

SIX TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE | SEPTEMBER 2016



Join us in our social circles!



**Minnesota's First K-12
IB World Schools District**

**South St. Paul
Public Schools**





Pictured left to right:
Kelton Holsen and Logan Smith

OUR GRADUATES CAN EARN THREE DIPLOMAS

SSPPS is proud to announce that two South St. Paul seniors have successfully graduated with three diplomas this year!

Kelton Holsen and Logan Smith from the Class of 2016 earned a high school diploma, an IB diploma and a two-year Associate in Arts degree without stepping foot into college. By completing all IB diploma requirements and taking additional classes, an IB diploma candidate has the opportunity to earn an associate degree through Inver Hills Community College.

The partnership between SSPPS and Inver Hills Community College started in 2012. Since then, three South St. Paul seniors successfully graduated with three diplomas.

Enrollment in Advanced Courses	2014	2015	2016
IB Diploma Program Candidates	19	23	17
IB Diploma Program Recipients	10	18	12
A.A. Degree Candidates	7	10	4
A.A. Degree Recipients	0	1	2



Associate of Arts Degree Recipients

Kelton Holsen
Logan Smith

...

International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipients

Caitlyn Binman
Abigail Friedges
Hannah Gustafson
Kelton Holsen
Sydney King
Marie Kustritz
Nicolas LaBrosse
Eleanor Lieder
Thomas Mellen
Carissa Morrison
Oskar Nordie
Logan Smith

Preparing Our Student for Their Next Steps

South St. Paul Public Schools ignites a passion in every learner to inquire, continuously improve and engage in positively changing our world. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program at South St. Paul High School builds on the strengths of the traditional American public school system while recognizing the need for global awareness and commitment as students prepare for citizenship in the 21st century.



On August 2, The River Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce partnered to host an educators' tour of local businesses.

The goals of the tour were to:

- Show impact and outcome of education on businesses
- Allow educators to interact and understand the needs of businesses, intersection of career pathways and jobs of the future, and the skills needed to perform the jobs.

Business hosts included:

- CHS, Inc.
- Waterous Company
- Thomson Reuters
- Fairview Ridges Hospital and Specialty Care Center

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS



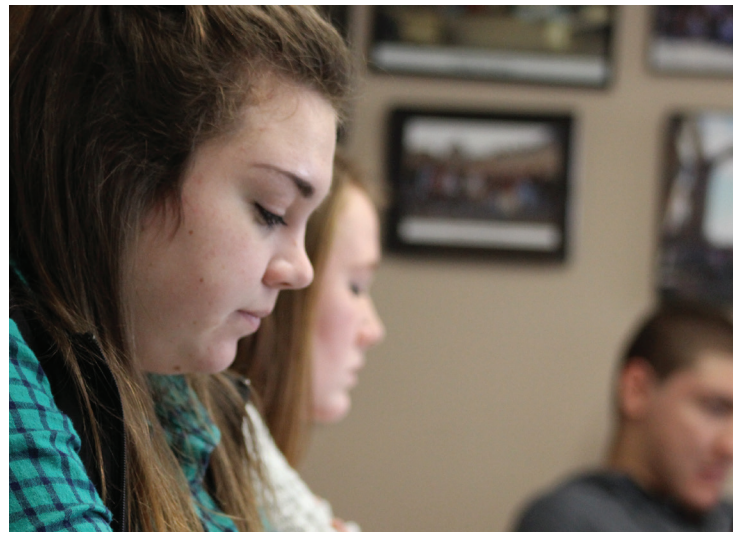
Our district is excited to be expanding career and college readiness (CCR) opportunities for South St. Paul students.

Career Readiness



Partnering with the ISD 197 (*West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan*) and the Inver Grove Heights school district, the TriDistrict collaborative is sharing resources to hire a career coordinator who will oversee the day-to-day operations to expand CCR opportunities for all students.

The career coordinator will develop career pathways to help students explore careers and learn about the many ways to earn college credits, degrees, or job-ready certifications while in high school.



College Readiness

In addition to career readiness, the SSP School District remains focused on its current college readiness options for students which is still among the strongest pathways in the state:

THREE DIPLOMAS The SSP School District is still the **only place in Minnesota where a student can earn three diplomas during high school:** a traditional high school diploma, an International Baccalaureate diploma and a two-year Associate of Arts Degree, all which can be achieved without stepping foot onto a college campus or paying for college credits.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY With the new Design Center at the Secondary building, we are expanding our Pre-Engineering curriculum (Project Lead the Way) to grades 6-10. The program creates integrated learning experiences, blending computer science, engineering, and more. Students engage in critical and creative thinking, building teamwork skills, and learning to try and try again when faced with challenges.

AVID The District is expanding the AVID program to include all students in grades 3-6. AVID stands for *Advancement Via Individual Determination*. Students learn skills and behaviors for academic success, receive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, experience a positive peer group for students, and develop a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination.

