



Saint Paul  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# COMO PARK

## SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### April 13, 2020 Newsletter

#### From the Principal

Greetings Como Families,

Week #2 here we come. I want to begin this week's newsletter by extending my continued hope for the health and safety of you and your family. Without question, that remains the primary concern and focus during these days and weeks. We know education is important and our journey together as students, staff, and families, the new distance learning model is why we are here but, ultimately our health and safety have to take priority. In the same ways we always partner, I am excited about the opportunities that we have had and will continue to have as we learn together in this new model. It certainly puts into perspective, how important our school community is, the relationships we have as staff and students, as colleagues, and as families. It matters and I cannot wait for the opportunity to meet face to face again!

Our first week together was a learning experience, there were celebrations, there were lessons learned, there were necessary adjustments and the constant reflection of the possibilities. It was so fun and I was filled with such pride as I sat in my home and received messages via text, email and phone calls with updates from teachers about how they were feeling, the successes they were having, how happy they were to be reconnecting with our students. There were many celebrations. With that, we also had some unexpected things that most certainly taught us some lessons and we are fortunate to have support of our district team and the amazing members of the Como community that swung into action to create solutions.

#### Communication

Parents and families, we are asking you to support your child. I stated this in last week's newsletter but, I think it bears repeating. Please look carefully at the information sent from school. We will be sending updates through phone calls, emails, schoology and updating the website. 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.

- During this period of distance learning, please contact your child's teacher directly with any questions you might have. Due to the fact that teachers will be working remotely, email will be the most efficient way to contact them (first name. last name @ spps.org).



- Go to our website [www.spps.org/comosr](http://www.spps.org/comosr) for additional resources. There is a distance learning tab that connects you with district information, our newsletter, and news updates that may occur between our weekly newsletter publication.

As we continue our social distancing, please know we are all adjusting to this new reality and want to work in partnership with you as we journey onward. We are all awaiting our return to Como until then, be safe, be healthy and stay connected.

In partnership,

Stacy Theien-Collins, Principal

## NEW INFORMATION

### The Counselors' Corner

1. **2020-2021 Registration:** The registration window is still OPEN. You can go to your PLP course for registration materials. Please complete your registration now if you have not. A registration assignment is posted in your PLP course..
2. **Graduation:** Watch for graduation updates in the coming weeks.
3. **Como's Credit Recovery program** will begin Monday April 20th. It will be every Monday through Thursday from 3:00-4:30pm. English and Social Studies classes will be Monday and Wednesdays. Science and Math classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Mrs. Hoffman or your counselor for more information or if you need assistance getting enrolled.
4. **New Accuplacer information:** For all students attending a 2-year college, MN State College or University, or plans to enroll in a PSEO program for the 2020-2021 school year you should be informed that the Accuplacer test is no longer a test you will have to take in order to be placed into courses. These institutions will be using your ACT, SAT and/or your MCA scores and/or your GPA in order to determine which classes to place you in for the 2020-2021 school year. However if you have already taken the Accuplacer test but did not meet the requirements or want your placement re-evaluated through the other ways mentioned above, you must request it through the college/universities you are applying to.

-ACT, SAT, and MCA score requirements will be based on a school by school basis. Check college/university websites to see if your scores are eligible to place you into college-level courses.

-GPA score requirements are as follow: 2.6 GPA or higher for college-level Reading and Writing. 2.8 GPA or higher for college-level Math.

For specific questions, please contact our Career and College Coordinator, Ms. Leedra, at [lyang.ach@spps.org](mailto:lyang.ach@spps.org).

5. **Senior Scholarships:** Please go to this link to access all the current scholarships available to seniors. Please note that many scholarships have extended their scholarship deadlines, so please take advantage



of them!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t5prqr62kXe1yLycU7fRh49KVha863DbirzJ-GlCUg8/edit?usp=sharing>

6. **Need help applying to colleges**, scholarships, or financial aid, please contact our Career and College Coordinator, Ms. Leedra at [lyang.ach@spps.org](mailto:lyang.ach@spps.org) or your counselor.
7. **Mrs. Vang** will return from maternity leave on Monday, April 13th.
8. **Mrs. Rignell** has returned!
9. This is a difficult time for everyone and it's important to take care of yourself. Please remember the things that you can only control and focus on those things. Let go of the things you cannot control as they can cause us to worry or stress out. Please take some time to view the attached image. Reach out to your counselor or social worker if you need additional support.



## 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 Mr. Teng Lo at [teng.lo@spps.org](mailto:teng.lo@spps.org) with any questions.

## GOOD TO KNOW

### Meal Access Plan

Please go to the following website for meal delivery and pick up information: <https://www.spps.org/Page/38722>

### 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](mailto: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.



## 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  
အတၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲၤ

<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

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



# 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 started on April 6 and will continue through May 4th, the current stay at home order.

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 M-F**), 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	Period 1	Period 5
9:45 - 11:00	Period 2	Period 6	Students have independent work time	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	Period 3	Period 7
1:45 - 3:00	Period 4	Period 8	Students have independent work time	Period 4	Period 8
3:00 - 3:30	Office Hours: Teachers available to conference with students				

