



Saint Paul  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# COMO PARK

## SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### December 18, 2020 Newsletter

#### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Como Park Senior High families,

I am writing to share with you an opportunity for CPSHS students to recover first quarter credits during distance learning.

Based on the challenges students continue to face in distance learning, Saint Paul Public Schools is offering an opportunity for all high school **students who earned a NP grade in one or more classes during the first quarter to earn a D in the first quarter by successfully earning a passing grade in the second quarter.**

Any passing grade, A+ thru D-, in the second quarter will result in students receiving a grade of D for the first quarter.

Please ask your student to connect with their teacher(s) and counselor to ensure a passing second quarter grade(s) to recover first quarter credits toward graduation. We will continue to monitor students' grades and progress toward successful completion of courses. Additional student supports will be communicated to families as the year progresses.

These grading changes for the first quarter strive toward equitable grading practices. We understand that distance learning, along with the stress of living through a pandemic, has an impact on our students.

While SPPS strives to meet the needs of all students during these challenging times, **we are particularly focused on supporting our high school students as their ability to graduate on time is limited.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Hoffman, [jamie.hoffman@spps.org](mailto:jamie.hoffman@spps.org). Thank you for supporting your child and Como Park Senior High School.

Thank you,

Kirk Morris, Principal  
Como Park Senior High School



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Please welcome our new Special Education Teacher, Mr. Randy Johnson

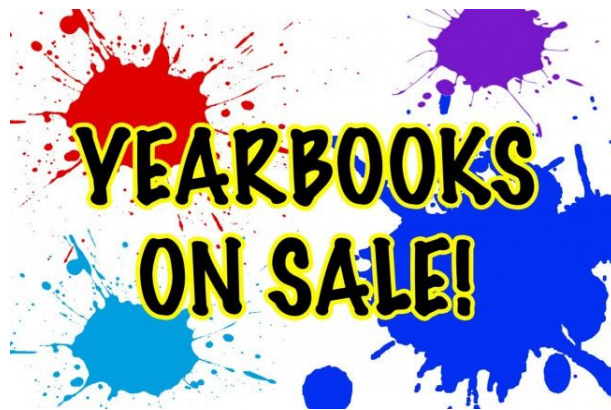


Hello, I am Randy Johnson, a new Special Education Teacher at Como Park Senior High this year. While I am new to Como, I have worked in the St. Paul Schools for the past 26 years. Most of those years were at Murray Middle School, where I taught for 16 years. I also was a district coach for 3 years, and taught at a program called, Focus Beyond Transition Services for 5 years.

It is kind of weird starting at a new school during Covid 19. I am sure you

9th grade students can understand what I mean. I am really looking forward to meeting my students in person, and getting a feel for our building. I chose to come to Como Park because of the people I get to work with. We have a great team of staff, and students.

In my free time, I enjoy a good movie, golfing and spending time with my 2 grandchildren.



The 2020-2021 Como Park Senior High Yearbooks are on sale NOW. The yearbooks are \$50.00. You can buy one online at <https://yearbookforever.com/>. This year's book will feature pictures and projects from our year of distance learning. We will have a special focus on seniors. If you have any questions, email Suzie Myhre, the yearbook advisor at [suzie.myhre@spps.org](mailto:suzie.myhre@spps.org).



# ATTENTION JUNIORS AND SENIORS!!

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC  
PRESENTS

*30th Annual*

**ACT**<sup>®</sup>

**PREP VIRTUAL**

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The ACT will be administered on **March 2, 2021**. Now is the perfect time for you to take advantage of virtual test prep courses. Check out this **FREE** test prep opportunity specifically for Como Juniors and Seniors. Only 50 spots!

Alpha Phi Alpha Virtual Test Prep - **Deadline Dec 23** - Click [here](#) for more information and registration instructions.

**REGISTRATION VIDEO FOR COMO STUDENTS ([CLICK HERE](#))**

**Please follow the registration steps as Como has "hidden" tickets they will need to access to register this year.**



## IMPORTANT REGISTRATION STEPS:

1. Click Registration Link: [REGISTER HERE](#)
2. Click "Register"
3. **Click on "Enter Promo Code"**
4. Promo Code = Como30
5. Select 1 ticket under the "Como High School Students (SPPS)" category
6. Change "Twin Cities High School Student (TC)" category to "0"
7. Click Register
8. Provide your registration information

Questions? Email our program team at: [actsatprogram@alphamn.org](mailto:actsatprogram@alphamn.org)

## Driver's Education Information

Registration opens on Friday, 12/18.

Class runs 12/28-1/25 (11 dates for 30 hours in total)

Here is a helpful video that explains the process:

<https://www.spps.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=39769>



## GREAT THINGS HAPPENING AT COMO



The MCJROTC Cadet Staff (**Elta Paw, Ku Mo, Eh Say Htoo, Stiven Ramos, Anaf Deressa, PK Thao and Francisco Dominguez**) gathered safely to conduct a five (5) mile pandemic hike around Como Lake Park to welcome the new Senior Marine Instructor Major Kiger to Como Park Senior High School. With broomball sticks, eye wear and rubber gloves in hand to ensure proper PPE and the cadet handbook at the ready to answer any tough MCJROTC questions the Senior Marine Instructor may have had. Ooh Rah Cadets - Stay Motivated - Semper fi and staying alive!



# Congratulations to the CPSHS Debate Team!



The Como Park High School Debate Team participated in the MNUDL CHAMPS tournament on December 11th-12th. **Lily Anderson, Caitlyn Coyle, Allie Rognerud** and **Ikram Mohamed** did a great job! **Thay See** earned 9th place speaker award in the Novice Division and **Gus Ostby** earned the 6th place speaker award. Our Varsity Pair of **Chikamso Chijioke** and **Sam Skinner** took 3rd place overall and qualified as alternates for the National Level tournament. Great job to all these debaters! Thanks for an excellent season!



