

Harding High School Parent Newsletter

Volume 1

September/October 2015

The Principal's PAGE



Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year

We hope your son/daughter is now used to our school routine and is comfortable talking with their teachers.

Your involvement in their learning can make such a difference in their success. Here are some good ways to become involved and help them be successful.

1. Attendance is a real key to success in school. When students are tardy, we call parents. The Campus Parent Portal will let you monitor attendance and academic performance.
2. Each student will do better when they know someone cares how they are doing. We are working with families to build caring relationships so all of our students feel connected at Harding.
3. Parent Teacher Conferences are a good opportunity to talk with teachers and hear students talk about their progress. Our next conferences will be Thursday, December 17.
4. Encourage your student to join one of our 45 clubs and sports. Students who are involved enjoy school more and experience more success.
5. Academic support is available. Contact your student's counselor to learn about tutoring and other kinds of support.
6. Parent Academy is a seven week course in which we work to create a community where parents and teachers collaborate to support students' educational experiences.

Our Harding website is a great resource for you!

- Please visit our website often at <http://harding.spps.org> for important information about our school.

I look forward to a successful year for all students at Harding!

Douglas Revsbeck
Principal



International Baccalaureate Diploma Program News

Harding is celebrating its 22nd year as an IB World School! There is so much to celebrate in our diverse, challenging, nurturing and flexible Diploma Program and our 2015 IB DP graduates are currently in colleges all across the USA. All of our Harding IB DP students graduate prepared for the academic challenges of university.

Looking back at 2014-2015:

- Congratulations to the 17 students who worked so hard toward their IB Diplomas!
- Congratulations to the 292 students who took 1 or more IB DP exam last May!
- Congratulations to the 499 students who took 1 or more IB DP class last year!

Last year was filled with many, many successes. Harding's IB Diploma Program boasted 292 students taking 704 IB DP exams! These numbers continue to qualify Harding for the nationally renowned "Challenge Index" -- which annually identifies America's best high schools. Once published by Newsweek, this list is now maintained by the Washington Post. To find a place on this list, schools must have given at least as many IB DP or AP exams as the school had graduating seniors. Harding has been on this list for the last several years and his recognition raises our profile statewide and nationally.

We are proud to declare that two of our IB Diploma Candidates earned the very challenging IB Diploma last May—the ultimate academic achievement at Harding.

Looking forward to 2015-2016:

- Harding's IB program continues to grow, with more and more students challenging themselves with IB classes. It is our goal that EVERY student who attends Harding takes at least one IB DP class.
- The class of 2015 has 18 students striving to earn the IB Diploma. These students will take at least 3 "Higher Level" and 3 "Standard Level" IB classes and exams, as well as complete an Extended Essay, "Creativity, Action & Service" (CAS) hours and expand their minds with the Theory of Knowledge class. Here is the list...

2016 IB Diploma Candidates

Yasmin Abdillahi
Caitlin Burkes
Kimberly Castell Victorio
Samsam Dirie
Sakina Gorden
Cindy Nguyen
Jose Ortiz
Lucero Ramos

Gratias Sessou
Ruweida Sheikh-Mohamed
Pao Thao
Annie Vang
Ana Varela
Augustine Vega
Zena Vue
Nancy Xiong

Helpful Things 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

- Harding's IB website is: http://harding.spps.org/international_baccalaureate_program.html

- Want to know a college's policies regarding IB exam scores? Visit this part of the IB website:
<http://www.ibo.org/country/US/index.cfm>
- Find the college name in the appropriate drop-down box. Remember that schools accept credit from "diploma" and "courses" students.

Other...IB needs parent volunteers!

We would greatly appreciate your help! Please contact IB DP coordinator, Erik Brandt (see below). Please contact Erik Brandt if you have questions about the IB Diploma Program.

Erik Brandt, IB DP Coordinator
Erik.Brandt@spps.org
651-744-3095



The IB Middle Years Program (MYP)

Harding just submitted their application for authorization! If we are accepted, we will be an officially an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program school. We will use this year to continue strengthen our program and gear up for our IB visit in the spring. Teachers have been working hard to create unit plans and incorporate the philosophy of MYP in their classes.

