



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# COMO PARK

## SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

# September 20, 2019 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### Screenagers

Sept, 26, 2017  
6:00 PM

Family viewing of Screenager:  
More information available at:  
[screenagersmovie.com/trailer](http://screenagersmovie.com/trailer)

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 3, 2019  
5:00-7:00 PM

### Como Park 5K and Fun Run

October 5, 2019  
9:30AM-11:30PM

You can sign up or volunteer at [signup.com/go/wkBbOoS](http://signup.com/go/wkBbOoS)

## Sports

### Football

9/21 Away (Harding) v North Minneapolis @3p

### Volleyball

9/24 Home v Cooper @7pm

### Girls Soccer

9/25 Home v St. Johnson @7p

### Boys Soccer

9/23 Home v Humboldt @7p  
9/25 Home v Johnson @5p

### Girls Tennis

9/24 Home v Johnson @4p  
9/26 Away v Highland @7p

### Swimming

9/12 Away v Central @ Humboldt 7p

## From the Principal

Dear Como Community,

We are now ending our third week of our new school year and learners are navigating new teachers, higher academic demands, new friendships, new homework demands, etc. School success requires that we work together as a team for your child's success. The following tips come to us from *The Middle Years* a publication put out by Resources for Educators whose mission is to connect families and schools. What I will say is the advice works for our high school learners, particularly our 9th graders as they transition into this important school year.

### Hints for homework

- Think it through—Before your child begins, have him/her make a to do list. Then suggest that all tasks get numbered from the toughest to the easiest. Make sure they start with the hard stuff. By saving the easiest for the last will help your child finish on a high note, reduce frustration and perhaps inspire them into doing some extra studying.
- Think about time—Ask your child to consider different time slots for homework. For instance, maybe he/she could set aside a weekend morning or Sunday night. Also, there are often teachers that are available after school to support learners who may be struggling with a particular assignment or unit of study.
- Think positive—Help your child see homework as a chance to prove their independence. Getting your work done on time, getting it turned in and reporting grades earned back to parents will start a pattern of independent work. Celebrate these patterns of independence with compliments.

### Be There—Attendance is important

Being in school all day, every day, helps students get the most out of school. Encourage good attendance.

- Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your child needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.
- Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments before or after school hours, whenever possible. If you can't, try to arrange them for lunchtime.
- Sleep is essential to school success. It will be easier for your child to get up on time with at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure electronics are put away so there is no attempt to participate in "screen time."

### Bullying—Supporting your child

Things parents can do to help.

- Talk to your child about bullying. If they are being bullied or they see someone being bullied, have them seek help immediately from an adult—you, a teacher, administrator, coach, etc. Let them know they don't have to deal with the problem alone.
- Encourage them to join a club, sport, or after school class. Bullies are less likely to pick on people with friends. Additionally, having friends builds self-esteem, which will discourage bullies from targeting.
- Como follows the district policy and expectations to support all learners. Our philosophy is to proactively support our learners in developing strong social, emotional and behavioral skills, provide support when bullied, how to observe and intervene on students' behalf and how to seek adult support. Additional information will be included in our upcoming newsletters. Please take time to check in with your child. Together, we can address this important issue in our school community.

In partnership,  
*Stacy Theien-Collins*



## Staff Spotlight

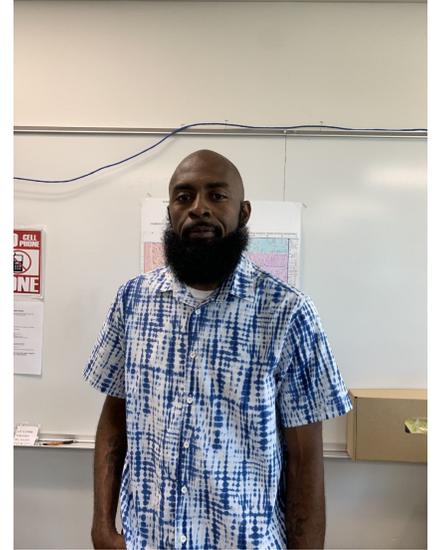


Donnell Gibson (aka Mr. D) is in his 5th year at Como Park Senior High School as the 11th grade behavior intervention specialist and head coach for the boys' basketball program. In addition to his work as an educator he's a certified Emergency Medical Technician, community ambassador with the City of St. Paul, and recreation leader with St. Paul Parks & Rec. In 2015 he founded The Gibson Foundation which provides prevention, intervention and support services to youth living in underserved communities.

