ANY book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his or her needs, is good for him or her. Maya Angelou

Quarter 2 is now upon us! One of the important initiatives we are beginning at Murray with Q2 is DEAR, which stands for Drop Everything And Read. As a district and a school, literacy is always our focus. It’s important to understand and embrace the responsibility that teaching kids to read and helping our students gain an appreciation for reading rests on the shoulders of all of us. With this initiative, students will be taking time in their foundations class every Wednesday to drop everything and read. Like any other skill, reading takes practice and time to get better. The goal is to help students engage with reading that interests/excites them and at the same time provide them time to practice the skill of reading. We ask that you help promote this initiative by engaging with your students about what it is they are reading on Wednesdays, provide them opportunities to get access to reading that excites them, promote reading at home and share the importance of finding reading that they enjoy. We look forward to our DEAR Wednesdays and are excited to see our kids building a love of reading!

Speaking of life skills, we have also implemented an initiative where all students are to be using a planner to track their academic progress such as learning objectives in classes and grade/goal tracking in foundations. Planners can be traditional hard copies or free digital versions that have been introduced by our foundation teachers. We ask that you please help our students understand the importance of using a tool such as a planner/calendar to stay organized and that this skill will be something that will help them for the rest of their lives. This is another one of the many reasons having a fully charged and working iPad every day at school is so critical.

Have a great weekend and welcome to Quarter 2!

Celebrations:
#Pilotprops of the week! Mr. Willis would like to celebrate Tobias Tyler! Tobias is doing a great job in class. He is always on top of his work. When he finishes, he is also going around to other students and helping them if they have questions or need assistance. Go Pilots!

#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Steinhoff would like to celebrate Cartier Spraggins. He comes to school with a positive attitude every day. His smile in the hallway always cheers me up. I always look forward to his positivity and silliness in class. Go Pilots!

#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Quam would like to celebrate Tavarrion Carothers. Shout out to Tavarrion for always being the first one to lend a helping hand when someone is in need. Tavarrion works very hard to get good grades in class and is always offering great advice to his peers. In his extracurricular time, Tavarrion loves to play many different sports with basketball being his favorite!

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center - Wolf Ridge and Murray are back in action! Mr. Altringer left at 7:15AM this morning with his E2 Environmental Inquiry class for a weekend of environmental research, community building and adventure up at Wolf Ridge! We are so very excited to reignite this long partnership and for the stories and experiences that the students will have with this wonderful program.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School
Sixth Grade

Minnesota Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Pfeiffer:
This week students are learning about gender roles in early Ojibwe history (pre 1800's) and how seasons affected Ojibwe communities.

6th Grade Field Trip to Bell Museum

Seventh Grade

Science with Ms. Dooley: 7th grade science
We have wrapped the unit on chemical reactions, featuring acid-base reactions in bath bombs, and are moving into cells and systems. We are currently working on a case study of a student who broke their foot and had a large cut on their foot as well. We are using this information to ask questions about how the body can heal itself, what are useful technologies in diagnosing and treating sickness and injury, and how we can use this information to tell us more about body systems in general.

Comparative Anatomy
We have completed our look at the natural history of the Earth and are starting to look at the things that have lived there since the beginning (or at least in the last 3 billion years). We have grown bacteria, tested the ideal conditions to grow fungi, looked at how fungi reproduce, and are starting to examine the simplest animals. Next up: dissections of more advanced animals.

Eighth Grade

Science with Ms. Atkinson:
In Mrs. Atkinson's earth science class, we are in the middle of learning about why chemical and physical changes are important to everyday life. Next, we will be learning all about the periodic table in preparation for analyzing minerals and rocks.

In Mrs. Atkinson's coding class, we are finishing the basics of animation in JavaScript and will be creating games next in quarter 2! All the coding students are very excited for this!

Social Studies with Ms. Croone: 8th Grade Global Studies
After learning how to read maps, we have been looking at the 5 Themes of Geography-Movement, Region, Human-Environment Interaction, Location and Place though a variety of readings and activities. As the quarter is ending, this unit will have a summative in our classes in the next week.
Staff Spotlight

Hello! My name is Kirsten Croone and at school I am Ms. Croone. I am excited to have joined the Murray staff as an 8th Grade Global Studies and In These Times teacher. While it’s my first year at Murray, it’s not my first year in St. Paul!

