



Harding Parent Newsletter

WELCOME TO SECOND SEMESTER

DOUGLAS REVSBECK

We hope your son/daughter has settled into our school routines (The Harding Way).

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. 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. We are also working to insure your student is comfortable talking with their teachers, counselor and other support staff.

Ways to Get Involved in Your Student's Education

- ▶ Keep up to date on your child's progress! Routinely checking how your student is performing will help your student stay on track with their classwork. Saint Paul Public Schools uses two systems to record student information:
- ▶ Grades and Assignments – SCHOOLGY is the platform where teachers keep classwork and grades. For an overview to Schoology, you can visit: A Guide to Schoology for Parents which has lessons available in five languages. Also, ask your student to give you a Schoology tour on their iPad. This is a great way to start a conversation on what your student is currently working on in their classes.
- ▶ Attendance – CAMPUS/ PARENT PORTAL stores absences and tardies for classes. To access your Campus account go to: One Stop Website and click login to the right.
- ▶ Need help with your parent login information? Want to make sure you receive emails from teachers and counselors? Call the Harding Office: 651-293-4700.
- ▶ **Our Harding website:** Check out the updated Athletics section on the Harding website, complete with a calendar of all athletic events and links to athletic forms! Also, keep an eye on the Harding News feed to keep up with the latest information about the goings-on at our school. All that and more can be found at harding.spps.org.
- ▶ **Parent Teacher Conferences** are a good opportunity to talk with teachers and hear students talk about their progress. Our next conference will be Thursday, March 1, 2018 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.
- ▶ Everyone is welcome at our monthly **Parent Engagement** meetings, in which we work to create a community where parents and teachers collaborate to support students' educational experiences. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2018 from 5:30 PM -7:30 PM.
- ▶ **National African American Parent Involvement Day** is on February 12, 2018. The NAAPID event will begin at 8:30 AM and go until 2:00 PM. The morning session will include Historical Educational Information, a motivational speaker and student presentations in the Harding Auditorium.

Updates and Announcements

- ▶ Preparing for Winter Weather: The safety and well being of our students and staff is our top priority and the decision to close school is no simple matter. Before deciding to close school due to extreme weather conditions, Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard, consults with a variety of experts both inside and outside the district. Our commitment is to keep families, staff and the community informed of weather-related school closings and cancellations.
- ▶ With snow clearing season upon us, we want to remind our families that no overnight parking is allowed at Harding or any SPPS site. Any vehicles left overnight will be towed. This will be in effect until April, 1, 2018
- ▶ Cafeteria update: We look forward to serving you daily for Breakfast, 2nd chance Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. We hope to see you daily! A little reminder to please pick your lunch tray off the table when you leave.
- ▶ IMPORTANT IPAD CARE ANNOUNCEMENT: Please monitor that your student is keeping the keyboard attached to the iPad. iPad insurance is only valid if the case is NEVER removed, and the KEYBOARD STAYS ATTACHED when not actively in use. Keyboard protects the screen; iPad protects the keyboard.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to help your child. We want all of our students to be successful!



HARDINGLIBRARY

Read Brave Author Announced!

Read Brave is a program through Saint Paul Public Library where your student can get a free book and attend an event to meet with the author.

This year the book is *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz. If your student is interested, tell them to stop by the library for more information or to get a free copy. We will also have a book club starting in January.

Supporting Research Projects

Second and third quarter are big research project times. There are many ways you can help support your child with their research after hours.

See what resources students can use online

Go to libguides.spps.org/online for a list of most of the free library research websites your student can use.

*Aristotle is an angry teen
with a brother in prison.
Dante is a know-it-all
who has an unusual way
of looking at the world.
When the two meet at the
swimming pool, they seem
to have nothing in common.
But as the loners start
spending time together,
they discover that they share
a special friendship—the
kind that changes lives and
lasts a lifetime.*

Library Continued

Take them to the library

The public library and East Side Freedom Library are great resources for history projects. Visit these websites for more information on programming and support for your student.

<http://www.sppl.org/teens/learning/>

Questions?

