Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom.  Oprah Winfrey

Greetings Murray Families,

We are off and running. All staff are working hard to provide that educational passport to freedom for all of our young Pilots! The school year is now well underway and our students are beginning to settle in to their routines. I am amazed at how quickly all of our new Murray students are transitioning into our community. We thank you for your continued support as it takes all of us working together to set them up for success. Speaking of setting students up for success, our teachers have been hard at work taking steps to build strong relationships and communities within their classrooms. As we now dig in with academics, we ask that you please continue to stay tuned with your students’ progress. Please access Schoology and reach out to your student’s teachers should you have any questions along the way.

Updates –
We are still working to fill three teacher positions at Murray Middle School.
8th Grade Math – This position has been filled. We are working with HR to have our new team member begin as soon as possible as they are coming from another district. Mr. Eggers, who is now our assistant principal, was our former math teacher and has been providing support for our guest teacher.
Health – This was a very late summer vacancy. HR is working to route us all available candidates for interviews. In the meantime, Ms. Megan Steinhoff (currently hired to work with Murray beginning in November as an ELA teacher) has stepped in to support on a consistent basis so that we have a high quality and consistent teacher working with our students and their health curriculum.
Special Education – We are currently interviewing candidates for this position and I am hopeful that we will be offering to a candidate within the next week or so. My fingers are crossed.

Enrollment and class sizes – Our 6th and 8th grade classes are large this year, which is a great sign that people want to be at Murray! As we work to manage our enrollment, please know that we first work to balance our class numbers and then will be working with the district to address any class sizes that may be over our class max of 37. I will be meeting with district officials to address any ongoing issues within the next two weeks. Please know that at the end of the day, my priority is to put the best educator in front of our children.

Celebrations –
WEB and National Junior Honor Society – I just want to say how proud I am of these groups and how lucky we are to have such a strong group of student leaders to support our incoming 6th graders and new families. Big thank you to our students, Ms. Kroll, Ms. Roe, Ms. Dooley and Mr. Altringer for their support of these leadership groups!

Upcoming Events –
Athletics – Sports practices have begun. Please talk with your student about the schedule for their sport. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to their coach or the athletic director, Janey Atchison.
Sept. 17/18 – iPad distribution. Please be sure your iUpdate is complete and all of your information is accurate. Students will be coming home with their devices and please remember to set your family expectations and rules for when the device is in your home. We support you.
Sept. 25 – School Picture Day
Oct. 7 – Parent Advisory and Climate Team Meeting, Science Fair Parent Forum
Oct. 10 and 15 – Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00PM-8:00PM

In closing, we hope to see you at our upcoming Murray conferences in October. Sign-up sheets are below and have been sent home with your student this week. It is going to be a great year!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Staff Spotlight

Hello, my name is Adriana Cruz Trevino. I am the attendance clerk in the main office. This is my second year here at Murray. Yay! My favorite part of being at Murray is getting to know our students and families. Seeing our student’s smiles always brighten my day.

I have a beautiful four year old who is a ball of living energy. I am a RNA, a registered nursing assistant. This allows me to take care of veterans during the holidays and summer. I am fluent in Spanish and I love to listen to music in Spanish.

Fun fact about me. I have three pets; a parrot, a rabbit, and a tortoise.

In my free time, you can find me at a playground watching my daughter have fun. Every now and then, I feel adventurous and find myself using the slide with her.

Please reach out with any Murray questions you may have.

Remember to be kind to one another.

Staff Spotlight

Hi, my name is Maria Flores. I am the Lead Clerk here at Murray Middle School. This is my third year at Murray however I have been with the district for many years. I am super excited to be a part of the Murray community and start another school year here.

My husband and I have two boys, one is 10 years old and in fifth grade, the other is 12 years old and in seventh grade. It is exciting and different being on the other side as a middle school parent. In my spare time, I like to hang out with my family, bowl and go to movies. I also love to sing, dance, and hang out with friends.

I am also lucky enough to be Bilingual in Spanish and love using my skill to help our students and families.

I am looking forward to a great new school year. Go Pilots!

