Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter. **Brian Solis**

There is so much that we all do for our kids. As I sit on both sides of the fence as an educator and as a parent of middle schoolers, I truly marvel at what teachers over the years have been able to do for my own children. At the same time, I know how much work it is as a parent. When I reflect on the team of educators I work with at Murray, I see every day how lucky we are to have them serving the Area E community. The one thing that stands out most to me is that no matter what the circumstances, our Murray team is willing to step up and address the issues while always keeping our kids at the center. Our teachers roll up their sleeves and get to work providing a premier education and wonderful experiences for all. I am proud to be standing with them and you, as we educate your children. It’s what we do together, it’s what makes us a community, and it’s what makes our belonging matter. If you have a moment, please consider sending a positive message to your child’s teacher. These very small gestures mean a heck of a lot to an educator. (I have even known some to take these messages and put them on their own refrigerator) You can find teacher contact information on our Murray website. [https://www.spps.org/murray](https://www.spps.org/murray)

**Updates**

**Staffing**

- **8th grade Math** – Currently interviewing candidates.

**Health**

- Vacant and working with HR to get candidates routed to us. In the meantime, Ms. Bierman has been working with and supporting our guest teachers to ensure that health curriculum is still being delivered to our students.

**English**

- Additional allocation due to over enrollment. Working with HR to get candidates routed to us.

**Celebrations**

**After school Flipside Program has started** – Our fantastic flipside program has started and our students are participating in all of the wonderful opportunities Murray has to offer Monday through Thursday after school. Please visit our website or connect with Ms. Kari Gonzalez ([kari.gonzalez@spps.org](mailto:kari.gonzalez@spps.org)) if you wish to register your student or ask any questions. We still have plenty of room!

**Big Thank You!** – I want to send out a huge thank you to the community members that donated their time and resources to provide food to our teachers as they worked through our first round of conferences. This gesture means a lot to our team. Thank you, Murray Pilot parents!

**COMPAS Partnership**

- Over the last few years, we have been fortunate enough to partner with the COMPAS Teaching Writers and Artists program, which allows artists to come in and work with our students in their English classes. We were just notified that two of our Murray community members, Martha Boyt and Lucy Keenan are being published in COMPAS’s upcoming book! A publication celebration will be held at the Minnesota History Center on Sat. Nov. 23rd. Way to go Martha and Lucy!

**Fur Trade Field Trip** – Our 6th grade team just completed their annual field trip to the Snake River Fur Trading Post. It was an educational experience for all as they got to walk through the historic trading post and see what life was like, experience an Ojibwe’ campsite, were able to sew a voyager pouch and much much more! Great trip and thank you to Mr. Beck and Ms. Major for coordinating such a rich experience.

**Upcoming Events**

- Nov. 4 – Murray Parent Advisory and Climate Team Meeting. Location Murray Library. Time 5:00PM-6:30PM
- Nov. 8 – End of 1st Quarter

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Sixth Grade

English with Ms. Curran:
ELA 6 Readers are identifying the main character, plot, setting and theme in their independent reading book and making a "Reading Journal" to show what they know.

ELA 6 Writers are creating their own personal narrative about a "SBGM" – small but great moment – from their own life. They will use dialogue and descriptive details with sensory language to bring this moment to life!

English with Ms. Stedje:
Sixth-grade Readers’ Workshop is in the thick of our Deep Study of Character: identifying our characters traits and emotions, how the setting affects our characters, and developing theories and identifying themes.

Sixth-grade Writers’ Workshop is working on perfecting the art of narrative writing. We are creating short personal narratives and realistic fiction fiction stories.

Math with Ms. Brion:
Please take some time with your child and talk about their day – ask probing questions, "Who did you sit with at lunch?", "What are you studying in Science?", and "Do you have your Math homework complete?" (because, yes, they have math homework just about every night!). Please encourage them to retake any assessment with a score of three or lower. Please check their grades on Schoology – if you do not know how, ask your child – they can show you on their ipad.

In Math 6, we have been working on factor trees and prime factorization. Next, we will be working on greatest common factor and least common multiple.

In Accelerated Math, we have been working on equivalent fractions and changing between fractions and decimals. Next, we will be working on adding and subtracting rational numbers.

