

HARDING NEWS LETTER



Caring for and
challenging the
mind and spirit of
all who enter.

THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As we enter the final quarter of the school year, it's essential that we are doing all that we can to support our students' success. This includes whatever support parents/guardians can provide at home to ensure that students have time and space to work, get needed rest, and arrive to school on time.

It's this time of year, when the return of warm weather can provide an additional distraction to students' learning, that your support of your child's regular, on-time school attendance becomes more important than ever. This is especially true for our seniors, many of whom have post-secondary opportunities and scholarships, which depend on them maintaining good grades. We want our Knights to succeed and certainly don't wish to see any students' futures negatively impacted by their losing focus. Your support in this matter is critical!

Please remind your son/daughter of the importance of working hard and having great attendance. We will continue to do all we can to support their learning here at school, and your encouragement at home is vital to helping them finish strong.

Together, we can make a great difference in supporting a successful end to the school year for your student.



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PARENT INVOLVEMENT



Hello! I am Xong Yang, the new Title I Parent/Community Engagement Coordinator. This is my first time working for Saint Paul Public Schools, and I am excited to join the Harding community! In my position, I focus mainly on meeting compliance requirements for Title I funding and coordinating parent meetings and addressing parent concerns and needs.

A little about myself - I was born and raised in St. Paul and left briefly to attend St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. I have several years of experience working in the nonprofit sector and coordinating youth development programs. In my spare time, I like to read, write short stories, play volleyball and soccer, and travel with family and friends.

Next on the Schedule for Parent Involvement

We will kick off our Harding Community Garden very soon. If you would like more information or want to participate, please attend the interest meeting!

When: Monday, May 2, 2016

Where: Harding Cafeteria

Time: 5:00pm

Harding High School would like to extend a warm invitation for you to attend our last parent meeting of the year.

When: Monday, May 16, 2016

Where: Harding Cafeteria

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Topics: Family Engagement Plan

School Budget

Student Performances



For more information, please contact Xong Yang at 651-744-4238 or xong.yang@spps.org.

We look forward to seeing you!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

When: May 12, 2016

Time: 4:00 - 7:00pm



TECHNOLOGY @ HARDING

End of Year

iPad Collection

As we come to the end of our first full year of 1:1 technology access for learning, we will be collecting iPads for safe summer storage. It is VERY IMPORTANT that students have all items with them on their Collection Day: a fully charged iPad in its case, a cord and charging brick.

Collection Information

12th grade
Wed, May 25

9th - 11th grade:
Friday, June 3

*iPads not returned on time will be reported as stolen property.

Replacement costs for missing items

Cord	\$13
Charging brick	\$13
Case	\$50

*If your student has lost their original accessories, we greatly appreciate your helping us cover the cost of these replacements.

Coming Soon: Schoolology!

Schoolology is a web-based Learning Management System being adopted by SPPS to streamline all aspects of your child's education in one system and perfectly enhances our use of iPads for Personalized Learning. Schoolology puts everything related to assignments, grades, communication, learning resources and much more all in one place! Students have access to their assignments and materials 24/7; Parents have access to how their students are doing 24/7. **PARENTS:** You will receive information about your Parent account in late summer or early fall. You will be able to check up on your student's grades and assignments and communicate with teachers from your computer, tablet or any smart phone. Schoolology will replace the current Parent Portal.

FREE
EVENT
FOR
TEENS

JOIN US
SATURDAY
MAY 7
10-4

2016 TWIN CITIES
teen lit con
#teenlitcon

Meet authors, attend writing workshops
get free books and hear author talks.
Free transportation leaves from Johnson @
9:30 a.m. See Ms. Dadabo to sign up for bus.
Go to <https://teenlitcon.com/> for session info.

ACADEMICS



What is the Middle Years Program?

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.

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.

There are many components to the IB authorization visit. The IB visiting team will be observing classrooms, taking a school tour and will be meeting with teachers, students, parents and staff. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to be part of this important process!

" THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM...ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO BECOME CREATIVE, CRITICAL & REFLECTIVE THINKERS. "

I am most excited about the Personal Project showcase that took place on April 13. The 10th graders worked very hard on their projects. The personal project is a significant body of work that all 10th graders are required to complete. They have had from September until March 30 to complete the project. Students choose their own topic, make a goal and then create a product. The project also includes a journal and a written report. To complete the project they use what they have learned in the Middle Years Program for the last two years.



