May 30, 2022
No School – Memorial Day

June 8, 2022
iPad Collection Day

June 8, 2022
8th Grade Recognition
9:30am
2:00pm

June 10, 2022
6th Grade Awards
(By Invitation)
10:00am
7th Grade Awards
(By Invitation)
2:00pm
8th Grade Valleyfair
9:30am – 6:00pm

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.  Andrew Carnegie

Good afternoon everyone. This week’s message is a budget update. Our budget for school year 22/23 has been finalized. SPPS as a district is facing significant budget reductions due to multiple factors some of which are enrollment declines and inflationary costs. (Link to SPPS budget tutorial - https://www.spps.org/budget). Each building is impacted in different ways. When entering the budget process, I was well aware that Murray would have to accept a degree of these reductions. My priorities were to minimize the impact on our school community while working to maintain the following -

1. Specialist elective options
2. Student teaming in the 6th as much as possible, to support the transition year for our students and families
3. Student and family support in the manner of our intervention specialists and family involvement coordination

At the end of the process, I was able to maintain the above priorities, but reductions were still necessary to align with the contractual and district budget parameters.

Reductions at Murray for school year 22/23 were in the following areas -

1. Social Studies (We will have 5 educators instead of 6)
2. English Language Arts (We will have 6 educators instead of 7)
3. Science (We will have 5 educators instead of 6)
4. Gen ed. Para support

Special education staffing is controlled by the district and is based solely on numbers of students that receive specialized services for Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 programming. Based on the numbers of students that receive services for next year, the following reductions in special education will take place -

1. Special Education Teacher (We will have 7 educators instead of 8)
2. Para support - our para support will be based on a ratio with how many students we have that receive specialized services. We will be hiring two TAs to meet the necessary ratios. This may change based on updated numbers as time goes on.

As we continue to distance ourselves from the days of distance learning and lockdowns, I am hopeful that an upward enrollment trend will continue with our school community. Right now, the data is showing that our 6th grade enrollment is strong based on data that has been shared with us from SPPS and Area E 5th graders. One of the main pieces of feedback I get from our community is “what elective options do you have for our students and do you have a foreign language?” We were able to maintain our elective options that we currently have, and I am working with our after-school program coordinator and our Flipside program to see what a foreign language opportunity can look like until we can secure a full-time foreign language educator for the school day. Stay tuned on what this after-school opportunity may look like.

I know that the budget season is a very stressful time for school communities. It was a tight turnaround from when I got our initial numbers until I had to present to the district officials. Despite the reductions that we had to make, I want you to all know that I was able to make a case for our community and get approval for an additional $295,000 to support what I articulated above for next year.

We will continue to offer great learning experiences for our students and show our families what a great place Murray is to lean on. We are all co-pilots in this process.

Celebrations:
First Band Concert In Years! - I want to congratulate Mr. Dahlberg and our Murray Pilots for hosting our first concert in quite some time. We were able to partner with our Rock Band members as well as representatives from Como Senior High School to have a performing arts event that reignited the excitement around our programming. Thank you to the families, students and educators who continued to support the performing arts despite the challenges of COVID and distance learning. We are proud of our Pilots!

#PilotProps of the week! Ms. Folkema would like to celebrate Anna Amman Steger. Anna is a wonderful member of the Murray community. She has done an amazing job of hosting future Murray Pilots! Keep shining Anna!

#PilotProps of the week! Ms. Adriana would like to celebrate Lucie Cherbuliez for being an outstanding teaching assistant. She consistently makes herself available to support staff and students. Way to go Lucie! Go Pilots!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School
Sixth Grade

English with Ms. Stedje:
Ms. Stedje’s 6th-grade classes are hosting a POETRY SLAM at the end of the year! The dates of the slam will be Tuesday, June 7th and Wednesday, June 8th. If you are a family member or friend, please feel free to stop by and join us for one of the performances if you are able. The slam will be hosted during your student's class time and will be the same on both days. More information is to come.

Please reach out to Ms. Stedje with any questions.
rebecca.stedje@spps.org

Seventh Grade

Science with Ms. Dooley:
In Life Science, we have wrapped up our study of Human Body Systems and are moving on to Ecology. This unit will involve studies of global, as well as local, ecosystems. We’ll be applying observation, mathematical model, and researching skills as we learn about the living things around us and around the world.

