The grade is NOT the reward, nor can it ever be considered such. Once a grade becomes a bartering tool, its power to inform stakeholders and be used to make instructional decisions or document progress accurately is impugned. **Rick Wormeli**

The new semester starts on Monday! Our goal with grading is to accurately inform students, families and staff of where our students are at with their learning. As we consider the different developmental levels at each of our grade levels, we will be implementing an adjustment to the weights of how we grade for the 2nd semester.

The rationale: Information from our feeder elementary schools shows that there is a wide range of methods to assess students for proficiency, and new 6th graders are often unfamiliar with aligning their daily work/homework/independent and guided practice to summative assessments. It can, therefore, be very confusing for them as they attempt to navigate our system. We are hoping to encourage our younger students to put more stock in their guided and independent practice work, which will enable us to give them quality feedback to apply in the summative assessments.

The grading weights for 2nd semester will be as follows:
- 6th grade - 70% Summative / 30% Formative (Practice)
- 7th grade and mixed-grade classes - 80% Summative / 20% Formative (Practice)
- 8th grade - Classes stay the same 90% Summative / 10% Formative (Practice)

We are continually reflecting on how we can best meet the needs of our growing middle schoolers.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out directly to your student’s teacher.

**Celebrations:**
1. #Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Haas would like to celebrate Sofia Patronski. As an artist I want to celebrate her inquisitive nature and commitment to engagement with her artwork. Her excitement for creative exploration is highly infectious! Great work Sofia. Go Pilots!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

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**Yearbooks**

Yearbooks cost $20.00. Students can pick up an order form from the office or see Ms. Pittman. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at [https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html](https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html)

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**Hello Murray Families**

Did you know that Murray does not currently have a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) or Parent Teacher Association (PTA)? Part of having a supportive, positive growth community is to have understanding and support for each other. Are you interested in becoming more involved in supporting and empowering our school community? Contact Faith Dietz, faithkd4@gmail.com, 651-402-9357.
**Seventh Grade**

**Math with Mr. Hayden:**
Algebra 1 is learning all about function notation including how to determine independent and dependent variables, representing ordered pairs in function notation, how to write function rules, and how to graph functions, both with given domains and with domains of all real numbers.

Pre-Algebra is learning how to find the volume of prisms (both rectangular and triangular) and cylinders. All of these shapes have the same formula - the area of the base multiplied by the height. However, the formula needed to find the area of the base will differ based on whether the base is circular, rectangular, or triangular.

**Science with Mr. Altringer:**
The trout emerged from their eggs over winter break. Students in all Life Science classes spent two days observing and learning about trout. We will be revisiting the trout throughout the school year and hopefully do a trout release field trip. In life science we are studying genetics.

**Social Studies with Ms. Newman:**
Our Historians are currently putting their finishing touches on their rough drafts for their History Day Projects. The theme is Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. We plan on sharing our Final Projects with each other during the first week of class in the 3rd quarter. Students are finishing their website, documentary, virtual exhibit, performance, or paper to show what they know about their topic. Our official due date is **February 4th, 2022**. After our due date we will be entering the competition part of our History Day experience. The Regional Competition is virtual this year. Students whose projects are chosen to advance will have more information about the Virtual Competition mid-February.

**Eighth Grade**

**Math with Mr. Hayden:**
Accelerated Algebra is currently learning how to multiply polynomials. The different strategies we introduced to accomplish this include FOIL (an acronym for Firsts, Outers, Inners, and Lasts), using an area model, or using the Distributive Property multiple times.

**Science with Mr. Chase:**
8th grade science students doing a chemistry lab testing the conductivity of ionic and molecular compounds.

**Science with Ms. Atkinson:**
In Earth Science, we have been learning about how weathering and erosion have shaped the geology of Minnesota and Saint Paul through rivers and glaciers. We examined some Minnesota fossils as evidence that our state was once under an ocean!

In Magnet science, we are digging deep into chemistry. Students wrote chemical equations about everyday chemical reactions. To practice science communication, we created posters about how to safely use de-icing salts and chemicals for city sidewalks and streets.
Mrs. Atkinson’s computer science and coding elective is wrapping up its inaugural semester at Murray! We have coded websites in HTML and created simple computer games in JavaScript. Students are finishing the last unit on physical computing using Circuit Playground circuit boards generously funded by 3M. The boards’ hardware includes buttons, switches, LED lights, a buzzer, and four different sensors that students are programming with Code.org software on laptops. Their final project is to create a game or simulation where players control the screen with the Circuit Playground!

Social Studies with Ms. Kroll:
In Global Studies we are hard at work on History Day! This year’s theme is “Debate and Diplomacy”. Students are researching a topic they are passionate about and putting together a presentation to show the impact in History.