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.

The MYP encourages students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and to the real world. The traditional subjects include:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Language B (a language other than the mother tongue)
- Humanities (Social Studies)
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Art

Every student who is enrolled in these traditional courses and is a 9th or 10th grader will be a part of the MYP. In the final year of the program, each student completes a personal project. This is a significant piece of work of the student's choice that is the product of the student's own initiative and creativity. All of the 10 grade students will be creating a personal project of their choice beginning this month. The majority of the work will be completed independently but they will receive guidance from their advisory teachers throughout the process.

If you have questions about the MYP or would like more information, you may contact the MYP coordinator, Shandyn Benson.

Shandyn.Benson@spps.org
651-744-3263



Parent Involvement & Parent Academy Info

Parent Involvement Meetings

A great way to get involved in your child's education is to attend Harding's parent meetings. Parent meetings will start with a light dinner in the school cafeteria at 5:30pm followed by group meetings by language: English, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

January 25, 2016

March 14, 2016

May 16, 2016

This fall, Harding will be hosting **Parent Academy** with Battle Creek Middle School and American Indian Magnet School. Parent Academy is a free program offered for parents/guardians of St. Paul Public School students. This program provides tools and information to support families and students. Various topics will be covered during these joint sessions. A light dinner will be served at 5:30 pm in the school cafeteria.

October 19, 2015

November 16, 2015

December 7, 2015

Additional information: harding.spps.org/parent_involvement.html

Contact Information:

Oulia Yang, Administrator (651)744-4919

James Bush (651)744-3218

Ahmed Mohamud (651)744-3273

Maetzin Saenz (651) 744-2457

Sunshine Timothy (651) 744-6282

Pong Vang (651)744-3223

Betty Yang (651) 744-3151

Please join us
Parent Teacher Conferences December 17th 4:00 -7:00pm
FREE Flu shot Clinic also available



Personalized Learning with 1:1 iPad access at Harding High School!

Families, THANK YOU for your diligence in completing the Orientation and User Agreement in a timely fashion. With the high completion rate, the majority of our students have iPads in hand and are ready for the personalized learning happening in our classrooms.

Today, we had an iPad Check-Up in Advisory. There are still some kinks to be worked out to make use of the iPad as streamlined as possible, but most are usable for classwork at this point. A number of students are still without iPads, but will be called to the Library out of elective classes as soon as possible. This past week there were some glitches that made the process slow and unpredictable, but we hope to have the rest of the setups complete as quickly as possible.

A friendly reminder: Taxpayers are paying for a Learning Device, not a game toy. The only apps that should be on the iPad are those that can be downloaded from the SPPS Self Service. All material on the iPads should be related to school. Use other devices for social pictures, games and social networking. THANK YOU!

Harding Counselors: How Can We Help You?

Who is my child's counselor?

Ms. Huss – 651.744.3169; erika.huss@spps.org (Last names: A-G)

Ms. Chavez – 651.744.3113; cynthia.chavez-rios@spps.org (Last names: H-L; no J)

Ms. Kammerer (long term sub for Ms. Malaga) lea.kammerer2@spps.org (Last names: M-Sa)

Ms. Vue – 651.744.3234; mana.vue@spps.org (Last names: Sb-Va)

Ms. Sullivan – 651.744.3109; marianna.sullivan@spps.org (Last names: Vb-Z; and J)

Mr. Shady – 651.744.3599; jamie.shady@spps.org (College & Career Center)



Please encourage your child to come see their counselor if they need help with:

Academics: What is required for graduation? What classes should I be taking to best prepare myself for my postsecondary education? What is PSEO?

Social/Emotional situations: Difficult situations can get in the way of your child's learning. Encourage them to come see us to help them through this difficult time!

College and Career Planning: It's never too early to start planning! There are many opportunities for students from 9th – 12th grade to start exploring careers and colleges.

