

# Pilot School News

October 27, 2023 | Volume #4



## UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

### November 6, 2023

Murray PACT Meeting  
5:00pm – 6:30pm

### November 9, 2023

End of First Quarter

### November 21, 2023

Murray PTO Meeting  
6:00pm – 7:15pm

### November 23-24, 2023

No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

*There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals. **Idowu Koyenikan***

We are excited to welcome our new assistant principal, Mr. Richard Terrell, to our community this coming Monday. We have started his onboarding and he is ready to dig in and begin his journey with Murray. He states that getting to know our community and building relationships are some of his first priorities. I am sure he will be quite busy as the kids will most certainly be very curious about him. We can't wait to get him onboard!

The end of Quarter 1 is fast approaching. The quarter officially ends on November 9. Where is this school year going!? This is the perfect time to have those conversations with your child about their current progress and what they can do to either maintain or improve their academic standing. Please review your child's progress through schoology and work with your child to establish a plan for them to advocate with their teachers if any reassessments or make-up work needs to take place. Our teachers are ready and have systems in place to support these requests. Additionally, if you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your teaching staff via email. Supporting our Murray Pilots is a teacher-family partnership and it takes all of us working together to help our scholars succeed!

### Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Klemme celebrates Angelina Yang! Angelina is a great example of what we look for in a Murray Pilot. She's a hard worker, responsible, and is willing to help any fellow student. The big smile every day makes those around her feel safe and welcome!!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Chase celebrates Narah Ailabouni! Narah is strong academically and she brings so much joy to class. Her positive attitude, cheerful disposition and strong work ethic inspires and supports learning. She is respectful and aware of equity. Go Pilots!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie  
Principal, Murray Middle School



## Sixth Grade

### **English with Ms. Stedje:**

Readers and Writers Workshop in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are working hard on analyzing and creating narrative stories.

Readers Workshop students are in the thick of analyzing characters and the psychological settings of their stories. We will also be delving into the world of theme and the many lessons our characters are learning about life.

Writers Workshop students are wrapping up the rough drafts of their personal narrative stories. We will be fine-tuning our final copies as we learn how to use paragraphs purposefully and learn about the key comma rules and correct structures of writing dialogue.

Ask your 6<sup>th</sup> grader to read you their personal narrative story. It might just be about you!

## Seventh Grade

### **English with Ms. Steinhoff:**

Currently, 7<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing to work on characterization in texts. We are investigating the perspective of characters in our shared novel "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" as well as in student's independent books. We are also working on some foundational writing pieces, specifically working on the five parts of a complete sentence and the different parts of speech. This will help us move towards our first big writing assignment this year where students will be writing their own memoirs! Keep an eye out for some fun and exciting news about 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA in November!

### **Science with Mr. Altringer:**

Murray students have planted and maintained the garden from spring through the summer, and now we are in the harvest season. Murray's e2 class has harvested over 100lbs of produce this fall for the Como Culinary Arts classes.



### **Social Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade American Studies - Seventh grade history recently wrapped up the Civil War and are now working on the Reconstruction Era. From there, we will begin work on the Progressive Era, including immigration, Industrial Revolution, Transcontinental Railroad, and the destruction of Native lifestyle.

## Eighth Grade

### **Math with Mr. Hayden:**

In Integrated Math, we just finished our unit on equations and inequalities. A lot of the unit reviewed some topics they learned in Algebra last year, but there were some new things to learn such as compound inequalities and absolute value equations and inequalities. Our next unit will be focused on linear functions, which will again be a mixture of review of some algebra topics and an introduction to some things that students have not seen before.

In Algebra, we are also wrapping up our first unit, which emphasizes solving equations. The main concept to master was the idea of using inverse operations to isolate a variable and solve for it. Our next unit will expand on that knowledge and apply it to solving inequalities, which is similar to solving equations but there are a few subtle differences.

In both classes we are still adjusting to our new Savvas curriculum, but we have started to work out some of the technology glitches and will be gradually progressing towards doing everything digitally.

### **Social Studies with Ms. Croone and Mr. Kareem:**

Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Global Studies have just finished their first unit: The Tools of a Geographer. They made maps of an imaginary country to demonstrate their new geographic skills for the summative. Next, they will look at the 5 Themes of Geography- Movement, Region, Location, Human-Environment Interaction, and Place.



## Staff Spotlight



Hello Murray families!

I am Abby Adegeye and I am the Flipside Coordinator at Murray Middle School. Flipside for those who don't know is our FREE afterschool program. Yes, we do have a free daily snack, we do provide afterschool busses, and a variety of fun enrichment classes. If your child is interested, the application can be found on the Murray website, in the main office, and my office.

I am new to the district and new to education. I have been involved in youth work since I was in middle school because I love to see middle-schoolers grow and find out who they are or what they want to be in the future. All students deserve someone that believes in them and listens to them. So, it is safe to say I am in my happy place and can't wait to continue to serve here at Murray Middle this school year.

I am from Brooklyn Park, MN, where I grew up with my mom, dad, older brother and sister. I recently moved to Woodbury with my sister. I graduated from Augsburg University in May of 2023 where I received a BA in Sociology and Urban Studies.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, building Legos, spending time with family/friends, catching up on my shows and watching Tik Toks. I also mentor students at Augsburg University in an alliance that I started for African American student workers in Residence Life.

