



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



COMO PARK

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

April 20, 2020 Newsletter

From the Principal

Greetings Families,

We know that our learners live in an on-demand, technology dependent world. They show repeatedly that they learn differently than even just a few years ago and that is playing out across our city, state and nation as we have moved to distance learning. I have been excited about the celebrations I have heard, the way the Como staff, students and parents have come together to implement the plan, as well as each member of the Como team working to engage learners in this new learning platform. We are fortunate as a 1:1 iPad district to see learning in an environment where technology will bring all subjects to life with greater access and more meaningful engagement in the current circumstances.

Our goals over the past couple of weeks have been:

- Ensure equity of access to technology
- Plan to welcome students back to learning through introducing routines and distance learning expectations
- Institute and support best practice in technology integration
- Implement distance learning of content through a personalized approach
- Institute greater efforts for differentiated instruction
- Model and plan for an asynchronous approach to support all family and student schedules.
- Improve the home-school connection and communication

For our learners, technology is a part of life unlike any previous generation. As much as we wish we were face to face with our students, we are happy to be able to connect through the virtual world. We know our students have not known a world without it. SPPS is capitalizing on that through articulating a full plan for distance learning using the technology tools available to each student. As we continue to implement our plan, please let us know how your child is doing. It is important to us that we continue to adjust to meet our student needs.

Respectfully,

Stacy Theien-Collins



The Counselors' Corner

Please view this slideshow from your Como counselors! All the information you need to be successful during this time of distance learning:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_zKyocCI5VsZt87Ff49fTVwIFfm3kLFNbEixs_190nA/edit?usp=sharing

1. **Counselors are still available** to students and families via email or through Google Meet during normal school hours. Just like always, we are here to support students' academic and social/emotional needs as well as their career/college planning. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.
2. **Seniors planning to attend a 4 year college/university** should know that May 1st is National College Decision Day. This is normally the day you decide which college you will be attending in the Fall along with putting down a deposit to the college of your choice. But with the current situation we are all facing, we highly encourage seniors to reach out to their top college choices to see if there has been a change to this May 1st deadline. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Leedra at lyang.ach@spps.org.
3. **Como's Credit Recovery program** begins 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.
4. **Evening High School:** Juniors and seniors registered for Quarter 4 credit recovery through Gordon Parks must check in to Schoology on Monday, April 20th. This check in will be use as a confirmation of your enrollment in the course.
5. **2020-2021 Registration:** The registration window is now **CLOSED**. Students who did not register for classes should contact their counselor as soon as possible.
6. **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>



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 with any questions.

GOOD TO KNOW

Did you know that required school documents can be translated upon request or interpreters made available? For more information please call Alexis Gray-Lawson at 651-744-4493 or email alexis.gray@spps.org

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
- **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



Volunteer Opportunities

Do you know that we have Parent/Community opportunities at COMO? If you would like to volunteer your time with our students or want more information please contact our Parent Liaison Alexis Gray-Lawson at Alexis.gray@spps.org. Go Cougars!!



