

Pilot School News

September 15, 2023 | Volume #1



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

September 19, 2023

Murray PTO Meeting
6:00 – 7:15pm

September 21, 2023

Title 1 Annual Meeting
Open House/Parent Curriculum Night
6:00pm – 8:00pm

September 25, 2023

No School for Students

September 27, 2023

Picture Day

October 2, 2023

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

October 12, 2023

Family/Teacher Conferences
4:00pm – 7:00pm

October 17, 2023

Family/Teacher Conferences
4:00pm – 7:00pm

October 19-20, 2023

No School – State-wide Teacher Meetings

October 25, 2023

Picture Retakes

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. Dr. Seuss

We are off and running with a new school year. It has been an amazing start for the first two weeks! We were able to welcome all of our students with a Core Value assembly, some fun competitions and a whole lot of community building. As always, we have an absolutely amazing group of young Pilots this year. We are so excited to see what path each scholar chooses to take as they continue their journey through middle school and Murray. Thank you, to all of our families for all of the support in helping to make the kick-off to this school year a great experience for our students!

We are now well underway and are beginning to dig in deep with content/curriculum. Please continue to monitor your student's progress routinely and don't hesitate to communicate with your teachers if you have questions. The family-school partnership is absolutely critical when setting up our kids for success. A quick reminder, please be sure to set up your weekly email notifications from Schoology to keep track of your student's academic progress. I previously sent this message out as a family communication on 8/29/23. If you have questions about this process, please connect with one of our counselors, Ms. Engelstad or Ms. Revermann.

One of the life skills Murray will be focusing on this year is helping students set academic goals and create plans for achieving those goals. Much of this will take place in their foundations class. This is a perfect time for families to also have these conversations with their students. Some possible questions you might consider are -

- Where do you want to be at the end of the quarter with your grades?
- What is it you want to learn about in your classes?
- Where do you feel you are now with your classes?
- What concrete steps can you commit to that will lead to achieving your goal?
- What support might you need along the way?
- How will you get that support?

We look forward to partnering with you all and making it a great year for Murray. Go Pilots!

Celebrations (Staffing Update/These are our last positions):

English Language Arts (ELA) - Please join me in welcoming Andy Willis to our 6th grade ELA team. Andy is a wonderful addition to our community and will rock it down in 6th grade!

Math - Please join me in welcoming Gabriel Gravert to our Math team. Gabe comes to us from Iowa and is getting to work supporting the many levels of math that Murray offers. Welcome, Gabe!

Paraprofessional - Please join me in welcoming Sharon Sledge to our student para support team. This team of individuals is vital when helping our students reach their full potential day to day. We are excited to begin working with Sharon and for the work she will do to support our Pilots.

Spanish - An offer has been extended and accepted by our candidate. We are now working through the process with MDE to confirm all necessary licensure requirements. The time frame is now dependent on MDE as to when we can complete the formal hiring. We are checking daily for updates and I will continue to update families along the way.

Technology Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) - This staff member will mostly be supporting technology in the building, but will also teach a foundations class. An offer has been extended and accepted by our candidate. We are now working through the process with MDE to confirm all necessary licensure requirements. The time frame is now dependent on MDE as to when we can complete the formal hiring. We are checking daily for updates and I will continue to update families along the way.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School



Staff Spotlight



*One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world. **Malala Yousafzai***

Hello, my name is Jamin McKenzie and I am the proud principal here at Murray Middle School. Welcome to a new school year, Pilots! I am in this business because I love working with kids. Seeing all of those smiles and all of that excitement as students and staff are walking in to start a new school year is something I look forward to every fall. With a new school year comes all of the unknowns, the new discoveries, the numerous challenges, the endless questions and the new relationships. These are all of the things that make working in education the best job in the world!

I am entering my 22nd year in Saint Paul Public Schools and my 11th year at Murray. I began my career as a science teacher at Battle Creek Middle School and still have a love of everything astronomy. My family consists of my wonderful wife Lisa and our twin children Jadon and Isabelle, who are 16 years old and entering 11th grade. Our family enjoys time at the family cabin, golfing together and supporting our kids in their sporting events.

I am excited to begin a new school year as I continue to serve our Murray community. As a staff, we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated community and to be educating your young scholars. We thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to another great year!

Welcome to all and ...Go Pilots!

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Michelle Bierman. I am excited to be at Murray Middle School as an Assistant Principal. I am excited to have our students and families back at school for the 23-24 school year!

I am a proud Saint Paul resident and have been part of Saint Paul Schools for over 26 years. I started as a high school teacher at Highland Park Senior High School where I taught History of Americas, Civics, Asian Studies, African American History, and Economics. I continued my work supporting social studies teachers at the district level, working in the teaching and learning department, and then racial equity and gender equity. Most recently, I was the Assistant Principal at Open World Learning (OWL).