Contact Betsy Dadabo, Librarian
betsy.dadabo@spps.org, 651-744-3159



Harding is celebrating its 24th year as an IB World School! There is so much to celebrate in our diverse, challenging, nurturing and flexible Diploma Program. All of our Harding IB DP students graduate prepared for the academic challenges of university and our 2017 IB DP graduates are currently in colleges all across the USA (Augsburg, Dartmouth, Carleton, Stanford, Century, St. Ben's/St. John's, Hamline, Macalester, Mankato, Metro State, St. Paul College, St. Kate's, St. Cloud, Metro State, UMD, UMTC, UMN – Morris, Pomona and many, many more). Additionally, our IB Middle Years Program was authorized last Spring, which makes Harding a complete IB campus.

Looking back at 2016-2017:

- ▶ Congratulations to the 14 students who worked toward earning their IB Diplomas!
- ▶ Congratulations to the 288 students who took 1 or more IB DP exams last May!
- ▶ Congratulations to the 448 students who took 1 or more IB DP classes last year!

Last year was filled with many, many successes. Harding's IB Diploma Program boasted 288 students taking 658 IB DP exams! These numbers continue to qualify Harding for the Washington Post's renowned "Challenge Index" -- which annually identifies America's best high schools. 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 this recognition raises our profile statewide and nationally.

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

Looking forward to 2017-2018:

- ▶ Harding's IB Diploma Program continues to grow, with more and more students challenging themselves with IB DP classes. It is our goal that EVERY student who attends Harding takes at least one IB DP class either in 11th or 12th grade (or both!).
- ▶ The class of 2018 has 17 students striving to earn the IB Diploma. These students will take at least 3 "Higher Level" and 3 "Standard Level" IB DP classes and exams, as well as complete an Extended Essay (EE), "Creativity, Activity & Service" (CAS) hours and expand their minds with the Theory of Knowledge (ToK) class.

2018 Diploma Candidates

Muaj Hmoo “Bradley” Her
David Ibarra
Divonte Harper
Kao Hmong Lee
Tupheng Lee
Austyn Lo
Emmanuel “Noel” Saulog
Tiara Smith
Asha Suvarna

Susan B. Thao
Ntsaiab Thor
Mai Xee Vang
Trinity Vang
Becky Vue
Douachee Betsy Vue
Boon Xiong
Houa Yang

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ▶ There are 1007 Harding students taking at least one Accelerated or IB DP course this year—which means that at least 54% of Harding students are taking academically rigorous classes. Many of these students are taking 2+ classes.
- ▶ Harding’s AVID program is a key player in creating these wonderful numbers—AVID gives students the skills they need to be successful in school as well as encourages them to take at least one academically rigorous course each year. If your student would benefit from being involved in Harding’s AVID program, please contact: Rebecca.McQueen@spps.org

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**
- ▶ Want to know a college’s policies regarding IB DP exam scores? Simple Google search the college’s “IB credit policy.” For example, search for “Macalester College IB credit policy” and you’ll quickly find what you’re looking for!

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. Go to <https://www.spps.org/Page/11814> for a list of all the exam dates.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IB DP EXAM PROCTORING IN MAY

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



There are many exciting things happening at Harding with MYP. First, the 9th grade students began to learn about service learning, or service as action. Service requires that students are able to build authentic connections between what they learn in the classroom and what they encounter in the community. After learning about possible service activities, advisories voted on service activities in which they would like to participate. We are still in the early planning stages but the idea is to carry out our service learning in early spring.

Second, 10th grade students are working very hard on their personal projects. There is a wide range of topics this year including, learning to play the guitar, making a skateboard, a study of how video games affect the lives of teens, and building a computer to name a few. Students are required to journal their personal project progress. They have written about how their topic relates to the world around them, about the approaches to learning (ATL) skills they will need to use throughout the project, and they have documented their research and the process of putting their project together. They are now working on the final piece which is the paper. The Personal Project Showcase will take place on Wednesday, March 18th.

Finally, teachers are continuing to work on their MYP unit plans paying particular attention to the Approaches to Learning (ATL) Skills. ATL skills are the skills students need to become independent learners and be successful at Harding and beyond. We match the objectives from the unit with the ATL skills students need in order to be successful on the summative assessment (final project or test). We have been using specific strategies (AVID) that align with the ATL skills to help students master the skills. They are learning and having fun in 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



COUNSELORS

Last Names: A-G

Ms. Erika Huss

erika.huss@spps.org

651-744-3169



Last Names: H, I, K, L

Ms. Cynthia Chavez-Rios

cynthia.chavez-rios@spps.org

651-744-3113



Last Names: M-Sa

Ms. Deborah "Didi" Malaga

deborah.malaga@spps.org

651-744-3092



Last Names: Sb-Va

Ms. Mana Vue

mana.vue@spps.org

651-744-3152



Last Names: Vb-Z + J

Ms. Marianna Sullivan

marianna.sullivan@spps.org

651-744-3109



Greetings from Harding's Licensed School Counselors

Knowing the warning signs of mental illness can help let you know if you need to speak to a professional. Some common signs can include the following:

- ▶ Feeling excessively sad or low.
- ▶ Prolonged feelings of irritability or anger.
- ▶ Avoiding friends and social activities.
- ▶ Changes in sleeping habits, or feeling tired and low energy.
- ▶ Changes in eating habits such as increased hunger or lack of appetite.
- ▶ Abuse of substances like alcohol and drugs.
- ▶ Thinking about suicide
- ▶ Inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily problems and stress.

(From the National Alliance on Mental Illness - NAMI) www.nami.org

Please let your child's counselor know if you are concerned about your child's mental health. See below for other resources:

- ▶ Call 2-1-1 (United Way) to obtain information on health and human services
- ▶ Your child's primary doctor
- ▶ Children's Mental Health Crisis Response 24/7 (651-266-7878)

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER



Mr. Shady works with Harding students on their post-high school college/career plans. Stop by and check out the new College and Career Center!

Mr. Jamie Shady jamie.shady@spps.org
651-744-3599

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 19

Century College Accuplacer

FEBRUARY 16

Century College Accuplacer

FEBRUARY 27

School Wide ACT for juniors

Visit the CCC to learn about upcoming scholarships! The following deadlines are coming up:

- ▶ Page Scholarship (Opens January 1)
- ▶ Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship (Due January 11)
- ▶ Dell Scholarship (Due January 15)
- ▶ Wallin Scholarship (Due February 14)

NJROTC

Since the last newsletter article, the “Knight Navy” - Harding’s Naval Junior ROTC unit, has competed in three inter-school competitions.

The first competition was hosted by Harding on Saturday, October 7, the ninth annual “Great Northern All Team Sport (GNATS)” Blowout. JROTC cadets from seven local schools competed in single-elimination tournaments in Basketball, Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Flag Football, Soccer, Kickball, and a Tug-o-War. Of the seven events conducted, Harding took first place in Volleyball and Kickball and regained possession of the coveted GNATS Busted Ball Traveling Trophy that resided with Johnson’s Air Force unit for the past year. The cadets are glad the trophy is back home, and hope to keep it here at next year’s competition.

The 2nd competition was Como’s “Devil Dog” Drill Meet on October 27 and 28. Although our Knight Navy won no first place event trophies, we performed well enough in all events to take the 2nd place overall trophy out of ten schools, behind the host school, Como. The 3rd competition was held at Washington Technology

Magnet on November 17th. Six schools competed. Harding took the 2nd place trophy, and once again the host school came in first.

With the local competitions now completed, the cadets are preparing for the regional NJROTC Area 3 West Drill Meet in Great Lakes, Illinois on February 23rd and 24th, where the cadets will compete against the best 15 to 18 Navy JROTC units from a 10 state region. The Area 3 West drill meet will be the culmination of many months of early morning drill practice and countless pushups and sit-ups.

In addition to the NJROTC teams practicing both before and after school hours, the cadets have been doing considerable fundraising activities, picking up trash at the State Fair, helping with a concession stand at TCF Stadium, bagging groceries for tips at Cub Foods, and performing course marshall duties for the annual Saint Paul Classic Bike Tour. For their hard work, the cadets earned more than \$17,000 in less than three months from these events. The funds are used to offset the cost of hotels, buses, airfare, and meals during summer leadership programs, the Area 3 Drill Meet in Great Lakes, and the annual senior



Award-winning Students

Kenia Gomez (3rd place for physical fitness)

Angelina Yang (10th place in Knockout challenge)

Mai Xee Vang (2nd& 7th place in Knockout challenges)

Nhia Her (5th place in Knockout challenge, 4th place for academic medal)

Bobby Yang (4th place in Knockout challenge)

Gao Sheng Thao (1st place in Knockout challenge)

orientation trip to San Diego.

NJROTC is an elective credit class that focuses on citizenship, patriotism, self-discipline and leadership traits, and is open to all Harding students who are willing to adhere to these principles. The NJROTC Battalion 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 – BRAVO ZULU (“Well done in Navy parlance”).

