

Pilot School News

September 9, 2022 | Volume #1

From the Principal

I love math class with Mr. Klemme! - Murray student

My favorite part of the week is that I get to see my friends again. - Murray student

I love being in beginning band because I get to play the trumpet! - Murray student

The best part of my week is that I get to have my favorite teacher, Mr. Hayden. - Murray student

The above quotes are just a very small fraction of the wonderful experiences our students are having.

School is underway and the buzz of our staff and students is electric. It is so exciting to walk through the school and see our students and staff engaging in activities that build and strengthen community. One of the many bright spots from this week was that we were able to hold a Core Value assembly for our students. A Core Value assembly is held each quarter and highlights one of four identified core values that Murray stands by. I began this practice 10 years ago with the intent of helping our students become strong individuals and strong community members. Our Core Value for quarter one is Dignity. Dignity is defined as the state of being worthy of respect and is something every person is born with. As we continue to reinforce this core value throughout the quarter and year, we ask that families have conversations about what it means to have dignity, what a person can do for others to honor their dignity and what actions like this can do to strengthen a school community.

While talking about dignity, the beginning of the school year is also the perfect time to have conversations about goal setting for the school year. Goals can be academic, social, emotional, etc. Our students are going to grow and change quite a bit in the next nine months. We want to continue preparing them to have the skills of mapping out personal goals, creating plans to achieve those goals and then following through and working toward those goals.

Celebrations:

Core Value Assembly - We held our first core value assembly in years now that restrictions have lifted. Along with academics, our goal is to also support the character development of our young Pilots. The smiles and chants from our students, especially our 6th graders, gave me goosebumps!

Murray Middle School Alum Gives Back - Murray alum, Xander Jacobsen, chose Murray for his Eagle Scout project this summer. Xander worked to enhance an untended area near our parking lot with environmentally appropriate shrubs and mulch. It looks great and on behalf of Murray, we are so very grateful for Xander giving back to our school! Thank you, Xander! You are a Pilot for life. :)

Murray PTO starting up again! - We are very excited for the Murray Parent Teacher Organization to get up and running again. Our first meeting will take place later this month. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Stefanie Folkema at stefanie.folkema@spps.org for more information.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

September 22, 2022

Title 1 Annual Meeting

Open House/Parent Curriculum Night

6:00pm – 8:00pm

September 29, 2022

School Picture Day

Murray Middle School

2200 Buford Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

murray.spps.org

651-293-8740

School Hours: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Murray Administration

Jamin McKenzie, Principal

Michelle Bierman, Assistant Principal

Ryan Eggers, Assistant Principal

Murray Office Staff

Melissa Robl

Adriana Cruz-Trevino

Murray Counselors

Justine Revermann (A-L)

Lisa Engelstad (M-Z)

Murray School Nurse

Diana Dishop

Murray Parent Liaison

Stefanie Folkema

Murray Attendance

murrayattendance@spps.org

Staff Spotlight



*One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world. **Malala Yousafzai***

Hello, my name is Jamin McKenzie and I am the proud principal here at Murray Middle School. Welcome to a new school year, Pilots! I am in this business because I love working with kids. Seeing all of those smiles and all of that excitement as students and staff are walking in to start a new school year is something I look forward to every fall. With a new school year comes all of the unknowns, the new discoveries, the numerous challenges, the endless questions and the new relationships. These are all of the things that make working in education the best job in the world!

I am entering my 21st year in Saint Paul Public Schools and my 10th year at Murray. I began my career as a science teacher at Battle Creek Middle School and still have a love of everything astronomy. My family consists of my wonderful wife Lisa and our twin children Jadon and Isabelle, who are 15 years old and entering 10th grade. Our family enjoys time at the family cabin, golfing together and supporting our kids in their sporting events.

I am excited to begin a new school year as I continue to serve our Murray community. As a staff, we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated community and to be educating your young scholars. We thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to another great year!

Welcome to all andGo Pilots!

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Michelle Bierman. I am excited to be at Murray Middle School as an Assistant Principal. I am excited to have our students and families back at school for the 22-23 school year!

I am a proud Saint Paul resident and have been part of Saint Paul Schools for over 23 years. I started as a high school teacher at Highland Park Senior High School teaching History of Americas, Civics, Asian Studies, African American History, and Economics. I continued my work supporting social studies teachers at the district level, working in the teaching and learning department, and then racial equity and gender equity. Most recently, I was the Assistant Principal at Open World Learning (OWL).

I graduated from Minnesota State University with a BS in Social Studies, University of St. Thomas with my Masters of Teaching, and University of Minnesota with my Administrator's license. When I am not at school, my wife and I spend time with our nieces and nephews, dogs, and ride around town on our scooters. Think Vespa. I like to travel, read, kayak, and teach. I teach as an adjunct professor at Metropolitan State University in their Urban Education Program.

