

Pilot School News

May 15, 2020 | Volume #17

From the Principal

A positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances instead of your circumstances having power over you. **Author Unknown**

I would just like to point out how thoroughly impressed I am with the work that our staff have been doing to navigate distance learning, facilitate the clean-out of our building and how they have been collaborating around how to show our love of our students to close out the school year. It's true...positivity is powerful, it's contagious and it allows us to have power over our current situation. Even as recent as today, it gave me so much positive energy to see colleagues in person as they visited to clean out their classrooms and to meet virtually with the almost 70 staff members as they shared how students were making them smile and bringing joy through distance learning. I don't know how else to put it...our students and staff are the absolute best!

Distance Learning Update – We are continuing to work to support our families through distance learning. As a school we have adjusted our practice to better meet the needs of our community. Please know that I am always open to your feedback and am available any time you have questions. If your questions are class specific, I encourage you to reach out to your teachers as they are anxiously waiting to help in any way they can.

Community Feedback Data – Speaking of feedback, our community feedback data for school year 19/20 is available for you to view on the front page of our Murray website <https://www.spps.org/murray>. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with information that we are using to guide our budget process as well as our prioritization of resources and energy for school year 20/21.

End of Year Student Recognition Update – Our student/staff activities committee and entire staff are working on honoring our student body using digital tools. Please stay tuned for our final projects as we will be continuing with some Murray traditions in a virtual manner. It will never be the same as the face to face gatherings we would normally have, but we are doing our best to convey our sincere appreciation for all that your children bring to our school. Please know that we miss them dearly.

School Locker Clean Out and Pick-Up – I will be sending out another Blackboard message to families reminding them of the pick-up dates and times along with helpful details. Here is a summary –

1. Grade 6 – Tues. May 26, 8AM-5PM
2. Grade 7 – Wed. May 27, 8AM-5PM
3. Grade 8 – Thurs. May 28, 8AM-5PM
4. Make-Up Day – Fri. May 29 – 8AM-5PM

Notes

1. **iPads** - Students will be keeping their iPads all summer as long as they are remaining an SPPS student. If you are leaving SPPS, there will be a later drop off date arranged. Communication around that will come from the district.
2. **Textbooks/Library Books/School Property** – If you have any of these items, you may drop them off with us at the assigned time for your student.
3. **Safety** – Social distancing will be enforced. Families will remain in their vehicles while following directed traffic through our parking lot. Staff team members will be gathering and delivering materials to families in their vehicles as they follow the pick-up route.

Celebrations

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Pilot Scientists – Please join me in congratulating the following students in qualifying for the National Science Fair called Broadcom MASTERS. This is the nation's premier STEM competition with cash prizes of up to \$25,000! Way to go Murray Pilot Scientists and best of luck!
Megan Cindrich, Tristan Engelmänn, Anna Imbertson, Teodora Kamenov, Eve Kitt, Anna Lovat, Madeleine Schilling, Ellen Schroeder, Garrett Seppanen, Riya Stebleton, Halina Tompkins, Alice Wagner-Hemstad, Oskar Helgen, Julia Pletch, Liam Donegan
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



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.

Library

Announcement from the library for designated visits to Murray:

Please leave library books in the library, or in the main office. There may also be a designated cart at the main entrance for placing the books to be checked in when Ms. Decourt is in the building to do check-in.

Thank you!

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_5Iac2g6DASa4H-OY66yj_I2FI/edit?usp=sharing

Yearbooks

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

Murray History Day Results

We had an INCREDIBLY STRONG showing at the State History Day Contest. Murray (and Murray alum) had **22 Historians in the Final Rounds – more than ANY OTHER middle school in the state.**

The Run Down:

3 National Qualifiers, 2 National Qualifying Projects

13 of 22 Historians = State Finalists

2 x 2nd Place

3 x 3rd Place

3 x 4th place

3 Special / Topical Prizes

9 Honorable Mentions

36 State Qualifiers Overall

2 Murray Teachers Recognized at Virtual Ceremony

1 Governor / Former Social Studies Teacher Congratulated All Scholars!

Special **CONGRATULATIONS** to Greta Seppanen, Annika Culver and Zach Bollman who will be representing Team Minnesota History Day at the (virtual) **NATIONAL CONTEST** in **JUNE** with their documentaries!! This will be the **6th CONSECUTIVE YEAR** Murray will send Historians to the National Contest.



Full Murray Results:

□

2 nd Place, National Qualifiers	Greta Seppanen and Annika Culver	Group Documentary
2 nd Place, National Qualifier	Zach Bollman	Individual Documentary
3 rd Place, State Finalist	DeJuan Edwards	Individual Performance
4 th Place, State Finalist	Maame Ofori	Individual Performance
3 rd Place, State Finalist	Kai Sackreiter and Alice Wagner-Hemstad	Group Website
3 rd Place State Finalist	Anna Lovat and Maddy Schilling	Group Documentary
4 th Place, State Finalist	Riya Stebleton	Individual Website
4 th Place, State Finalist	Emily and Maria Brenner	Group Exhibit
Honorable Mentions	Anders Ahlberg	Paper
	Greta Kittok	Performance
	Avery Allen	Performance
	Kiki Ruddy and Ellery Tennison	Performance
	Elise Dunne	Documentary
	Siri Pattison	Documentary
	Phoebe Finlay	Website
	Gwen McRoberts	Website
	Jonathan Newman	Exhibit
3 rd Place, State Finalist	Kevin Torstenson (Murray Alum)	Senior Individual Performance
Special Topical Prize	Riya Stebelton	Minnesota History
Special Topic Prize	Zach Bollman	Quantitative History
Special Topic Prize	Gwen McRoberts	Civil War History



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!

