



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



COMO PARK

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

April 6, 2020 Newsletter

From the Principal

Greetings Como Families,

There are so many emotions and feelings as I write this newsletter article. Starting quarter 4 in a distance learning model was not in any of our plans, yet, here we are. Our Como team has been laser focused on being prepared to launch distance learning...and I so respect how each and every member of our Como Park Senior High family has stepped up and I am here to report, we are ready. We are ready to reconnect with our whole school community, we are ready to teach and most importantly, we are ready to listen to our students and learn what they need in this new learning platform.

In addition to all the academic planning, we have been planning for the social/emotional needs of our learners. We understand that with all the uncertainty students may have anxiety about all that they are facing. Distance learning, a constant barrage of news about COVID-19, social media, loss of daily social interaction with friends and educators, and worrying about their own health, as well as that of the family. We know in the age of COVID-19, this is our new reality.

Our student support team is available through our virtual connect program. This team is checking in with students (email, schoology, phone, google meets), who may need extra support in any area—technology, social/emotional support, referrals or resources for the family.

During this time of uncertainty, it is especially important your child is in good physical and mental health. If you have concerns about your child's academic needs, social needs, technology access concerns, etc. please, reach out to any member of our team with questions. These professionals can assist in navigating school supports and services as well as any needed community resources during this difficult time.

Principal	Stacy Theien-Collins	stacy.theien-collins@spps.org
Assistant Principals	Amy Dutton, Grades 11 and 12 Oulia Yang, Grade 10 Anthony Chlebeczek, grade 9	amy.dutton@spps.org oulia.yang@spps.org anthony.chlebeczek@spps.org



Social Workers	Gail Grogan, Gen Ed Lynda Taylor, Special Services Brad Turner, Special Services May Thor, Special Services	gail.grogan@spps.org lynda.taylor@spps.org brad.turner@spps.org may.thor@spps.org
Counselors	Farah Abuqalbeen, Grade 9 Rebecca Mendoza, Grade 10 Melissa Hansen, Grades 11-12 Kia Thao, AOF Grades 9-12 Ashley Rignell (Returns 4/10) Choua Vang (Returns 4/6)	farah.abuqalbeen@spps.org rebecca.mendoza@spps.org melissa.hansen@spps.org kia.thao@spps.org ashley.rignell@spps.org choua.vang@spps.org
Student Support Team	Selena Kopas, Grade 9 Montrell Williams, Grade 10 Donnell Gibson, Grade 11 Kristy Pierce, Grade 12 Angelina Hernandez, Braided Journey's Indian Education	selena.kopas@spps.org montrell.williamssr@spps.org donnell.gibson@spps.org kristy.pierce@spps.org angelina.hernandez@spps.org
Technology Specialist	Peter Kvamme	peter.kvamme@spps.org
Parent Liaison	Alexis Gray-Lawson	alexis.gray@spps.org
School Nurse	Lori Nakamura	lori.nakamura@spps.org

Next, look carefully at the information sent from school. We will be sending updates through phone calls, emails, schoology and updating the website as well as a regular weekly newsletter. Virtually visiting school on a regular basis will be vital in supporting your student as they transition to this new learning platform. Your child may not tell you that they are struggling, they have questions, or need support and that is developmentally typical. What we do know, is they want you there and will thank you for your presence.

In partnership,

Stacy Theien-Collins, Principal



COMO PARK SENIOR HIGH DISTANCE LEARNING SCHEDULE

As you know, Governor Walz closed Minnesota schools from March 16-27 for educators to plan for distance learning. Our Como team has been preparing to best meet the academic, social, and emotional learning needs of all our students. Teachers have been planning for distance learning, testing out technology that is new to them, and preparing to welcome each of you to this new platform. Distance learning will begin April 6, after the SPPS Spring Break (March 27-April 3).

High school class periods will be split every other day. Alternating days will ensure students can manage their workload and teachers have time to plan and provide quality learning and feedback. Periods 1 - 4 will meet on Monday/Thursday and Periods 5- 8 will meet on Tuesday/Friday. Wednesdays will be used for supporting and working with students, teacher collaboration and meeting times, etc. *Here is a description of our distance learning plans.*

What will distance learning look like?

Distance learning will look different from class to class and day to day. Here are a few examples. A teacher may simply assign a task for students to complete, ask them to watch a video, participate in a virtual meeting, or engage in an online discussion.

- Most of the distance learning activities will not be time-specific, meaning they do not need to be completed at a specific time of the day. Our model is what is referred to as asynchronous, there is flexibility for when students log in and complete the assignment. Due dates will be communicated with the assignment.
- Teachers will be available during the scheduled class time for instruction, small group and individual support. Additionally, virtual meetings may be scheduled at a specific time. These will be communicated to students in advance. Being in the virtual meeting will help improve student/teacher connection, but attendance will not be required.
- Students will be given assignments for each course through schoology.
- Teachers will document attendance as students complete a daily check in through a new course called **Daily Connect**, for Como, that will be your advisory group.
- Assignments will be submitted electronically.