My belief is that each student has many talents and gifts. We, as adults, just need to get to know students, provide opportunities for them to be themselves, challenge each student academically, and add some fun into the mix to bring out the best in each student.

I am proud to be a co-pilot at Murray! Please stop by and say hello. I look forward to meeting our new families and students and welcoming back our current students and families.

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Ryan Eggers and I am honored to be serving as an Assistant Principal here at Murray Middle School. I am entering my 10th year at Murray. Before becoming an Assistant Principal, I spent six years working with our incredible Murray community as an 8th grade teacher. The dedication and collaborative nature of our staff is what I find most rewarding for our students as we are always finding new, creative means to support their learning.

After completing my undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota Duluth, I began teaching high school social studies at Brooklyn Center Secondary. While working with our Data Analysis Team, I fell in love with numbers and pursued an additional licensure in mathematics to bring a new lens on how to approach problem solving and make math more culturally relevant. In 2013, I joined St. Paul Public Schools as an Algebra 1, Geometry and AVID elective teacher. Being a lifelong learner, I continued to improve upon my craft by receiving my Masters in Leadership Education and Administrative License from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

When I am away from school, I am spending time with my wife Nakeea and our two boys, Maddox and Miles. We enjoy traveling, hiking and scouring the cities for the best new cuisines. You could say we're "foodies" but we only occasionally Instagram our plates.

I believe all children are unique and must have a stimulating educational environment where they can grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. When these needs are met, students are more willing to share their ideas, take risks and be their true, authentic self.

I am excited for our new school year and I look forward to building positive relationships with our students, families, and Murray community. Go Pilots!!



Middle School Is A Journey

- 1. Give your child the power of a positive attitude** - Help your student see the positive in things. Help them build the skills of confidence, advocacy and team work as they will be closely involved with the Murray community for 3 years.
- 2. Instill a system for growth that works and makes sense** - Help your child understand the process of creating goals, working toward those goals and self-assessing progress toward those goals. In addition, connected to point number 1, how to ask for help when needed.
- 3. Include your child in the process of decision making** - As educators, we know that our odds of experiencing success for students go up exponentially when we offer them choice and they know they have a voice at the table when we are making decisions, problem solving or processing.
- 4. Give your child the opportunity to learn from mistakes** - Mistakes are a part of life. We all make them. The key is how to learn from them and come out stronger on the other side. Perfection is an ideal that is unattainable. This message gets cloudy for young people due to the influences of social media. Help them understand how to navigate their growth when mistakes are made and that making mistakes is OK!
- 5. Recognize that middle school is a journey, not a destination** - Our vision at Murray is to challenge and inspire each student to reach their full potential in preparation for high school and beyond. Murray is simply one of the many steps to the rest of their lives. While middle school can be a challenging stage in one's life for many reasons, the support of families and educators can also make it one of significant growth, excitement and learning.

Possible changes that take place while in middle school

PHYSICAL	INTELLECTUAL	EMOTIONAL	SOCIAL
Uneven physical growth	Short attention span	Fluctuating emotions	Desire for independence
Rapid brain growth	Needs relevance in learning	High level of anxiety	Sensitivity to peer pressure
Restlessness and periods of fatigue	Responds to choice	Extreme sensitivity	Self and others
Metabolic and hormonal fluctuation	Varied ability levels	Ambivalence	Reclusive behavior
Periods of high energy and lathargy	Varied interests	Behavior	Changing interests, needs and priorities
Underdeveloped sense of time and space	Inquisitive	Fluctuating moods	Needs to focus on role models
	Concrete thinking	Extreme self-consciousness	Acceptance
	Orientation to the present		Dealing with bullying issues

Citation: <http://hcesblog.org/5-tips-to-empower-your-middle-school-child-and-navigate-challenges/>



Recognition!!
Murray's Own Physical Education Teacher Dewayne Combs!
MPR News with Angela Davis

<https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2022/08/01/bicycling-and-bike-routes-surgin-ahead-in-minnesota>



[Bicycling
and bike
routes
surging
ahead in
Minnesota |
MPR News](#)

Bicycling is growing in more ways than one in Minnesota. During the COVID-19 pandemic bike sales shot up and more people started biking recreationally.. City and regional planners are also

...

www.mprnews.org



flipside

the opposite of boredom.
Afterschool activities for middle school youth.

The Flipside afterschool program at Murray Middle will begin Monday 10/10/22!

Monday – Thursday: 3:00 – 5:00

Flipside provides Murray students with a variety of classes that offer academic support as well as enrichment activities. Flipside also provides students with an afterschool snack. The goal of Flipside is to provide our students with opportunities to explore and discover their passion in a safe, structured, and supportive environment.

New Addition:

A French class will now be offered twice a week after school through Flipside! Murray's own Ms. Decourt will be sharing her expertise of French language and culture. Check out the class description below and look to sign-up for French and/or other classes when the Flipside registration is sent out in the next week or so.

