All of us in the Como Park community want to acknowledge and celebrate all learners. Here are a few of the highlights.

· Fall sports concluded with a record number of participants. In fact, we saw participation grow by over 10% from last year.

· Our juniors are embarking upon History Day prep. This is an annual academic historical research process support by MN History Day mentors and the US History Teachers. We had several students that qualified to go to state last year.

· Many scientists are competing in the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair after a 2-week in depth research project at Wolf Ridge last summer.

· Our fall musical was a huge success. Thanks to all who came to support the cast of the Frog Princess.

· Como’s Debate team has had several successful showings in tournaments with both individual and team awards.

· Our Dare 2 Be Real Student Racial Equity group presented at a student leadership conference with 3,000 attendees.

· Our orchestra and band students partnered with Murray for a joint winter concert.

· Citizenship and service is alive and well at Como with students being recognized through our Como Positive Action Recognition Program (CPAR). Teachers are recognizing when students contribute to our community in positive ways and those learners are entered into a weekly drawing and recognized through our daily announcements.

These are a few examples of the opportunities and successes of our learners. We know students do better in school when they are active participants in their education and take opportunities outside the classroom through extra and co-curricular. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to learn more about the opportunities for our students.

In order to serve our students better, the athletic department will be conducting an interest survey after winter break. If you do not want your child to participate in that survey, please contact the office at 651-293-8800.

In partnership,

Stacy Theien-Collins
Boozhoo/Han mitakuyapi (Hello in Ojibwe and Dakota) I am Angie Hernandez Braided Journey coach here at Como High School. I am so excited to join this wonderful community here at Como this year and I am LOVING this opportunity thus far, to support our Native students here in the Braided Journey program.

A little professional information about me is that I have worked for Saint Paul Public schools since 2013 but I have been an advocate and parent in the district for over 20 years (Yes, I know I don’t look my age!! Lol). My advocacy work for the district has previously been both voluntary and professional, in such roles as Chairwoman of the Johnson O/Malley Indian Education parent committee and on Superintendent Silva’s district parent advisory board. I have previously worked at the American Indian Magnet school, Johnson High school and now Como! In my various roles throughout the years here at SPPS my love for the students and staff grows with each year that passes.

On a more personal note, I have 3 “adult” children (Even though they are all over 18, they will always be my babies). I am a proud Dine’ (Navajo) woman who calls New Mexico my home land and I try to visit at least once a year. My children are proud members of the Red Lake Nation and Mdewankanton Dakota community. I have been lucky to be surrounded in the Saint Paul/Minneapolis native community since I moved to MN over 25 years ago and since instilling cultural pride was something so very important for my children, I do speak both ojibwe and Dakota language. I have been attending powwows my whole life so teaching about Native American culture isn’t just a “job” for me, it IS my way of life. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to connect our students with who they are culturally, so they can succeed in whatever path life takes them. One random fact about me that anyone who comes in contact with me MUST understand is that I have a deep DEEP deep love for Star Wars, I love it so much I have a tattoo and a Darth Vader jingle dress!! Yeah, it’s more of an obsession than a love! Lol
Como High JROTC program honored again

By Eric Erickson

Como Park High School’s Marine Corps JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps) program has been recognized as a Naval Honor Program for 2019. The award is reserved for only 20 percent of schools with JROTC programs across the nation.

“We didn't understand how well we were doing because for us this is normal,” said Sergeant Cadet Major Anderson Xiong, a Como senior. “It’s normal for us to be working and pushing and doing what we do, so to get this for a second year in a row was shocking to all of us.”

The ranking is based on several factors, including volunteer campaigns, promotion tests, grade-point averages, attendance, JROTC academics, and competition performances. The commitment outside of the standard academic day is significant.

Sergeant Major James C. Kirkland has been Como Park’s instructor for seven years. In that time, he could see the foundation of a strong team and the impact it has made on the students who are cadets in the program.

“There was a level of maturity that was built in. The ‘take charge’ attitude of the cadets, the ‘can do’ / ‘zeal’ spirit of the cadets. It was just kind of refreshing,” Kirkland said.

In other news, the Advanced Placement (AP) Exams administered by the College Board in 2019 revealed successful results for Como Park students.

AP scores are categorized on a five-point scale for each test taken in a specific subject, with colleges and universities generally awarding credit for scores of 3, 4 or 5.

The College Board recognizes individual student achievement based on results of multiple exams across a variety of disciplines. “AP Scholar” status is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.