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES



Boozhoo! American Indian Studies (AIS) is so happy to share all of our exciting news from first semester.

Winners!

First place at the MIEA Lakota Language Bowl! Harding's Lakota quiz bowl team took 1st place at the annual Minnesota Indian Education Association language bowl. They brought home the trophy to display in room 1425! Our Ojibwe quiz bowl teams also participated in the Ojibwe matches.

Angie Harper wins the Outstanding American Indian K-12 Teacher Award from the Minnesota Indian Education Association. Ms. Angie Harper teaches American Indian History, Literature and Support classes, as well as coordinates the

program. She was honored to receive this award from the state-wide Indian Education.

Barry Frantum wins the Roger Tetu Award from Dayton's Bluff Community Council. The award celebrates a Dayton's Bluff resident who exemplifies the characteristics of being a good neighbor.

The Braided Journeys Program is a collaboration between AIS and SPPS Indian Education. Jack Auginash the Cultural Coach and leader of the program. There is focus on community building and positive sense of belonging for our American Indian students at Harding.

Braided Journeys has hosted 4 monthly family nights at Harding. We've had raffles for turkeys and ham, enjoyed meals together and had interactive activities, such as cookie decorating in December.

Braided Journeys also provides after school support for students, with academic homework help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and cultural activities on Thursdays. We have a tutor available at these after school sessions, as well as during the day. For our cultural activity, Indian Education Sewing Society teacher, Dianna Johnson, has been teaching students how to make traditional ribbon skirts and shirts. Braided Journeys also took a field trip to the American Indian College Fair in Minneapolis in November.



is
a

AIS and Indian Ed After School Groups

Braided Journeys: Meets 3 days per week. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays there will be After School Study, with tutoring available. On Thursdays there will be cultural activities based on student interest. Led by Jack Auginash, Cultural Coach. From 2:15-3:30 pm in room 1425.

Drum Group: Led by Barry Frantum, Lakota Language teacher. For students who would like to learn how to sing at the drum. Meets Thursdays, 2:15-3:30 pm, in room 1411.

American Indian Studies Continued

We are proud to announce our new candidates for the **Distinction in American Indian Studies**. This is an academic and cultural honor that students earn by meeting several criteria in the areas of academics, leadership, service, and culture. This program is open to students of any and all cultural backgrounds. Please congratulate the following students:

Kyrin Skinaway (9th grade)

Alyssa Downwind (9th grade)

Wanapha Anayun (10th grade)

Kathleen Goggleye (10th grade)

Mee Thao (10th grade)

Samayo Abdullaahi (11th grade)

Terrionna Martin (11th grade)

Elbira Capetillo-Tolbert (11th grade)

Rose Whipple (11th grade)

Houa Vue (12th grade)

Sue Chang (12th grade)

Blong Lor (12th grade)

Angela Bulau (12th grade)

Chelsea Johnson (12th grade)

Ariana Wright (12th grade)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Harding High School has a Parent Involvement Committee made up of building staff who plan parent and family events throughout the year. Events are planned by the Harding Team based on parent input from earlier sessions. Each event includes a leader in each of five languages: Spanish, Somali, Karen, Hmong, and English. Meal service is included. All meetings are sponsored by the Title I program and include meal service prior to the session.

EVENTS

MON., MARCH 19 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Harding Programs, Graduation,
and Post-Secondary Preparation

THU., APRIL 19 5:30 - 8:30pm

Parent Seminar
"Parents and Schoology"

MON., MAY 14 5:30 - 8:30pm

Harding Parent Involvement
Meeting

For more information, please contact:

Spanish: Maetzin Saenz, (651) 744 – 2457, maetzin.saenz@spps.org

Somali: Ahmed Mohamud, (651) 744 – 3273, ahmed.mohamud@spps.org

Karen: Sawsunshine Timothy, (651) 744 – 6282, sawsunshine.timothy@spps.org

Hmong: Pong Vang, (651) 744 – 3223, pong.vang@spps.org

English: James Bush, (651) 744 – 3218, james.bush@spps.org

HARDING ATHLETICS

Hall of Stars

The "Hall of Stars" program was started in 1995 to honor past Harding athletes, we have a special awards dinner, get photos of the recipients and hang their pictures on our walls. We also do this to enable present and future Harding students to see and feel the accomplishments of Harding's alumni. It allows our students and community to savor the traditions of our past and hopefully motivate and inspire them to greater heights!

