Dear Como Senior High families:

We are excited to welcome students back to school beginning Wednesday, April 14. Monday and Tuesday, April 12-13, will be planning days for staff; there will be no school those days. Between now and then, we will continue to offer the on-site support that started on February 22, with the goal of bringing in as many students as possible before spring break.

**Back to School Timeline**

- **April 2:** No school (teacher professional development)
- **April 5-9:** Spring break
- **April 12-13:** No school for 6-12th grade students (teacher planning days)
- **April 14:** First day of in-person learning for 6-12th grade students

**Daily Schedule**

Starting April 14, students learning in-person will be at school for 4.5 hours Monday-Thursday, with 2 hours of schoolwork to be completed at home. Fridays will be distance learning days for all students, which may include office hours and check-ins with teachers in addition to independent work time.

SPPS is following all of the requirements and recommendations laid out in the Minnesota [Safe Learning Plan](https://spps.org/reopen). The latest information is posted at spps.org/reopen on a regular basis; please check back often and look for additional updates as we get closer to the start date.

**Changes to Building Access**

Students must be dropped off outside our school building entrance. **Students cannot be escorted by family members to their classrooms or anywhere else inside the building.** In addition, families will not be allowed to have lunch, observe a class, volunteer, or engage in any other activities in the school building.
Transportation

Please look for a postcard in the mail with bus route information the week of March 29. Buses will resume their regular stops. Students will have assigned seats on buses to ensure spacing and assist with contact tracing. Face coverings are required for all K-12 students and bus drivers.

In partnership,

*Kirk Morris, Principal*

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**PICTURE DAY FOR SENIORS!!!**

All Seniors will have the opportunity to have their picture taken on Wednesday April 21st from 10:30am-3:00pm. We will use these photos for the yearbook, but you may also purchase these photos for your own Senior picture.

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The 2020-2021 Como Park Senior High Yearbooks are on sale NOW. The yearbooks are $50.00. You can buy one online at [https://yearbookforever.com/](https://yearbookforever.com/). This year's book will feature pictures and projects from our year of distance learning. We will have a special focus on seniors. If you have any questions, email Suzie Myhre, the yearbook advisor at suzie.myhre@stpaul.k12.mn.us
TutorMe: Resource for Students in Grades 6-12

TutorMe allows students to connect with an expert tutor at any time to get support in current classes. Student iPad wallpaper has been updated to help inform of this opportunity. TutorMe is an external company and an additional resource alongside school supports, the SPPS Academic Support Center and other student support structures.

See here for additional information.

Seal of Biliteracy Assessment

The Seal of Biliteracy assessments are planned for this spring. Only seniors are invited to take an assessment. Assessments will be administered on Fridays at 360 Colborne between March 26 - April 30.

Click on this poster for registration links and more information

Ms. CJ is anxious to welcome you all back to school and to introduce you to over 2000 new library books! She's been busy during DL getting Donors Choose campaigns funded for graphic novels, current inclusive books in every genre, and even a new fireplace! There will be some changes in how the library functions to keep everyone safe and new protocols will be in place, but students who opt for in-person learning can come to the library when you return to school, and students who remain in distance learning can always check out a book online and Ms. CJ will provide curbside pick-up.
Several MCJROTC Cadets led by Cadet First Lieutenant Stiven Ramos Martinez (12) gave up their time after school Thursday evening to the Kids In Need Foundation (KINF) to pack backpacks full of school supplies for our own students and school districts across the metro. Pictured left to right is Christopher Crushshon (12), Alex Le (10), Jesiah Mason (10), Bay B. Thoo (12), Elta Paw (12), Eh Say Htoo (12), Stiven Ramos Martinez (12), Isaiah Cooper (11), Deek Aden (12), Francisco Dominguez Jaramillo (12), Bilal Ahmed (11), and Julia Barsness (10). Semper fi - Always faithful to community too.

