

Pilot School News

May 1, 2020 | Volume #16

From the Principal

Notice that the stiffest tree is most easily cracked, while the bamboo or willow survives by bending with the wind.
Bruce Lee

Distance Learning Update - It's official, we are finishing the year in a virtual world through distance learning. I want to start off by offering a huge thank you for the patience and flexibility all of our families have been displaying as Murray works to figure out this whole new world. You are all the bamboo and the willow trees that help us stand strong. This distance learning experience is rewarding, frustrating, exhausting and perplexing all at the same time. I assure you that our staff are working hard every day to provide the best possible education through this model. We are constantly reflecting and working to make changes based on our data, feedback from families and personal experiences to improve on what we are doing. With that being said, I want to let you know that our team is planning to make changes to the weekly Schoology experience beginning Tuesday. These changes will focus on total time expected from the learner. (both online and offline). A more manageable work load will be expected but there will still be opportunities for enrichment/extension of learning. Another change will be around consistency. We will have a common look to the way folders are arranged on Schoology pages and the nomenclature that is used to identify sequence of items and expectations. Finally, there will be more flexibility built into due dates to better align with the asynchronous model and also support families that might have variables that may create barriers to tight time lines. Please continue to reach out and connect with your teachers if you have questions about specific classes.

End of Year Student Recognition Update – Our student/staff activities committee and administration are currently working on how we can honor students as we close out this school year in the midst of the pandemic and the distance learning model. Please know that we understand how important this is, especially for students that are leaving Murray to move on to high school. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

School Locker Clean Out – Our district is solidifying a plan for getting students back their belongings. A final plan should be shared with me in the very near future. From there we will be laying out logistics on how this will work for Murray. You will be receiving communication from SPPS on the expectations around this. I will update you with anything that is Murray specific. Stay tuned. (I am very fearful of the leftover milk cartons that may be waiting for me!)

Celebrations –

1. 25 years of Service! – Please join me in celebrating our very own Ms. Crowley as she is being recognized for her 25 years of service to Saint Paul Public Schools. Thank you for all you do and the for the thousands of students and families you have served over the years. Murray loves you!

Please continue to reach out to me if you have questions and/or concerns at Jamin.McKenzie@spps.org .

Be well and be healthy.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School



The registration window for the 2020-2021 school year has been open for several weeks and we're glad to say we've received over 58% of the forms from our future 7th and 8th graders. If you haven't completed registration yet, please take time with your family to review the course descriptions and select your choices. This data is vital for our team to construct a balanced schedule that meets the interests of your child. Previous emails with the attached links have been sent by Principal McKenzie with the latest communication going out on Friday, April 10th.

Registration for current 5th and 8th graders will be shared from your corresponding elementary and high schools shortly. Additional questions you may have regarding Murray course registration can be sent to Assistant Principal Ryan Eggers at ryan.eggers@spps.org.

Counselor's Corner

To our Murray families:

We know that these times are very confusing and out of the expected routine. Please know that School Counselors are available if your middle schooler needs to talk with someone. There are many feelings that can be associated with the current experience of Covid-19. An update went out in Schoology today for students regarding an additional way to make an appointment with a School Counselor. Below are the links as far as if students need to get in touch with a School Counselor.

Mrs. Whittaker A-L

<https://calendly.com/lashay-whittaker-school-counselor/meeting-with-school-counselor>

Mrs. Engelstad M-Z

<https://calendly.com/lisa-engelstad-school-counselor/meeting-with-school-counselor-1>

On student schedules, there is a School Counselor PLP course that was added for all students as Distance Learning was getting started. This is a place for School Counselors to put material that may be helpful for students as they are adjusting to Distance Learning. Examples of materials include: Get Ready College/Career lessons folder, School Counselor folders (for Distance Learning tips, stress management, coping skills, etc). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the School Counselors.

A resource that was shared with students this week: <https://sites.google.com/stpaul.k12.mn.us/student/home>

[SPPS Student & Family Support](#)

Welcome to the SPPS Student & Family Support page. We are happy you are here. Life can be unpredictable and sometimes change and uncertainty can feel stressful.
sites.google.com

Registration Information:

To: 6th grade Parent/Guardians,

If your child has already registered for classes for 2020-21, you can disregard this message. If your child still needs to register for their 7th grade electives, students should have received an e-mail on Monday evening in their St. Paul school e-mail account. It includes the registration document and descriptions of elective courses. The e-mail would be from Lisa Engelstad, School Counselor.

To: 7th grade Parent/Guardians

If your child has already registered for classes for 2020-21, you can disregard this message. If your child still needs to register for their 8th grade electives, students should have received an e-mail on Tuesday evening in their St. Paul school e-mail account. It includes the registration document and descriptions of elective courses. The name on the e-mail would be from Lisa Engelstad, School Counselor.