I have been in education for over 25 years-mostly in St. Paul but did teach in Amman, Jordan at the American Community School for 2 years. It was an amazing adventure of cultures, foods, travel and bucket list items while I was there. My big accomplishment was completing a Geography Certificate from St. Cloud State University this past year and was able to study at Hogwarts aka Alnwick Castle in Alnwick, England for 3 weeks. I’m a huge HP fan and this was a dream come true! It’s true-I am a life longer learner and now planning my next social studies area to study. I am a firm believer that I have “sand in my shoes” and blame my parents for that problem.

Things I love to do-travel! It is always at the top of my list as I am constantly looking for cool nuggets of info that I can bring back to my classroom to make the world real to my students. Knitting, cooking & baking, SCSU hockey games, hanging out with my mom and sister also top the list of things I love to do.

Thank you for welcoming me to Murray! I am lucky to be here and have appreciated the help and support I have received.

Give To the Max Day 2023
November 16th

Help Murray Middle School raise $5,000.00 to support our students!

Your Donations Support:

- Academic Support
- Affinity Groups
- Athletics & Clubs
- Band & Orchestra
- Classroom Supplies
- School Events
- School Musical

https://www.givemn.org/organization/Murray-Junior-High/welcome

Staff Spotlight

Hello there! My name is Gabe Gravert, I am one of the Math teachers at Murray Middle School. This is my 1st year with Murray Middle School and 1st year with Saint Paul Public Schools. I teach Pre-Algebra (7th grade math) and Integrated 1 Math (9th grade math). I started at Murray a week after the school year and have really enjoyed getting to know all the students, staff, and community here at Murray!

I received my bachelor's degree in Elementary and Middle Level Education from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Go Cats! I taught middle school math & science for 2 years in a District just outside of Des Moines, Iowa. I moved to the Twin Cities in Fall of 2019. While away from teaching I worked in store management for a HyVee while I was away from teaching for 2 years. I am really excited to be back in the classroom working with middle schoolers!

In my free time I like to play recreational sports such as soccer, kickball, and bowling. I am an avid follower of the University of Iowa Women's Basketball team. I have season tickets to their games with my sister who still lives in Iowa. I also enjoy spending time with my friend community here in the Twin Cities and exploring all that it has to offer. While in Iowa I coached High School baseball for 8 years and middle school girls' basketball for 2 years. I am looking forward to coaching middle school girls' basketball again this year at Murray!

My favorite part of this year so far has been getting to know all the students and facing challenges that math has to offer together. Looking forward to building community here at Murray for years to come.

Picture Day

School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at https://shop.jostenspix.com/login

MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOLEvent Code: FE216023

Also Needed:
Infinite Campus Unique Student ID

[Picture Day details]
EVERY MEAL

Please fill out our QR code or this link if you are interested in getting items from the Murray food pantry sponsored by Every Meal. Link: https://forms.gle/Uu7GTHWuTCiZgZ9b9. We have food available at Murray for students to pick up at the end of the day on Fridays. It is in our Food pantry – see Google Form for more info. Please write down your name, your contact information, and which items you’d be interested in your student picking up each week. Students will take these items home in their backpacks.

Contact Justine Revermann (justine.revermann@spps.org or 651-744-7130) or Lisa Engelstad (lisa.engelstad@spps.org or 651-744-2397). You can reach out to us to schedule an appointment to pick up some food items.

Murray School Counselors,

Justine Revermann (Student last names A-L) justine.revermann@spps.org or 651-744-7130
Lisa Engelstad (Student last name M-Z) lisa.engelstad@spps.org or 651-744-2397
7th Grade Vision Screening Scheduled

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your child is in 7th grade, they will have a vision screening at school in the upcoming weeks by Phillips Eye Institute’s Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative, part of Allina Health. While this screening is designed to identify issues with your child’s vision, it is not considered to be a full eye exam. If your child does not pass the vision screening, you will be notified with the recommendation to have your child receive an examination by an eye doctor for further evaluation. E.Y.E. can assist with scheduling the examination, as well as provide interpreter services, transportation and financial assistance with exams and glasses.