How will students, teachers and families communicate?

- Teachers will post daily lessons by 8:30 a.m.
- Teachers will be available by email and voicemail throughout the typical school day 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Email** will be the best way to connect with your teacher. Teachers will be



checking voicemails and returning phone calls as needed. As teachers may be working from home, their returned calls may come from an unknown number.

What does a student’s schedule look like for distance learning?

- During distance learning, each course will assign work two times a week (Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday).
 - Periods 1, 2 3, and 4 on Monday and Thursday
 - Periods 5, 6, 7 and 8 on Tuesday and Friday
 - Teachers are also available 3:00-3:30 for student specific support and questions.
 - On Wednesdays, staff will be completing meetings, checking in with students and providing more specific student support.

As we’ve said, the time students complete assignments is flexible. That said, virtual meetings will typically occur according to the schedule below. Families can choose to follow this schedule as they are able, but it is not required.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:45	Period 1	Period 5	8:30 - 11:00 Staff / Committee / Department Meetings Students have independent work time	Period 1	Period 5
9:45 - 11:00	Period 2	Period 6		Period 2	Period 6
11:00-12:30	Lunch/Advisory	Lunch/Advisory	Lunch/Advisory	Lunch/Advisory	Lunch/Advisory
12:30 - 1:45	Period 3	Period 7	12-2:55 Office Hours: Teachers available to conference with students Students have independent work time	Period 3	Period 7
1:45 - 3:00	Period 4	Period 8		Period 4	Period 8
3:00 - 3:30	Office Hours: Teachers available to conference with students				

***Important-Friday, April 10th is a professional development day for staff. Students will have an independent work day.**



GOOD TO KNOW

Services and Supports during COVID-19

SPPS Meal Access Plan

Buses will deliver meals on their regular morning routes. Bus stops are scheduled each Thursday for our Como Park bus routes. Families should go to their morning bus stop at their usual time.

If you do not know where your nearest bus stop is, call the Transportation office at 651-696-9600. Families who have a critical need for home delivery can email ns@spps.org.

Home delivery is limited to those who have no other means of getting food.

No bus stop? Meal pick up is available at Battle Creek Middle School, Cherokee Heights Elementary, Como Park Senior High School, Harding Senior High School, Highland Park Senior High School or Johnson Senior High School between 10-11:30 a.m.

All Saint Paul families are welcome to take one box per child, per week.

Still have questions? [Visit the COVID-19 FAQ page](#)

Special Pick Up Date scheduled this week only: Meals will be available for pickup on Monday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or while supplies last) at the following sites:

- **Harding Senior High School (1540 6th St. E.)**
- **Como Park Senior High School (740 Rose Ave W.)**
- **Johnson Senior High School (1349 Arcade St.)**

iPad Damage and Replacement

If your iPad is damaged or needs to be replaced please report the issue by emailing or calling Saint Paul Public Schools Technology Services:

- **Email:** familysupport@spps.org
- **Call:** 651-603-4348 from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.. Please leave a detailed voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.
- [iPad Troubleshooting](#)

If you are having problems with your iPad, you may also contact your student's teacher or school: School Directory. After a report is made, a member of the SPPS technology support team will contact you about replacement options to continue distance learning in Saint Paul.



Essential Childcare for Emergency Workers

Beginning Monday, April 6, emergency workers can receive free childcare for children ages 5-12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each school day at five SPPS sites. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided. Students can bring their iPads to work on Distance Learning assignments. Transportation between a student's home and the closest Essential Care site is available.

The five locations are: Rondo Education Center, Horace Mann School, L'Etoile du Nord – Lower Campus, Riverview West Side School of Excellence, and St. Anthony Park Elementary School

Extended-day care is also available for a fee, from 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. each day, at all five schools for the children of emergency workers only. Transportation is not available for this extended care time. The fee for extended care is \$15 per child for each morning session and \$15 per child for each afternoon session.

Registration is required for both Essential Kids Care and extended-day care. Every effort will be made to place students at the location requested. Employment verification (ID badge or copy of) will be required at the time of drop-off or prior to taking district transportation. Questions? 651-632-3793

- [Click here for emergency worker definitions](#)
- [Click here to register for emergency childcare](#)



COVID-19 HOTLINE

Questions about COVID-19?

Call the MDH COVID-19 Hotline at 651-201-3920, every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines

- Take the same precautions recommended for avoiding colds and flu:
 - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough.



Link: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html>

- How to Protect Yourself

Practice social distancing by avoiding close contact with others, staying home if you are sick, and cleaning and disinfecting your home.

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

- Staying Active Outside

Social distancing and stay-at-home orders do not mean families have to stay inside. In fact, getting outside is a great way to keep your family physically and mentally healthy during this stressful time.