Eighth Grade

8th Grade Recognition Ceremony

Wednesday, June 8th

9:30am – Students in Foundations:
Atkinson/Chase
Boyer
Ciancio
Dahlberg
Decourt

2:00pm – Students in Foundations:
Bernard/Prechel
Harrison/Upton
Hayden/Upton
Hirthe/Mattila
Jackson
Madden
Nalepka/Scheid
Wenzel

Attendance

Hello Murray Families!

Murray now has the option for parents/guardians to report student absences by email!

If your student will be absent, send a message to:
murrayattendance@spps.org

Please include your student's name and the reason for the absence and we will mark it in the attendance system.

You can also use the email address to notify the office that your student will be picked up early. When we receive the email, we will write an Excuse to Leave the Building for the student. The student should stop by the office in the morning and pick up that pass. The student will meet you in the office at the time indicated on the pass.

Hamline Elementary Spring Festival

Saturday, May 21st, 1:00-4:00pm, rain or shine
Hancock Recreation Center
1610 Hubbard Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104

Free Admission
Bake Sale, Food for Sale,
Entertainment, Games & Activities
(All proceeds benefit programming at
Hamline Elementary through the
Hamline Elementary PTA)

Thanks to Hancock Recreation Center, Hamline Midway Coalition, Hamline University, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, and our Midway neighbors!

Opportunities for volunteering, sponsorship, and hosting a table at our Community Expo:

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

Sponsorship Form:
https://forms.gle/2uqBUonSopFxG2XWA

Community Expo form:
https://forms.gle/9cxLvQfzS7b7iG1N9

Volunteer:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094daaab29a6fc1-mighty

iPads

On Wednesday, June 8, all students will be cleaning iPads at school. All students are welcome to keep the iPads for the summer, returning to school with them in the fall. Any students who are attending Summer School must keep their iPads and bring them to summer school. Only those students who are not returning to St. Paul Public Schools or students whose families don't want the iPads over the summer will turn them in at the library with the case and charger on June 8 after cleaning. Eighth graders attending a St. Paul Public Schools high school do not turn iPads in unless their family doesn't want it over the summer.

Missing Eyeglasses?

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
Counselor’s Corner

Summer School:

Summer School Registration is now open.

The main link is:

spps.org/summer

The middle school link is also included below. Although the priority date was April 15th, you can still sign your child up for Summer School.

https://www.spps.org/Domain/12605

Middle School (5-8) / Middle School (5-8) - Saint Paul Public Schools

Grades 5-8 Summer Session. Journey to Discovery Students receive academic support, develop leadership skills, and discover new talents and interests through enrichment activities.
www.spps.org

Below is a comprehensive site for 9th grade course selection. Please look to see course selection resources for the High schools based on where your child is assigned to go.

Please also note that there is information regarding the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program as well. If your student is interested, please have them apply for the program.

https://www.spps.org/Page/41758

Counseling / 9th Grade Course Selection - Saint Paul Public Schools

9th grade course selection for current 8th graders is beginning the week of April 18, 2022. Attend your assigned high school’s course selection event in order to select courses that fit you best.
www.spps.org

Thank you,

Murray School Counseling Team

Justine Revermann (last names A-L, 651-744-7130, justine.revermann@spps.org
Lisa Engelstad (last names M-Z, 651-744-2397, lisa.engelstad@spps.org

Valleymade – Eighth Grade Celebration!

Friday, June 10th / 9:30am – 6:00pm / $32.00

Money and Permission Forms Due May 31, 2022
Students need to be picked up at Murray at 6:00pm
TYPE II ONLY FIELD TRIP FORM

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION

A field trip to: **Valleymair** is planned by: **Murray Middle School** for the purpose of: **8th Grade Field Trip**. Permission slips and $30.00 are due to Ms. Falkema in the main office (1045) by May 31st.

on (date) **Friday, June 10th** from **9:30 a.m.** (time) to **6:00 p.m.** (time)

The attached form must be completed and returned before the student will be permitted to participate in the above field trip.

**VERBAL AUTHORIZATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR APPROVAL**

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Detach and Return

Field Trip Parental/Guardian Authorization

I/We authorize ________________________________________________________________________________ to participate in the field

Student’s Full Name

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

to __________________________________________________________________________________________

on (date) ____________________________________________________________________________________

Does the student have any special health problems or handicapping conditions which will require special attention or supervision on this field trip? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is this problem and what special considerations should be made?
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

We understand that the necessary arrangements, plans, and precautions will be taken for the care and supervision of the student during the trip.

