

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

In an effort to increase communication with our students and families, we send a weekly email on Sunday evenings or Monday mornings highlighting upcoming school events. This information will also be shared with students in Schoology and in Crew on Mondays. Events are listed in chronological order.

Welcome (back) to OWL: It was great to see you all for goal-setting conferences last week! We are so excited to begin the 2023-2024 school year!

School Food Update: Breakfast and lunch are now FREE for all students!

Family Reminders: If you have not completed the [iUpdate \(linked here\)](#) please do this week. Also, do not forget to complete the form at [SchoolCafe \(linked here\)](#)—we need each family to do this. Finally, please pay the fee for [FALL RETREATS \(linked here\)](#) (scholarships available upon request). Please call 651-293-8670 or email tammy.plaman@spps.org if you need any help with the above.

It is going to be warm at school tomorrow! Students and staff should dress appropriately for the warm weather, in a school building that is hot and does not have air conditioning. Please send/bring a water bottle (with your name on it), and food to eat

if your child does not plan to eat the free school breakfast or lunch items.

Please consider asking students to take off sweatshirts, hoodies or other extra clothing items as needed before coming to school or participating in any physical activity and/or outdoor activities in this extreme heat. Also please consider other activities that could replace physical activity outdoors as needed.

Don't have an iPad: Students who do not have an iPad will be getting one during the first week of school. If you have any questions please contact: Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org

Fall Play: Whether you want to act or design, we've got a part for you!!

Auditions will be **Monday September 11th and Tuesday the 12st** after school from 3-5pm. **Signup to audition on the Call Board outside the auditorium starting Wednesday, September 6.**

***Check the board on Wednesday to see the Fall Play Announcement!**

- Actors: Students will be given a monologue to read at auditions. They will need to arrange a ride home after their 5-minute time slot. If students cannot arrange a ride, they may audition on Tuesday during Crew.

- Designers: Design Crew is responsible for sets, costumes, props, lights, sound, and projections. **Design Crew applications will be available on the Call Board outside the auditorium on Wednesday September 6th, and are due to the folder outside the auditorium by Thursday September 14th.**

Important Dates:

Mon Sept 11 & Tues 12: Auditions 3-5pm

Thurs Sept 14: Design Crew Forms Due at 3pm

Wed Sept 13 & Thurs 14: Callbacks 3-5pm

Fri Sept 15: Acting Cast List & Design Crew posted outside Auditorium during Crew.

Tuesday Sept 19 : First Rehearsal 3-5 PM Family Meeting 5:30-6:30 PM

Monday October 9th: Regular Rehearsals & Flipside Begins 3-5pm. Busing will be available, rehearsals will be 3-5pm Monday-Thursday regularly after this day.

December 13, 14, 15: Performances of the Fall Play at 7pm

Questions: Rebekah.rentzel@spps.org

Fall Ultimate Frisbee Begins TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5:

This fall we have a middle school and two high school teams. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 – 7 PM at Harriet Island Regional Park for the first few weeks and then at the Humboldt Grass Fields. Games are Saturdays at West Minnehaha Rec. Center fields. Please contact Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org with questions, for scholarships, or for more information on how to register (deadline to join is this Thursday, Sept 7)

FALL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS: We're still looking for players for this year's fall high school sports. Are you interested? You can still join. Please register [here](#) If you have any questions contact: athena.bolton-steiner@spps.org

Fall sports available:

Boys and Girls Cross Country

Football

Boys and Girls Soccer
Girls Swimming and Diving
Girls Tennis
Girls Volleyball

Middle School Athletics to begin Mon Sept 11: Other than Ultimate Frisbee and archery, OWL athletics are run cooperatively our neighbor school, Humboldt. There will be an informational meeting for students during the school day later this week. Interested students will be called to the meeting and given the forms they need to get signed up for sports.

Note: Students will need a current sports physical to participate in the fall season; please make an appointment with your physician or visit one of our [SPPS Health Start Clinics](#).

The following fall sports will be offered at OWL/Humboldt:

Flag Football
Soccer (boys and girls)
Volleyball

If you have questions, please contact OWL Athletic Director Athena at athena.bolton-steiner@spps.org

OWL Community Group Meeting—Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 PM in the OWL Cafeteria: We invite students, parents, guardians and staff to learn about how you can help contribute to a rich learning environment, support our fantastic staff & build community.

The OWL Community group combines the functions of our former Site Council and PTO. In addition to the school governance advisory role of the site council, the group works to enrich student learning by continuing PTO functions that provide funding for fall retreats, spring interim courses, program grants for teachers to enhance classroom expeditions, transportation for fieldwork, MCA snacks, and more. In addition, we support opportunities for community building at the Fall Family Gathering, the annual Potluck for Teachers, the spring fundraiser, selling OWL spirit wear, and more. If you have questions, contact Dave: dave.gundale@spps.org.