## Freshmen and Sophomores only!!

Check out this video: <https://youtu.be/T7UXV2m1CvM>

Do you like being outdoors? Are you curious about the natural world? Do you see yourself pursuing environmental or natural resources careers after graduation? Then the SEAK program is for you! Applications for the 2021 program are open now, and 9/10th grade students are encouraged to apply using the link below.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejbnA\\_RoqydZBZNY81mYVO0UfafZsslWuxa3YeX0JTiPqgw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejbnA_RoqydZBZNY81mYVO0UfafZsslWuxa3YeX0JTiPqgw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Applications close **11 am on Monday, December 28, 2020**. Completed applications will be considered for a **30 minute virtual interview** during the week of **January 4 - January 8, 2021**.

Questions please contact Christopher at [christopher.dunham@wolf-ridge.org](mailto:christopher.dunham@wolf-ridge.org)

## QUARTER 2 CONFERENCES INFORMATION

Conferences for Quarter 2 will be:

- Wednesday January 6, 2021 from 8:00-3:00pm
- Thursday January 7, 2021 from 4:00-7:00pm

Conferences this quarter will be with your child's Advisory teacher. Please look for communication from your child's Advisory teacher to set up a conference time.





Updates from the Counseling Department and the Como Career & College Center (CCC)

### IMPORTANT UPDATES + EVENTS

**Seniors! Complete Cap & Gown Measurements and Graduation Survey** It is the time of the year where we are taking your measurements for your cap and gown. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the measurement form even if you are unsure about your graduation status (Hint. Hint. Talk to your counselor). **This is due Wednesday, Dec. 23rd before we go on winter break.** We also want your feedback about what is the most important part of your ceremony, so [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the graduation survey.

**Your graduation date is Tuesday, June 8th. The place and time is to be determined.**

**Juniors! Pre-register for the PSAT** The PSAT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program and will be administered on January 26, 2021. Due to restrictions, Como Park will only be offering the PSAT for juniors. There are limited spots, so any juniors interested in taking the PSAT, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/DmnDoyXUdxxs1ESv26>. Sophomores, you can also complete the form to be on the waitlist. Mrs. Vang will reach out to you with more information.

**Virtual ACT Prep** The ACT will be administered on March 2, 2021. Register today for the FREE Alpha Phi Alpha Virtual Test Prep course starting January 9. Deadline Dec 23 - [Click HERE](#) for more information and registration instructions for Como Park students. Only 40 spots left!

**Financial Aid Fridays** - Fridays, 2-3 PM - Google Meet: [g.co/meet/CPHSComoCCC](https://meet.google.com/CPHSComoCCC)  
Drop-in for support completing the FAFSA or MN Dream Act, applying for scholarships, and regarding questions you have on paying for post-secondary education

**ATTN: The CCC will be closed Monday December 21-Sunday January 3. Happy Holidays!**

[Click HERE](#) for more information on College Resources + Events, Student Career Resources, Family Resources, and Paying for College

**Seniors and Senior Parents-** Seniors will receive a link to a shared document this week that includes a list of all the remaining credits they need to earn in order to graduate. Also included is a graduation plan we suggest students and parents complete together.

Distance learning has been hard for students, so it is our hope that this document will help to prioritize the classes needed to pass in order to graduate, make a plan to recover any missing credits, and give a clear picture of the pathway to graduation.

Next week, counselors will share the document with each parent or guardian who has an email listed in Campus.





# A Word From Our Athletic Department

Dear Como Parents,

Welcome back to another athletics update. With the latest announcement from Governor Walz, the Minnesota State High School League recommended restarting winter athletics January 4th. However, SPPS district leadership and the Athletic Council have put forth a recommendation to start January 14th instead due to local data regarding Covid-19 cases. The district is also moving to conference-only for competition. Parents and guardians, please review the following information to complete registrations for athletics.

## Athletic Registration and Payment Procedure

If you have a student athlete who has not registered online through the athletics website, you can register in person. In order to register your student athlete, you will need a Minnesota state high school league eligibility form, updated sports physical, and the sport fee of \$45 or \$20 for free and reduced lunch. For student athletes who have registered already but have yet to pay their fee, you can visit the athletic office next week. Mr. Yang and Mr. Moua will be present at Como Park on 8/21/20 - 8/22/20 from 8:30am-1:00pm and the week of January 4th with the same timeframe. You can enter through the main entrance and security will escort you to the athletic office. Building entry will require that you wear a mask.

## Fall 2020 Highlights

### Cross Country

- Student athlete Charlie Power-Theisen qualified as an individual for state.
- Charlie placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the conference with a time of 10:34 beating the 2<sup>nd</sup> place athlete from Central by 5 seconds!

### Football

- The football team went undefeated this year and claimed the conference championship again after 13 years in 2007.

### Girls Tennis

- 6th place in conference
- We improved by 2 matches from last year defeating Washington and Humboldt
- 1st singles Eva Larson took every conference 1 singles player to 3rd set match plays

### Girls Swimming

- 4th place in conference defeating Harding
- Virtual meets held allowing fans to spectate online

### Girls Volleyball

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in conference

### Soccer

- Girls Soccer: 3rd place in conference
- Boys Soccer: 4th place in conference

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our football and volleyball teams were unable to conclude their seasons. Despite the pandemic, we are grateful that we were able to provide opportunities for student-athletes to participate and compete.

All of the information is available in the athletics tab of our [school home page](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

Sincerely,

Koua Yang Athletic Director

[koua.yang@spps.org](mailto:koua.yang@spps.org)

651-744-3104

