

Harding High School Parent Newsletter

Volume 2

Nov - Jan 2015-2016

The Principal's PAGE



Greetings from Harding High School

As we have begun our journey with Personalized Learning here at Harding, we have experienced some amazing learning opportunities and increased engagement in the learning process by many of our students. These experiences have been enhanced with the introduction of 1:1 technology access using iPads. In addition to enhancing content learning, the students are learning the 21st century technology skills that will be necessary as they go forward in their lives.

Though there are great learning benefits from access to the iPads, students need instruction and practice in using them appropriately. These iPads are owned by SPPS. They have been paid for with taxpayer funds and have specific rules and expectations for use. Please provide support to your student by monitoring their iPad use outside of school hours.

SPPS iPad Expectations:

- The only apps allowed on the iPad may be downloaded from the Self Service button on the iPad homescreen.
- Non-educational games and social media apps are not to be on SPPS iPads, and should be deleted.

Tips for monitoring iPad usage at home:

- iPads should be used for school work and learning.
- Screen-time on devices should be limited to encourage other healthy activities.
- Parents have every right to make and enforce rules about iPad use in the home.

Please visit the following website for more information and tip sheets for parents in managing technology with your children and adolescents.

http://personalizedlearning.spps.org/ipads_at_home

Thank you,
Douglas Revsbeck
Principal



International Baccalaureate News...

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM EXAM PROCTORING IN MAY

Harding needs volunteers to help make the May DP Exam season happen. Students will be taking two exams each day between May 2 – 19. Volunteers help distribute exams, proctor students taking exams and set up the exam hall. You could help for one day, part of a day or for multiple days—whatever works for your schedule. We really could use your help. Please consider volunteering.

*For either volunteering opportunity, please contact IB DP Coordinator, Erik Brandt:
Erik.Brandt@spps.org 651-744-3095*

HELPFUL TO KNOW...

- IB has a website that features statistics, information and much, much more—including old exam papers that students can download for practice for free! The website is: **www.ibo.org**

- Want to know a college's policies regarding IB DP exam scores?
 - just Google search a school for their IB DP Credit Policy.
 - o Example: search for "University of Wisconsin Madison – IB Credit Policy."
 - o Then use that information to help your student set performance goals for his/her upcoming IB DP exams!



The IB Middle Years Program (MYP)

Parents, we need YOU to help us become an authorized IB MYP school!

We submitted our application for MYP authorization in October. We are hard at work to prepare for our visit from IB, which will take place April 28 and 29. This visit will determine if we can officially be an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program school.

A component of this visit from the IB is meeting with parents. This is where you can help! If you would like to be on a panel with other parents to speak about Harding with the IB team, we would greatly appreciate your participation. They will also be visiting classrooms, taking a school tour and will be meeting with teachers, students and non-teaching staff. If you would like to participate please contact the MYP coordinator at the information below. We would love to have you represent our building!

As a reminder, the Middle Years Program is designed for students aged 11 to 16, which will include 9th and 10th grade students at Harding. It provides a framework of learning, which encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. Every student who is enrolled in these traditional courses and is a 9th or 10th grader is a part of the MYP.

Please contact Shandyn Benson, the MYP Coordinator, to become part of the IB parent panel.
Shandyn.Benson@spps.org 651-744-3263



HARDING HIGH SCHOOL

National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) February 8th, 2016

All Parents are Welcome!

Mr. Joseph Dulin started National African American Parent Involvement Day as a national call to action to get more African American Parents engaged in their children's education. This year will be the 21st Annual observance of this great day (always held the second Monday in February).

This is a day long event held at Harding High School for students and parents.

Morning:
Presentations by community members.

Lunch:
A nice catered lunch served in the ...

Afternoon:
Back to the auditorium for the second part of our day with presentations, poetry, history facts, skits, and dance routines.

iPad UPDATE:

As of February 5: Secondary student iPads with other than SPPS-approved apps will have limited function. Students MUST delete all unauthorized games and social network apps BEFORE Feb. 5 to keep their iPad in working condition.

If students download apps that are not from the SPPS Self Service, all non-Apple apps will disappear.

In order to restore full access, the student must delete the non-approved apps through Settings.

It will take *at least* 24 hours after deleting apps for full function to be restored.

Please encourage students to delete unauthorized apps prior to Feb. 1 to avoid problems using their iPads. The implementation of this program will result in fewer distractions from its use as a learning device.

Harding Counselors: How Can We Help You?

Please join us on Tuesday, February 16, at 6 PM for Harding Senior High School's annual Financial Aid/FAFSA Night.

The goal for the night will be to give a brief explanation of the financial aid process and ultimately for you and your student to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA

must be completed to receive financial aid and by completing the FAFSA your student will be on their way to making final decisions on where they will go to college.

