

Family Newsletter

November 2023

# The Heights Community School

1863 E. Clear Ave.  
St. Paul, MN, 55119  
Phone 651-293-8815  
Fax 651-293-8977  
Attendance Line 651-744-2273  
[www.spps.org/heights](http://www.spps.org/heights)



## Important Dates:

### November:

- 1 Picture Day
- 7 Election Day
- 9 Conferences  
2:20-6:00pm
- 10 No School  
Conferences 8am-3pm
- 23 & 24 No School  
Thanksgiving Break

### December:

- 6 Picture Retake day
- 25-30 No School Winter Break

### January:

- 1-5 No School Winter Break
- 8 Classes Resume



## Stay Healthy!

Do Not Send your child to school if sick with the following:



- \*Fever 100.4 degrees or higher
- \*Throwing up/diarrhea in the last 24 hours  
OR
- \*If medications have been given to keep fevers down in the last 24 hours

\*Cold Symptoms, Cough or other concerns - send/bring your child to school and have our health team assess your child. We're here to help!

### COVID-19 Guidelines

Families should familiarize themselves with these guidelines, which are updated regularly and cover prevention strategies, health screening and monitoring, exclusion guidance, and the [SPPS COVID-19 Reporting System](#).



## The Heights Website

Please check out our website at [www.spps.org/heights](http://www.spps.org/heights)

Please read and discuss the Family Handbook with your students at: <https://www.spps.org/domain/13882>  
Click the link below for Title I information regarding:

- School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)
- Family Friendly SCIP
- Family Engagement Plan (FEP)
- Compact
- Parent's Right to Know

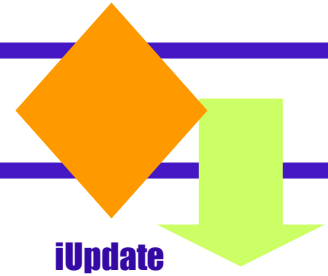
<https://www.spps.org/domain/3785>

Title I information will also be available in the school office and the family resource room.

Look for revisions and more information newsletters and flyers sent home in **Thursday Folders**.



**The Heights Community School**  
**651-293-8815**



**Testing Info**

**Cognitive Ability Testing (CogAT7) Dates**

Cogat7 Gifted identification testing will be between Oct 9-Nov 9.

\*\* Teachers & Parents can nominate students that have not been previously identified.

**Parent/Guardian Information on Statewide Testing**

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires statewide standardized testing on an annual basis. For more information on statewide testing, as well as parents'/guardians' right to refuse testing click the link below:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/33916>

**Tests and Testing Schedules**

For information on ACCESS 2.O, CogAT, FAST literacy and MCA testing for the 2020-21 school year check out the SPPS District Testing Calendar, Test Descriptions and School Schedules at this link:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/21430>

**Office Hours 7:15am-2:45pm**



**7:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go**

**7:30 All students must be in their classrooms or they will be marked tardy.**

**Please, always use the Attendance Line to call in an absent student!**  
(use even during regular school hours!)

**651-744-2273**

**The Attendance Line is Available 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week!**

**iUpdate**

Please complete iUpdate online at <https://www.spps.org/onestop> or call the school at 651-293-8815, to request a paper version. Updating your information in iUpdate will ensure that you receive proper services, eligible transportation and important communications by U.S. mail, phone, email or text. One parent or guardian from each primary household is expected to complete iUpdate.

**Yearly Lunch Forms**

**Every SPPS family** should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals each school year. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows the District to receive federal dollars for classroom programming. Additionally, families who have completed an application and have experienced a change in household income or size are encouraged to complete a new application. Please complete your application ASAP. Applications are available online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/spps> or call the school at 651-293-8815, to request a paper application.