On April 1, 2015 on his way to work, Mr. D saw flames coming from a house. No even thinking about what the outcome could have been he ran inside, not once, not twice, but 10 times. The end result was saving the lives of 10 members of an immigrant family. This was not the first and would not be the last of his selfless and heroic acts. In the more than 20 years as a youth worker many have benefited from his words of wisdom, compassion and his hope for a brighter future.



My name is Ms. Sarita. I am the new lead Clerk. I have worked in the SPPS District for 15 years starting in the HR Department at 360, EA 2 at Wellstone, Attendance Clerk at Cleveland, Farnsworth Upper, and Murray (for almost 10) years I started at Murray as a lead Clerk and was bumped but was fortunate to be able to stay at Murray as the attendance clerk/everything. I'm so happy to have this new position. I love working with our families, students, and staff but most importantly it's all for Ms. Stacy Theien-Collins



Hello! My name is Mr. Williams. I am the new 10th grade Behavior Specialist. I have worked at Como Park for the last 5 years as one of Como Park security members. During the week, I am also a community Ambassador here in St. Paul, working to help our youth in any way that I can. Although I work with our 10 grade students, I look forward to continuing to meet all of you.



# Great Things Happening at COMO

How strong are the public high schools in St. Paul?

With a fresh school year kicking off, we analyzed newly released data from [Niche.com](https://niche.com), which incorporates comprehensive report cards, rankings and reviews to help you choose the right school, to identify those schools that made the biggest strides last year, as well as those that top the city's best public high school rankings.

[Como Park Senior High School](#)'s overall rating improved the most among its peers in St. Paul, rising from a B- to a B, according to data from Niche.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the school, located at 740 Rose Ave. West, enrolls 1,278 students. Como Park Senior High School serves a diverse population: 36% of students identify as Asian, 31% identify as black and 21% identify as white. Niche gave the school mixed grades: B- on an A-D scale for academics, C for administration and B for clubs and activities.

The overall ranking comes from Niche's proprietary algorithms. A school's ranking might change due to many factors, including the relative rankings of similar schools and whether a school gained or lost peers due to openings or closings. Other numbers come from current public data from the U.S. government.

Academically, 32% of Como Park Senior High School's students scored as proficient or above in math, and 42% did so in reading. That's compared to city averages of 27% in math and 37% in reading.

It's not the only school that's climbed Niche's rankings this year. [Open World Learning Secondary School](#) saw its overall rating improve from a B+ to an A-. The school is located at 640 Humboldt Ave. and is much smaller, currently serving 439 students, of whom 54% identify as white, 17% identify as Hispanic and 14% identify as Asian.

Niche gave Open World Learning Secondary School mixed grades: B+ on an A-D scale for academics, B for administration and C- for clubs and activities. Open World Learning Secondary School's latest math proficiency was at 50%, and reading proficiency was 67%.



# Cougar Sports Academic Center

The Como Park HS "Cougar Sports Academic Center" is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-5:00. Taking care of business on and off the field/courts. All are Welcome!



Stay up to date on good news and upcoming events-  
Follow Como Park High School on Twitter  
[ComoPark\\_HS](https://twitter.com/ComoPark_HS)



[www.facebook.com/Como-Park-Senior-High-100564780025476/](https://www.facebook.com/Como-Park-Senior-High-100564780025476/)



## 2019 PSAT Registration Information

The PSAT/NMSQT is offered each Fall to all students in their junior year of high school. Junior students planning to attend a four-year college are encouraged to register for the test. Sophomore students may also want to take the PSAT to become familiar with the test format before taking it as juniors.

The PSAT will be given to interested 11th and 10th graders on Wednesday, October 16th at 8:30am. The cost is free to Juniors, however sophomores taking the test will need to pay \$17 (checks made out to CPSHS and given to Ms. Hoffman in the Counseling office). The sign-up sheet is located in the Career College Center in room 1304. Student guides are available upon registering which also includes an official practice test. Space is limited and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Any questions?? See Ms. Hoffman in room 1512 in the Counseling office or email [Jamie.hoffman@spps.org](mailto:Jamie.hoffman@spps.org).