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

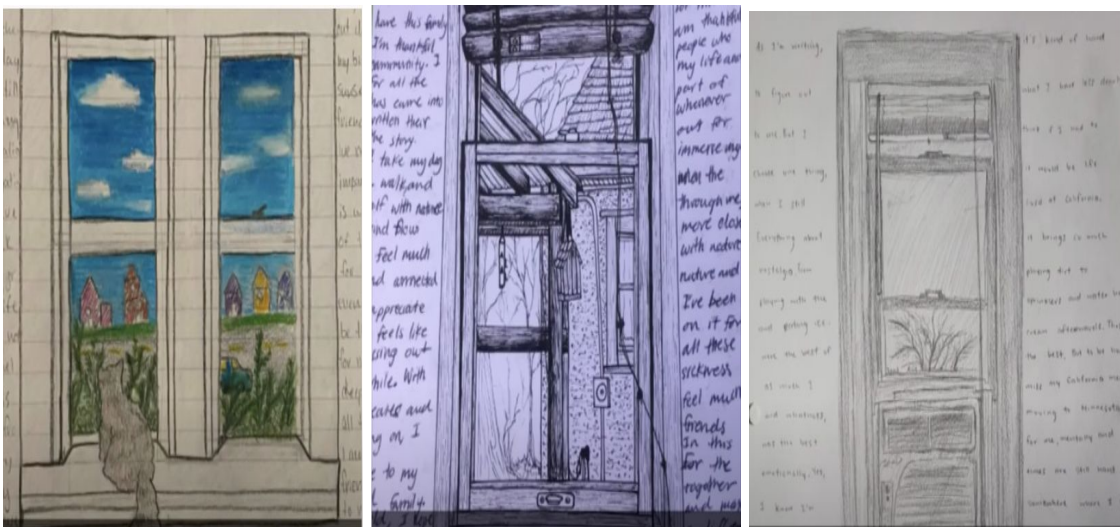
<https://www.spps.org/Domain/16210>

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

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

The Quarantine Project: A Drawing Project

These drawing are part of the assignment from Ms. Miller's drawing class. The objective was to draw the view from your window during quarantine.



Como Park Announcements

GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOD 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)



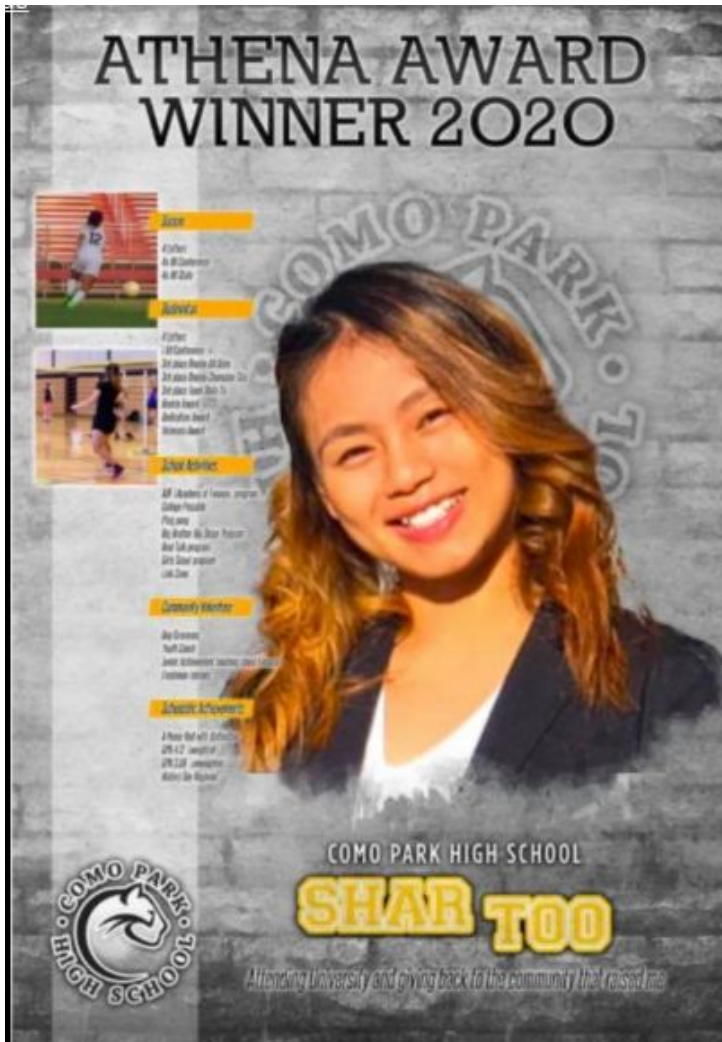
www.facebook.com/Como-Park-Senior-High-100564780025476/

The Quaatine Project: Draw yourview from you house



2020 Athena Award

Shar Too



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 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				