Attendance Policy:

Student absences/tardies may be phoned into the attendance line by dialing 651-293-8740. Please speak clearly and slowly, state the student’s name, grade, date and the reason for the absence/tardy.

Make a new call each day the student is absent. If a phone call is made by a parent or legal guardian, then no written note is required as follow-up. You may also send a note with your child to bring to the office explaining their absence if you are not able to call.

If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, send a note with your child to bring to the office that morning. They will then receive a pass to leave and be able to meet you in the office at the appointed time. A parent or legal guardian must come in to the office to sign the student out.

Please remember if your child will be out for an extended period of time due to a family event, have your child come to the office for an “application for special leave”.

Thank you!
**Sixth Grade**

**English with Ms. Kesti:**
In English Language Arts we worked on our first small group work, “Doing the M.O.S.T.” (Making Our Space Together). Ask your student what project they worked on and who they worked with! Look for their handiwork in the room and in the halls when you come for open house next week!

**Students in my new elective class, Inquiry and Research Exploration, completed a teamwork challenge; they each came up with different ways to work together and “save Fred.”**

**Seventh Grade**

**Science with Ms. Dooley:**
7th grade science is just wrapping up their first scientific method project. Each class observed several classic science demonstrations and designed a next-step experiment. Next up: more scientific investigations and field studies.

**Science with Ms. Nix:**
Sixth graders learned about safety this week, doing a safety match and taking a safety test. Next, we will discuss qualitative vs. quantitative observations with a super cool “magic capsule” lab.

**Eighth Grade**

**Math with Mr. Hayden:**
In Geometry, we are beginning the year by learning all about lines, rays, planes, points and segments. While many of these are familiar terms, students are discovering how we can properly identify, name and draw them using specific vocabulary and symbols. This is valuable because they are the building blocks for Geometry and help us expand our knowledge and prepare us for more complicated concepts which we will explore later in the year.

In Algebra 1, we are starting by reviewing operations with real and rational numbers. Students learned this in Pre-Algebra last year but as we all know, a refresher can be quite helpful after several months of summer vacation.

In Intermediate Algebra, we are opening the year with learning how to solve equations. First, we are just discussing one-step equations but then we will dive into multi-step equations which require a more precise approach.

**Social Studies with Ms. Kroll:**
In Global Studies we are working on maps! Students are working through mapping activities using TODALSS, Latitude, and Longitude. They will finish the unit by creating their own map for our summative assessment!

**Social Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman:**
Welcome back Murray Historians! American Studies is taught by both Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman. It is a required course for all seventh graders. We will learn about the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, The World Wars, Civil Rights’ Movements and so much more! We will also be doing History Day. This year’s theme is ‘Breaking Barriers’. We look forward to teaching your student this year and please email us with any questions!
The Flipside afterschool program at Murray Middle will begin Monday 10/7/19!

Registration forms will be available the week of 9/16/19.
In order for students to have a bus the first day of program they need to have their registration form turned in by Friday 9/27/19.
Class choice forms may be turned in later.

Please reach out with any questions!
Kari Gonzalez – Flipside Coordinator
651-774-3189 / kari.gonzalez@spps.org

Tutors Needed at Murray Middle School!

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!
On August 19th 16 teachers, staff, U of M representatives in food safety and gardens, and representatives from Urban Roots toured 3 different SPPS school gardens to learn more about the Garden to Cafeteria (G2C) program. “It is a chance to get the students in touch with their food and know where it comes from. It promotes healthy living, not only nutritionally, but in actively gardening in the fall and the spring”, said Kirsten Saylor, SPPS garden coordinator. Garden to Cafeteria is a program that will start this year, where these teachers, trained in the process of safely harvesting and handling food, will start to bring the student grown and student harvested food, like cherry tomatoes, kale, lettuce, spinach, and other vegetables into their cafeteria in a way that is safe for students to eat.

