Welcome back to in-person learning at Como Park Senior High! All of us here at Como are excited to be back in the classroom, and we hope all of our students and families are, too.

We want our return to be safe for everyone, but in-person learning continues to pose the risk for spreading COVID at school and taking it home to spread among your family. Even though more and more people are being vaccinated, COVID-19 is still a highly contagious respiratory disease that has infected more than 500,000 Minnesotans and caused nearly 6800 deaths.

Como Park Senior High School staff and St. Paul Public Schools have thought hard about how we can maintain a healthy school environment and prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school as we take these first steps toward normalcy and a return to full-time in-person learning.

We have made changes to our daily routines to protect you and others, so you will notice that some things are different than the last time you were in school.

• Students will have assigned seats in all your classes – this will make it easier for SPPS and the MN Department of Health to identify and notify anyone who might be accidentally exposed to COVID at school.

• All the tables, seats, and desks will be facing in the same direction.

• Students will be seated at least three feet from their classmates – this is the distance recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

• To limit movement in the building and to decrease the chance of spreading infection, students will use only the restroom closest to your classroom.

• There will be no passes during class except to go to the nurse.

• Movement in the building will one way.

• Hallways will be clearly marked to help students stay to the right side of the hall (like driving on the street).

• Stairways will be clearly marked as either up or down, but not both except in emergencies.

• In order to maintain appropriate distance from other riders on the school bus only one person will be allowed per seat, and there might be assigned seats.

• You will use only the main entrance to enter and leave the building.
• The cafeteria will be closed – breakfast and lunch will be provided as students enter the building and will be eaten in the classroom

• A snack will be provided at dismissal for students to take home.

• Students can bring food from home, but it can only be eaten at designated times, such as lunch or snack time, and cannot be shared with other students or adults

We know this seems like a lot to learn and remember but don’t worry – there will be a lot of people around to remind and guide you.

We want and expect all of our Como students and staff to be:

• **Prepared** to learn

• **Respectful** of ourselves, of others, and of our school environment

• **Responsible** for our actions in all settings at school and on the bus

• **Safe** in our actions and words

To make sure we are all Prepared, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe, we will be following the recommendations of the US Center for Disease Control to keep everyone at school and home as safe as possible. All students, staff, and visitors will be expected to follow the same simple practices we have been following since the start of the pandemic:

• Wear a mask at all times when you are in the building and on the bus

• Make sure the mask completely covers your mouth AND your nose

• Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer frequently

• Maintain social distance of three to six feet from other people

• Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze

• Dispose of tissues and paper towels after you use them

If your child is sick and can’t come to school, please call or send an email to the school to let us know, then keep the student home until they get a COVID test that comes back negative. If a student becomes sick at school, they will be sent to the nurse and kept in isolation until someone can pick them up and take them home. Students who have been sent home will stay there until they get a COVID test that comes back negative. The Como nurse will notify the SPPS COVID19 Reporting System to help with identification and notification of anyone who might have been exposed to a sick child.

If we all follow these expectations and work together to make sure we stop the spread of COVID-19 at school, we will all have a healthy, safe, and happy return to in-person learning.

Thank you all for doing your part.
DAILY ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Attendance will be taken in the following manner:

- Virtual Students: Daily check-in attendance as they are today.
- In-Person Students
  - M-Th Teachers take attendance as traditionally done.
  - Friday: Daily virtual check-in attendance as they are today.

PICTURE DAY FOR SENIORS!!!

All Seniors will have the opportunity to have their picture taken on Wednesday April 21st from 10:30am-3:00pm. We will use these photos for the yearbook, but you may also purchase these photos for your own Senior picture.

YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

The 2020-2021 Como Park Senior High Yearbooks are on sale NOW. The yearbooks are $50.00. You can buy one online at https://yearbookforever.com/. This year's book will feature pictures and projects from our year of distance learning. We will have a special focus on seniors. If you have any questions, email Suzie Myhre, the yearbook advisor at suzie.myhre@stpaul.k12.mn.us

A message from our nurse, Lori Nakamura

As we look forward to having students return to in-person learning:

Please thoroughly review the SPPS COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines (Updated 2-17-21) Please keep your child home if they are sick and experiencing any of the symptoms outlined in the screening guidelines. For more information, please contact nurse Lori Nakamura at 651-888-7614.
Como High classes coming back into school

By Eric Erickson

Students across St. Paul public high schools are scheduled to return to their buildings for in-person instruction beginning on April 14 for the fourth quarter, academic grading period.