If you have questions or do not want your child to participate in the vision screening, please contact Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (school nurse) at 651-888-7650.

Agenda referente a evaluación de la visión

Estimados padres y madres o tutores,

Su hijo o hija tendrá un examen de la visión en la escuela en las próximas semanas por parte de la iniciativa comunitaria de atención a la vista juvenil temprano (E.Y.E. por sus siglas en inglés) del Instituto del ojo Phillips, parte de Allina Health. Si bien este examen está diseñado para identificar problemas con la visión de su hijo o hija, no se considera un examen ocular completo. Si su hijo o hija no pasa el examen de la visión, se le notificará con la recomendación de que una oculista lo/examine para una evaluación adicional. E.Y.E. puede ayudar a programar el examen, así como proporcionar servicios de interpretación, transporte y asistencia financiera con los exámenes y los anteojos. Si tiene alguna pregunta o no desea que su hijo o hija participe en el examen de la visión, comuníquese con Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (enfermera/a escolar certificada/a) a 1651-888-7650.

Teem Caij Kuaj boj Kev Pom Kev

Nyo b Zoo Nam Txiv/Neeg Saib Xyuas,

Koj tue me nyuam yuav raug kev kuaj boj kev pom kev tom tsav kawm ntawv hauv ob peb lim piam tom rje no los ntawm Phillips Oho Chaw Kho Oho v Muag E.Y.E. Kev Pab hauv Zej Zog, uas yog ib qho kev pab los ntawm Allina Health. Txoj kev kuaj no yuav nhiaj tau tej teeb meem ntawm koj tus me nyuam boj kev pom kev, nws tse yog ib boj kev kuaj qhov muag tag nho.

Yog tais koj tus me nyuam tsav hauv kev kuaj boj kev pom kev, yuav cee b kom kojseb koj tais me nyuam yuav tsav mus ntisib tus kho qhov muag kom na kev kuaj rxej. E.Y.E. mam li pab koj teem caij rau kev kuaj, thiab mam li nhiaj neeg thlaais lus, thuj mus los thiab pa nyiaj tlaag thm mng ri kuaj thiab luv qhov muag. Yog koj musaj tus rug los sis tsav kho kom koj tus me nyuam raug kev kuaj boj kev pom kev no, thov liv tauj mus rau Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (Tsev Kawn Ntawv tus Nais Mueum RN) nyob ntawm 651-888-7650.
Baadhistaanka Aragga ee Ballansan

Gacailyeyaal Waali/Masuulii,
Ilmahaaga waxa loo sameyn doona baadhianka araagga oo lagu sameyn doo nayn dugisiga toto baadade soo socda kee soo qabaneysoo Madaxka Indhaha oo Philips (Philips Eye Institute) Baraarningaa Beesha ee Daryeelka Indhaha ee Da’arta (Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative), oo qayb ka ah Allina Heath. Insla oo baadhiankaan boqo tagkaqacyin la garto waxaa ah dhibaatay oo ee ka jira araagga ilmahaaga, haddana lagu ma soo gashaayo in uu ya hay baadhitaan indho oo dhammeystiran. Haddii ilmahaaga aan ugu ku gurbin baadhitaanka araagga, waxa lagu siin doonaa ogeyis u la socdo soo jeedinah in ilmahaaga u dhaqanka indhuu u sameeyo baadhitaan sib loo he 10 am dhaaro aha. Ilaarningoo E.Y.E., wuxuu kaa gargaari karaa ballaminta baadhitaanka, waxa lehe oo u hixiyay adeegyo turjubaan, gaadiid iyo gargaar dhaqaale oo ah baadhitaanka yoo muraayada ah araagga. Haddii ad qaatid siiyalo ama aarac rabin in ilmahaagu la qaybtalo baadhitaanka araagga, fadlan la xidhiidh Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (Kalkaalsada Dugsiga) oo laga wacayo 651-888-7650.

Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN
651-888-7650
ACCELERATED PROGRAMS NIGHT
THURSDAY, NOV. 16, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

What: Como Park High School is hosting their Accelerated Programs Night. This is an opportunity for prospective students and families to learn more about Como's college-level Advanced Placement classes, Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) and Concurrent College Enrollment options from Como staff and a student panel. Learn about our successful programs and have all your questions answered! Light refreshments will be provided.

When: Nov. 16, 2023 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Como Park Senior High School Library
740 Rose Avenue W, Saint Paul, MN 55117
COMO STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

FALL FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 17TH, FRIDAY, 5-8PM

COMO PARK SENIOR HIGH
740 ROSE AVE W, ST PAUL, MN 55117

ACTIVITIES DURING FALL FESTIVAL:
Pumpkin carving contest
Scavenger Hunt
Games
Arts and crafts, face painting

SOME OF THE GAMES AND FACE PAINTING REQUIRE TICKETS

TICKET BUNDLES:
1$ FOR 2 TICKETS
5$ FOR 12 TICKETS
10$ FOR 26 TICKETS
CASH ONLY!

USE THE QR CODE TO FIND ALL THE SIGN-UP LINKS
Join us for the 2nd Annual

HARVEST AT THE HUB

- Food giveaway with turkeys, produce, and much more!
- Community resource fair
- Vaccine clinic
- Health and wellbeing services
- Snacks and warm beverages!

TUESDAY, NOV 21 | 3 - 7 PM
45 WEST 10TH STREET SAINT PAUL, MN 55102

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED, BUT STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

Proudly sponsored by:
Únase a nosotros para la segunda edición anual
COSECHA EN EL CENTRO

• ¡Entrega de comida, pavos, productos agrícolas y mucho más!
• Feria de recursos comunitarios
• clínica de vacunas
• Servicios de salud y bienestar.
• ¡Bocadillos y bebidas calientes!

MARTES 21 DE NOVIEMBRE | 3 - 7 PM
45 WEST 10TH STREET SAINT PAUL, MN 55102
POR FAVOR REGISTRESE PARA LA ENTREGA DE COMIDA

Orgullosamente patrocinado por:
14th Annual
Project REACH
COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 19, 2024

We are accepting NEW coats and blankets this year to help keep our children experiencing homelessness warm all winter.

We need all sizes (infant, toddler, youth, adult) of NEW coats & blankets for our long winter!

Please bring donations to our office at:
1021 Marion Street, St. Paul, MN 55117
or contact Heather Alden at heather.alden@spps.org
or 651-744-7173 to arrange a pick up!

Project REACH
A Saint Paul Public Schools program serving families in our district who are experiencing homelessness.

Thank you so much for your support of our students!
3rd Annual Title I Project REACH

TOY & GIFT DRIVE

Now through December 15, 2023

Drop off or ship to: 1021 Marion Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117

Project REACH is seeking new toys and gifts for children ages birth through 18. The gifts will go to families experiencing homelessness in Saint Paul Public Schools. Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Title I office at the address listed above, or you can order from the wish lists listed and they will be delivered to the office.

Gift Ideas:
- Lego sets, board games, puzzles, trucks and cars
- Multicultural dolls and Barbies
- Dress-up clothes
- Arts and crafts materials, journals and pens
- Gift cards for Chipotle, Starbucks, Popeyes, Visa, iTunes, movie theaters, Best Buy, Target, etc.
- Jewely, hair accessories, nail polish, cosmetic brushes
- Sports equipment for basketball, football, volleyball, soccer
- Earbuds, head phones, wireless speakers
- Educational/learning toys
- Sleds and winter toys
- Lotions, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner

Links to shopping wish lists:

TARGET
https://www.target.com/register/gift/project-reach-toy-drive

AMAZON
https://www.amazon.com/gp/gregistry/guest-view?registryId=PCUSHF6PCR1S

For additional information, please contact Andrea Lindorfer at 651-216-3492 or andrea.lindorfer@spps.org