In order to complete the FAFSA on February 16, you will need to bring the documents that are listed on the back of this letter. Also enclosed is a worksheet that can be completed before the FAFSA Night. It contains many of the questions that you may be asked when filling out the FAFSA.



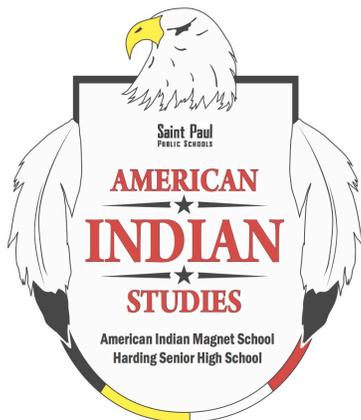
This year we will have a separate room for Spanish speaking families. In this room Spanish interpreters will be available to help fill out the FAFSA or MN Dream Act Application. The MN Dream Act will provide certain benefits to undocumented students such as in-state tuition rates and privately funded financial aid through public colleges and universities.

Guidance Department staff and other volunteers, including interpreters in Spanish, Hmong, Karen and Somali will be on hand to help in the process.

American Indian Studies

Boozhoo! Now that snow has blanketed our homes, it's our traditional storytelling time of year. The annual **AIS Winter Storytelling Event** will take place on March 11th, in Harding's auditorium. All American Indian Studies (AIS) and Indian Education students will be invited to attend. Our guests will be 2 local Native rappers, known as *Tall Paul* and *Native Son*. Their music is a contemporary style of storytelling that we hope all of our students will enjoy.

Please congratulate the following students who applied, and were accepted into the **AIS Distinction Program**. In order to meet the criteria for the Distinction, they will need to maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA in the AIS classes, volunteer at least 20 hours within the Native community, and participate in leadership activities. We are very proud of these students for choosing to be a role model for their peers.



SENIORS:

Pachia Thao
Elizabeth Otto
Brian Arthur
Angelica Zimmerman
Raini Nelson
Miranda LaFavor

JUNIORS:

Bayli Seltzer
Phoua Thao
Skyler Kuczaboski
Isaac Marshall
Cierra Bulau
Angelica Allery
Devlin Moose

SOPHOMORES:

Houa Vue
Sue Chang

AIS participated in **2 field trips** this semester. The American Indian Support class visited Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Minnesota. They went with the American Indian Magnet Middle School AVID classes. This was a great opportunity to explore a Tribal college option. The American Indian Art classes visited the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. They were able to enjoy the Native arts collection, and then do some sketching of their own.

AIS and Indian Ed After School Groups

Drum Group: Sponsored by Jack Auginash, AIS Cultural Specialist, with Travis Decory leading. Both guys and girls are welcome to learn Lakota songs. Meets Tuesdays, 2:15-3:15 pm, in 1425.

After School Study Group: Led by Renae Davis, Indian Education Social Worker. Students work on their school assignments. Tutors are available, and snacks are provided. Meets Wednesdays, 2:15-3:15 pm, in room 1425.

AIS Club: Led by Stephanie Schroeder, American Indian Art teacher. For students who are interested in continuing their studies in traditional Native arts (i.e. beading, leatherwork). Meets Thursdays, 2:15-3:30 pm, in room 1425.



Harding's AVID Program

AVID juniors and seniors have been given an exciting opportunity to participate in a winter overnight at Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement in Maple Plain, MN. This opportunity is being made possible in cooperation with Wilderness Inquiry, US National Park Service, and AVID. Students will have a chance to snowshoe, participate in team building activities, learn how to build and igloo and attend a personal empowerment training session. Students who attend this overnight have the opportunity to apply for a week long trip to Glacier National Park this summer.

Athletic Department News

Reminder - if you are looking for schedules, athletic news, standings, forms to sign up for a sport at Harding, etc. - there are two web sites that have everything you ever wanted to know about Harding and St Paul City Conference athletics. The Harding athletic web site is "hardingathletics.org" and the district web site is "sports.spps.org"

Our winter sports season is going full blast! We have boy's swimming, wrestling, boy's and girl's basketball teams - all are doing well - the kids are working hard - playing hard - and performing well. Soon we will be in end of season tournaments - and hopefully our teams will do well. Come and support our teams and be a "fan in the stands".

Time is flying and shortly we will be signing up our athletes for spring sports - they will get started in March - badminton, boy's and girl's track, baseball, softball, boy's and girl's golf, and adaptive bowling. Have your son or daughter listen for announcements about starting dates and times.

Any athletic questions or concerns - call the athletic office 651 744 3236.



Library Corner

Are your students looking for online resources such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, test prep and research websites? Check out <http://libguides.spps.org/online> for a list of free resources!