French – This is a beginner French class that will explore the language and the many Francophone cultures. French is spoken around the entire globe! We will learn some speaking but also reading, writing, and listening. We can cook some cultural foods and watch some films. There is so much to learn!

Flipside will have two sessions during the year, 10/10/22 – 1/19/23 and 1/30/23 – 5/11/23.

Please reach out with any questions!

Jenna Joswiak – Flipside Coordinator

651-774-3189 / jenna.joswiak@spps.org



MURRAY SPIRIT WEAR ORDER FORM

ORDER 9/6 – 10/19 :::: DELIVERY BY 11/9

STUDENT NAME: _____

FOUNDATIONS TEACHER: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

CHECK ONE:

DELIVER TO STUDENT AT SCHOOL: _____ **I WILL PICK UP AT MURRAY OFFICE:** _____

Please return the completed order form, with payment in the correct amount, to Mrs. Folkema in the main office.

	MURRAY HOODIES & T-SHIRTS ADULT SIZES S - XXXL	
AVAILABLE IN Royal Blue with Gold		

Apparel Options

Hooded Sweatshirt	S - \$30.00	M - \$30.00	L - \$30.00	XL - \$30.00	XXL - \$35.00	XXXL - \$38.00
Quantity						
Long Sleeve Shirt	S - \$21.00	M - \$21.00	L - \$21.00	XL - \$21.00	XXL - \$23.00	XXXL - \$25.00
Quantity						
Short Sleeve Shirt	S - \$15.00	M - \$15.00	L - \$15.00	XL - \$15.00	XXL - \$17.00	XXXL - \$19.00
Quantity						

Spirit Pom Beanie (Royal /Heather Grey/White Stripe with Gold Embroidery)	One Size: \$21.00 each					
Quantity						

TOTAL NUMBER OF Items: _____ **TOTAL COST: \$** _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO "MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL"





Murray Middle School Bell Schedule



Period 1	8:30 – 9:21
Period 2	9:25 – 10:16
Period 3	10:20 – 11:11
Period 4	11:15 – 12:07
Lunch 6	11:40 – 12:07
Period 5	12:11 – 1:08
Lunch 7	12:11 – 12:38
Lunch 8	12:41 – 1:08
Period 6	1:12 – 2:04
Period 7	2:08 – 3:00

We follow the “Murray Way” of being
Respectful, Responsible and Safe



Parent Quick Access to Infinite Campus and Schoology

Saint Paul Public Schools uses 2 systems to communicate grades, homework, and attendance to families.

Schoology is where students submit assignments and participate in class activities. Daily grades and homework can be viewed here.

Campus Parent/Campus Student (Portal) contains general parent information, interactive tools, and students' attendance.

1

Schoology: Online application that helps parents, guardians, families, and students stay informed about classes, assignments, and grades. You can use Schoology to:

- View your student's courses
- View assignments that are due
- View grades
- View school and class announcements

S

Learn all about how to use Schoology by going to <https://www.spps.org/onestop> and clicking on **Schoology**. On this page, you will find:

- [Parent Guide to Schoology in English, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish.](#)
- [How to turn in assignments](#)
- [How to contribute to a discussion](#)

2

Campus Parent/Campus Student (Portal): Online application that helps parents, guardians, families, and students view and interact with attendance, final grades, class schedules, transcripts, and household information.

Infinite
Campus

Learn all about how to use Infinite Campus by going to [Campus Parent and Campus Student \(Portal\) Overview](#). On this page, you will find information on how to log in and how to navigate Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You can log in to Infinite Campus Parent Portal at <https://www.spps.org/onestop>.

The same username and password work for both Schoology and Infinite Campus.

Active Directory Username: _____

Active Directory Password: _____



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



YOUTH WINTER BASKETBALL

Free for ages 9 and up!

REGISTER SEPT. 1 - 30



PROGRAMS OFFERED
FOR AGES 3-18.
REGISTER IN PERSON,
ONLINE, OR BY
CALLING YOUR LOCAL
REC CENTER.

Winter 2022-2023

Basketball will be offered free at all recreation center sites for 10U and up. Eliminating fees allows Saint Paul youth to have access to quality programming, encourages healthy and active lifestyles, builds confidence, and creates community. (Please note that fees apply for ages 4U, 6U and 8U.)

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

SEPT. 1 = 25% OFF
SEPT. 2 = 20% OFF
SEPT. 3 - 5 = 10% OFF

For full details and locations, visit
stpaul.gov/youthsports.

Saint Paul Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending the activities announced in this flyer and no child will be turned away due to inability to pay.



**Interpreter Available
Upon Request**

**Intérprete disponible
bajo petición**

**neeg txhais lus muaj
raws li qhov kev thov**

**ล่ามแปลภาษาให้บริการ
ตามคำขอ**