So far, Como High and all other high schools in the St. Paul School District have been offering on-site academic support to students in need of it since the last week of February.

For most Como students, distance learning has been the standard method of instruction for more than a year.

Students and families choosing to remain exclusively in distance learning will be able to do so while keeping their current teachers. In-person instruction will run on a modified schedule from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Early mornings and Fridays are reserved for teachers providing online support to those students in distance learning, while all students have available asynchronous learning time.

Bilingual proficiency testing

Dozens of graduating Como seniors are pursuing the state's Seal of Bilingual Proficiency in April. Students passing a comprehensive test in Ojibwe, Hmong, Karen, Somali, Oromo, Arabic, Hebrew or one of 15 additional languages earn credit at any Minnesota state college or university.

Advanced drawing

Art students in Meghan Miller's Advanced Drawing class have been producing illustrations using modern art concepts. Como junior A. K. applied "deconstruction" concepts to create this piece for Advanced Drawing class.

Como senior Susana Cabello Romero utilized "hybridity" to draw this illustration incorporating an AirPod.

Como senior Nayhlat Kasu is ranked in the top 10 percent of more than 250 JROTC programs across the country. The Como team has advanced to the second round of national competition and is preparing for its next contest.

Announcements videos to reach a larger audience.

JROTC cadets on the go

From cross-country skiing and polar plunges to service projects and academic competitions, Como's Marine Corps JROTC has been keeping busy. Among its activities, the JROTC Academic Bowl team consisting of sophomores Alex Le, Sophia Moore and Jesiah Mason and junior Nayhlat Kasu is ranked in the top 10 percent of more than 250 JROTC programs across the country. The Como team has advanced to the second round of national competition and is preparing for its next contest.

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park Senior High School.
SSg Hong from the Minnesota National Guard led several JROTC cadets and young guardsmen and young ladies to do maintenance and put a fresh new coat of paint on all the weights in the CPHS weight room. OOH RAH - Unselfishness & Leadership!

Here are some images of Spring from CIS Writing Studio students:

Turned my head towards the window and listened as mother nature sang me a song of spring. A song of growth and violence. When it thunders, it be scary.

Birds talking to each other in the morning.

Canada geese, mallards, purple finches, house sparrows, song sparrows, mourning doves, rock pigeons, house finches, American crows, northern cardinals and a lot of black capped chickadees!

White blanket has diminished, opened up a path for the sunlight to kiss the dirt.

Rain melting the last snow.

I miss winter.

Ducks quacking.

Less clothes.

Warmth of the sun on my skin.

Little girls on their bikes with their dads behind them making sure they don't fall outside with my dog.

Dead grass is more than boring, brown, and ugly. It represents an opportunity for something beautiful.

Going to McMurray every morning when the dew is still on the wet grass.
I play soccer and my nose and eyes lead me to the sweet earthy smell of rain. Fires and grilling add a warm note to the day. Grass seems greener, more vibrant, a perfect time to play sports! Talking to customers about the nice weather makes the sun feel like a big warm hug, that I’m excited to greet with open arms.

A gloomy, blunt gray morning doesn’t deter me from escaping to the outdoors with at least three books. Lounging in the grass until the sun started to fade, my reading light dwindled into dusk.

At this very moment, fishing on the river but at the same time in a google meet. Spring is the only season that I love. It’s almost like everything is back to normal.

Lines by: Gordon Van Sant, Marrea Taylor-Knighten, Chayeng Moua, Saylor Landrum, Wendy Correas, Selah Cross, Valeria Baltazar, Lily Anderson, Bri Banks, Alex Kamenov, Friday Htoo, Cerenity Khang, Lottie Friesen, Rachel Levin, Izzy McGinley Myers, Morgan

---

**TutorMe: Resource for Students in Grades 6-12**

TutorMe allows students to connect with an expert tutor at any time to get support in current classes. Student iPad wallpaper has been updated to help inform of this opportunity. TutorMe is an external company and an additional resource alongside school supports, the SPPS Academic Support Center and other student support structures.