Get ideas for **Staying Active Outdoors During COVID-19**

SPPS COVID-19 Information Translations

[PLAN DE RESPUESTA CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\)](#)

တၢ်တြီၤ **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** တၢ်ဆူးတၢ်ဆါ
အတၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲ

<https://www.spps.org/Domain/16210>

[QORSHAHA SPPS EE LOOGA JAWAABAYO KORONOFAYRUSKA \(COVID-19\)](#)

[KEV NPAJ RAU TUS KAB MOB CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\)](#)

Como Park Announcements



GOOOOOOOOOOOOOD MORNING COMO PARK! Our DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS are going virtual. Mr. Eric Erickson will be producing our daily announcements using apple clips and will post them on youtube. They will also be posted in Schoology, on our website, twitter and facebook.

Stay Connected



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/

The Counselors' Corner

Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 Grading

The last day students were in school was Monday, March 9 with a return to school April 6, the beginning of quarter 4. Because of this, students did not have the opportunity to receive additional instruction or support, turn in assignments, receive feedback or participate in end-of-quarter assessments.

An adjustment was made to third and fourth quarter grading to address this situation.

Third Quarter Grades



- **The grade a student receives in the fourth quarter will also be the grade they receive in the third quarter for that course with some exceptions (see below).**
- Students who receive a No Pass (NP) grade in fourth quarter will still receive a Pass (P) grade in third quarter for that class. A grade of Pass (P) or No Pass (NP) is GPA neutral; it does not impact a student's GPA positively or negatively.
- Students who transferred out of SPPS as of March 10 will receive Pass (P) grade for the third quarter.
- The chart below fully documents how grading will be documented on a student's transcript based on 4th quarter outcomes.

Earned Q4	Transcript Quarter 4	Transcript Quarter 3
A	A	A
A-	A-	A-
B+	B+	B+
B	B	B
B-	B-	B-
C+	C+	C+
C	C	C
C-	C-	C-
D+	P	P
D	P	P
D-	P	P
N	NP	P

2020-2021 Registration

Please watch email and schoology for important updates about registration for 2020-2021

Many of our current 9-11th grade students completed registration for 2020-2021 class selection. For those who were unable to, our counseling team will be providing updates in order for all students to complete that process.

Standardized Testing Updates

MCA

Students in Minnesota schools will **not** have to take any MCA and MTAS tests this school year. Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education Heather Mueller said it has received approval from the federal



government to cancel the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments amid the ongoing COVID-19 school shutdown.

AP Testing

The AP CollegeBoard has announced that May 2020 AP testing will be done online. The material on these tests will be focused on the information students learned September through March. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3afeNQd>. Contact Teng Lo at teng.lo@spps.org with any questions.

Booster Club News

The Como Park Booster Club is still exploring spring activities and fundraising efforts at this time. If you have questions, please email: comoparkboosterclub@gmail.com
Our thoughts are with the CPHS community - take care and be well!

Como Park Athletics

Dear Como parents and student-athletes,

First, we hope you all are healthy and safe in this difficult moment. Currently, the Minnesota State High School League has suspended all activities until the beginning of May. If there is going to be a spring season, it will be greatly condensed. Unfortunately, the activities pattern across the nation seems to predict otherwise with many school districts closing for the remainder of the year. If there are new developments, we will post it on the Como Park school website and social media. We know how frustrating it is as a parents, educators, and coaches. We want our kids active and healthy. With that being said, we hope everyone finds a way to develop that special talent at home and perhaps reflect on your own journey past and present. Please continue to adhere to the social distancing policies outlined by our governor. Look to the future and enjoy what you have; your family and your health.

best regards,
Koua Yang
Como Park Athletic Director

Minnesota State High School League



Spring Activity Participation Update March 25, 2020 The Minnesota State High School League continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and the most current information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Office of the Governor. The MSHSL supports the efforts of all students, staff and communities in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

The goal of the MSHSL is to be responsive to member schools and keep future participation options open for the spring activity season. Effective immediately and continuing until the Governor of Minnesota has lifted his school closure declaration:

- All participation in MSHSL spring activities at all member schools is suspended.
- Participation includes, but is not limited to, competitions, training, practices, scrimmages, and contests.

Pending a reopening of schools by the Governor, return to participation protocols will be determined and communicated by the MSHSL Board and MSHSL staff. No decisions regarding the cancellation of spring activities have been made at this time. The suspension of participation includes fine arts activities and athletics and the following events remain suspended indefinitely:

- Speech Section and State Tournaments
- Music Contests
- Visual Arts Competitions and State Festival
- MSHSL State Robotics Tournament
- MSHSL Clay Target State Tournament Additional information will be provided as it becomes available and as decisions are made.

For clarification on **Participation Limitations** during this time, refer to the Directive from March 17, 2020. Previous COVID-19 Related Updates can be found at the top of the MSHSL website. legacy.mshsl.org