**News from Mr Xiong**

Greetings Heights Hmong Families,  
Lus tseem ceeb nyob rau lub 11 hlis ntuj 2023:  
Los ntawm: Mr. Xiong

**Lub 11 hlis ntuj 2023**

Tim 1 Hnub yees duab (Picture Day)

Tim 9 Muaj conference thaum 2 teev 20 – 6 teev tsaus ntuj

Tim 10 Tsis kawm ntawv | Muaj conference thaum 8 teev – 1 teev tav su

Tim 23 Tsis kawm ntawv (Thanksgiving Break)

Tim 24 Tsis kawm ntawv (Thanksgiving Break)

Yog nej leej twg xav yuav duab rau nej cov me nyuam, thov saib daim flyer qhia txog tus nqi yees duab thiab muab nyiaj rau cov me nyuam nqa tuaj nyob rau hnub thajj duab.



## November Conferences

Thurs, Nov 9 conferences are being held between and 2:20-6pm.

The daytime conference is Friday, Nov 10 between 8am-3pm. There is no school on Friday, Nov 10.

Interpreters will be available as needed.  
Transportation is available but limited.  
Contact Julie Wellman for information regarding transportation.

## How to Opt Back Into Email or Text Messages

Please note that if you have "stopped" text messages or emails, you will no longer receive any district or school messages.

Below are instructions for users to opt back into our blackboard connect message service.

**Phone:** Recipients can call the opt-out hotline at [855-502-7867](tel:855-502-7867) from the phone number that was opted out.

**Email:** Please call The Heights office to update your email address.

**SMS:** If the recipient has opted out of receiving text messages, they can text "Subscribe SPPS" to the following shortcodes 23177, 63079, 82932, and 53291 to opt back in. Please ensure they send the text to all numbers to opt back in for emergency and non-emergency messages.

### Stay Healthy!

Do Not Send your child to school if sick with the following:

- \*Fever 100.4 degrees or higher
- \*Throwing up/diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- OR
- \*If medications have been given to keep fevers down in the last 24 hours

\*cold symptoms, cough or other concerns\_send/bring your child to school and have our health team assess your child.

We're here to help!



## Cafeteria Information

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows the District to receive federal dollars for classroom programming. A new form must be completed each school year. Additionally, families who have completed an application and have experienced a change in household income or size are encouraged to complete a new application.

How to apply for free and reduced-price lunch?

- Applications can be completed online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/spps>.

Call the school at 651-293-8815, to request a paper application.

Paper applications can be mailed to your home by request by calling Nutrition Services at 651-603-4950

The Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program runs October through April/May. Students at The Heights will receive a fruit or veggie snack on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Menus are available online only.** Go to <https://www.spps.org/ns>, click on "view school lunch menus" and check out School Cafe, the online interactive menu! Families can view the menu for The Heights. It has a feature for parents of students with allergies to filter out the menu items containing each allergen. It also gives nutritional information and can help with counting carbs for diabetics. It's a great tool for parents to help educate their kids about their allergies!



**School Counselor**  
**Amy Robinson**

## **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**

**9 days or less = School Success**

Missing just 2 days or more days a month puts students at risk for not reading well by the end of 3rd grade, struggling in middle school and unable to graduate from high school. Being in school helps students get to know their teachers and their classmates so they can build trusting relationships which help motivate them to learn and keep trying even when schoolwork becomes hard.

*Please contact your child's teacher, or Amy Robinson at (651) 744-2910, or Rachel Fulin at (651) 744-6884 if you need help brainstorming how to get your child to school every day on time unless they are very sick.*

### **Classroom Counseling Lessons**

For the next few months our counseling classroom lessons will focus on Bully Prevention. Students in Kindergarten -5th grade will be taught how to recognize the difference between bullying and a conflict and what to do if they experience or see bullying.

## **Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!**



The Scholastic Book Fair will be held during Conference Week:

Wednesday, Nov 8 & Thursday, Nov 9

Students can purchase books during the school day and

Families can purchase books during conferences after school from 2:30-6:00.

Friday, Nov 10

Families can purchase books during conferences from 8:00am-3:00pm.

Families can set up an online wallet account for students to use at school. Families will also be able to buy books online.



### What is Family-School Compact?

A Family-School Compact for Achievement is an agreement that parents, students and teachers develop together. It explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all students get the individual support they need to reach and exceed grade level standards.

### Jointly Developed with Parents

The parents at The Heights Community School helped develop this Compact for Achievement. Schoolwide meetings are held each year to update the compact during family events and complete revisions at the April PTA meeting. Parents are welcome to contribute comments at any time during the year.