To: 8th grade Parent/Guardians,

High School Registration information was pushed out through Schoology in the Purple Registration folder last week and students also received an e-mail as well. Below is the link that is included in the Schoology 8th grade PLP course (School Counselor information). There is also a video that explains how to go through the process in the Purple Registration folder as well. Please try and get this done by May 4th. If for some reason, the link does not work, go to Schoology.

[Registering for High School link](#)

School Counselor Andrea Dickinson (Get Ready, andrea.dickinson@spps.org)
School Counselor Lashay Whittaker at lashay.whittaker@spps.org (last names A-L)
School Counselor Lisa Engelstad at lisa.engelstad@spps.org (last names M-Z)

8th graders attending Como Park Senior High School next year:

Are you interested in business? Consider joining the Academy of Finance! The Academy of Finance (AOF) is a small learning community that offers high school students an opportunity to study accounting, international trade, leadership, and the use of technology while preparing for college and/or careers in the financial services industry.

For more information, please go to the Como Park Academy of Finance website: <https://www.spps.org/Domain/641>

Library Message from SPPS Librarians

Below is a link on how to get help from SPPS librarians. We are all taking shifts and can answer questions and help with e-resources and anything library related. There is a link on the Murray Middle School library website to the chat window too!

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AXU6ow64ISdJRapyD_5lac2g6DASa4H-OY66yj_I2FI/edit?usp=sharing

There are activities at MMS LIBRARY GROUP on schoology. Check it out!

Play Magnetic Poetry Online! <http://play.magneticpoetry.com/poem/Original/kit>

Yearbooks

The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html>



ATTENTION MURRAY THEATER ALUMNI:

We need your help! Please contribute to a fundraiser video.

Record video clips of yourself responding to the prompts about your experience with Murray's Theater Department. Specific instructions are below. Email Ms. Sorcha Nix at theater.murray@gmail.com with questions.

Not only are this year's students missing out on the opportunity to perform and share the production they've worked so incredibly hard on, but the theater department stands to lose a lot of money. We usually make enough money from ticket and concession sales to fund the following year's show, so this fundraiser is very important. Please help by sending in video clips!

Link to instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/y84srttw>



Annual Student Health Information

* Shots required for 7th grade

Health Conditions:

Notify the school nurse assigned to your school if your child has a health condition or takes medication during the school day. The school nurse will work with you to create a health plan for your student.

Immunizations:

State law (MS 121A.15) requires that each student enrolled in a Minnesota school be protected from childhood diseases by receiving immunizations. Parents/guardians may obtain a legal exemption for medical reasons or conscientious beliefs.

Kindergarten:	7 th Grade:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) – 2 doses given after age 12 months (<i>1 month apart</i>) • Hepatitis B – 3 doses • Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis – 4th or 5th dose must be given after the age of 4 • Varicella – 2 doses given after age 12 months (<i>or previous history of Chicken Pox verified by Health Care Provider if disease was in 2010 or later</i>) • Polio – 3rd or 4th dose, must be given after the age of 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) – 2 doses given after age 12 months (<i>1 month apart</i>) • Hepatitis B – 3 doses • Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis Booster (Tdap) given at age 7 or older + a minimum of 2 DT's • Varicella – 2 doses (<i>or previous history of Chicken Pox verified by Health Care Provider if disease was in 2010 or later</i>) • Meningococcal (MCV4) – age 10 and older • Polio – 3 doses

Resources for Immunizations:

- St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health *by Appointment only* 651-266-1234
- Student Placement Center, Saint Paul Public Schools *(Uninsured or State Health Insurance only)* 651-632-3763

Physical Examinations for Sports Participation:

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) requires a sports qualifying physical examination **every 3 years** to participate on any school sponsored athletic team. The sports qualifying physical examination report must state whether the student can participate in all school interscholastic activities without restrictions or must state any necessary restrictions. Health examinations are not required for school. Below are some of the clinics where health examinations and sport physicals are available:

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|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Health Start School Based Clinics | <i>Located at SPPS High Schools</i> | |
| • Eastside Family Clinic | 895 E. 7 th St. | 651-772-9757 |
| • Open Cities Health Center | 409 Dunlap St. N. | 651-290-9200 |
| • United Family Practice Health Center | 1026 W. 7 th St. | 651-241-1000 |
| • West Side Community Health Center/La Clinica | 153 Cesar Chavez St. | 651-222-1816 |

Immunization and Health/Physical Exam forms can be found at: <http://www.spps.org/Domain/10337>.

Please submit information to your child's school Health Office, scan and email to student.wellness@spps.org, fax to 651-632-3731, or mail to:

Health Office
ATTN: Immunizations & Sports Physicals
2102 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55114.

* Murray Middle School *
School Nurse Fax:
651-717-4881

Healthy students make better learners!