End of the quarter is Friday, November 8th.

Seventh Grade

English with Ms. Elliot:
Dear Parents,
Just wanted to say a fond farewell and huge thank you for all of your support here. I will retire on October 31st after 26 years of teaching at our dear Murray. After 36 total years of teaching and coaching. I knew it was time. I feel very blessed to have been a part of it all! I will always be a Pilot – Jill Elliott

Math with Ms. Abler:
Accelerated Algebra students are working on graphing functions.

Pre-Algebra students are starting a unit on rational numbers.

Science with Mr. Altringer:
In Life Science, students are wrapping up learning the characteristics that all living things share and will start a cells unit in a week.

Magnet Science 7 students are working on calculating speed and motion. A couple weeks ago, they attended a field trip to Belwin Conservancy Environmental Center to investigate water quality by collecting data on physical, chemical, and biological properties. This trip was part of the Minnesota Trout Unlimited Trout in the Classroom Program.

Eighth Grade

English with Ms. Roe:
8th grade English classes have just started our Memoir unit! Students are writing stories about real events that have happened to or around them, important people or influential places. They came up with so many great ideas, and have just started drafting out a few of those options. In the upcoming weeks, students will be editing their rough drafts in a ton of new ways. They will be adding descriptive settings, dynamic characters, exciting problems and including lessons we can all learn about life- plus so much more. Memoirs will be published before the end of Quarter 1, so stay tuned for their awesome stories!

A Shout Out of Gratitude

The Murray Middle School Staff would like to extend their gratitude to the Administration Team and the Sunshine Committee for supplying us with dinner during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 10th. We would also like to thank the parents who brought and served food and drinks to us during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, October 15th. Philip and Anne Aarness, David and Colene Blank, Scott and Maureen Freberg, Derek and Amy Pletch, Martin Ruddy and Dina Kountoupes, Brad and Tina Schwie, John and Deanna Seppanen, Joseph and Joanne Spencer, Cory and Rebecca Tennison, and Dana Wagner and Nat Hemstad. The generosity was greatly appreciated.

Flipside afterschool classes have started! Class schedules and bussing information are posted in the cafeteria. Students can still register to participate in Flipside! If you have questions please contact:

Kari Gonzalez – Flipside Coordinator
kari.gonzalez@spps.org
651-774-3189
Hey! My name is Lindsay Roe, and I am the 8th grade English teacher at Murray Middle School. This is my 9th year teaching in the St. Paul School District, but my first year at Murray. I am so excited to be here! I love spending time with St. Paul kids and watching them grow as readers, writers and individuals. Helping kids see their potential, despite the problems they experience, is why I became a teacher.

Although I am now very loyal to St. Paul, I grew up in Eagan with my two older brothers and my parents. After high school, I earned by Bachelor’s degree from St. Cloud State University in Communications Art and Literature. I did my student teaching at Battle Creek Middle School, where I then taught 7th grade for 8 years. I am currently working on my Master’s degree from Capella University.

In my spare time, I enjoy traveling. Some of my favorite locations have been Guatemala, Greece, Dominican Republic and Hawaii. I am a frequent Lake Como visitor, taking long walks with my dog, Arya. I named her after my favorite Game of Thrones character. I also enjoy spending time with friends and going on adventures with my 7-year-old nephew, Colton.

I look forward to getting to know all the great things about Murray Middle School!

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Murray Middle School (located at 2200 Buford Ave, St. Paul, in St. Anthony Park) offers a comprehensive tutoring/study skills support program called the Murray Pilot One-on-One Tutoring Program. This program (now in its 13th year) is offered during the school day as an elective class Monday through Friday during the last three class periods of the day from 12:29-1:17, 1:21-2:08 and 2:12-3:00 pm. Volunteers pick a day/time that works best with their schedules!

The 7th and 8th grade children involved in the program are students who benefit from obtaining daily support from a tutor/mentor. Tutors work with students on developing solid study skills and they work on core subjects including: English, Science, Math and Social Studies. The goal is to have 75 tutors each week.

People enjoy working at Murray because it is an urban middle school with a diverse population and they have an opportunity to work with the same student each day. This lends itself to developing positive relationships with the Murray students. Cindy Thrasher is present in the classroom during the entire time so that both the Murray student and the tutor have a support system in place at the school.

