

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 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.*

**NEW! Monday is Survey Day in Crew:** This week we are launching Monday Crew Surveys! [Use this link](#) to share your views and look for the results in the Community Meeting.

**NEW! Open House is Thursday, September 14 from 6-8 PM:** Come to our fall open house. There will be grade level presentations for grades 6-9 in the auditorium, an activity fair, and time to meet with teachers in their classrooms. We hope you all can make it.

**NEW! Class of 2024 Senior Information Night is Thursday, September 14 from 8-9 PM:** All seniors and their families should come to this important meeting outlining the calendar for the year of all the big events and all the supports available to our students.

**NEW! Fall Play:** Change of Auditions to the following week!

Due to construction delays in the auditorium, these dates are shifting. Please note the new dates below:

Auditions will be **Monday September 18th and Tuesday the 19th** after school from 3-5pm.

**Signup to audition on the Call Board outside the auditorium**

- 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 are available on the Call Board outside the auditorium and are due to the folder outside the auditorium by Thursday September 21st.**

**Important Dates:**

Mon Sept 18 & Tues 19th: Auditions 3-5pm

Thurs Sept 21st Design Crew Forms Due at 3pm

Wed Sept 20th & Thurs 21st Callbacks 3-5pm

Fri Sept 22nd Acting Cast List & Design Crew posted outside Auditorium during Crew.

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

Tuesday Oct 10th - OWL theatre Family Meeting 5:30-6:30 PM

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

Questions: [Rebekah.rentzel@spps.org](mailto:Rebekah.rentzel@spps.org)

**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](mailto:tammy.plaman@spps.org) if you need any help with the above.

**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](mailto:Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org)

**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](mailto: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 was an informational meeting for students during the school day last week.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, plus 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who wish to take the test. The test is free for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.