Date _______________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________________________________________________________________

Day Time _____________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency __________________________________________________________________________________
Walk-In Vaccination Clinic

We will be administering the Moderna® and Pfizer® COVID-19 vaccines.

Safe Zone, 130 E 7th St. St. Paul 55101
Tuesday (first two of the month): 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday (last two of the month): 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Neighborhood House, 179 Robie St. E, St. Paul MN, 55107
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Face to Face Clinic, 1165 Arcade St. St. Paul MN, 55106
(Pfizer only)
Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Ave W, St. Paul MN, 55104
Fridays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Moderna is only authorized for people 18 years and over.
**Pfizer is authorized for people 12 years and over.

mncare.org | 651.602.7500
What Is a Family-School Compact?

A Family-School Compact for Achievement is an agreement that parents, students, and teachers develop together. It explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all students get the individual support they need to reach and exceed grade-level standards.

Jointly Developed with Parents

The parents at Murray Middle School helped develop this Compact for Achievement. School-wide meetings are held each year to update the compact. Parents are welcome to contribute comments at any time.

For more information on the Murray Middle School compact please contact Stefanie Folkema, Parent Involvement Coordinator, at stefanie.folkema@ysps.org or (651) 744-3922.

Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108
Phone (651) 293-8740
Fax (651) 293-8742

MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Murray Middle School Vision:

Murray Middle School students are challenged and inspired to reach their full potential in preparation for success in high school and beyond.

Murray Middle School Mission:

- Our students thrive in a safe, supportive, caring, fun, and diverse learning environment.
- We set high expectations for academic achievement through rigorous coursework, standards-based instruction, and support programs.
- We strive for continuous improvement through effective professional development.
- We teach and model responsibility, respect, and integrity.
- We support the academic, emotional, social, and physical development of each unique child.
- We build and strengthen relationships among students, staff, families, and community.
Murray Goals

Reading: The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in reading will increase from 47% to 52% as measured by the MCA III/MN AS Reading Assessment administered in April/May 2022.

Math: The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in mathematics will increase from 36% to 41% as measured by the MCA III/MN AS Math Assessment administered in April/May 2022.

Climate Goal: The percentage of all Office Discipline Referrals (ODR) out of school will decrease by 25% and the disproportionality of race with regards to suspensions/expulsions will decrease by 25% as measured by Campus Discipline Records and monitored at least twice per month.

More information at spps.org/scp

SPPS Goals

More at spps.org/strategic plan

- Decrease Disparities in Achievement based on Race, Ethnicity, Culture and Identity
- Increase Achievement of English Learners
- Increase Achievement of Students Receiving Special Education Services
- Improve Kindergarten Readiness
- Increase Academic Growth in Reading and Math for All Students
- Prepare All Graduates for College, Career and Life

Teachers, Students, Parents – Together for Success

Murray Middle School Collective Commitments

Teacher Agreement – I believe that each child can be successful.
- Believe that each student can learn
- Show respect for all students and families
- Uphold and apply schoolwide and classroom rules fairly and equitably
- Maintain high standards through challenging coursework
- Communicate with students and parents utilizing all available resources
- Implement Culturally Relevant Instruction (Realness, Relevance, Rigor, and Relationships)
- Honor and support a restorative climate in our school

Student Agreement – I believe that I can be successful.
- Attend school regularly, on time, with fully charged iPad and all necessary supplies
- Take ownership of my own learning
- Engage in my work and honor the “Murray Way”
- Show respect for myself, my school and other people
- Work cooperatively with my classmates, teachers and staff
- Honor and support a restorative climate in our school

Parent/Guardian Agreement – I believe my child can be successful.
- See that my child is present and attends school regularly
- Communicate with my child’s teachers on a regular basis
- Show respect towards my child and my child’s school
- Encourage and support my child’s learning
- Encourage and support my child’s social, emotional and behavioral development
- Actively monitor my child’s academic progress utilizing available resources
- Support my child in the responsible use of technology as an academic tool
- Honor and support a restorative climate in our school

Family Support/Partnerships

- Community Partnerships: e.g. St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, U of M Athletics, U of M Raptor Center, U of M Science Library, Outdoor Classroom, Ujamaa Place Urban Mentoring
- Communication: comprehensive website, parent portal, newsletter
- Parent Advisory Climate Team
- Parent Involvement Coordinator