Counselor’s Corner

6th grade Families:
Breakthrough Twin Cities presented to 6th grade Foundations about a summer College and Career opportunity that students can apply for. Here is a communication from the Breakthrough Twin Cities representative.

Here is a link to the website: https://www.breakthroughtwincities.org/student-application

You can find more information about our program.

And here is a link to our online application: https://www.tfaforms.com/4869088

A few quick reminders: Our application is due on February 10th! Make sure you get started as soon as you can! And on the first page of the application, make sure you select “St. Paul” as your location.

If you have any questions, you/your families can email me OR call me.

Max Danielewicz | Program Manager.
mdanielewicz@breakthroughtwincities.org651-748-5548.   (C) 415-937-7799
www.breakthroughtwincities.org

You can also reach out to your teacher/counselor and they can help you, too. If you want to get a paper copy of the application, you can ask your counselor, Ms. Revermann (Last names A-L) or Ms. Engelstad (Last names M-Z).

8th grade Families:

High School Assignments:

The Student Placement Center will be sending out reserved seat letters to 8th grade families with their assigned high school based on attendance area.

Right Track Job Opportunity:

There will be a job opportunity for 8th graders to apply for in February. In the past, you needed to be 14 by June 1st. Information will be shared soon with students.

Please let School Counselors know if you have any questions:

Ms. Revermann (Last names A-L)
Ms. Engelstad (Last names M-Z)
At-home COVID-19 tests now covered by private health plans, with important guidelines for Minnesotans to get costs covered - mn.gov

As of January 15, 2022, costs for at-home COVID-19 tests are now required to be covered by health plans offered by insurance companies, employers and groups under actions taken by the Biden Administration to expand Americans’ access to free COVID-19 testing. It is important for Minnesota consumers to follow guidelines in order to get the costs covered by your health plan.

mn.gov

iPad Preparation in Case of Virtual Learning

Should we need to go to Virtual Learning due to Covid in the coming weeks/months, please be sure your student is able to participate in school virtually if that is your plan. Things to consider:

• Do you have home wifi? If not, I can provide you with a code for free Comcast Internet Essentials. Hotspots are not provided except in extreme situation. More information is available online at https://bit.ly/homeWiFi.
• Does your student have Campus Student installed on the iPad to take attendance and check the schedule? If not, it can be downloaded from the Self Service on the iPad.
• Is your student's iPad updated to iPad OS 15.2? This most recent approved operating system will provide the most reliable experience. It can take several hours so the iPad needs to be plugged in and charged to at least 50% before it is started. If you do not have wifi at home, please have your student run it at school.

As always, please let me know if I can help in any way: email cara.hagen@spps.org or text (612) 568-2358.

Cara Hagen
iPad Teacher

Murray Spiritwear

Murray T-shirts for Sale!! $15.00!
Please see Mrs. Folkema in the main office.
Hello,

Flipside registration for 2nd session classes is now available!

The 2nd session of classes will begin the week of 2/07/22 and run through 5/12/22.

All students (except those in Debate and Rock Band) need to re-register for classes.

Register here: https://bit.ly/Flipside2ndSessionRegistration

I'd also like to introduce Murray's new Flipside Program Coordinator, Jenna Joswiak! Jenna comes to Flipside with a wealth of knowledge and will do great things with the Flipside program at Murray. Please welcome her when you see her!

Jenna can be reached at jenna.joswiak@spps.org or 651-744-3189.

Hola,

¡Ya está disponible el registro de Flipside para las clases de la segunda sesión!

La segunda sesión de clases comenzará la semana del 07/2/22 y se extenderá hasta el 12/05/22.

Todos los estudiantes (excepto los de Debate y Rock Band) deben volver a registrarse para las clases.

Regístrate aquí: https://bit.ly/Flipside2ndSessionRegistration

¡También me gustaría presentar a la nueva coordinadora del programa Flipside de Murray, Jenna Joswiak! Jenna llega a Flipside con una gran cantidad de conocimientos y hará grandes cosas con el programa Flipside en Murray. ¡Dale la bienvenida cuando la veas!

Se puede contactar a Jenna en jenna.joswiak@spps.org o 651-744-3189.

Nyob zoo,

Flipside sau npe rau cov chav kawm thib 2 yog tam sim no muaj!

Cov chav kawm thib 2 yuav pib lub lim tiam ntawm 2/07/22 thiab khiav mus txog 5/12/22.

Txhua tus tub ntxhais kawm (tshwj tsis yog cov hauv Debate thiab Rock Band) yuav tsum tau rov sau npe rau cov chav kawm.

Sau npe ntawm no: https://bit.ly/Flipside2ndSessionRegistration

Kuv kuj xav qhia Murray tus tshiab Flipside Program Coordinator, Jenna Joswiak! Jenna tuaj rau Flipside nrog kev paub ntau yam thiab yuav ua tej yam zoo nrog Flipside program ntawm Murray. Thov txais tos nws thaum koj pom nws!