1:1 MOBILE DEVICE SSPPS is proud to offer 1:1 mobile devices for students in grades 6-12 and one device for every two elementary school students to use in their classrooms. The SSP community supported devices and technology several years by voting to approve a \$500,000 technology levy in 2010. The District's technology initiative increases the effectiveness of personalized learning allowing students to learn at a pace that is comfortable and effective for them.

ALL DAY PRESCHOOL SSPPS is also proud to offer morning and afternoon Community Preschool classes for three and four-year-olds at both Kaposia Education Center and Lincoln Center Elementary.

Putting Kids First

We are committed to making decisions that put our students first.

This is most challenging with our budget because:

- State funding is not keeping pace with increasing educational costs, nor with inflation
- Our state property tax system penalizes South St. Paul for having low levels of commercial property – *meaning our homeowners pay more than our neighbors to support schools*
- We have one of the lowest levels of local property tax support for our schools in the area
- We have one of the highest levels of family poverty in Dakota County

We continue to develop partnerships to help stretch our dollars and welcome your ideas for how to do more with less.

Thank you for your support for our students and our schools!



FREE PRESCHOOL AT SOUTH ST PAUL



Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program

Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Department of Education announced on August 5, 2016 that Kaposia Education Center has been awarded FREE Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten for 102 children!

“Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten” is a program with the purpose of preparing more Minnesota children for success as they enter kindergarten the following year.

Reduced Tuition and Increased Scholarship for SSP Preschool Families

As a result of our school district receiving this additional funding for early learning, South St. Paul Preschool families attending Lincoln Center will see reduced tuition prices and increased scholarships for all preschool classes! We are also able to offer more options and more learning time for ALL preschool-aged children across South St. Paul.

CALL (651) 457-9418 TODAY!

FOUR-YEAR-OLDS
AT KAPOSIA CAN
NOW ATTEND
PRESCHOOL FOR FREE!



Bus Buddy Program



With a “Bus Buddy,” four-year-olds could be eligible to take the bus to preschool in the morning. A Bus Buddy is a big brother, sister or friend who gets to bus at the same bus stops as your four-year-old preschool student.

Kids’ Choice School-Age Care also provides four-year-olds child care options before and after preschool day.

Students stay and have lunch at school and then hang out with other children the same age before taking the bus home at the end of the elementary school day.

Call (651) 306-3631 for details.

BACK TO SCHOOL INFO

To set yourself up for a successful school year, the District has come up with a checklist for you to get prepared before school starts:

- ✓ School Supplies
- ✓ School Calendars
- ✓ Student Immunization
- ✓ Student Nutrition Forms
- ✓ Transportation Arrangements
- ✓ Parent/Student Handbooks
- ✓ ParentVUE Login Info
- ✓ Athletics & Activities Enrollment
- ✓ District & Building Newsletters
- ✓ Early Childhood Screening

Sign Up for ParentVUE

Parents can access information about their children, monitor and support their academic success, and enhance school-to-home communication.

If your student is new to the district, parents will need to stop by the school's office with a picture ID to obtain their activation key code.

Transportation Reminders

Students should be at their stops five minutes prior to the pick-up time listed on the bus pass. All students should be at their stop ready to load the bus at the designated stop time.

Review Bus Safety Expectations

Our administration works closely with Safeway Bus Company to collaborate on student discipline on the busses. Parent support is needed to help us work toward the same goal of having a safe ride home on our school busses.

When your student's bus postcard arrives in the mail, please review the bus rules and expectations listed on the back of the bus pass with your child.

A Brand New Look to the Website

The new SSPPS website brings students, parents and community members news and information in a more concise, consistent fashion.

Responsive design

The layout changes based on the size and capabilities of the device.



MAIN MENU BAR

This menu bar is visible across all sites/pages and provides users with consistent navigation

ROTATING PHOTO GALLERY

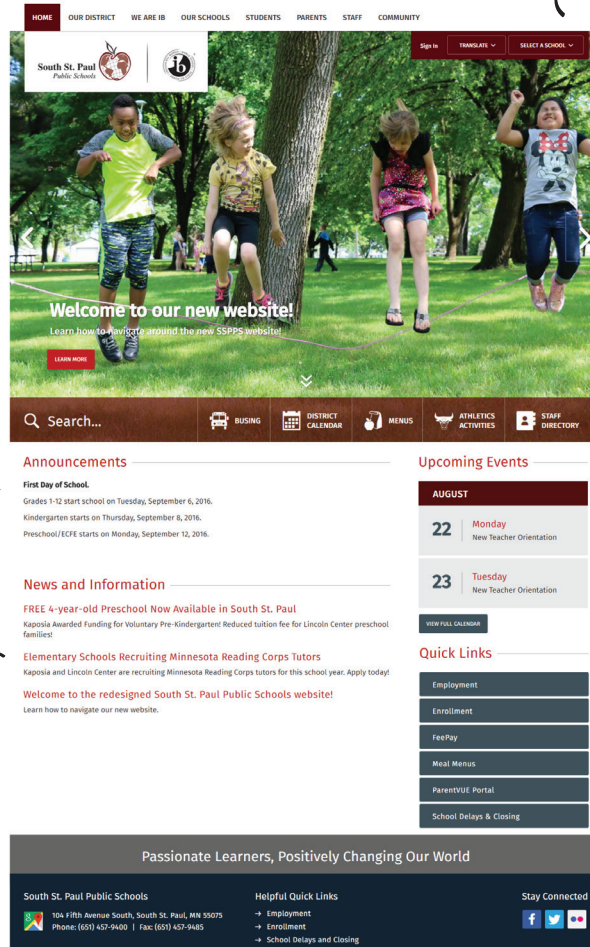
A place where we showcase District photos and sometimes links to announcements/news

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short and quick announcements can be found here

NEWS & INFORMATION

Find District news and articles in this section; click on the red title to read full articles.