This year's inductees enjoyed an elegant evening of reverie and reminiscing while receiving their well-deserved accolades. They include: Jim Mauer – 1988, Nick Schwartz – 1976, Matt Dornfeld – 1993, Amy Wittgenstein Conley – 2002, Pang Thao – 2007, Andre Creighton – 2009, Coach Tom Gunderson, and long-time and much-beloved Athletic Director Gerry Keenan. Also, the 1991 Girls' Basketball Team and the 2000 Badminton Team were inducted as well. Congratulations to all!

Athletics

The 2017 fall sports season wrapped-up in October with some very exciting results. The girls' tennis team, coached by Koua Yang won the conference title and beat Minneapolis Southwest in the Twin Cities Match. The team also received Academic All-State and Coach Yang was named conference coach-of-the-year. Xee Vue, Yee Thao, Amanyne Reynolds and Lily Vang were named all-conference and Kelly Yang, Alyssa Xiong and Gao Sheng Thao received all-conference honorable mention.

While football struggled with a young team and numerous injuries, several players received accolades. Jovan Christian and Elijah Loscheider were named all-conference and four athletes received all-conference

honorable mention. They are: Chang Yang, Shervy Xiong, Tanyko Peterson and Tanguary Yang.

Girls volleyball is growing with huge numbers of athletes participating to field three teams. We had a whopping 25 ninth graders! Junior Jasmine Yang was named all-conference and Maranda Emstad, Sara Chang, and Christine Chang were named all-conference honorable mention. Congratulations to Coach, Tracy Hrouda for a great season and for being named the conference coach-of-the-year.



The girls' swim team also enjoyed excitement with many brand-new swimmers participating. While they may be largely inexperienced, it's awesome to have so many newcomers to the sport. All-conference honorable mention was awarded to Leylah Gallegos and Abigail Vang. Coach Angel was named the conference coach-of-the-year.

Cross country continued running throughout the metro area parks and golf courses. They continued the long tradition of delivering the game ball to the football team to kick off the 2017 Homecoming Game on a hot, sunny Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to sophomore Gyru Thor for being named all-conference honorable mention.

Harding Athletics Continued



The big news of course, is the boys' soccer team success! For the first time ever the Harding Boys Soccer Team won the Section 4A Championship Title advancing to the state tournament. Enjoying a home field advantage, the Knights beat former state champions and rival Como Park in a great game at Bakken Field. While the boys lost a tough one to reigning state champs, St. Thomas Academy in the first round, they fought an incredible battle in front of a huge fan base on a frigidly cold night. Congratulations to Chameng Xiong and Sekou Swaray for being named all-conference and to Nurdin Ahmed, Ibrahim Mohammed and Lay Soe for being named all-conference honorable mention. Chameng and Sekou were also named to the all-state team. Chameng was also a Minnesota "Mr. Soccer" finalist. Kudos to Coach Mukwa Ogichida on his excellent leadership. We are so very proud of our Knights.

Winter sports began in November with teams enjoying very large numbers of participants. The wrestling team has been off to an exciting start. We began our season going 5-0 for the first time in recent history. With 34 wrestlers on the roster, we also have one of the larger teams in recent history. The many freshmen and sophomores on the team are learning and getting more experience each week, so there is a bright future ahead.

The Harding cagers opened their 2017 campaign at Mpls. South and dropped tough one on the road. Losing 60-57. They opened their home schedule with a commanding win versus a much-improved South St. Paul winning 82-63. The Knights then returned to the road with a disappointing loss at Simley, 63-81. However, the Knights ballers returned home for a Saturday matinee game vs Mounds Park Academy, winning 52-32. That was the best defensive effort of the year for the Knight cagers.

The boys' swim season is off to an excellent start. We have 38 boys that are swimming and 5 boys diving. DouaNeng Lor and Peter Lee were elected as our team captains. They have been motivating and showcasing what hard work looks like to their team and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Our team hopes to place several boys in the top 6 at our conference meet and take a record number of athletes to our section championship meet.

Although the girls' basketball team is battling a wide array of injuries and setbacks, the Lady Knights have stayed strong and are heading into winter break with a record of 3-3. After a much-needed week off, the girls will tipoff on Thursday, December 28 at 1:00pm in the South St. Paul Tournament.

Please come to any of our athletic contests. Our coaches and students would love to see you. Schedules can be found on the Athletics page of our Harding website or visit:

www.stpaulcity.org