There are 24 of school gardens/orchards in SPPS, and this group of teachers went to visit several of them to learn more about the process of starting a garden, sustaining a garden, and how to properly bring the food into the supply chain of the school cafeteria for the salad bar. In attendance was Chelsea Moody, she is with the district’s health, safety and sustainability group, overseeing implementation of health and safety standards, regulations and laws, manages waste through recycling and the safe disposal of hazardous materials, and implements energy-saving and sustainability initiatives for the district.

Chris Wirtz, school cafeteria supervisor at Murray, was willing to pilot the protocols last spring at Murray with student grown lettuce. She along with Mr. Chase, a science teacher who had students grow lettuce in the school, supervised the students in harvesting, washing, and prepping it for the lunch line salad bar. “If we are going to promote sustainability in the district, this is a great way to teach it, and the team has come up with a set of protocols that will assure food safety and provide a paper trail of what food was harvested when and how it was served.”

Representatives from Urban Roots, also in attendance, hopes to partner with SPPS to extend their good work into the community.

One of the last gardens visited was the Murray Middle School garden. Over the past two years over 500 pounds of produce has been donated to the local food shelf out of this garden. Tim Chase, teacher at Murray who has been working with students on the garden, is excited to bring the food into the cafeteria, and hopes to use food, agriculture, sustainability, and culture to build understanding across the diverse population at Murray. “We will be inviting several local chefs into the classroom too to tie culture and food together with hopes that the thread of sustainability is a natural way of thinking in many cultures when it comes to food. He will be taking his class to the Historic Kelley Farm in Elk River to learn about agriculture and how our Minnesota farmers will be playing an important role in feeding the world.
Box Tops – Yes, Murray Middle School collects Box Tops for Education. Students can turn box tops into their Foundations Teachers or the front office. The box tops are used for direct student funding.

The National Junior Honor Society will be hosting a Box Top for Education Drive October 1st – October 25th! Please send in those Box Tops!

https://goo.gl/i0K0ml

Stay up to date on good news and upcoming events - Follow Murray Middle School on Twitter

MurrayMS_SPPS
**Parent-Teacher Conference Request Form**

Or complete online form at http://murray.spps.org

1) CHECK CHOICE:  □ Thursday, October 10, 2019 (4:00 PM—8:00 PM)  
OR □ Tuesday, October 15, 2019 (4:00 PM—8:00 PM)  
OR □ No Preference on Date

→ → → On the date you requested, do you prefer an □ earlier time or □ later time or □ no preference

2) PRINT STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME BELOW:

Student 1 ___________ Student 2 ___________

Use both columns only if you have 2 students at Murray.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level for Student 1</th>
<th>School will fill in Time</th>
<th>Grade Level for Student 2</th>
<th>School will fill in Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

You will be able to meet with each teacher approximately 4 to 5 minutes. 6th grade teachers will be in the cafeteria, 7th & 8th grade teachers will be in the gymnasium. Before or after your conference with the Grade Level Teachers you can conference with the elective teachers in the Library. These times are not scheduled.

### List of Teachers by Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Beck, Ms. Bron, Ms. Curran, Ms. Kosti, Mr. Lee, Ms. Major, Ms. Nix, Ms. Ross, Ms. Swede</td>
<td>Ms. Able, Mr. Altringer, Ms. Atchison, Ms. Bitner, Ms. Dooley, Ms. Elliot, Ms. Kozlak, Ms. Newman</td>
<td>Mr. Chase, Ms. Crowley, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hirshe, Ms. Kroll, Ms. Peckerson, Ms. Roe, Mr. Upton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Language Academy:**

- Ms. Cohen
- Ms. Lee
- Ms. Roste
- Ms. Sched

**Special Programs:**

- Ms. Amsel
- Ms. Cano
- Ms. Davis
- Ms. German
- Ms. Jackson
- Ms. Lindseter
- Ms. From
- Ms. Roach
- Ms. Thrasher

3) Do you need an interpreter provided by school to interpret at conferences? If so, Language needed ________

4) You can return this form by sending to school with your student. Or, mailing to: Stefanie Folkema, Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106 Or, faxing to school at 651-293-8742 Attn: Stefanie Folkema—please be sure it goes through.