For more information on the compact please contact Julie Wellman at 651-293-8615.

### Communicating about Learning

The Heights Community School is committed to communicating regularly with families about children's learning. Some of the ways you can expect us to communicate are:

- Weekly Thursday take home folders
- Monthly "check-in" notes, and emails
- Teachers will give parents their prep time and email at the start of the school year.

Do you have questions about your child's progress? Parents can contact your child's teacher.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Parents are welcome at The Heights at any time. Parents wishing to volunteer in teacher requested classrooms and at activities in the building to support partnerships during the year need to fill out a volunteer form each year.

Parents who want to go on field trips will need to have an approved background check to chaperone. Background checks require a completed background check form and \$20 cash deposit submitted to the school. Please allow 2 weeks for processing.

The \$20 cash deposit will be returned when the background check is approved and the parent attends 1 field trip.

Translated flyers, interpreters, child care and transportation will be provided as needed. Contact Julie Wellman for more information.

### Activities to Support Partnerships

#### Conferences

- Nov 9, 2:20-6:00pm
- Nov 18, 8:00am to 3:00pm
- March 28, 3:00-5:00pm
- March 29, 8:00am to 3:00pm

#### Family Events

- Thurs, Aug 31: Outdoor Open House & Meet the Teacher 3-4:00pm
- Thurs, Oct 25: Camp Read-A-Lo/Title I Mtg
- Mon, Feb 12: National African American Parent Involvement Day (Programs during the day)
- Thurs, January 25: STEM Family Night

#### Title I Annual Meeting

- Title I Slideshow Presentation will be shown at three family events: Oct TBD PreK Fall Family Day, Oct 24 PTA/SCIP Update parent meeting & Oct 26 Reading Night

#### Title I Spring Budget

The Heights' 2024-25 budget will be discussed at the March & April PTA & SCIP Update meeting

#### PTA/SCIP Update Meetings

- 2023-24 PTA/SCIP Update meetings will be held virtually from 5:30-6:00pm on the following Tuesdays:
  - o Oct 24
  - o Jan 16
  - o March 19 & April 23 includes Title I Budget info
  - o May 21 PTA Budget & Officers

#### PTA fundraising events:

- Chuck E Cheese, Woodbury 3-9:00pm TBD
  - Wed, Oct 18
  - Fri, Jan 19
  - Thurs, March 7
  - Fri, May 17
- Chipotle, April TBD

#### Chat with the Principal

- Math & Reading Info/Open forum for parents to bring concerns, questions, etc. and learn about curriculum, Title I, standards, MCAs, attendance issues, etc.
 

Oct TBD	(Math focus)	7:40-8:30am
March TBD	(Reading focus)	7:40-8:30am

### Family-School Compact for Achievement 2023-2024

## The Heights Community School



1863 Clear Ave E

651-293

spps.org/



Sai  
PUBL

www.spps

The Family-School Compact will be discussed with families during November conferences.

For easier viewing here is a link to the English version:

[https://www.spps.org/cms/lib/MN01910242/Centricity/Domain/3785/Compact\\_Eng%202022-23.pdf](https://www.spps.org/cms/lib/MN01910242/Centricity/Domain/3785/Compact_Eng%202022-23.pdf)

Here is a link to the Spanish version:

[https://www.spps.org/cms/lib/MN01910242/Centricity/Domain/3785/Compact\\_Sp%202022-23.pdf](https://www.spps.org/cms/lib/MN01910242/Centricity/Domain/3785/Compact_Sp%202022-23.pdf)

### SPPS Achieves

#### Long Term Outcomes

- Decrease disparities based on race, ethnicity, culture and identity
- Increase achievement of English Learners
- Increase achievement of students receiving special education services
- Improve kindergarten readiness
- Increase academic growth in reading and math for all students
- Prepare all graduates for college, career and life

#### School Goals

**Reading:** The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in reading will increase from 26% to 30% by Spring 2024 as measured by the MCA III Reading Assessment administered in April, 2024.

**Math:** The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in mathematics will increase from 20% to 25% by Spring 2024 as measured by the MCA III Math Assessment administered April 15, 2024.