We ask that all tutor volunteers participate in a 90-minute training/orientation session which allows time for us to further describe how the program works at Murray.

Please contact Cindy Thrasher, coordinator, to sign up for a training session or for more information at 651.293.8740 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org

Thank you!

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Hello! My name is Megan Steinhoff and I am joining the English Language Arts team at Murray Middle School at the end of October! I am excited to become a part of the community at Murray, and to get to know the students, their families and the staff. This community wouldn’t be what it is without each and every one of its members.

This is my first official year as an English Language Arts teacher, and I am beyond grateful to begin this journey with all of you! Last year I was a student teacher at Harding High School, and I spent some time as a long-term substitute at Harding as well. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Child Psychology at the University of Minnesota, and after volunteering in Murray’s One-to-One Pilot tutoring program, I fell in love with the teaching profession. I later went on to study my Master of Arts in teaching at Hamline University. My love for teaching and Saint Paul Public Schools has never stopped growing!

I am passionate about building relationships with students and encouraging them to succeed and believe in themselves. I believe in an equitable education and I strive to provide all of the students at Murray Middle School with the opportunity to grow as both a student and a human. As Maya Angelou once said, “Every person needs a place that is furnished with hope”. This year at Murray, we will all work together to furnish our community with hope and learning. I am excited to meet and get to know all of you – please stop by to say hello! Go Pilots!
GET READY

Sponsored Field Trip

Inside Target Field

Learn about the many career opportunities in sports!
Behind every sports team that plays on the field, there is a second Team behind the Team working to make each game a success. From the general manager to the grounds crew, trainers and ushers, nearly 3,000 employees are needed to produce a Major League Baseball game. During the Team behind the Team tour and Q & A session, your group will learn about the many career opportunities in sports, as well as hear first-hand from Twins staff what it takes to land a job in sports. Depending on your group's specific interests, you may also discuss behind-the-scenes topics such as sport marketing, athletic training, culinary arts and more.

FIELD TRIP FORM PARENTAL/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION
A field trip to: Target Field
Planned by: Get Ready Ms. Dickinson, Get Ready Coordinator (744-3815 with questions)
For the purpose of: Career Exploration
On: Friday, November 1st, 2019
Time: 9:30-12:30

***permission slip due by Oct 30th
No Cost! Students need to plan to bring a lunch
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

I/We authorize: ____________________________

Student Name Printed: ____________________________

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 condition 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.
Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): ____________________________
Telephone: Day Time ____________________________ Emergency ____________________________

Preparing Students for Tomorrow
### Quick Information

**November 15, 2019**

Teenventure is a college and career exploration program designed for middle school age youth (5th-8th graders). Quality supervision is provided by four full time staff and 6-7 college aged mentors who will inspire academic achievement. At each career site, our youth meet with a variety of employees who share their education, training, and career experience with an opportunity for youth to ask questions.

- Program begins at 9:00am
- Program ends at 4:30pm
- Location: Rice Street Recreation
  1041 Marion Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55117
- Lunch is provided free of cost
- Transportation is provided. Students may choose from 4 school bus locations to be dropped off and picked up at
- **Cost:** Free
- Contact Cee Xiong at 651-744-1997 with questions

### Field Trip Activities

#### Career Destinations:

**Northern Clay Center**

Get a tour of the clay center's sales gallery, classrooms, glazing areas, studio spaces, and kiln room. See and understand the process of creating and firing a pot with an artist demonstration.

2424 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55406

**Como Zoo**

Come see what and how the zoologists keep things alive at the zoo with their Keepers of the Garden and Zoo program. Learn about live plants and/or animals.

1225 Estabrook Dr, St. Paul, MN 55103

#### Afternoon Activity:

**Bowlero Brooklyn Park**

Strike! Can you join forces with your friends and get the highest bowling score? Get 2 hours of bowling and 1 hour of unlimited arcade games!