See [here](#) for additional information.
Scholarships for Graduating Seniors
Here is a list of some great scholarships for seniors who plan to attend a 2-year or 4-year college next year:

Scholarship List

Meet the NEW Choir Director at Como!

Hi! My name is Siri Keller, and I am the new vocal music teacher and theater teacher here at Como Park Senior High!

What: Informal informational meeting about what choir will look like when we return to the building or what Ms. Keller is all about!

When: Tuesday, April 13th at 12pm or 3pm or 6pm!

Where: Online via google meet (sign up for code)

SIGN UP HERE: https://tinyurl.com/NewComoChoir

Can’t make it to a meeting, or have an individual question? Please email me at siri.keller@spps.org

I look forward to meeting you all!

Advanced Placement (AP) Information

Dear AP Students and Families:

Congratulations to all students taking AP this year! You’ve got what it takes to succeed. Right now, you should be studying and reviewing for your AP Exam. I hope you can relax a bit during spring break yet keeping an eye on the AP Exam. Another thing you must do is to make sure your username, password and email address are accurate when you sign up for your College Board account.

AP students, with AP Classroom and AP Daily, you have the tools to help you succeed. You should log in to myap.collegeboard.org to do your reviews and practices for your AP Exam every day.
This year, the College Board is offering three AP Exam Administration Dates with a paper & pencil or a digital testing format for each AP exam. This means that students will need to decide on whether they will take an in-person paper & pencil AP Exam at school or a digital AP Exam at home. All AP exams will be full-length this year, whether taken digitally or on paper. There will be no shortened AP exams in 2021.

Official dates and format for all three AP exam administrations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>In Person or Online?</th>
<th>Administration Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration 1</td>
<td>May 3–7, 10–12, 14, and 17</td>
<td>Administered in school only</td>
<td>Traditional, full-length paper and pencil exams for all subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration 2</td>
<td>May 18–21, 24–28</td>
<td>Administered in school and at home</td>
<td>Half of the subjects are paper and pencil, administered in school, and half are full-length digital exams, administered in school or taken at home due to coronavirus precautions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration 3</td>
<td>June 1–4, 7–11</td>
<td>Administered in school and at home</td>
<td>Most subjects are full-length digital exams only, administered in school or taken at home due to coronavirus precautions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administration 1 is meant to be the main testing dates for AP exams this year at Como Park Sr. However, students may request to take the digital AP Exam during Administration 2 or Administration 3 in order to accommodate social distancing for students who are not able to take exams in person at school. If students decide to take the digital AP Exam at home, make sure they have a computer (mac or pc) with a camera and access to the internet.

Click here to learn more about Digital AP Exam and requirements: Digital AP Exam

Note: We will not be offering any in-school AP Exam testing during administration 2.

If you want to know your specific AP Exam testing date and time, please click here: 2021 AP Exam Dates Schedule

If you have any questions, please email me at teng.lo@spps.org.
Updates from the Counseling Department and the Como Career & College Center (CCC)

**IMPORTANT UPDATES**

**Diploma Spell Check!** Please check the spelling of your student's full, middle and last name in Parent Portal (Infinite Campus) or have your student log in to their Campus student portal for that will be the name printed on the diploma. If a correction needs to be made, please provide a copy of the student's birth certificate or passport to Lisa Mills at lisa.mills@spps.org.

**PSEO Deadlines (9th-11th graders)** Students, please be mindful of upcoming PSEO deadlines. Be sure to give your counselor a minimum of two school days to complete the requested documents. Upcoming PSEO deadlines (this is not a comprehensive list of institutions offering PSEO):

- University of Minnesota 4/16/2021
- Concordia University 5/7/2021
- St Paul College 5/15/2021 (priority deadline)

For a comprehensive list of institutions offering PSEO, please visit this link: [https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/dual/pseo/040787](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/dual/pseo/040787). Deadlines for each college/university will be listed on their website. Please reach out to your counselor if you have any questions.