**Climate:** 90% of students will take the school climate survey. Families will be asked for input in a fall and spring survey.

#### Parents Have the Right...

to request regular meetings for their suggestions and decisions relating to the education of their children.

Please attend already scheduled meetings such as The Title I Annual Meetings, Chat with the Principal Meetings and PTA/SCIP Meetings for opportunities to learn about parent rights, give suggestions and make decisions.

A light meal, interpreters, child care and transportation will be provided as needed.

## Teachers, Parents, Students— Together for Success

Grade level teachers will work as a team to work with students and their families to support students' success in reading, writing and math. Some of our key connections with families will be:

Provide a Thursday folder to send information home on a weekly basis.

Provide information/activities for parents to help their child/ren learn at home.

Provide homework appropriate for each grade level.

Provide a monthly newsletter for classroom and school wide news and events.

Provide information and educational links on the grade level Webpages at [spps.org/heights](https://www.spps.org/heights).

Provide information regarding student progress and academic achievement at regular intervals including conferences.

#### At Home

The Heights Community School parents joined staff to develop ideas about how families can support students' success in reading and math. Families may have other ideas to add to this list. To help support students' success in reading, writing and math, families can do the following fun activities at home:

- Read with my child every night.
- Encourage my child to complete assigned homework.
- Check the Thursday Folder and return it.
- Help my child practice their self-help skills.
- Attend Family Nights.
- Look for and read the classroom and family newsletters.
- Check out the school and classroom webpages.
- Attend Parent Academy.
- Attend conferences in November and March.

### The Heights Community Students

The Heights Community School students joined staff and parents to develop ideas about how they can succeed in school and reach for the stars in math and reading. Students thought of the following ideas to make connections between learning at home and school:

- Read every day.
- Bring home the Thursday Folder and return it every week.
- Complete assigned homework.
- Practice self-help skills.



**SEPTEMBER**

- 4 No School, Labor Day
- 5 First Day of School
- 5-6 No School, Family Welcome Meetings
- 7 First Day of School
- 25 No School, Professional Development Yom Kippur

**GRADES**

- PreK-12
- 1-12
- Pre-K & K
- Pre-K & K
- PreK-12

**OCTOBER**

- 19-20 No School, State Teacher Meeting (MEA) PreK-12
- 27 No School, Conference Preparation PreK-5  
(PreK-8 schools: students in grades 6-8 WILL be in school)

**NOVEMBER**

- 9 End of Quarter 1
- 10 No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences PreK-5  
(PreK-8 schools: students in grades 6-8 WILL be in school)
- 23-24 No School, Thanksgiving Break PreK-12

**DECEMBER**

- 25-29 No School, Winter Break PreK-12

**JANUARY**

- 1-5 No School, Winter Break PreK-12
- 15 No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day PreK-12
- 25 End of Quarter 2
- 26 No School, Elementary Professional Development / Secondary Grading Day PreK-12

**FEBRUARY**

- 19 No School, Presidents Day PreK-12

**MARCH**

- 8 No School, Conference Preparations PreK-5  
(PreK-8 schools: students in grades 6-8 WILL be in school)
- 28 End of Quarter 3
- 29 No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences PreK-12  
Secondary Professional Development

**APRIL**

- 8-12 No School, Spring Break PreK-12
- 10 No School, Eid al-Fitr PreK-12

**MAY**

- 27 No School, Memorial Day PreK-12

**JUNE**

- 10 Last Day of School PreK-12  
End of Quarter 4
- 19 District Holiday, Juneteenth



Saint Paul  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 2023-24 School Year Calendar

- Important Dates
- No School PreK-5  
(PreK-8 schools follow the PreK-5 calendar)
- No School for Pre-K and Kindergarten  
(ECSE follows the Pre-K calendar)
- No School All Grades (PreK-12)
- # End of Quarter

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

May 2024							June 2024							July 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													



**[Link to The Heights Family Calendar](https://www.spps.org/domain/8450)**

**<https://www.spps.org/domain/8450>**

**Link to 2023-24 District Calendars:**

English Hmong Karen Somali Spanish

**<https://www.spps.org/Page/262>**