I graduated from Minnesota State University with a BS in Social Studies, University of St. Thomas with my Masters of Teaching, and University of Minnesota with my Administrator's license. When I am not at school, my wife and I spend time with our nieces and nephews, dogs, and ride around town on our scooters. Think Vespa. I like to travel, read, kayak, and teach. I teach as an adjunct professor at Metropolitan State University in their Urban Education Program.

My belief is that each student has many talents and gifts. We, as adults, just need to get to know students, provide opportunities for them to be themselves, challenge each student academically, and add some fun into the mix to bring out the best in each student.

I am proud to be a co-pilot at Murray! Please stop by and say hello. I look forward to meeting our new families and students and welcoming back our current students and families.

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Ryan Eggers and I am honored to be serving as an Assistant Principal here at Murray Middle School. I am entering my 11th year at Murray. Before becoming an Assistant Principal, I spent six years working with our incredible Murray community as an 8th grade teacher. The dedication and collaborative nature of our staff is what I find most rewarding for our students as we are always finding new, creative means to support their learning.

After completing my undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota Duluth, I began teaching high school social studies at Brooklyn Center Secondary. While working with our Data Analysis Team, I fell in love with numbers and pursued an additional licensure in mathematics to bring a new lens on how to approach problem solving and make math more culturally relevant. In 2013, I joined St. Paul Public Schools as an Algebra 1, Geometry and AVID elective teacher. Being a lifelong learner, I continued to improve upon my craft by receiving my Masters in Leadership Education and Administrative License from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

When I am away from school, I am spending time with my wife Nakeea and our two boys, Maddox and Miles. We enjoy traveling, hiking and scouring the cities for the best new cuisines. You could say we're "foodies" but we only occasionally Instagram our plates.

I believe all children are unique and must have a stimulating educational environment where they can grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. When these needs are met, students are more willing to share their ideas, take risks and be their true, authentic self.

I am excited for our new school year and I look forward to building positive relationships with our students, families, and Murray community. Go Pilots!!



Murray Middle School

2200 Buford Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108
murray.spps.org
651-293-8740
School Hours: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Murray Administration

Jamin McKenzie, Principal
Michelle Bierman, Assistant Principal
Ryan Eggers, Assistant Principal

Murray Office Staff

Maria Flores
Adriana Cruz-Trevino

Murray Counselors

Justine Revermann (A-L)
Lisa Engelstad (M-Z)

Murray School Nurse

Vanessa Novak

Murray Parent Liaison

Stefanie Folkema

Murray Attendance

murrayattendance@spps.org

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.



Open House

Please join us on Thursday, September 21st from 6:00pm-8:00pm for our Title 1 sponsored curriculum review and Murray Open House Event. You will follow your child's schedule where you will have an opportunity to meet the teachers, receive a syllabus and hear a brief introduction to each class. The hard start for this event is 6:00pm if you wish to follow your student's schedule. All are welcome if you cannot make it at the scheduled start time. We will use the following schedule:

5:45pm – Greet Families – Distribute Schedules
6:10pm – 6:25pm – Period 1
6:28pm – 6:38pm – Period 2
6:41pm – 6:51pm – Period 3
6:54pm – 7:04pm – Period 4
7:07pm – 7:17pm – Period 5
7:20pm – 7:30pm – Period 6
7:33pm – 7:43pm – Period 7
7:43pm – 8:00pm – Optional Technology Support with iUpdate and Schoology – Raffle to win prizes!

This is a highly recommended event to help families learn about your child's middle school experience, meet staff members and see our wonderful school. We look forward to seeing you all at our annual Open House Event!

flipside

the opposite of boredom.

Afterschool activities for middle school youth.

Registration for Flipside session 1 will be live Monday September 18th, [here](#) and in person in the office! Sorry for the delay.

The Flipside afterschool program at Murray Middle will begin Monday 10/9/23!

Monday – Thursday: 3:00 – 5:00

Flipside provides Murray students with a variety of classes that offer academic support as well as enrichment activities. Flipside also provides students with an afterschool snack. The goal of Flipside is to provide our students with opportunities to explore and discover their passion in a safe, structured, and supportive environment.

Flipside will have two sessions during the year, 10/9/23 – 1/25/24 and 1/29/24 – 5/09/24.

Please reach out with any questions!

Abby Adegeye
Flipside Coordinator
651-774-3189
abiola.adegeye@spps.org



Charlotte Stevenson Guesses (figures out) the M&M Jar!

Charlotte Stevenson, Murray Middle School 7th grader used a ruler to take various measurement of the jar full of M&Ms.

Once Charlotte got home, she quickly figured out the volume of the jar, based on photos she had taken. Then she and her mom used the volume of a M&M to add up to 1907 M&Ms.

The actual number of M&Ms in the jar...1906.

Way to be a problem solver Charlotte!



Things to Know About the Transition to Middle School

Students do well when parents, school staff and caring adults understand both the school changes and the personal changes that are underway for middle grades students.

During the transition from 5th to 6th grades, academic and social emotional expectations during the school day increase. If you notice that your student is exhausted, overwhelmed or struggling with the transition, don't hesitate to reach out to your student's school counselor with your concerns. Some of these symptoms can be typical, yet you know your student best. We encourage you to have conversations with your school counselor, family medical provider and/or a trusted mental health professional as you continue to support your student.