The AP Scholar with Honor award is granted to students who earn an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Como AP Scholars with Honor include: Sunniva Berg, Carter Brown, William Farley, Elijah Frese, Naddi Jillo, Joseph Newman, Lila Seeba, Mira Seeba, and Emma Wolters.
The AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Como AP Scholars with Distinction include: Aiyanna Aeikens, Henrie Friesen, William Gray, Chloe Hollister-Lapointe, Jackson Lee, Celia Olson, Eloise Rein, Mason Salverda, Peter Schik, Antero Sivula, and Marco Tabacman.

National AP Scholar is a classification granted to students in the U.S. who earn an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Como’s National AP Scholars are Isaac Harker and Alistair Pattison.

The rigor of AP courses is optimal preparation for future college studies, regardless of test scores. Experience in AP is also favorable to students in college admission decisions, demonstrating a commitment to challenging study in courses of a student’s interests.
Como Park Announcements

Booster Club -- Save the Dates!

- **Meetings**: Feb. 10, 2020; Apr. 6, 2020; May 4, 2020 (6:30-8:00 pm at CPHS)
- **Como Fundraiser**: Sun. Mar. 22, 2020 (3:00-7:00 pm at the Urban Growler)
- **Senior All Night Party**: Planning is under way for this party celebrating our Seniors following graduation in June 2020.

Saturday School here at Como HS

Attention Parents & Students

We have started Saturday school for students that arrive tardy to school consistently or continue to skip classes during the school day. We are notifying parents by a blackboard connect call and we will remind your child that Friday. Saturday school will be from 8:30-11am. There is no outside food! If students do not attend Saturday school they will be dismissed or will have to make up Saturday school the following week. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sarita, Gail, or Ms. Pierce.

Thank you for your continued support!

Senior All-Night Party Planning Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 19, 6:30pm
Please meet in the high school Commons area.

Half of our planners left with their graduates last year so we could use some fresh faces to make those hard-hitting decisions like: When to serve the pizza? Crepe-paper or tinsel? How to organize the bag check? We have a solid template from years past but are always looking to improve. Also, we will need a new chair next year, so it is important for SOPHOMORE parents to get involved so there is SOMEONE to hand the reins to.

Here is an ideal schedule of involvement:
Sophomore parents - in training, help plan, and cover a shift at the party to get a feel for the action.
Junior parents - chair and organize party - primary volunteers at party.
Senior parents - phew! Hard part is over: assist new organizers and maybe cover a shift at the party if not enough junior parents sign up.

Questions? [stepholson2@yahoo.com](mailto:stepholson2@yahoo.com)
Supporting Learning Through Vision Care: We are welcoming ChildSight-US, a service of Helen Keller International to Como Park High School on January 28, 29, 30 and February 4, 5, 6 in 2020.

This agency and staff will be here to conduct vision screening for Como Park students, grades 9 and 11.

There will be an Optometrist on site and those students who do not pass the initial screening will be seen by the optometrist. Students who need corrective lenses have the opportunity to select their frames for glasses which will be dispensed 2-3 weeks later -- at no cost.

Passive consent forms were sent out with 1st Quarter report cards and vision screening/care will be done for all 9th and 11th grade students who did not decline this service.

Last year, about 190 learners received new prescription glasses to help them be successful in the classroom.

Any questions/concerns – please contact school nurse Lori Nakamura at 651-888-7614.
TEENAGE MONEY MULES ON THE RISE

The rise in teenage money mules has spiked concern for both parents and bank officials. Money mules are people who allow their bank accounts to be used to divert funds for criminal activity, and the number of young people involved is staggering. In just two years, the number of reported cases of 14 to 18-year-olds serving as a money mule has grown by 75%.

How Money Mules Work

Criminals approach people, like young teens, who wouldn’t look as suspicious with a large amount of money in their bank accounts. And the reason why they do it is simple. The money mule is promised a small cut of the money they are asked to hold.

How are they contacted?

It’s no secret that a majority of teenagers flock to social media — and criminals are taking advantage of that. Many teenagers report that they are recruited through various platforms. Recruiting also takes place through sports clubs and schools.

“The increasing use of social media means that young people have never been more vulnerable to becoming victims of fraud,” stated Mike Haley, chief executive of CIFAS.

Criminals use hashtags like #RealMoneyTransfers and #Legitmoneymules to track recruiting.

And when money mules do try to quit, criminals threaten them with violence.

Teens are particularly at risk because they are often unaware of the true nature of the activity they are doing. The money may look attractive, but they could be facing a 14-year prison sentence if caught. Their future financial opportunities become limited — their bank accounts will be shut down and future accounts will be hard to get.

How Can You Identify a Teenage Money Mule?

Becoming a money mule and partaking in criminal activity could cause a drastic change in your teen. If your teen has become more secretive, withdrawn, or noticeably stressed, you should definitely consider it a red flag. Other signs to look for include the sudden appearance of extra cash, an updated wardrobe, or brand new tech. (If you didn’t give them the money, and their part-time job doesn’t leave them rolling in cash, there has to be another logical explanation.)