7545 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

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Connect with us @sppsteenventure

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

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Saint Paul Public Schools

A World of Opportunities
Important Fieldtrip Information:

Office phone: 651-744-1997
Trip Day cell phone: 651-447-9980 (only answered on 11/15/2019)
Coordinator E-mail: ceechia.xiong@spps.org

- Field trip choices are subject to change
- Read confirmation letter sent home with youth for final field trip choice and bus stop
- Please arrive 5 minutes before scheduled bus pick-up time
- In the case of cancellation, please call the number below 24 hours in advance
- Please dress for the weather

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:20 am - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Bus pick up</td>
<td>Bus Locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am - 9:00 am</td>
<td>Parent drop off</td>
<td>Rice Street Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Registration and group activities</td>
<td>Rice Street Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Career fieldtrips</td>
<td>Fieldtrip locations</td>
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Career Location 1: Northern Clay Center
Career Location 2: Como Zoo

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm - 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Snack and reflection time</td>
<td>Rice Street Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Parent pick up</td>
<td>Rice Street Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Bus drop off</td>
<td>Bus Locations</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Location</th>
<th>Pick up Location</th>
<th>Pick up Time</th>
<th>Drop off Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harding Senior High School 1540 Sixth Street E</td>
<td>Main Entrance, near Third Street</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson Senior High School 1349 Arcade St</td>
<td>Main Entrance</td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Senior High School 275 Lexington Pkwy N</td>
<td>Marshall Street Entrance</td>
<td>8:35 am</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humboldt Senior High School 30 Baker Street East</td>
<td>Main entrance, Door 1, Gorman and Baker</td>
<td>8:20 am</td>
<td>5:10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice Street Recreation 1041 Marion St</td>
<td>Back Entrance</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
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Flipside is sponsored by the Saint Paul Public Schools Alternative Education, Athletics and Community Education Departments in partnership with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and is partially funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding, CFDA 84.287, Every Student Succeeds Act, Title IV B – 21 Century Community Learning Centers. The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the policy of the Federal Department of Education or the state Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the federal or state government.
teenventure November 15 Registration Form
Please return form to Flipside Site Coordinator in room by November 8th, 2019

Student Last Name: ______________________ First Name: ______________________ Lunch Number: ______________________

Parent/Guardian Last Name: ______________________ First Name: ______________________

Cell Phone: ______________________ Home Phone: ______________________

Email Address: ______________________ School: ______________________

Please add any information about your child that may be helpful for program staff to know? ______________________

Please add any medical needs such as prescriptions, food allergies or medication allergies? ______________________

Emergency Contact Name: ______________________ Phone: ______________________

Transportation to Rice Street Recreation:
My child will: (Please select one of the following options)
☐ Walk
☐ Parent/guardian drop off by 9:00am to Rice Street Recreation
☐ Bus (Choose a bus below & arrive 5 minutes before the time listed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Stop</th>
<th>Pick up</th>
<th>Return</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>5:10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central HS</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose Your Fieldtrip

_____ Northern Clay Center _____ Como Zoo

Teenventure Program Evaluation Notice
Teenventure continually works to improve the program quality and experience for students through regular evaluation. By enrolling in this program, your child will participate in program evaluation activities such as surveys. For detailed information, please see the Flipside Data Privacy Notice at www.spps.org/flipside. Surveys are also available for review at www.spps.org/flipside. If you do not give permission for your child to participate in evaluation activities, please sign and return Flipside Program Data Privacy Notice to your child’s school office or email to flipside@spps.org.

Media Release:
I give permission for my child to be photographed or filmed while participating in program activities that may be used for program or District promotions. Yes____ No____

My signature below signifies that I understand the statements above and give my child permission to participate.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________________ Date: ______________________
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!
COME ONE COME ALL!
LET'S CELEBRATE FALL
AT THE INAUGURAL
CHELSEA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Get ready for the holidays, and shop for products made by our talented Chelsea Heights staff members (spice rubs, water painting, jewelry, and more). Local vendors and artisans will be on display as well. The kids will love the cotton candy, sand art, and snowman game.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
1-4 PM
NORTHWEST COMO REC CENTER
(CHELSEA HEIGHTS GYM)
ST. PAUL

PROCEEDS SUPPORT CHELSEA HEIGHTS. THANK YOU!

Vendors! Tables are available for $25. Email the Chelsea Heights PTO for more information: chelseaheightspto@gmail.com