



St. Paul Harding Table Tennis Club

Information about the club and the matches



Coach: Mukwa Ogitchida

The St. Paul Harding Table Tennis club has been a place for Harding Students to play the world's most popular racket sport for the past 8 years.

Contact Information

Club director and coach:

Mukwa Ogitchida
807 Delaware Ave
St. Paul, MN, 55107
(651) 338-0046
Email: Mukwa.ogitchida@spps.org

Mr. Ogitchida is a Math Intervention Specialist, the boys Head Soccer Coach, and has been a part of the Harding community for the past 12 years. As a teen he was an Olympic alternate for the 1988 Jr. Olympics for Table Tennis.

Season for Table Tennis

The Table Tennis Club meets all year long. There are four distinct seasons.

1. **Fall Season** runs from September through October. In this season the club is student lead, the focus is on recruiting new players, having fun and preparing for the competitive season.
2. **Winter Season** runs from November through March. This is the competitive season, the players are ranked for competition, and the top 20 players play against other schools. The season is a build up to the Minnesota State High School Championships where the top 12 players play in the largest High School Table Tennis event in North America, and the top 4 girls play in the only girl exclusive Table Tennis event in the world. This past year three of the girls played in both events.
3. **Spring Season** runs from April to May. This season is coach lead, but more focused on recruiting and skill building. There are some matches against other schools; however the format is more relaxed then the competitive season.
4. **Summer Season** runs from June to July. This is an intense skills building season for the dedicated Harding Table Tennis Player.

Reason to Play

Any sport is meant to be fun, challenging, team building, and good exercise; Table Tennis fits all of these categories. Also, participating in a school sponsored after school program, sports or art is proven to increase grades and graduation rates. St. Paul Harding competes against other schools from Moundsvie to Rochester, from East Ridge to Orono, and many schools in between. This broadens the community that Harding students are a part of, through competition and friendships. Also, St. Paul Harding Table Tennis partners with Table Tennis Minnesota, and the United States Table Tennis Association; these partnerships provide opportunity for lifelong participation in the sport.



Accomplishments

St. Paul Harding Table Tennis has been the most participated in club in all of St. Paul Public Schools. The Team has finished tied for 5th in Minnesota twice, 2014 and 2013. In 2013, the team was invited to a Tri-State Tournament held in Rockford, Ill. Teams from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota played. St. Paul Harding finished 4th in that tournament. In 2015, the Girls of St. Paul Harding was the consolation Champions.



Coach Mukwa Ogitchida, would like to invite anyone to have a conversation about this wonderful club within the Harding Community. Feel free to email or call at any time, or better yet stop in and hit a few balls, you too will be quickly addicted to the world's most popular racket sport!