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



IB Facts & Figures

1057

Number of students taking at least one Accelerated or IB Courses.

14

Number of Diploma Candidates

22

Harding's rank in the Washington Posts most challenging high school in MN

IB DP EXAMS ARE COMING!

The month of May can be a very stressful and challenging month for our IB testing juniors and seniors. Parents and guardians can support their IB students by encouraging their students to try their best on the exams, to make sure their students are getting enough sleep and are eating healthy, balanced meals.

Exams will be held between May 2nd and May 19th. Check the website for individual dates: harding.spps.org/2016_ib_exam_schedule.html

IB Diploma Candidate

Class of 2016

Each year the 12th grade

IB Diploma Candidates submit a 3,000 - 4,000 word research essay. They select their own topics and do their writing and researching independently. As you might surmise, it is a significant task and we are always proud of our DipCans when they complete their EEs! It is always fascinating to see what topics they chose to explore, and this year's Diploma Candidates wrote about the following subjects:

"Ethnomathematics: Females vs Males: The Application of Sex and Culture in STEM participation and Mathematical Excellence."

"To what extent do dreams have a psychological effect on our social life?"



"The Search for Crystal Clear chromatographs"

"Human Labor vs Mechanical Minds"

"Cult of Isis and the Cult of Cybele"

"Characteristics and origins of 17th and 18th Colonial Domestic Architecture."

"The influence of Somali culture and Literature."

"World Literature: Identity, Culture, and Language: How do intergenerational differences influence gender roles within the Hmong society?"

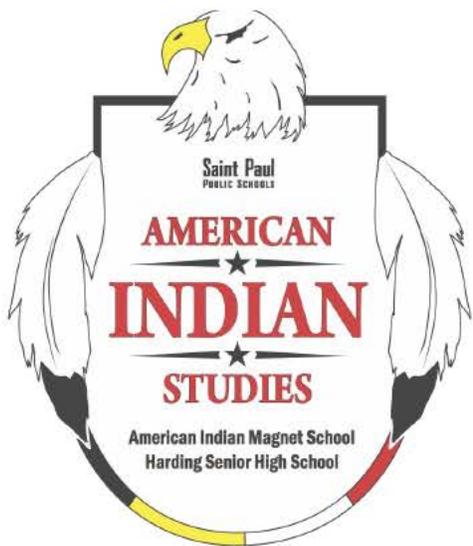
"Studio Ghibli and Disney: What were the origins of Studio Ghibli and Disney"

"The Role of the Musical Pieces in Pirates of Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl."

"Homosexuality in Japan.. in media and films"

Volunteers Needed

Want to volunteer to help Harding's IB program? We would greatly appreciate your help proctoring exams! Please contact coordinator, Erik Brandt, at Erik.Brandt@spps.org or 651-744-3095.



Boozhoo! American Indian Studies has been busy this spring with events for our students and families.

AIS and AVID collaborated for a fun family event at the end of February. We held a brunch in the AVID classroom before the Thinking College Early Fair. We invited our students and their parents to come and eat breakfast before attending the fair on a Saturday morning.

We had our annual Winter Storytelling Event on March 11th in Harding's auditorium. We tried a new take on the storytelling, and invited 2 local Native rappers, known as Tall Paul and Native Son. Their music is a contemporary style of storytelling—we enjoyed a full concert that afternoon. American Indian Studies (AIS) and Indian Education students were invited.

AIS students volunteered at the Indian Education Parent Committee Public Forum on March 18th. The Public Forum, called "Celebrating Our Children," was hosted here at Harding. Indian Education families district-wide were invited to attend that evening. AIS students helped with the set-up, clean up, serving food, and gathering feedback from families. The Public Forum is when the Parent Committee discusses goals and concerns our community has regarding Indian Education in Saint Paul Public Schools. It was a very successful event, with over 120 people showing up, and actively providing input and feedback to help guide the Parent Committee.



Juniors Angelica Allery and Nina Berglund opened the evening with their powerful spoken word piece that they wrote for the History Day Competition. The next morning they performed in the regional competition, earning an Honorable Mention.

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.

Native Student Tribal Council

Student run club, with Jack Auginash advising. For students interested in Native issues. Meets Fridays, 2:15-3:30 pm, in room 1425.

