



# Harding Parent Newsletter

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

DOUGLAS REVSBECK

I have been eagerly awaiting this warmer weather. April is the beginning of spring sports such as baseball, softball, golf, tennis, badminton, and track. I also want to thank the families for supporting our students in all of their extracurricular events throughout the year!

We are currently preparing for end of the year activities including graduation (8PM on June 6th). Please keep an eye on our calendar located on our website so that you can plan accordingly.

Our last parent conference for this school year is scheduled for Thursday, April 26 from 3PM-6PM. Please make attending this final conference a high priority in so that we can work together in supporting your child's learning.

We are already very busy planning for the 2018-19 school year. Before Spring Break, all of our grade 9-11 students selected their classes for next year. We hope you were able to help them with these very important decisions. It is important to us that students receive choices that fit their interests and needs. We are very lucky at Harding to be able to offer over 100 elective options!

Students will have another opportunity to review their selections in May and a copy of their requested courses will be sent home with them. If you have any questions about your child's 2018-19 class selections, please contact their school counselor.

A big shout out to our graduating class of 2018! You ROCK!! Remember to finish strong!!

Finally, congratulations on a great year at Harding. As principal, I have noticed an amazing positive shift in the school's climate. The feel in this building in all about learning! As a whole, our students have really displayed tremendous effort this past year and they are truly engaged in knowing what it means to be a successful "learner" at Harding.

# COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Communication is key for a great relationship between school and families. Some of our important tools are our website, calendar, news section, the Beacon, the MySPPS app, family newsletter and phone calls.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

**April 26th, 2018**

Parent - Teacher Conferences are a great opportunity to connect with your student's teachers. We love working together to help your student succeed! Interpreters are available in Hmong, Somali, Karen and Spanish.

## MySPPS App



The new [St. Paul Public Schools App](#) can be downloaded to your iPhone or Android phone and get the latest information from Harding, another SPPS school of your choice or the district office. You can get our calendar and news/announcements streamed right to your device. Change the language setting and it will even translate the announcements in to Spanish, Hmong, Arabic and more (not available in Somali or Karen).

## Harding's Website



Our website has been recently updated and is full of information. Visit the [Harding website](#) to learn about academics, graduation requirements, counseling services, college readiness, parent involvement meetings, parent academy, our teachers, activities/clubs, athletics, and so much more! Check the calendar for upcoming events.

## Newsletter



We mail out a School Newsletter three to four times a year which includes a note from the principal, department news, sports and parent involvement opportunities. You can find it and past newsletters online in the Families > [Parent Newsletter](#) section.

## Phone Calls



For important school wide event that involve our families we send out messages via the phone. You will get calls reminding families about things like Parent Involvement Meetings, Conferences, School closings, etc. If you are not receiving phone calls, please contact the school at 651-793-4700 and update your information.

## The Beacon



*The Beacon* is the student newspaper that has been around for as long as anyone can remember – just ask any Harding Alumni! See a sneak peak of [The Beacon](#) online or ask your student to bring home a copy.

# SENIOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Senior All-Knight Party

Tentative Date: 6/1/18

With the retirement of Senior Class advisor, Gerry Keenan, the Senior ALL Knight Party responsibility will revert back to the parents. It was parents that initially started this event.

**If the Class of 2018 is going have this event, they need your help.**

The Senior class officers are organizing the event. For more information or to volunteer please contact:

Pajai Vue, Senior Class President

[pvue048@stpaul.k12.mn.us](mailto:pvue048@stpaul.k12.mn.us)

## Senior Honor Day

Senior Honor Day will be held on **Thursday, May 24th** in the Auditorium at Harding beginning at 7:45 am until 8:30 am. The program will be recognizing Academic Achievements of the Class of 2018. Parents are encouraged to attend. No formal invitations will be sent. We hope to see you there!

**Senior Dinner** will be held Tuesday, May 29th, starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be a small cost for dinner. Staff will serve dinner and entertain. It is an event you don't want to miss!