Jenna tuaj yeem hu rau ntawm jenna.joswiak@spps.org lossis 651-744-3189.
WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE?
THIS COULD BE YOUR BREAKTHROUGH!

Breakthrough Twin Cities is a FREE out-of-school-time program that supports students and their families in preparing for and getting into college!

6-year program!

Now accepting students in 6th Grade!

Summer program for Middle School

Job and Internship Opportunities in High School

Scholarship & Financial-Aid Support

Transportation provided for students who live in St. Paul

Locations at Mounds Park Academy, Central High School, and Chaska High School

APPLICATION DUE FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Visit our website to learn more and complete your application!

Have questions? Email: mdanielewicz@breakthroughtwinCities.org

www.breakthroughtwinCities.org/student-application/
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1-855-765-6995
TEEN ACTIVITIES

Taekwondo  
Instructor: Master Minefee  
Ages 9-21/$60 monthly/Mondays & Wednesdays/5:30-6:15  
North Dale  
Ages 9-21/$60 monthly/Tuesdays & Thursdays/5:30-6:15  
Northwest Como  
Please join us as we discover & explore WTF style Taekwondo taught by Master Minefee. Classes are dynamic, fun, & challenging. As you develop your knowledge of this Korean martial art, you will gain skills & confidence. Monthly registration is $60 due before participation begins. Uniforms can be purchased through the instructor.

Soo Bahk Do  
Instructor: Christine Eichhorst  
Ages 5+/45 monthly/Thursdays/5:30-6:30  
Langford Park  
A traditional Korean martial art emphasizing discipline, concentration, self-confidence, & self-defense. Class is open for beginner through advanced, ages 5 to adult. Class fee: $45/month. Uniform is provided with first 3-month membership. This class does not have a test fee, but the student must be a member of the US Soo Bahk Do Federation to test and be promoted. Bring your own water bottle.

Video Game Play  
Ages 7-11/Free/Fridays Jan 7-Feb 25/2:00-4:00  
Northwest Como  
Ages 12-17/Free/Wednesdays Feb 2-May 25/6:30-8  
North Dale  
Participants will take turns playing games with each other on the rec center's Xbox1 gaming system.

Teen Open Dance  
Drop In  
Ages 13-17/Free/Mondays Jan 12 - May 2/6:30-8  
North Dale  
The dance room is open for teens to come and dance for free. No formal classes but open space for teens to dance.

- stpaul.gov/LangfordParkRec  
- stpaul.gov/NWComoRec  
- stpaul.gov/NorthDaleRec  

651-298-5765  
651-298-5813  
651-558-2329

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending the activities/events announced in this flyer.
Chess  
Instructor: Bill Nara  
Ages 7-12/$70/Tuesday Jan 25-April 19 (no class April 5)/6-7:30  
Langford Park  
Ages 7-12/$70/Thursdays Jan 27-April 21 (no class April 7)/6-7:30  
North Dale  
Whether you consider yourself a beginner or intermediate player, join this club to meet and interact with other chess players in your neighborhood & play on a weekly basis. We will use chess clocks, play on a chess ladder, & learn the basic strategy & tactics of chess. Two player team chess will also be introduced.

Musical Theatre  
Instructor: Musical Theatre MN  
Ages 10-14/$110/Tuesdays Jan 25-April 19 (no class April 5)/6:15-7:15  
North Dale  
The teachers are highly trained actors, percussionists, guitarists, pianists, singers, & dancers that joined forces to create a program that enhances children's confidence & allows them to embrace their love for the arts. Participants will work on their music, dance, & acting technique through a series of different exercises & games. The repertoire includes dancing & music from well-known musicals such as Hamilton, The Lion King, Aladdin, Wicked, Cats, Hairspray, & many more!

Artist Workshop  
Instructor: Barb McIntosh  
$60/2:15-4:15  
Northwest Como  
Winter: Ages 8-12/Tuesdays Feb 1-March 8  
Spring: Ages 7-14/Tuesdays April 12-May 17  
Artist Workshop is designed for students with a STRONG interest in art. We will explore different mediums such as soft pastel, watercolor, tempera, & more. We will also look at the works of famous & not so famous artists.

Jazz/Ballet/Hip Hop  
Instructor: Musical Theatre MN  
$70/Mondays Feb 7-March 28  
Northwest Como  
Ages 10-14: 6:30-7:30  
Each class will include technique exercises & choreography work. While the technique part of the class will focus on the fundamentals of ballet & jazz, the choreography part of each lesson will vary between different styles including ballet, jazz, hip hop, & theater dance. At the end of the last session we will invite immediate family members to join us to see some of our choreography work.