Educate your children about the dangers of money laundering. It’s not just a way to make fast cash — it’s becoming involved in a criminal network that could directly impact their future. Also remind teens not to give out their bank account information and to take caution when faced with offers of easy money.

Questions?

For additional financial information, please contact Tina Jones at tjones@hiway.org, Community Outreach Administrator at Hiway Federal Credit Union®.

Source: Parentology.com
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HIWAY CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION AWARDS $12,000 IN TEACHER GRANTS
COMO PARK SENIOR HIGH RECEIVES MULTIPLE GRANTS

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 18, 2019) – Hiway Credit Union Foundation announced the recipients of the 2019 Hiway Foundation Teacher Grants. Como Park Senior High received five of the grants. The Como Park Senior High instructors receiving the grants are; Eric Erickson, Sheri Chafee-Johnson, Xia Yang and Erin Coleskow, who received grants for two projects.

Recipients were selected based on need, number of students impacted, creativity and innovation. The applicants were required to submit a formal request that included project details and the “need” being addressed along with a timeline for implementation. The foundation received over 40 completed requests and

“Our Foundation was established to provide resources to enhance the overall wellness of our community and our teacher grant program allows us to do just that,” said Christine Cordell, Hiway Foundation Chair and Hiway Federal Credit Union® (Hiway) SVP of Organizational Effectiveness. “These teachers and instructors go above and beyond what happens in the classroom. They want to make an impact with their students, and we saw that with every one of the applications that we reviewed. We are glad we can support them with their projects, and we are excited to see the impact these teachers make in the lives of their students.”

ABOUT HIWAY CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION

Founded in 2018, the Hiway Credit Union Foundation provides another avenue for Hiway Federal Credit Union to provide financial success “On the Road of Life.” Since its inception, the foundation has provided funding to deserving organizations who work to further financial literacy and has awarded thousands of dollars in college scholarships to worthy students in Hiway’s home communities. For more information, or to make or request a contribution, please visit hiway.org/foundation.

ABOUT HIWAY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Hiway Federal Credit Union was founded in 1931 to serve the employees of the Minnesota Highway Department. Today, Hiway serves over 77,000 members in Minnesota and around the country, registers $1.2 billion in assets and welcomes new membership from individuals and small businesses. Hiway offers its members unparalleled member service and a lifetime of savings through lower loan rates, higher savings rates and fewer and lower fees. For more Information about Hiway, visit hiway.org.
SHERIDAN AT COMO

We are now offering the Sheridan weekend food program here at Como Park. If you would like to sign up to become apart of this program, you can get an application in the main office and return to main office.

Como Park Booster Club

The Como Park Booster Club would like to invite any staff and parents to our meeting, Tuesday Nov 12th at 6:30-8:00 in the Counseling Conference room. Come learn about the amazing opportunities for supporting the students and staff at Como Park Senior High. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at comoparkboosterclub@gmail.com

Please consider supporting our Give to the Max day efforts. Use the link below to learn more. 
https://www.givemn.org/organization/Comoparkhighschoolboosterclub

Stay up to date on good news and upcoming events - Follow Como Park High School on Twitter ComoPark_HS

www.facebook.com/Como-Park-Senior-High-100564780025476/
Weekend Food Program Overview

The Sheridan Story is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. We strive to make a difference in children’s lives by specifically focusing on food gaps—the times when children aren’t at school to access meal programs. The Sheridan Story supports families with programming over the weekends, summers, and extended school breaks.

- **Free for all families**
- **No qualifications required for enrollment**
- The Sheridan Story does not collect information from families; privacy is protected
- Families may enroll in the program at any time throughout the school year
- Volunteers or school staff discreetly place food bags in students’ backpacks each week, typically on Fridays

**Weekend Food Bag Options:** Families may choose from five options structured around the USDA MyPlate standards. All bag types contain 4-6 pounds of nutritious, non-perishable food, including a variety of fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains, and soups/entrees. Bag types are identified by different colors of The Sheridan Story logo.

**Blue Bag**
Tailored for East African dietary preferences. This bag is pork free and may contain items such as tuna, spaghetti, black eyed peas, corn flour, fava beans, and tomato products.

**Green Bag**
This bag offers the widest variety of food items, such as chicken, tuna, pasta, rice, mac and cheese, chili/soup, and varied vegetables and fruits.

**Orange Bag**
Tailored for Latino dietary preferences. This bag may contain items such as rice, black beans, pinto beans, corn flour, fideo pasta, enchilada sauce, chipotle peppers in adobo, and diced chiles.

**Purple Bag**
Tailored for Southeast Asian dietary preferences. This bag may contain items such as rice, rice noodles, coconut milk, bamboo shoots, curry paste, green beans, and mandarin oranges.