Como Park Senior High Booster Club Presents

# Homecoming 5K and Fun Run



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019**



9:30 AM—11:30 AM

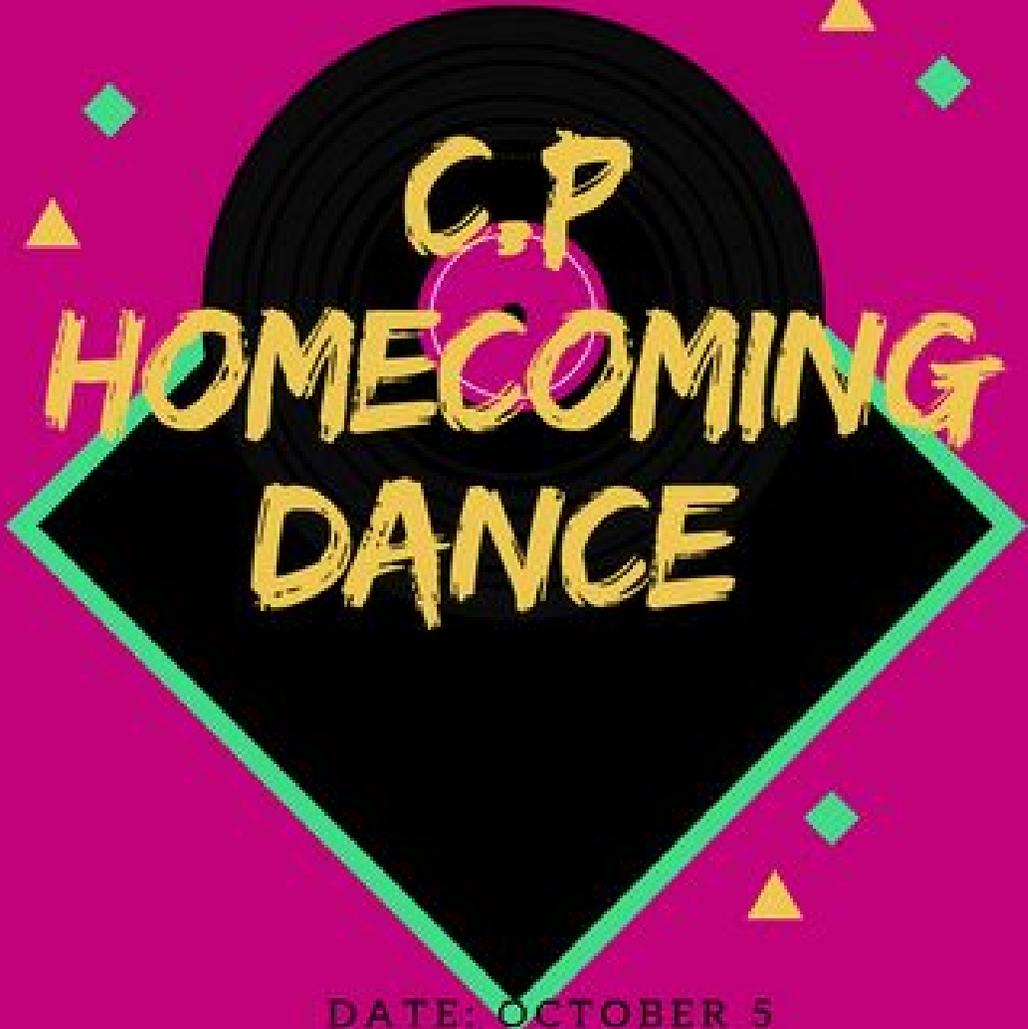
Como Park Senior High  
School & Como Lake

- Register to run, donate, sponsor a student, or volunteer online at <https://signup.com/go/wkBbOoS>
- **Registration deadline is September 26, 2019**
- Cost is \$30 per runner (each runner who registers by the deadline will receive a t-shirt)
- Stay after the run for some fun activities (climbing wall, football toss, face painting) and food trucks! All runners will be eligible for admission to the Homecoming Football Game that begins at 1 PM

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](mailto:comoparkboosterclub@gmail.com)



COMO PARK SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL



C.P.  
HOMECOMING  
DANCE

DATE: OCTOBER 5  
TIME: 7-10PM

WHERE: COMMONS  
PRICE: PRESALE \$6  
\$10 AT THE DOOR

TICKETS SOLD DURING LUNCH IN  
COMMONS



COMO PARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

THE FILMING OF

# SCREENAGERS

Date: September 26, 2019

Time: 6pm

Please enter through Door 7. Hope to see  
you there