Things that are coming up:

Parents of 12th grade students: expect to see a letter in the mail in the next week with information regarding your child's graduation status. The letter will indicate if your child is on track to graduate in June, or if they are currently behind in credits. Please contact your child's counselor if you have any questions.

St. Paul Federal CREDIT UNION

St Paul Federal Credit Union - Harding Branch News

Stop in and open account. We are conveniently located next to the cafeteria.



Athletic Department News

Fall sports - winding down - we have had a good fall sport season - the weather has been good, we have had very good participation, and all of our fall sport teams have been very competitive. Girl's tennis coach - Mr Koua Yang has led our girl's tennis team to another conference tennis championship. Our cross country team has grown - we have many new runners participating - the team is building. The girl's swimming team is improving daily - many of the girls have improved their personal best times.

Winter sports teams will be starting soon - boy's and girl's nordic skiing starts November 9th, boy's basketball starts on November 9th, wrestling starts on November 16th, girl's basketball starts on November 16th, boy's swimming starts on November 30. We have room for all of Harding students to participate - we have 9th grade teams, JV teams, and varsity teams - all of our teams are well coached - and will be very competitive.

The 2015 - 20th Annual Hall of Stars dinner will be held on Saturday November 7th at 6:00 p.m. We will be honoring 6 former Harding "Stars" and three of our former volleyball teams. We put their pictures up on the walls - have a nice program - and a good dinner. You can check our Harding Athletic web site and read about this years and all of the other years "stars" that are up on the walls.

You can check the Harding Athletic web site for schedules, standings, team pictures, practice schedules, forms for sign up, etc.

hardingathletics.org



Join us on November 12, 2015, for Give to the Max Day! Make your donation by going to harding.spps.org and clicking on the Donate button in the top right corner. Contact Duane Dutrieuelle (651)744-4920 for more information

American Indian Studies



Boozhoo! The American Indian Studies (AIS) Department has much to celebrate with the beginning of the new school year. First, we are pleased to welcome our **new American Indian Cultural Specialist, Jack Auginash**. He comes to us with much experience working with Native students, having previously worked at Heart of the Earth Charter School, Four Directions Charter School, Center School and Success Academy—all in the Minneapolis school district. Also Jack has worked with the East Central Regional Juvenile Detention Center, a secure and community based corrections facility. Our previous Cultural Specialist, **Barry Frantum, accepted a position teaching Lakota Language** at both Harding and the American Indian Magnet Middle School. So we are proud to have him still with the AIS family, serving in this new capacity.

In August the City of Saint Paul passed in a unanimous 7 to 0 vote to recognize the second Monday in October as **Indigenous People's Day**, in place of Christopher Columbus Day. This resolution was adopted just over a year after the City of Minneapolis also proclaimed the same title. The 11th grade U.S. History classes and AIS collaborated to host an Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration here at Harding. We had an assembly during 3rd period in which Harding students performed exhibition powwow dances, as well as sang Lakota songs on the drum. The singers were led by Barry Frantum, the Lakota language teacher. The U.S History classes gave multimedia presentations about American Indian leaders in the atrium during nearly every class period. Posters by history and AIS students were also displayed in the atrium and halls. This was our first time organizing a celebration for this day, and it's one we plan to continue in years to come.

SPPS Indian Education held their traditional monthly powwow at Harding in October. Over 20 AIS students volunteered—earning some of their service hours that they need as part of Harding's senior portfolio. They assisted in serving food (frybread tacos, soup, etc.), running informational booths about AIS, AVID, and Harding, helping vendors, and in general set-up and clean-up. We received positive feedback about having the powwow here, in that it's very spacious, friendly and welcoming. Normally all the Indian Ed powwows are held at the American Indian Magnet School, but perhaps we'll be able to have at least one powwow at Harding every year.

AIS is currently accepting applications from students who are interested in earning a **Distinction in American Indian Studies**. This is an academic and cultural honor that students earn by meeting several criteria. These include taking at least 4 year-long AIS classes, with 2 years of either Ojibwe or Lakota language, and maintaining a 3.0 G.P.A. Students also need to exhibit leadership