**Yellow Bag**
Contains all ready-to-eat items which require little or no preparation, such as dried fruit, tuna salad, chicken salad, sunflower seeds, granola, oatmeal, and soups.

© The Sheridan Story | 612-568-4003 | 2723 Patton Rd, Roseville, MN, 55113 | thesheridanstory.org
The Counselor's Corner

There will be a Senior Meeting next Thursday, Dec. 19th during YOUR STUDENTS' ASSIGNED ADVISORY in the Cougar Forum. Also, if you have not completed your cap and gown measurements, go to this link to complete the form: http://www.gradsmn.org/como-park

10th & 11th graders who took the PSAT, When your PSAT/NMSQT scores are ready online, you will receive an email with instructions to create your College Board account, go to your online score report, and use your access code to view your scores.

Mrs. Vang will be out on maternity leave and will not return until after spring break. There will be a sub for Mrs. Vang and hopefully she/he will be announced before Winter Break. Please see Mrs. Vang if you need to finalize your Semester 2 schedule.

Mrs. Rignell will also be out on maternity leave and will not return until after spring break. There will also be a sub for Mrs. Rignell and she/he will be announced prior to her leave. Please see Mrs. Rignell if you need to finalize your Semester 2 schedule.

Remember, you can schedule an appointment online to meet with your counselor. You can go to the Como Counselor page or use the iPad in the Counseling Suite.

School counselors presented about Mental Health: Signs and Resources to Como Park families at Parent/Teacher Conferences on 12/12. Please click on link for the presentation.
Como Park is currently accepting students for Shadow/Tours

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR OUR SHADOW/TOUR DAYS, PLEASE REGISTER AT SPPS.ORG/VISITCOMO

We are excited to welcome you!
Title 1 information

The Title I program provides supplemental educational services to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Title I helps schools provide world-class educational opportunities to all students.

Our Mission:
Recognizing the ability of all students to master challenging academic standards and the necessity of strong family involvement, Saint Paul Public Schools Office of Title I Federal Programs ensures increased and improved educational opportunities for all students. The Office Title I Federal Programs serves Public and Non Public schools with a high incidence of poverty, Homeless students, and those residing in Neglected and Delinquent Institutions by reducing barriers to learning, effectively communicating with parents, community and staff and by implementing Federal and State statute to achieve strategic goals.

PARENT’S RIGHT TO KNOW TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student’s classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. Parents who would like to receive this information should write to the Human Resource Department, Attn: ESSA Teacher Qualifications, Saint Paul Public Schools, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299. You have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s classroom teacher(s).

Information about whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
Information about whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
Information about whether the teacher is teaching (subjects or content) in which proper certification is held by the teacher.
Information about whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

More information and other languages available on the Como website spps.org/Domain/2335
Learn more about your Como’s academic performance:
rc.education.state.mn.us/#mySchool/orgId--10625212000__p--3
School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)

- **Title I** is the largest Federal education designed to ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

  The school reviews academic data to make a plan for the extra help needed each year. In Saint Paul Public Schools, this plan is called the School Continuous Improvement Plan, or SCIP.

- **Summary Plan of Comprehensive Improvement of Como Park Senior High**

  The Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP for its acronym in English) of CPSHS's for the 2019-20 school year was developed thanks to the views of the leadership team of the school, staff, parents and community members. The SCIP is our school improvement process focused and specific that sets the course to follow during the year and guide our actions related to our academic school and equity goals. The SCIP also identifies strategies related to Title I and Family Involvement. You can find our full SCIP on https://www.spps.org/scip.

  **Mission:** To provide a rich learning environment that challenges and supports all students to find and develop their own talents and continue on track to reach their full potential.

  **SCIP goals for 2019-2020:**

  **Reading:** The percentage of students scoring proficient or higher in Reading will increase by 5%, as measured by the MCA administered Spring 2020.

  **Math:** The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in Math will increase by 5%, as measured by the MCA administered Spring 2020

**Title I funds**

Title I funds of CPSHS's are being used for academic support and Parent Engagement, including:

- Reading, Math and AVID support teachers
- Academic intervention and Cultural specialists
- Parent Outreach Coordinator

**Family Involvement**

- The Parent & Community Council and Cultural Affinity will meet once a month.
- Parent/teacher conferences will be held quarterly.
- Parents participating in the Parent/Community Council (PCC) and the Cultural parent groups provide input for the Family Engagement and the Family-School Compact.
- The Family Engagement Plan can be found on the comosp.spps.org website.

For More information on the The Family Engagement Plan and School Family Compact

[https://www.spps.org/domain/2335](https://www.spps.org/domain/2335)