5) How do you want the school to return the form to you once we’ve filled in the times? (Choose One from list below)

   - Send home with my child through Foundations: Teacher is __________
   - E-mail to (your name) ___________________________ E-mail Address ___________________________
   - Fax — Attention: (receiver’s name) ___________________________ (Fax number) ___________________________

6) It is important to get your form in early since scheduling is done on a **first-in, first-scheduled basis**.

   School Only Date Received: ___________________________
**Murray Flag Football Schedule 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Murray @ Humboldt Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Murray vs. Global Arts Plus</td>
<td>4:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Murray vs. Washington Technology Magnet</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Murray vs. Parkway Montessori</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Murray vs. Ramsey Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Murray @ American Indian Magnet</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Murray vs. Battle Creek Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Murray @ Capitol Hill Magnet</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Murray vs. Farnsworth Aerospace</td>
<td>4:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Murray @ Hazel Park Prep Academy</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Murray vs. Highland Park Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another season of flag football is underway. Home games will be played at the Luther Seminary on the North corner of Como and Hwy 280 across from the HealthPartners. We will practice every day from 3:15 to 4:45. Players must be picked up at school by 5:00. The game schedule is also located on the district website at spps.sports. Students will be notified by 1:00pm of cancellations via the afternoon announcements.

For questions please contact ishmael.bowie@spps.org.

Let's have a great season!!!

**Murray Boys’ Soccer Schedule 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Murray vs. Global Arts Plus</td>
<td>4:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Murray vs. Washington Technology Magnet</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Murray @ Parkway Montessori</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Murray vs. Ramsey Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Murray @ American Indian Magnet</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Murray vs. Battle Creek Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Murray @ Capitol Hill Magnet</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
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<td>Murray vs. Farnsworth Aerospace</td>
<td>4:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Murray @ Hazel Park Prep Academy</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Murray vs. Highland Park Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice is every day from 3:15 to 4:45. Players must be picked up by 5:00 at the soccer field. On Fridays the B team scrimmages.

For questions please contact Lorenze Francisco at lorenze.francisco@spps.org
Murray Girls’ Soccer Schedule 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Murray @ Linwood Monroe Arts Plus</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Murray @ Washington Technology Magnet</td>
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<td>Murray @ Farnsworth Aerospace</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Murray @ Highland Park Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For questions please contact Michael Lee at michael.lee@spps.org.

Murray Girls’ Volleyball Schedule 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Murray @ Linwood Monroe Arts Plus</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Murray @ Highland Park Middle School</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Conference Tournament</td>
<td>9:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice is every day from 3:15 to 5:00. Players must be picked up by 5:00.

For questions please contact Marshall Little at marshall.little@spps.org
Como Park Senior High Booster Club Presents

Homecoming 5K, 3K and 400 Meter Fun Run Fundraiser

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019

9:30 AM—11:30 AM
Como Park Senior High School & Como Lake

5K—9:30 AM  3K—10:15 AM  400 Meter Run—10:30 AM

- Register to run, donate, sponsor a student, or volunteer online at https://signup.com/go/wk8bQoAS
- Registration deadline is September 26, 2019
- Cost is $30 per runner (Registration includes T-Shirt & Entrance to Homecoming Game)*
- Stay for fun activities (climbing wall, football toss, face painting), food trucks, and the Homecoming Football Game that begins at 1 PM!

* Same Day Registration is allowed but T-Shirts and Homecoming Tickets are not guaranteed. A limited number of shirts will be ordered and given out on a first come, first served basis.

10:00 AM—4:00 PM—Food Trucks & Activities
1:00 PM—Homecoming Football Game

Help us BOOST Como! All proceeds will benefit Como Park Senior High School Athletics. Questions? Contact the Como Park Senior High Booster Club at comoparkboosterclub@gmail.com
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 Stephanie Volkenau, Parent Involvement Coordinator, at stephanie.volkenau@msp3.org or (651) 744-3922.