I believe Flipside allows students to try new things that they may never have the chance to do otherwise, keep or make new relationships afterschool with peers and staff, and I love to see them finding a community they feel they belong in!

Please feel free to reach out, I am always striving to make Flipside better for our students.

# flipside

the opposite of boredom.

Afterschool activities for middle school youth.

Flipside afterschool program is in full swing and the students are having a blast! If you're interested, please make sure to sign up on the Murray website or in the main office-cooking, board game and recording studio are all full!

Our program does provide busing. Busses will load in front of the school. Please do not park there when picking up your student.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Please reach out with any questions.

Abby Adegeye  
Flipside Coordinator  
651-774-3189  
[abiola.adegeye@spps.org](mailto:abiola.adegeye@spps.org)

## Picture Day

School Pictures are Ready!

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

MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL Event  
Code: FE216023

Also Needed:  
Infinite Campus Unique Student ID

## Staff Spotlight



Greetings! My name is Vanessa Novak and I am honored to be the Licensed School Nurse (LSN) at Murray Middle School. I am new to the Murray community and am looking forward to connecting with all of you this year.

This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year as an LSN for St. Paul Public Schools. I previously worked at Parkway Montessori Middle School and, more recently, as an LSN coach for nurses new to the role. Prior to school nursing I was a surgery center director for a Twin Cities eye surgery center. I knew that I always wanted to be a SPPS school nurse so when the opportunity presented itself, I made the switch. In my spare time I like to hang out with my family and friends and watch my 8-year-old play the sports he loves. I will also be helping with Murray's musical and hope you all come out to see it in the spring!

This year, I hope to support the removal of any health-related barriers to learning for our Murray students. In addition, I want to assist them to be self-sufficient in managing their health, preparing them for high school. Please reach out with any questions or to discuss specific health conditions that may need to be supported at school.

Take care!



## Counselor's Corner

### 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](mailto:justine.revermann@spps.org) or 651-744-7130) or Lisa Engelstad ([lisa.engelstad@spps.org](mailto: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](mailto:justine.revermann@spps.org) or 651-744-7130

Lisa Engelstad (Student last name M-Z) [lisa.engelstad@spps.org](mailto:lisa.engelstad@spps.org) or 651-744-2397

## Nurse's Corner

### Upcoming Flu Immunization Clinics at SPSS

SPSS will be working with Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health and M Health Fairview to host flu vaccine clinics at school sites in October and November. In both cases, this is only for the influenza vaccination. The Covid vaccine is not available at this time.

**St. Paul Ramsey County Public Health** will be offering flu shots on the following dates:

- 10/26: Txuj Ci Lower, 5:30-7:30. Walk-ins welcome but **advance registration preferred**
- 11/6: St. Paul Music Academy, 2:00-6:30. Walk-ins welcome but **advance registration preferred**
- 11/16: Bruce Vento, 2:00-4:00. Walk-ins welcome but **advance registration preferred**

**M Health Fairview** has committed to offering flu shots on the following dates:

- 10/24 Nokomis Montessori, 2:00-5:00pm
- 10/25 Washington HS, 3:30-6:30pm
- 10/26 Dayton's Bluff, 5:00-6:30pm
- 11/1 Mississippi, 4:30-6:30pm
- 11/9 Riverview, 5:00-8:00pm
- 11/9 Farnsworth Lower, 5:00-8:00pm

No advance registration is required for these events; walk-ins are welcome



**Save The Date**



# Q-QUEST 2023

**November 15th & 16th**

A youth education, wellness,  
and advocacy festival  
celebrating LGBTQIA2S+ lives,  
histories, and cultures!

There will be workshops,  
entertainment, community  
building and more.

We can't wait to see you there!

**Schedule:**

11/15/23 High School Students  
11/16/23 Middle School Students  
9am - 2:15pm

**Location:**

Minneapolis Convention Center  
1301 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN  
55404

Stay tuned for information  
regarding registration!



## Day Field Trip - Type II - PARENTAL/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION

A field trip to: Q-Quest Youth Festival @ Minneapolis Convention Center is planned by: Out for Equity for the purpose of: Q-Quest Youth Festival. This is a daylong educational youth conference focused on leadership and health. This event is for Middle Schoolers to enjoy workshops, local authors, artists and professionals, and networking with around 400 Middle School youth from all over Minnesota! On Thursday, November 16th, 8:00am-4:00pm

\*\*Students will be leaving the event early to ensure they arrive prior to bus departure. Students will be excused from their classes on Nov.16th.

This form must be completed and returned before the student will be permitted to participate in the above field trip.

VERBAL AUTHORIZATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR APPROVAL

\*\*\*\*\*  
Detach and Return

### Day Field Trip Parental/Guardian Authorization

I/We authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in  
(Student's Full Name)

the field trip to Minneapolis Convention Center on (date) Thursday November 16th, 2023

Does the student have any special health or disabling conditions which will require special attention or supervision on this field trip? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what is this condition and what special considerations should be made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I/We understand that the necessary arrangements, plans and precautions will be taken for the care and supervision of the student during the field trip.

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_





## 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