CONGRATULATIONS MORGAN NICHOLS

Every year, one female athlete is selected as our Athena Award winner. There were many deserving candidates that were nominated by our coaches. And this year's winner is....Morgan Nichols. She has participated in numerous sports including girls' tennis, volleyball, softball, basketball, and nordic skiing. Please congratulate Morgan on this wonderful award!
The girls basketball clinched their 7th consecutive conference title with 72 straight wins. Coach Londa England, her coaching staff, and our AMAZING student athletes have just proved once again that hard work pays off. This is truly a no excuses and failure is not an option team. Congratulations to all of them. Now on to sections and the run for state champions.

Congratulations to Ronnie Porter for being named on the Minnesota State High School League’s All State First Team.

Also Assistant Varsity Coach Ronnie Smith was named Sections Assistant Coach of the Year.

So proud of our girl’s basketball program!
delight

[ dih-lahyt ]

noun
a high degree of pleasure or enjoyment; joy; rapture.
something that gives great pleasure. (Dictionary.com)

Here are some things that are currently delighting English 12 period 1 students

play some Rainbow Six Siege with the boys
finding a job
My sister Siham, she is pregnant and almost due
the snow is melting
when I am playing soccer
tattoos and hairstyling
my son
watching funny movies
Howl’s Moving Castle
baking cakes, cookies, and brownies for my family
mini party
seeing my college student sister with 3 jobs
paycheck
Valentine’s Day with my girlfriend
skiing
dog
leaving work early
family
coming home from a long day
baby sister’s coos and smiles
waking up in the morning when the sun starts to shine
piano melodies
cousins
lucky charm baby sister
Kathy Romero has been selected as a SEMIFINALIST for the 2021 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award! She is ONE of 25 selected (3 semi finalists are from SPPS) This is so awesome and amazing!

On to the State Meet on Saturday March 20th at the U of M Aquatic Center! Congrats to all the Cougars. Many varsity swimmers recorded personal bests at the Section 4A Meet as the team placed 3rd overall out of the 10 teams in the section.
Congratulations to the MCJROTC Cadet Junior Leadership Academic Bowl Team (JLAB) for advancing to the next round. Cadets Nayblut Kasuh (11), Alex Le (10), Sophia Moore (10) and Jesiah Mason (10) have earned an all-expense paid trip to the Nation's Capital to compete in nationals against the best MCJROTC's JLABERS across the nation. The cadet's determination and tedious study sessions have paid off. Semper fi - we are alive.

Youth Outdoors crew members (ages 15-18) add value to their communities, the environment and themselves through their dedicated service. Crew members participate in a rigorous program of work, education and training and complete environmental restoration projects within the Twin Cities area. Projects may include brush hauling, rain garden installation, seed collection, wildlife habitat construction and leading volunteers. Crew members will also plan, create and carry out a youth-led service project that includes and educates local community members on an environmental topic of the crew’s choice. All work projects are completed outside, even during hot or cold weather and in rain (except in unsafe conditions such as lightning). Crew members will complete Covid-19 health screening checks before each shift, and work will be structured to include CDC and state Covid-19 guidelines.

Program dates, schedule and compensation (subject to change due to Covid-19):

- Program dates: April 8 – May 27, 2021
- Schedule: 9 hours/week
  - Thursdays 3:45pm - 5:45pm
  - Saturdays 8:00am - 3:30pm
● Compensation: $10.00/hour

Crew Meeting Locations:
● Saint Paul: Lilydale Park, Como Lake, Lake Phalen, Bruce Vento, Crosby, Hidden Falls
● Ramsey County: TBD
● Minneapolis: Theodore Wirth, Minnehaha Falls, Chain of Lakes, North Mississippi Regional Park
● Dakota County: TBD

Qualifications:
● Desire and ability to work hard outdoors.
● Desire to work with peers in conservation, education and recreation settings.
● Ability to practice strong work habits, environmental ethics and team unity.
● Positive attitude, interest in service and community work and desire to make a difference.
● Previous experience is not required; 15-20% of the program is dedicated to technical and personal-skill training.

Requirements:
● Must be 15-18 years old on program start date. Due to child labor laws, no exceptions can be made.

**Minnesota Business Venture (MBV)** is the perfect virtual opportunity for students to learn about the jobs of the future, career skills they will need, develop technology skills, and connect with new people. MBV is open to any student in grades 9-12 in the United States.