Murray Middle School

Administration:
Jamin McKenzie, Principal
Michelle Berman, Assistant Principal
Ryan Eggers, Assistant Principal

Saint Paul Public Schools
Board of Education
Zuki Ellis, Chair
Steven Marchese, Vice Chair
Jeanelle Foster, Clerk
Mary Nying, Treasurer
John Brodnick, Director
Jon Schumacher, Director
Mary Vanderwende, Director

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, 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: 100% of 6th grade teachers will create a Writers’ Workshop, as part of a Readers’ and Writers’ Workshop program. 7th and 8th grade teachers will continue, implement and enhance the workshop model in order to increase the reading and writing proficiency of our students.

100% of teachers will include academic language objectives in their instructional delivery and will implement supports that create access for English Language Learners.

Maths: 100% of Murray Math teachers will implement the Tasks, Questions, Evidence (TQE) process to increase students’ conceptual and abstract mathematical understanding.

Climate Goal: Enhance our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Restorative Practices model. 100% of staff members will fully implement all components of PBIS Tier I expectations and attend all PBIS professional development as measured by the tiered fidelity inventory assessment tool.

More information at sppso.org/scrp

SPPS Goals
More at sppso.org/strategicplan
- Decrease Disparities in Achievement
- Increase Achievement of English Learners
- Increase Achievement of Students Receiving Special Education Services
- Increase Kindergarten Readiness
- Increase Academic Growth in Reading and Math for All Students
- Prepare All Graduates for College, Career and Life.

SPPS Goals
More at sppso.org/strategicplan

Teachers, Students, Parents – Together for Success

Murray Middle School Collective Commitments

Teacher Agreement – I believe that each child can be successful.

I will:
- Believe that each student can learn
- Show respect for all students and families
- Uphold and apply school-wide 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 (Relevance, Relevance, Rigor, and Relationships)
- Honor and support a restorative climate in our school

Parent/Guardian Agreement – I believe my child can be successful.

I will:
- Support my child’s teacher and school
- Communicate with my child’s teacher 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 all 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
- Active Parent Teacher Association
- Community Partnerships: St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, U of M Athletics, U of M Science Library, Outdoor Classroom, New Lens Urban Mentoring
- Communications: comprehensive website, parent portal, newsletter
- Parent Advisory Climate Team
- Parent Involvement Coordinator
Murray Middle School

2019-2020 Family Engagement Plan

Murray Middle School is committed to a quality educational program that values family involvement. We recognize that families play a very important role in their children’s education, and take every opportunity to foster the relationship between school, parent and child.

Murray Middle School will develop and revise the school family/community engagement plan jointly with parents/guardians of the school and will distribute and make the plan available to families and the local community.

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into four impact areas. We will be working together this year to build positive and goal-oriented relationships in each area. Families and staff at school developed this plan together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welcoming Environment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our school has staff members available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family Liaison: Stefanie Folkema</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Principal: Jamin McKenzie</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **Our school communicates with families in many ways.** |
| • Murray Middle School holds a Title 1 Annual Meeting, in which families are informed about their school’s participation in Title 1. Families are informed of the requirements of Title 1, and their right to be involved in the education of their children. |
| • Parent Portal/Schoolify |
| • Campus Messenger |
| • Parent Advisory Council Team Monthly Meetings |
| • Bi-weekly newsletter is emailed to families and available on the website |
| • School Website: [www.spps.org/murray](http://www.spps.org/murray) |
| • Local Newspaper: Park Bugle |
| • Technology based messaging: Email, Text, Voicemail |
| • Facebook |
| • Twitter |
| • Parent Teacher Conferences |
| • Report cards/Final grades are sent home quarterly |

| **The achievement gap, or rather the “opportunity gap,” between students of color and white students in Saint Paul Public Schools is unacceptable. Our school is working to change practices and systems by identifying the barriers that make it harder for students of color to succeed and for their families to support their learning.** |

| **For more about our work on racial equity, contact:** Jamin McKenzie, Principal |
| • Dare 2 Be Real (student anti-racist leadership team) |
| • Educational Leadership Team |
| • New Lens Mentoring Project |
| • Pilot 1-on-1 Tutoring Program |

| **Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help families as their children start and leave our school.** |
| For new students and families, we support the transition by: |
| • 6th Grade Student Orientation |
| • Back to School Open House |
For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:
- 8th Grade Parent/Student Forum: Como High School Pathway
- Senior High Counselors visit to Murray
- Senior High Athletic Director visit to Murray