High School Robotics: Students interested in friendship, creativity, fun, and robots are welcome to [sign up](#) for the Open Circuits, FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team 5271. Whether you like programming, business, design, building, electrical, mentoring, or swag, you can have a blast and earn a varsity letter in Minnesota's most popular engineering competition. Pre-season Monday practices begin October 2 in Tim's room. Come see Megan in room 3215, email her at megan.hall@spps.org, or [sign up here](#).

Lego League: Grades 6-8. Do you like teamwork, coding, problem-solving, and fun? You should join LEGO League! The OWL coaches want to help you design and program a robot and solve a community problem **Mondays and Wednesdays after school, October 9 - January 29**. More information on how to sign up coming soon!

Archery is back for the 23-24 season! Students in grades 6-12— are you interested in trying out archery? You can come to an open shoot and try it out without committing to the team on the following days: October 10th, 17th, and 24th, and November 14th and 21st. No sign ups needed. Open Shoots are a time when students can find out if archery is right for them, or get to know their teammates for when the season starts. Attendance at Open Shooting is not a requirement for participation on the team when the season starts. Contact: openworldarchery@gmail.com for more information.

Fall Retreat Week—September 26-30: Coming up in 3 weeks, we will have a big week of learning, service and adventure. We have some great experiences planned. If you did not complete forms at goal-setting conferences, we will be sending them home with your students the first day of school.

- PLEASE RETURN YOUR SIGNED PERMISSION SLIPS AND HEALTH FORMS BY **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8** AT THE LATEST.

- If your student needs to take MEDICATION while on retreat, please get them (in original containers) to Nurse Colleen by **Friday, September 15.**

Look for more information to come from your grade level team. ALL students are expected to participate in their grade-level retreat.

VOLUNTEER to be a CHAPERONE for Fall Retreats: We still need more chaperones at certain grades to pull off our ambitious fall

retreat week. **We especially need help at grades 9, 11 and 12 (Oct 2-5).** If you are able to volunteer, please do. [Link to sign up.](#)
Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE! The OWL Fall Family Gathering will be Thursday, October 12, 5:30-8 pm, at the Harriet Island Pavilion.

Come together with the OWL community for food, fun and friendship in a beautiful location on the Mississippi River across from downtown Saint Paul. Look for more information in future weekly emails.

School Picture Day is Friday, October 6: Information on purchasing pictures from Lifetouch will be coming home in coming weeks. Whether you are buying pictures or not, all students will have their picture taken for Student ID and Yearbook purposes.

After School Programming Begins: Monday, October 9.

Flipside is the fun & free afterschool program for Humboldt and OWL. This program is open to all grades and will begin on October 9th. Classes meet from 3-5 pm either on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class options and registration form will be available here in the coming weeks.

PSAT Testing is Tuesday, October 17 for all OWL 11th grade students, plus 10th grade students who wish to take the test. The test is free for 11th graders. 10th graders wishing to take the test can reserve a spot for \$15 (Scholarships are available). For more

information, contact testing coordinator Rebecca Palmer
rebecca2.palmer@spps.org

This test offers great practice taking a timed test in advance of the ACT to be given to juniors in the spring. The PSAT test is also the basis for National Merit Scholarships.

NO SCHOOL—Thursday, October 19 and Friday, October 20:

State Teacher Convention (MEA weekend)

Dia de los Muertos Celebration at OWL is Wednesday,

November 1 at 6 PM: Come celebrate Latinx culture at OWL with this family friendly event with lots of fun and great food. Contact: Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org

One proven way to live a happy life is to express gratitude. Is there a staff member at OWL that has done something you are grateful for? Shoot them an email! An alternative and way has been made available by filling out [this link](#). (This form requires an email but is sent anonymously.)

OWL believes that access to menstrual/period products is a right. If you are able to donate to help us provide free menstrual/period products so that they are always available, please consider donating some by dropping them off with Tammy in the front office. From there we will make sure they get to where they are needed.

Important Reminder about Attendance:

If your child is going to miss school, please call, email owlattendance@spps.org or write a note to explain the reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is documented as unexcused. After 3 days of unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from the school reminding you to please communicate with us so the absence(s) may be documented accurately. If your child continues to miss school, unexcused, he/she will be referred to the SAM (School Attendance Matters) Program for intervention.

The following reasons for absence qualify as an excused absence; illness, doctor, dental or therapy appointment (please be sure to obtain a note to give to the school), extreme family emergency or religious holiday not already recognized by our school district. When a student misses 3 or more class periods in one day, this is considered to be a full day of absence. Please call us if you have any questions/concerns.