**Cap and Gown Distribution** will take place on Friday, June 1, during Advisory. Those who have not taken the survey on Schoology, please do so. Students with an asterisk (top twenty percent) in front of their name on the lineup sheet are eligible for gold tassels. You may exchange the maroon and gold tassel for one that is all gold or purchase the gold one for an additional \$2.00.

**Graduation Tickets** will be given out Friday, June 1, during Advisory (cap and gown distribution). Each senior will receive eight (8) tickets. If students need more, they should ask classmates for unwanted tickets. If your family is not using all of them, please return the extras to Mr. Head to share with others who could use them.

**Graduation Rehearsal** will be at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 5th, 2018. All seniors must attend the practice to participate in the ceremony.

**Graduation Commencement Ceremony** will take place on Tuesday, June 5th, at 8:00 p.m. at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium. You must be in line by 7:30 p.m. Your position for the ceremony will be explained at rehearsal.

**Last regular day** of school for seniors is Friday, June 1.

In the fine tradition of our school, we expect the exercises to be conducted in a dignified and orderly manner which will bring credit to Harding High School and the Class of 2018. Parents and graduates are urged to discuss the importance of the occasion.

## Senior Portfolios

Sweaty palms, hearts racing and drumming fingers are some of the symptoms that our seniors exhibit just before they present their portfolios. Senior Portfolio Exit Interviews will be taking place on **Tuesday, May 1st** and **Thursday, May 3rd**.



Senior advisories are assigned time slot between 6:00PM – 8:45 PM.

Dressed in business casual with portfolio in hand, seniors present examples of their best work over the past four years, a resume, a 9th grade autobiography, letters of recommendation, a minimum of 12 hours community service, and awards, just to name a few, to a member of the Harding staff and a member of the community.

This event gives seniors an opportunity to see their growth academically over the past four years. Also for many, it is their first opportunity to talk/prag about themselves and what they can do in an interview situation.

“Being part of the interview team is the highlight of my year. I am so impressed by the students and their work and poise. They bowled me over,” remarked a St. Paul Public School District employee.

## HARDINGNEWS

### Harding Teacher a semi-finalist for Teacher of the Year



Social Studies teacher, Molly Keenan has been named the 2018 Minnesota High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. Ms. Keenan teaches IB 20th Century History, IB History of the Americas and Human Geography.

Her philosophy of education is the need to develop the individual student and a civil society as a whole. Social Justice is also very dear to Ms. Keenan's heart. She is part of Harding's Equity Team and an integral part of the Dare 2 Be Real team.

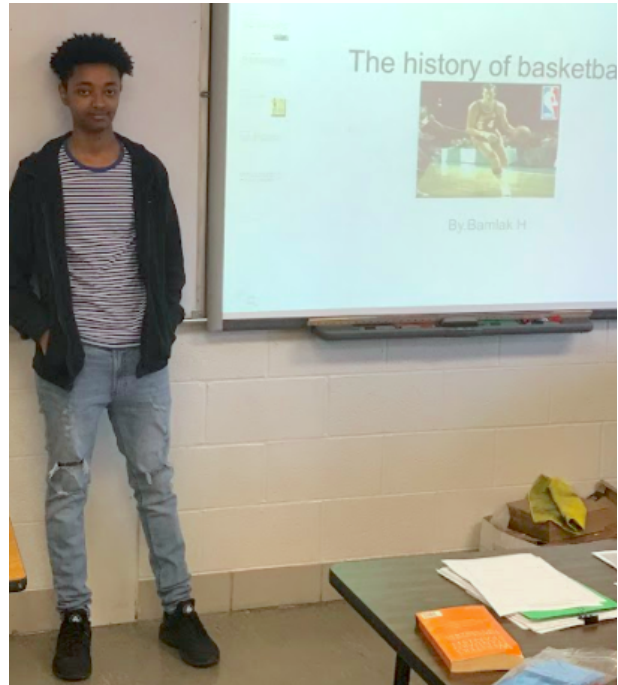
Two former Harding students and a teaching colleague nominated Ms. Keenan for this honor. One of the students remarked, “Ms. Keenan would always make time to help me no matter how busy she was. She works hard to make all her students feel at home in her classroom.”

Ms. Keenan was also a semi finalist for the 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Harding is very lucky to have this fine teacher on staff.