SELECT A SCHOOL

Click *Select A School* to navigate to your school's website

GLOBAL ICONS

Icons are consistent throughout all pages/sites, allowing for quick linking

UPCOMING EVENTS

Find upcoming events or click *View Full Calendar* for detailed calendar

QUICK LINKS

Shortcuts to pages important to students/parents/staff

New this year!

FOOD + YOU

free food for our families

SSPPS is partnering with Second Harvest to provide a 13-pound box of free food each month to interested families at Lincoln Center Elementary and Kaposia Education Center. These Food+You boxes contain healthy dry foods such as vegetables, soup, juice, pasta, cereal and more.

These opportunities are one way SSPPS helps families stretch their food dollars and ensure their children are well-fed and ready to learn.

Watch out for more information from your school buildings.



CHILDREN'S DENTAL SERVICES

affordable dental care for our families

SSPPS is partnering with Children's Dental Services (CDS) to provide on-site dental care to our students at Lincoln Center Elementary and Kaposia Education Center. CDS provides screening, on-site dental care and oral health education to our students.

CDS is a non-profit, public health dental clinic that provides dental care to low income children and pregnant women.

More information will be shared, so watch for announcements from your school buildings.

Visit www.childrensdentalservices.org for more information about the organization.



IMPORTANT DATES

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30 Back-to-School for Parents/Guardians Gr. 6-8 5:30-8:00 PM	31 Back-to-School for Parents/Guardians Gr. 9-12 5:30-8:00 PM CLC Open House 6:00-8:00 PM	1 Gr. 6 WEB Orientation Program 8:00-11:45 AM Gr. 1-5 Family Connection Day 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	2 Secondary Building Student Open House 8:00-11:30 AM	3
4	5	6 First Day of School Grade 1-12 Kindergarten Parent Meeting 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	7 Kindergarten Parent Meeting 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM ECFE Open House 5:30-7:00 PM	8 First Day of School Kindergarten	9	10 Walk or Ride for Peaceful Schools 1:45 PM
11 First Day of School ECFE/Preschool	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 5:00 PM Homecoming Football Game 7:00 PM	Oct 1

Jefferson Elementary School Bricks Available Soon

The South St. Paul Board of Education approved the bid from Carl Bolander & Sons for the demolition of Jefferson Elementary School. The demolition project is completing and bricks from the Jefferson Elementary School building will be made available to the public beginning on **Thursday, September 15, 2016.**

Bricks will be available on a first come first serve basis to the public. Interested community members can obtain a brick by visiting the South St. Paul Public Schools District Office located at 104 Fifth Avenue South.

For more information, please contact the District Office at (651) 457-9465.

South St. Paul Public Schools

District Office

104-5th Avenue South
South St. Paul, MN 55075
www.sspps.org | (651) 457-9400
Email: sspdirect@sspps.org

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 134
South St. Paul MN 55075

Postal Box Patron
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Prepared and paid by the South St. Paul Public Schools, 104 Fifth Ave S, South St. Paul, MN 55075

GET INVOLVED

Become a DARTS Learning Buddy

Volunteers are needed in our elementary schools to help students enhance their reading, math, and science skills. By spending 1-2 hours per week, you can make a difference in a child's life while becoming an intergenerational friend!

For 20 years, the DARTS Learning Buddies Program has provided flexibility with volunteer schedules, an orientation, ongoing training and support, and transportation to and from the schools, if needed, at no cost to volunteer. All you need is an interest and passion in helping kids and DARTS can help with the rest!

To learn more about becoming a Learning Buddy, contact Erin at (651) 234-2227 or visit

www.dartsconnects/learningbuddies.



Become a Minnesota Reading Corps Tutor

Kaposia Education Center and Lincoln Center Elementary are recruiting Minnesota Reading Corps tutors for the 2016-17 school year. Tutors will be serving at Kaposia or Lincoln Center for 11 months.

These tutors play an important role in our students' learning. They work with students who need a boost to catch up at grade level in reading. They tutor each student daily for 15-20 minutes to build phonics, phonemic awareness and fluency skills. MN Reading Corps tutors are AmeriCorps members and do not replace teachers.

If you know someone who might be interested - a graduating college student, a friend in career transition, a grandparent or stay-at-home parent - please direct them to www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org to learn more and apply.