THE HARDING CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS ARE OFF TO WASHINGTON DC

Congratulations to Harding High School's Culinary Cooking Team #1, Kaylyn Vang (11), Xia Vang (12), and Chinue Yang (12) for taking 1st place in the 3rd Annual St. Paul Public Schools Culinary Competition! It took place at St. Paul College on March 4th. Harding's Team #2 Leslie Arroyo (11), Cindy Chang (11) and Tracy Thao (11) did a great job as well and finished 4th overall.

For the first time, St Paul teamed up with a national organization, Cooking Up Change, to provide nutritious and tasty school lunches. Student teams had the difficult task of creating recipes using the federal nutrition guidelines and SPPS pricing (about \$1/meal). Team #1 created a Thai Chicken Lettuce Wrap with a cucumber bean salad and pineapple crisp. Team #2 created a chicken black bean rice bowl with a roasted sweet potato lime cilantro salad and a poached apple with cinnamon and a maple drizzle.

SPPS students were featured all over the media from an article in the Pioneer Press to



cooking demonstrations on Twin Cities Live, FOX, WCCO, and Univision.

What's next for Team #1?

In June, they head to Washington D.C. to compete in the National Cooking Up Change competition, against nine other cities.

Their recipes will appear on the SPPS lunch menu!

Check out the highlights here:

<https://eduvision.tv/l?CnihAQ>

<http://twincitieslive.com/article/stories/s4055255.shtml?cat=10692>

Clubs @ Harding

- ▶ AIS Club
- ▶ American Sign Language
- ▶ ASAP
- ▶ Chess Club
- ▶ Cooking Club
- ▶ Earth Club
- ▶ Fashion & Beauty Club
- ▶ Freestyle Club
- ▶ Future Educators of America
- ▶ Gaming Club
- ▶ Genius Squad
- ▶ GSA
- ▶ Guitar Club
- ▶ Harding LG Studio
- ▶ Hmong Club
- ▶ Japan Club
- ▶ Korean Club
- ▶ MAD Club
- ▶ MOC
- ▶ National Honor Society
- ▶ Philosophy Club
- ▶ Piano Club
- ▶ Robotics
- ▶ SEA Club
- ▶ SOS
- ▶ STEM/SHPE Club
- ▶ Student Council
- ▶ SWAT (Students With A Testimony)
- ▶ Table Tennis
- ▶ Tech Club
- ▶ TRIO Upward Bound



FEATURED CLUB: HMONG CLUB

The mission of Hmong Club is to preserve the Hmong culture, promote the importance of education, and encourage community service. To preserve our Hmong culture, we teach each other the basics of reading, writing, and speaking the Hmong language. Our shared experiences reinforce us to be aware of our history, personal assets, cultural values, and create an identity that is compatible with both Hmong and American culture. Hmong Club stresses the importance of education by supporting one another through tutoring, goal-setting, and progressive, education discussions. We also promote school and community service by encouraging students to help plan and initiate the Harding Hmong New Year as a cultural gathering to the diverse Twin Cities community. All proceeds from this event are donated to our annual Hmong Club scholarship, which is awarded to two Harding Hmong seniors, one male and female. In addition, the club offers an opportunity for other non-Hmong students to learn about Hmong history and language.



Senator Fong Hawj from the Minnesota Senate visits with the Hmong Club at Harding High School



NJROTC News

Harding's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Battalion, the "Knight Navy," has completed another year of drill competitions, culminating in the most prestigious competition of the year, the Area Three West Drill Meet at Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago, Illinois. Twenty nine hard-working cadets rode a coach bus the 400 miles after school on Thursday and returned Sunday evening. In addition to competing in the regional drill meet, they had the opportunity to tour Great Lakes Naval Station, swim in the motel pool, and visit the Harley Davidson motorcycle museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

By earning the 3rd place overall trophy, this was the first time since the inception of JROTC units in St. Paul 21 years ago that a Navy JROTC unit from Minnesota received an overall trophy at the Area meet. In a field of 15 Navy JROTC units from a 9 state region, Harding's cadets earned the 1st place trophy in both Physical Fitness and Personnel Inspection, 3rd place in both Color Guard and Armed Drill, and 4th place in Unarmed Drill. The last time the Knight Navy earned the 1st place trophy in Personnel Inspection was 14 years ago.

