



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



COMO PARK

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

May 11, 2020 Newsletter

From the Principal

A Message of Appreciation to our Como Teachers

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." ~Henry Adams

As we conclude Teacher Appreciation Week, a time for all of us to show our gratitude to educators who influenced our lives and for the thousands of others. Like each of you, who nurture and develop students every day; I have been humbled to see parents, as well as current and former students, being intentional about reaching out to me to show their thanks for the work you are doing at Como. Your selflessness during this tough time and ability to motivate exemplify why teaching is not only one of the hardest professions, but one of the most rewarding as well. You each deserve all the kudos, gratitude, appreciation and thanks that can be thrown your way. Think about the teacher that influenced you and know that you are having that impact on learners every single day.

2020 Graduation

As you are Saint Paul Public Schools high school graduation ceremonies will be held virtually for the Class of 2020. SPPS and our Como Team are well into planning our virtual graduation event. **Seniors, please watch for delivery of your caps, gown, cords, and yard signs this week. Included in the package will be directions for you to upload your photo for our graduation event.** Any questions, please reach out to Alexis Gray-Lawson at alexis.gray@spps.org or Amy Dutton at amy.dutton@spps.org or your counselor.

As we move closer to the event, additional details about what information we will need to gather from students will be shared. The virtual graduation ceremonies will allow us to honor our Como Park Senior High School traditions with speakers and other elements of the program. **Como's graduation will be on June 1 at 5:30 PM. For our students graduating summer of 2020, SPPS will use the same format for summer graduation in August 2020.**

There is no way to replicate the traditions of a high school graduation ceremony, but we are doing everything we can to make this a special time for everyone involved. We want our seniors to know that we, as a community, support them. We see what they're going through, and even though their senior year looks different than anyone expected, they are still seniors, and **this is still a time to celebrate their accomplishments**

Stacy Theien-Collins



Aspirations in Computing Awards 2020

The National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) offers an annual awards program, recognizing young women, genderqueer, and non-binary high school students for their technology interests, skills, and accomplishments. Since 2013, Minnesota has been a state affiliate, allowing high school students in

Minnesota the opportunity to be selected as national and/or state award recipients. This year, nearly 4,700 students from across the nation applied for the award.

State Honorable Mention	Chiamaka	Chijioke
Certificate of Distinction	Hamdi	Aden
Certificate of Distinction	Nimo	Mohamud
Rising Star	Way	Htoo
Rising Star	Ridwan	Abdi

Chiamaka Chijioke

Senior at Como Park Senior High School, St. Paul Chiamaka is a State Honorable Mention recipient. She first fell in love with technology in her 7th-grade Computer Programming class. In the summer of 2019, she interned at Optum Technology, where her passion for technology grew further after coding for and testing a self-driving car. Chiamaka founded the first Futurist Academy group in her school, a club whose mission is to create interest about technology in youth. She hopes with this club she can help others find the same passion for technology. When she's not planning activities for her club, Chiamaka tackles a load of AP and college classes, volunteers for the technical crew in her church, plans events for Student Council, and practices music for her choir or band groups. She plans to double major in Psychology and Computer Science and minor in Linguistics on a Pre-medicine track. She then plans to attend Med school and become a Psychiatrist. Chiamaka is an enthusiastic learner who enjoys spending her free time reading and writing poetry.

S-Term

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



The Counselors' Corner

Congratulation to Alistair Pattison for receiving the National Merit Carleton College Scholarship!

ATTENTION SENIORS!!

- Please check the spelling of your first, middle, and last name. The name shown in Campus Portal will be the name printed on your high school diploma. If it is incorrect (i.e. misspelled, extra apostrophe, etc), please send an official document (i.e. license, birth certificate, passport) to Mrs. Mills at lisa.mills@spps.org by **Wednesday, May 13th**.
- **SENIORS, you still need to pass your 4th quarter classes to graduate!** If you have questions about credits, please contact your counselor: Mrs. Vang at choua2.vang@spps.org or Ms. Thao at kia.thao@spps.org if you are in AOF.
- **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.
- **Como Scholarship Deadline is Approaching! Applications are due next Friday, 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, include your written personal statement, and your Student Aid Report from FAFSA! The deadline for the Como Scholarship is 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

Information for ALL Como students:

- **Como Credit Recovery:** students should continue to log in and complete work in APEX in order to earn your credits. **The last day for Credit Recovery is Thursday May 28th.** If you need help with APEX, please contact Mrs. Hoffman at jamie.hoffman@spps.org.
- **Need additional help to do better in your classes, AP testing, English Learners, or college classes?** Check out this list of resources:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1qH2nnVxr79BbMXaMz4pVxyr0oUnuA_YsMjiPuP1xLjA/edit?usp=sharing
- **Sophomores and Juniors: ACT is offering FREE digital learning:** Free Kaplan Live Online ACT Test Preps, ACT Academy (students can enter their ACT scores and it will customize lessons for you in



area that you need to improve), student and parent resources, and more! Please visit:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>

- **Juniors**, 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.

Tips on How to Manage Stress & Anxiety

<https://adaa.org/tips-manage-anxiety-and-stress?scrlybrkr=9e0420c8>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/in-depth/stress-relief/art-20044476>

Helpful Information For Parents

It is often difficult to help our own children manage anxiety at a time when we, ourselves, don't fully understand.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/well/family/coronavirus-teenagers-anxiety.html>

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!!

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 \(COVID-19\)](#)

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](https://twitter.com/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 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				