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Partnerships</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our school-parent compact establishes the shared responsibility for student success between the school, families, and students. Families and teachers work together to develop the compact.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Copies of the compact are available:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Compact is shared with families at Fall Open House and Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Compact is discussed with students during Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Compact is available on the Murray website</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The compact will be updated:</strong> April/May 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Title I Annual Meeting where we will share information about school programs:</strong> September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Intentional Social Interaction Gatherings/ENGAGE! at Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Murray Parent Teacher Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Parent Advisory &amp; Climate Team (PACT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pilot 1-on-1 Tutoring</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on:</strong> February 10, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Home Visits – Parent Teacher Home Visit Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Murray Middle School will offer a flexible number of meetings/activities, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title 1 funds, transportation, interpreting services, child care, or home visits, as deemed necessary.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership

- **Main contact for parents:** Jamin McKenzie, Principal; Maria Graver, Assistant Principal; Michelle Bierman, Assistant Principal; Stefanie Folkema, Parent Liaison
- Murray Parent Teacher Association
- Parent Advisory & Climate Team (PACT)

### Teaching and Learning

#### Our school shares information about state standards, assessment and student achievement with families in multiple ways

- Report cards and progress reports will be distributed: Report cards/Final grades are sent home quarterly
- Parent-Teacher conferences are held: Fall and Spring
- Curriculum night
- Showcase
- Schoology alerts

#### Our school will engage in personalized learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement. Parents can get more information using many tools.

- Parent log-in information can be accessed at [spps.org/onestop](https://spps.org/onestop) or by contacting: Adriana Cruz-Trevino or Maria Flores at 651-293-8740
- iPads
- Parent Portal/Schoology

#### After-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students

- Flipside, Murray after school program, including academic, arts, performance, debate and other offerings (nearly 30 courses offered in Fall and Spring Sessions)
- Full range of middle school athletics
- Option to compete with the high school team for sports not offered to middle schools

### Community Partnerships

- Flipside, Murray after school program
- Pilot 1-on-1 Program, large community volunteer program
- Community support and volunteer participation in after-school programs, such as Science Fair and History Day
- Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation
This plan is available as part of our school's SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan at sps.org/scip, is on our school website at school.spps.org, and printed copies are available in the office.

Stefanie Folkema

Yog koj muaj lus nug txog abtsi hauv daim ntawv xovxwm no los yog u baahan tau kev pab txais lus, thov hu rau Stefanie Folkema ntawm tus xov tooj 651-744-3922.

Por favor, llame a la oficina al 651-744-3922 y pregunte por Stefanie Folkema si desea una copia de este documento en espanol.
## School Continuous Improvement Goals/Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Leadership Team/English Learners in the Mainstream Team</th>
<th>Restorative Practices/Foundations</th>
<th>Get Ready/College and Career Readiness</th>
<th>English Language Arts</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>PBIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Equitable academic experiences for all students.*
*Increased clarity and communication*
*Focusing and supporting continued behavior and academic data analysis*
*Feedback loops*
*Schoolwide systems — increase effectiveness and efficiency*

*Implement plan to continue Restorative Practices work into year 4 with student/staff training and data tracking.*

*Implementation of curriculum and supports for academic preparedness, academic tenacity, college knowledge and a college going culture with measurement of impact on students and community.*

*Create and implement a Writer’s Workshop.*
*Implement Readers and Writers Block for 6th grade.*
*Use of continuous data monitoring tools such as FAST.*

*Incorporate core elements of TQE (Task, Question, Evidence) as measured by cohort attendance and teacher created materials from district scope and sequence.*
*Implementation and analysis of new scaffolded Math Review process.*

*Full training and implementation of Tier 1 expectations and systems.*
*Staff attend all monthly PBIS professional development*
*Full implementation of Tier 1 interventions*
*Analysis using the Tiered Fidelity Inventory*