Our Knight Navy Physical Fitness team, in the process of earning the 1st place trophy for three years in a row, also brought home 8 of 20 individual push-up and sit-up medals. Our ladies took 3 of 10 available medals. In sit-ups, Natasha Evans earned the 1st place medal and Adela Lopez the second place medal. Yeeko Yang earned the 1st place push-up medal by doing 98 push-ups to cadence, tying the number she did last year when she set the meet record for female push-ups. The Knight Navy men brought home 5 of 10 available medals. In push-ups, Xiong "Charlie" Yang earned first place Cher Vang the 3rd place medal, and Za "Dragon" Thao came in 5th. In sit-ups, Cher Vang came in 1st and Nou Ting Lor came in 4th.

The very next weekend after returning from the Area meet in Great Lakes, 53 cadets travelled the 250 miles to Fargo, North Dakota to compete in the fourth annual Juggernaut Team-Sports Competition hosted by the Air Force JROTC unit at Fargo South High School. The competition consists of 7 indoor sports (dodgeball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, flickerball, and a relay race). Five JROTC units competed in the double elimination tournaments this year, and our cadets, after dominating the competition the past two years, ended up in 2nd place overall, being bested by the host Air Force JROTC unit from Fargo South. The Knight Navy cadets came

in 1st place in ultimate Frisbee and second place in the relay race. But more importantly, our Knight Navy cadets were awarded for the 3rd straight year, the Good Sportsmanship Trophy, the recipient of which is chosen by the referees.

Don Wisneski, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy (retired) Harding H.S. NJROTC Senior Naval Science Instructor

What is NJROTC?

NJROTC is an elective class open to all Harding students who are willing and able to follow directions and strive to demonstrate the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. We would like to thank the parents of our cadets who enable and allow their sons and daughters to participate in the unit's numerous community service, fundraising, drill, physical fitness, color guard, orientation trips, and other activities. We hope that you are as proud of these fine young men and women as we are. We wish you all fair winds and following seas.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ April 22: Navy Ball
- ▶ May 10: Spring Awards Ceremony
- ▶ May: NJROTC Battalion Picnic @ Battle Creek Park
- ▶ May: Top senior's 3-day orientation in Duluth & Grand Marais

ATHLETICS

SPRING SPORTS

- ▶ badminton
- ▶ baseball
- ▶ softball
- ▶ boy's tennis
- ▶ boy's track
- ▶ girl's track
- ▶ boy's golf
- ▶ girl's golf



Our winter sport teams had a fun/competitive winter season. Our girl's basketball team finished the season with a 19 - 5 record - finishing 2nd in the St Paul City Conference. Highest finish since 1993. They then defeated So St. Paul in section play and lost a tough game to Holy Angels Academy in the section semi final game. Coach Kelly Sandquist was selected as "Coach of the Year" by the conference coaches. Our wrestlers had a good season - capped off with Jet Mi Ka advancing to the state tournament - and he finished fifth in his weight class - a great accomplishment.

Our boy's basketball team came on strong at the end of the season as did our boy's swimmers.

We have a large turnout of kids for our spring sport teams - and they have a history of being very competitive.

Get out and support our spring sport teams and enjoy watching our kids perform! Go to <https://sports.spps.org/school/harding/hs/2015-2016> for practice and game times.



¡Huerto comunitario!

¿Le gusta trabajar en el jardín?

Le interesa, pero ¿no sabe por dónde empezar? Se busca padres para un huerto comunitario. Cada familia interesada recibe un terreno para trabajar. Por favor contáctese con Maetzin Sáenz al 651.744.24457 para más información.



Parent Newsletter is Changing!



WORK IN PROGRESS

The Parent Newsletter is a work and progress and we would love your input!

Please feel free to send this form below in with your student. You may also email comments or concerns to betsy.dadabo@spps.org or xong.yang@spps.org.

Parent Newsletter Survey

Please rate interest level in topics addressed in newsletter	Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Very Good	N/A
• Calendar of events/meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
• Information about student safety incidents and precautions being taken by the school.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
• Department/Program Updates (IB, American Indian Studies, NJROTC)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
• Athletic updates	<input type="checkbox"/>					
• Information about before/after school and extracurricular programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
• Parent involvement opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Comments/Other Suggestions: