



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



COMO PARK

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

April 27, 2020 Newsletter

From the Principal

Greetings Como Families,

Governor Walz's announcement that school has been moved to distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, is likely not a surprise. Hard news to hear but, not a surprise to many. Our whole year has been about building relationships and seeing each other daily. The realization that this is over for the year and our connection will remain virtual is a hard message but, our new reality.

With that announcement, I feel it is important to remind our families about the student support available for social, emotional needs. In addition to all the academic planning, we have been planning for and supporting those student needs. Students may have anxiety about all that they are facing. Our seniors are losing the traditional rite of passage ceremonies, the loss of daily social and human interaction, etc. The health and safety of our community is paramount but, the change to our typical way of functioning as a school community does create stress and anxiety.

In addition to our teachers, our student support team members are 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.

The chart below was shared previously but, an important reminder and resource for families as it is especially important that your child is in good physical and mental health. If you have concerns about your child's academic needs, social needs, mental health, 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.

In partnership,

Stacy Theien-Collins, Principal



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, Grade 11 and 12 Kia Thao, AOF Ashley Rignell (Returned 4/12) Choua Vang (Returned 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.williamsr@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



S-Term

There have been no decisions made regarding summer term classes for credit recovery. We will update our families as decisions are made.

Academy of Education

Greetings! The high schools in SPPS are creating comprehensive pathways for students in a variety of career fields to better support their education and make more informed decisions about their future schooling and career choices. Como Park is home to the model pathway, the Academy of Finance program which has been up and running for 7+ years with MANY success stories.

Como Senior will launch the Academy of Education this Fall 2020 for students wanting to pursue a variety of careers in Education, think teacher, social worker, counselor, administrator, etc. It will offer some of our current electives as well as 2 NEW courses with concurrent credit options through Minneapolis College!

Any questions can be directed to Erin Colestock - erin.colestock@spps.org OR erin.colestock@stpaul.k12.mn.us

I am excited to hear from both parents and students!!! Registration is online OR you can talk with your counselor.

The Counselors' Corner

1. **2020-2021 Registration**-please contact your counselor if you have any questions about the classes you registered for next year.
2. **Want to retake the ACT? Register for the next ACT test!** Please visit www.act.org for upcoming test dates, test costs and fees, register for the ACT, etc. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you may qualify for a fee waiver. Please contact your counselor.
3. ACT is offering **FREE** digital learning: **Free Kaplan Online ACT Test Prep**, student and parent resources, and more. Please visit: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>
4. **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.
5. **FAFSA Friday-Seniors, have you completed your FAFSA application?** If so, you have a chance to **win a \$25 gift card** of your choice by simply submitting your Student Aid Report (SAR) to Ms. Leedra. Once you've done so, you'll be put in a drawing and a winner will be announced every Friday at 1pm. If you haven't completed your FAFSA, no worries because you can still win by completing your FAFSA today! Send your SAR to Ms. Leedra at lyang.ach@stpaul.k12.mn.us. See attached flyer.



6. Como Scholarship Open! Applications due May 15

The Como Scholarship is live! If you are a Como senior seeking a degree in a STEM field, this is the scholarship for you! Three Como seniors will have the chance to win this renewable \$3,500 scholarship. All you need to do is fill out the google form below and include your written personal statement and your Student Aid Report from FAFSA! The deadline for the Como Scholarship is be May 15th, 2020 at 12pm CST. For more information check your email, Schoology, and/or email Ms. Leedra at lyang.ach@stpaul.k12.mn.us. Click on link to apply:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfms3OL3bx-LRymvh2mcDx66tkmeX4P8XxDhSswJy4YZM-1Qg/viewform?usp=sf_link

7. Whether you are a teacher, administrator, parent or student, **Empathy and Compassion** are two essential school supplies to have as you are doing distance learning. It's a new adventure for everyone so let's keep in mind how everyone is feeling and what we're all experiencing and respond with **Empathy and Compassion**. See attached image.

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 \(COVID-19\)](#)



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

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

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

Stay Connected 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.

Social Media



Stay up to date on good news and upcoming events - Follow Como Park High School on Twitter @[ComoPark_HS](#)



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				