**2021 MBV Dates:**
Session 1: July 12-15, 2021
Session 2: July 26-29, 2021

Combining personal finance with college preparation skills, **College Dollars & Sense** is designed to offer students a chance to see themselves in college and understand how their personal finances will affect their lives after high school and in the workforce. In this one-week summer program, students are introduced to personal finance concepts, learn strategies for affording and saving for college, experience life on a major university campus, and interact with students, professors, and business leaders while developing the skills they need to succeed after high school.

**Applications are due April 23, 2021**
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepl4qWQhRLpzEeuak2ex336ye-DVO3-HlOI9ttjCX4abw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepl4qWQhRLpzEeuak2ex336ye-DVO3-HlOI9ttjCX4abw/viewform)

**St. Paul College Virtual Career Info Sessions** (several different career areas offered)
[https://www.saintpaul.edu/admissions/virtual-info-sessions](https://www.saintpaul.edu/admissions/virtual-info-sessions)
MCA Testing 2021

The testing window for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) is March 8-May 14. The purpose for the MCAs is to measure achievement towards meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards, measure academic progress of students over time, and to provide Minnesota graduates information related to career and college readiness.

All 10th grade students take the MCA Reading Test, all 11th grade students take the MCA Math test, and any student currently enrolled in a Biology course takes the MCA Science Test.

Parents/Guardians may refuse to have their student take the MCA tests. To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must do one of two options:

- Print and complete attached form and return it to Como Park Senior High School, 740 Rose Ave. W. St. Paul, MN 55117- attention Jamie Hoffman
- Scan document/Email Jamie Hoffman at jamie.hoffman@spps.org and list: student first and last name, student number, test subject, and reason for refusal.

Deadline to submit a refusal will be Thursday April 1st.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), 'refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state’s efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, your student will not be considered “proficient”.

Please note that if your student refuses to test, they will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.

Driver’s Education

It’s Back! Drivers Ed for Spring and Summer - Act NOW. The Fall session sold out in hours. Registration opens today.

Driver Education website: www.spps.org/drivered

Registration website: Home - ISD 625-Saint Paul Public Schools (eleyo.com)
IMPORTANT UPDATES

Seniors! Graduation Announcement! As of this moment, Commencement (aka Graduation) is scheduled to be in person on Tuesday, June 8. More information is coming very soon! Seniors interested in speaking at graduation or doing roll call, please provide your name and role to Mrs. Vang (choua2.vang@spps.org). She will follow up with you about the next steps. You have until Wednesday, March 31st to notify Mrs. Vang. Teacher nomination will take place the week of Monday, March 22nd - April 2nd.

Earn Free College Credits with PSEO (9th-11th graders) Post Secondary Enrollment Option, or PSEO, allows 10th-12th grade high school students to take classes at local colleges and receive both college and high school credit. 9th-11th grade students must notify their school counselor by May 30 if they want to participate in PSEO for the 2021-2022 school year. CLICK HERE to check out the Como PSEO Presentation and Recording on the CCC Website and talk with your student about applying to PSEO.

In-Person vs. Virtual Learning in Quarter 4 Students will not need to sign-up for in-person learning starting April 14. You are all expected to attend unless you signed up for virtual school! Contact your counselor TODAY if you would like to be signed up for virtual school.

Como CCC Website: Scholarship Page Seniors, there's still time to apply for scholarships. Check out the Scholarship Page on the CCC website for scholarship resources. Seniors, there’s still time to apply for scholarships. Contact Ms. Bridgette at bkelly.cap@spps.org for scholarship application assistance.

Featured Scholarship: Wallin 2-year Scholarship - $6,000 - Deadline: May 15 This program supports students headed to community college in the Twin Cities and provides two pathways based on where you choose to attend school. Apply today!

Click HERE for more information on College Resources + Events, Student Career Resources, Family Resources, and Paying for College

CONTACT US
Counseling Department Website
Career & College Center Website
Click [here](#) for registration details and more information.

If you know of a college student who would be interested in participating, click [here](#).