Valentine Cookie & Card Making  
Instructor: Cheryl Short  
Ages 7-13/Free/Wednesday Feb 9/6:30-7:30  
North Dale  
Make Valentine cards and cookies to give to your parents or friends.
Family Rollerskating Night
Free/Thursday Feb 10/6:30-7:30 North Dale
Come and roller skate with your kids in the North Dale gym. Bring your own safety gear. Roller skates & refreshments will be provided.

Red Cross Babysitting Instructor: Jane Veitch
Ages 11-17/$60/Saturday Feb 12/9:30 -3:30 North Dale
Ages 11-17/$60/Friday April 15/9:00-3:00 Northwest Como
This training will help participants develop skills in leadership & professionalism, basic care, safety, safe play, & first aid. Participants must be 11 years of age or older. Please bring a bag lunch & beverage with you.

Pre-Teen Jewelry Making Instructor: Pat Morell
Ages 10-14/$30/Wednesdays March 2-30/6-7:30 Langford Park
Want something new, creative, & fun to do? Come learn how to make jewelry you can bring home & wear. Pat will teach you how to make jewelry from recycled goods & things you can find around your house.

Table Tennis/Ping Pong Drop In
Ages 7-14/Free/Tuesdays March 8-April 5/6-7:30 Langford Park
We gather once a week on Tuesdays for 1.5 hours. Kids will learn the rules & skills to the game. Game equipment will be provided along with a snack.

Cooking For Kids Instructor: Cheryl Short
Ages 9-14/Free/Thursdays March 10-31/6:30-8 North Dale
Participants will learn how to make easy dishes like mac & cheese, twice-baked potatoes, & more.

Parents Night Out
Ages 6-11/$10/Friday March 11/6:00-9:00 Langford Park
Ages 6-11/$10/Friday April 22/6:00-9:00 Northwest Como
Parents can drop their kids ages 6-10 off at the rec for some free time. Use your time to spend the night out, run errands, or just relax. Staff will provide pizza, outdoor/indoor activities, gym games, a craft, & a movie.

Urban Tennis
Free/Tuesday – Friday March 15-18 Northwest Como
Red Ballers Tennis: Ages 8-11/3:45-4:45

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation programs will adhere to CDC and MN Department of Health guidance on COVID-19. Programs offered may require modifications based on future public health recommendations.
Conquer Ninja Field Trip  
Ages 7-14/$24/Monday April 4/10:00-1:00  
Northwest Como  
We will van to the Conquer Ninja site in Saint Paul. A Ninja Coach will be with the group to go over different styles & techniques, set up an obstacle course, & then to a warped wall challenge. Permission slip must be filled out prior to leaving.

Bowling at Flaherty’s Field Trip  
Ages 7-11/$20/Tuesday April 5/2:00-5:30  
Northwest Como  
Come spend Spring Break with us at the Rec!! Park staff will take the youth on a field trip to Flaherty’s Arden Bowl. The kids will enjoy 1 hour of bowling & 1 hour in the Arcade Room. Youth will also enjoy pizza, drinks, & $5 in tokens. Permission slip must be filled out prior to leaving.

Minnesota Zoo Field Trip  
Ages 6-11/$15/Wednesday April 6/12:00-5  
Northwest Como  
Youth will spend a day at the MN Zoo discovering & learning about all the different species & their habitats. The indoor & outdoor exhibit areas & trails the youth will explore include: Discovery Bay, Medtronic Minnesota Trail, Northern Trail, Russia’s Grizzly Coast, & Tropics Trail. Permission slip must be filled out prior to leaving.

Mini Golf at MOA Field Trip  
Ages 7-11/$15/Friday April 8/1:00–4:00  
Northwest Como  
Spend Spring Break at the Rec! Park staff will take the youth on a field trip to Moose Mountain Mini-Golf Course. Light snack is provided. The youth will need to bring their own money to purchase other food & beverages. Permission slip must be filled out prior to leaving.

Egg Dying  
Instructor: Pat Morell  
Ages 6-12/$5/Friday April 15/4:00–5:30  
Langford Park  
Join us in dying and making some awesome eggs just in time for Easter.

Basic Fishing Fundamentals  
Instructor: Bill Harvel  
Ages 7-11/$25/3:30–5:00  
Northwest Como  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday April 25-29 or  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday May 23-27  
Participants will learn basic techniques of how to cast a closed-faced & open-faced fishing pole. They will also learn about different types of bait for fishing as well as exploring the different species of fish that live in Minnesota. The youth will travel to Como Lake on Friday to apply what they have learned on Monday & Tuesday. Permission slip must be filled out prior to leaving. Please wear comfortable shoes & bring a bottle of water. Light snack will be provided.