** Como CCC Website: Scholarship Page** Seniors, there’s still time to apply for scholarships. Check out the Scholarship Page on the CCC website for scholarship resources. Seniors, there’s still time to apply for scholarships. Contact Ms. Bridgette at bkelly.cap@spps.org for scholarship application assistance

**Featured Scholarship: Como STEM Scholarship - $3,500 - Deadline: April 30** Three scholarships available for students planning to attend a 4-year college in fall of 2021 majoring in Math, Engineering, or a Physical Science. [Apply today!](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/dual/pseo/040787)

**Connect with us for more information on College Resources + Events, Student Career Resources, Family Resources, and Paying for College**

**CONNECT WITH US**

- [Counseling Department Website](#)
- [Career & College Center Website](#)
MCA Testing 2021

The testing window for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) is March 8-May 21. The purpose for the MCAs is to measure achievement towards meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards, measure academic progress of students over time, and to provide Minnesota graduates information related to career and college readiness.

All 10th grade students take the MCA Reading Test, all 11th grade students take the MCA Math test, and any student currently enrolled in a Biology course takes the MCA Science Test.

Parents/Guardians may refuse to have their student take the MCA tests. To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must do one of two options:

- Print and complete attached form and return it to Como Park Senior High School, 740 Rose Ave. W. St. Paul, MN 55117- attention Jamie Hoffman
- Scan document/Email Jamie Hoffman at jamie.hoffman@spps.org and list: student first and last name, student number, test subject, and reason for refusal.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), ‘refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state’s efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, your student will not be considered “proficient”.

Please note that if your student refuses to test, they will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.

Driver’s Education

It’s Back! Drivers Ed for Spring and Summer - Act NOW. The Fall session sold out in hours.

Driver Education website: www.spps.org/drivered

Registration website: Home - ISD 625-Saint Paul Public Schools (eleyo.com)
Click [here](#) for registration details and more information.

If you know of a college student who would be interested in participating, click [here](#).

### 2021-22 COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for our current 9th-11th graders will begin April 19th-April 30th during their advisory. This year, students will be completing a google form instead of paper registration. Please have a conversation with your student(s) about their class selections. For our Virtual Learners, we will be providing how-to videos that will be shared on schoology. Reach out to your student's school counselor if you have any questions or concerns. More information to come in April.

Below are the grades 10-12 Google registration forms:

- [Grade 10](#)
- [Grade 11](#)
- [Grade 12](#)
YOUTH HEALTH CARE AWARENESS COHORT (YHCAC)
Encouraging youth to learn about health care disparities in their communities

We are looking for 20 high school Seniors interested in the health care field and equity and equality justice to learn about how health outcomes affect African American and Indigenous people from diverse experts in the health care field.

- Students must be in good academic standing, have volunteer experience and identify as a person of color.
- Apply with a letter of recommendation from a teacher, spiritual leader or community organization.
- Two paragraph statement on why you have interest in the health care field.

YHCA Cohort benefits:
- 5 Unique Classes (Wednesdays 5pm – 8pm)
- CPR/First Aid Training (on-line)
- $75 Stipend upon completion
- Certificate of completion
- Lunch
- Networking with diverse students and teachers
- Build health care advocacy knowledge & vocabulary
- The opportunity to show extracurricular activity for higher education or future employment

2 FREE Sessions available: June 2021 or September 2021
Send applications to: samantha.rust@wilder.org by April 30th, 2021 @ 5:00pm CST
Questions to: samantha.rust@wilder.org

This program is sponsored by:
Cultural Wellness Center (CWC) | Wilder African American Babies Coalition and Projects (AABC) | Ignited Faces of Beauty (IFOB)

Click HERE for application.

THE TRADES AMBASSADOR PROJECT

Inspiring and enabling the youngest generation to find fulfillment and value through a trades and manufacturing career – every community, every school, every person

We offer an innovative approach to the skilled labor shortage by uniting high schools, community leaders, training organizations, and leading employers into a generationally-relevant, collaborative, end-to-end solution.

Click HERE for more information.
Launch your career journey through the Trades Ambassador Experience! Learn about great careers. Start a job or training program. Receive swag and a $500 grant.

Sign up by emailing swiggum@generations.com and let us know you’re starting on the journey!

Also email erin.colestock@stpaul.k12.mn.us for any questions.
SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Camps

OTHER ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAMS

Click here for more information.