## MYP Personal Project

We are proud to announce that 264 sophomores completed their personal projects. Students have been working on their topics since September and were able to present their work on March 16. Presentations included slideshows, iMovies, choreographed dances and actual products students created. This included products created in our Maker Space using our 3D printer or laser cutter.



Part of being an IB MYP school is having 10th grade students participate in the 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. It includes a product, journal and a report. We are beginning to work with 9th graders to introduce them to the project so they can start generating ideas for next year.

## Registration

Students have also completed registering for classes for next year. MYP students take 6 of the 8 subjects areas in grades 9 and 10. The subject areas include: 1) Language and Literature (English), 2) Language Acquisition (World Language), 3) Individuals and Societies (Social Studies), 4) Science, 5) Mathematics, 6) Art, 7) Design (CTE, FACS) and 8) Physical and Health Education.

## Questions?

If you have questions about the MYP or would like more information, you may contact the MYP coordinator, Shandyn Benson. [Shandyn.Benson@spps.org](mailto:Shandyn.Benson@spps.org)

651-744-3263



## Facts & Figures

- There are 1021 Harding students taking at least one Accelerated or IB DP course this year—which means that at least 55% of Harding students are taking academically rigorous classes. Many of these students are taking 2+ challenging classes—please encourage your student to take as many as s/he can handle!
- 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.

## Diploma Candidate Extended Essay

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:

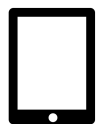
- To what extent do the traditional family and social values of different Asian American immigrant groups affect the relationship between first and second generation immigrant families?
- To what extent did impressionist art change society's subjective and objective views of the aesthetics in artworks?
- How justified is capital punishment? Discuss and analyze the justice of capital punishment.
- How did religion in the black community change as more freedoms were given?
- To what extent did film studios such as Disney and Studio Ghibli impact the world socially through their films?
- To what extent was Vo Nguyen Gaip influenced by the Art of War by Sun Zu?
- Effectiveness of Antipsychotic Drugs and Cognitive Therapy on Schizophrenia: How can cognitive therapy be more useful in treatment for schizophrenia than antipsychotic drugs?

## IB Exams are Coming!

The month of May can be a very stressful and challenging month for our IB DP testing juniors and seniors. Parents and guardians can support their IB DP 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. For the complete testing schedule, visit <https://www.spps.org/Page/11814>.

## 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](mailto:Erik.Brandt@spps.org) or 651-744-3095



## TECH

\*\*\* If your student's keyboard is missing one or more keys or if your iPad or case is cracked, please tell them to bring it to the Help Desk ASAP!!!! We need to take care of these things in April!

\*\*\* Replacement cords and charging bricks are available for purchase at the Help Desk (\$15 each piece).

\*\*\* If you have lost a cord or charger, you must see Ms. Motzel **BEFORE** May 23.



### IPAD HAND IN:

**When:** 12th Grade: Wednesday, **MAY 23\***

9th - 11th grade: Friday, **JUNE 1**

**Where:** Advisory: 7:30AM

**How:** Bring **CHARGED iPad, Keyboard, cord, charging brick**

\*Seniors who do not turn in all the above items on May 23 will be placed on the Obligation list and may be prohibited from walking in Graduation Ceremonies.

### Questions? Contact:

Margie Motzel, Harding iPad Manager:  
[margaret.motzel@sps.org](mailto:margaret.motzel@sps.org) • 651-744-3165.



## LIBRARY



Is your student interested in reading or writing? Pass on this great opportunity to meet authors and attend workshops!



The purpose of this day is to celebrate teen literature, promote reading and writing, and to create a community of readers by connecting teens and authors. Free transportation is available from Johnson. Parents are welcome to bring their student separately. Go to <https://teenlitcon.org/> for more information and a list of authors.

### Lost Books for Seniors

If your student has lost a book or textbook, they will be put on the senior obligation list. There are several options for replacing missing books. Students may replace a missing library book with a used book in good condition or pay for the replacement. If replacing a book is difficult for your family, please have the students talk to me and we can work something out.

~ Ms. Dadabo, Librarian

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