Read Brave in St. Paul

“When we read together— when a teacher reads to a classroom, when a parent reads to a child, when a sister reads to a brother, when everyone in a town reads the same book silently, together—we are taken out of our aloneness. Together, we see the world. Together, we see one another. We connect. And when we connect, we are changed.” — Kate DiCamillo

Read Brave is a program sponsored through Saint Paul Public Libraries that encourages teens through adults to read and talk about the same book. Pick up a free copy of *Stick* by Andrew Smith in the Harding Library. There will also be a chance to hear and meet the author at the Sun Ray Library on Feb. 24th, 6pm.



Harding Knight Navy

. The “Knight Navy” - Harding’s Naval Junior ROTC unit is now in its 21st year of existence, and started the school year with a Battalion enrollment of 181 cadets. This year’s Battalion Staff is Padee Yang - Battalion Commander, Cher Vang – Executive Officer, Nou Ting Lor – Adjutant, Tueking Lo – Operations, Douachee Vue – Chief Staff Officer, Bae Wa – Administration, Shouakao Xiong – Supply, Melody Moua – Public Affairs, Nhia Her – Community Service, and Yeeko Yang – Battalion Master Chief. Congratulations to these dedicated cadet leaders.

NJROTC is an elective credit class that focuses on citizenship development, self-discipline and leadership traits. There are four NJROTC extra-curricular teams that compete in local and inter-state competitions with other JROTC units. These teams are Precision Drill with Douachee Vue and Cher Vang as drill team commanders, Color Guard with Melody Moua as team commander, Academic Team with Tueking Lo as team captain, and the Knight Navy Physical Fitness Team with Nou Ting Lor as team captain.

Last March, at the Area 3 West regional drill competition, involving NJROTC units from 15 schools from across a 9-state region, Harding’s Knight Navy brought home six trophies out of seven events entered. These were first place by the Physical Fitness Team and the Armed Drill Team, third place by the Unarmed Drill Team and Personnel Inspection, fourth place by the Academic Team, and fifth place in Color Guard. This surpassed the Knight Navy’s previous record of four trophies by an amazing 50 percent. The cadets also earned two of the ten available medals in Academics, and 8 of 20 physical fitness medals, remaining true to the Battalion’s motto that “push-ups make you smarter.”

The Knight Navy cadets are determined to continue with their success, and we are well on our way. On October 4, Harding NJROTC hosted the seventh annual “Great Northern All Team Sport (GNATS)” Blowout. JROTC cadets from eight schools competed in single-elimination tournaments in Basketball, Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Flag Football, Soccer, Kickball, and Tug-o-War. Team members of the first place team in each of the sports are awarded medals to wear on their uniforms, and the overall winning JROTC unit wins possession of the GNATS Busted Ball Traveling Trophy until the

next GNATS competition the first Saturday in October the following year. The Knight Navy won the trophy again for the sixth straight year, coming in first in football and volleyball.

Como Park's Marine Corps JROTC unit hosted their "Devil Dog" drill meet on October 31 with seven schools competing. The Knight Navy won the first place physical fitness trophy, came in second place in armed drill, un-armed drill, first-year cadet drill and color guard, and came in third place in personnel inspection. This resulted in the second place overall trophy. Additionally, four of seven knockout medals were earned; Nhia Her, Katrina Pettis, Natasha Evans and Yeeko Yang won first, second, third and seventh place respectively. Xiong Yang won the first place individual male physical fitness medal, and Yeeko Yang and Douachee Vue won the first and second place individual female physical fitness medals.

On November 20th five schools competed at Washington Technology Magnet's Navy JROTC's "Destroyer" drill meet. The Knight Navy once again took the second place overall trophy, finishing first place in physical fitness, color guard and new cadet drill, second place in armed drill, and third place in unarmed drill, personnel inspection and new cadet color guard. Medals were earned by Moua Choua Lor and Cher Vang for coming in first and second in individual armed drill, Amanda Thao and Bao Thao for second and seventh place in knockout, and Tri Tran for fifth place in academic competition.

The final competition of the year will be held March 4th and 5th – the Area Three West Drill Competition in Great Lakes, Illinois. A coach bus will carry 45 dedicated and trained cadets to compete against 15 to 20 other NJROTC units from a nine-state region. Events include armed and un-armed drill, color guard, academic test, personnel inspection, armed and unarmed exhibition drill and physical fitness.

The NJROTC Battalion and instructors (Senior Chief Rick Bailey, Master Chief Bill Makela, and Lieutenant Commander Don Wisneski) would like to thank Harding administration, counseling staff, teaching staff, and custodians for their invaluable support of our program and salute the parents for supporting their cadets before and during these competitions – BRAVO ZULU ("Well Done" in Navy parlance).

IMPORTANT!!!!

Please note the Time Change

On March 3rd Parent Teacher Conference will be from 3:00 pm – 6:00