1

Physical changes strongly influence the middle school years. Keep dialogue open with your student about how they are feeling and managing the changes they are experiencing. Students may feel exhausted and need more rest due to all the growing their brains and bodies are doing.

2

Exploring identity is important work for middle grades students. Students explore interests, expand social networks, learn new ways of thinking and express differing opinions. This is an important part of figuring out who they are and want to be in the world.

3

The parent/child relationship matures during the middle years. As your student shares experiences and challenges with you, it's important to affirm them, communicate what you are noticing and share the type of behavior you respect. When it comes to peer relationships, while middle grades students need adult guidance, they also need to make their own decisions.

4

Social media and technology use increase during the middle grades. We encourage parents/guardians to take an active role in your student's online presence. Check their page and read their posts. Be curious with your child about what they are doing online. Talk with them about staying safe and respectful, while monitoring that your student is having healthy interactions with peers online.

5

Encourage practice and growth with school skills like organizing their binder and backpack, checking Schoology (grades) and taking responsibility for completing missing assignments or scheduling study time. Middle grades are an important time for students to practice communicating their needs. Let them know it's normal to need help and it's okay to ask for what they need from their teacher and all school staff.





Murray Middle School Bell Schedule



Period 1	8:30 – 9:21
Period 2	9:25 – 10:16
Period 3	10:20 – 11:11
Period 4	11:15 – 12:07
Lunch 6	11:40 – 12:07
Period 5	12:11 – 1:08
Lunch 7	12:11 – 12:38
Lunch 8	12:41 – 1:08
Period 6	1:12 – 2:04
Period 7	2:08 – 3:00

We follow the “Murray Way” of being
Respectful, Responsible and Safe



Parent Quick Access to Infinite Campus and Schoology

Saint Paul Public Schools uses 2 systems to communicate grades, homework, and attendance to families.

Schoology is where students submit assignments and participate in class activities. Daily grades and homework can be viewed here.

Campus Parent/Campus Student (Portal) contains general parent information, interactive tools, and students' attendance.

1

Schoology: Online application that helps parents, guardians, families, and students stay informed about classes, assignments, and grades. You can use Schoology to:

- View your student's courses
- View assignments that are due
- View grades
- View school and class announcements



Learn all about how to use Schoology by going to <https://www.spps.org/onestop> and clicking on [Schoology](#). On this page, you will find:

- Parent Guide to Schoology in [English](#), [Hmong](#), [Karen](#), [Somali](#), and [Spanish](#).
- [How to turn in assignments](#)
- [How to contribute to a discussion](#)

2

Campus Parent/Campus Student (Portal): Online application that helps parents, guardians, families, and students view and interact with attendance, final grades, class schedules, transcripts, and household information.

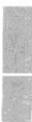
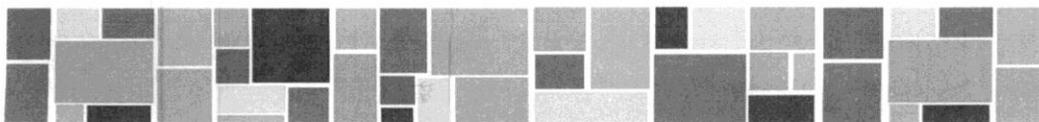


Learn all about how to use Infinite Campus by going to [Campus Parent and Campus Student \(Portal\) Overview](#). On this page, you will find information on how to log in and how to navigate Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You can log in to Infinite Campus Parent Portal at <https://www.spps.org/onestop>.

The same username and password work for both Schoology and Infinite Campus.

Active Directory Username: _____

Active Directory Password: _____



COMMUNITY & SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE

Your Mental Health Practitioner



*Fatima Mohamed, M.A.
School-Based Mental Health Therapist*

I AM HERE TO SUPPORT
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Child, Adolescent & Family Therapy
- Skills/Support Groups
- Professional Development for Staff
- Psychoeducation & Support for Parents/Guardians
- Online sessions via Zoom

TO MAKE A REFERRAL CONTACT:

Justine Revermann

School Counselor

justine.revermann@spps.org

Lisa Engelstad

School Counselor

lisa.engelstad@spps.org

The Community School Collaborative (CSC) is a project of Change Inc. providing prevention, early intervention and mental health services.

The CSC is supported by the Saint Paul Public Schools, Ramsey County, MN Department of Human Services, AND insurance reimbursement.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fatima Mohamed

FMohamed@thechangeinc.org

CHANGE INC.



Family-Teacher Conference Request Form

Or complete online form at <http://murray.spps.org>

- 1) CHECK CHOICE: Thursday, October 12, 2023 (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)
 OR Tuesday, October 17, 2023 (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)
 OR No Preference on Date
- → → On the date you requested, do you prefer an earlier time or later time or no preference

2) PRINT STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME BELOW:

Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____

Use both columns **only if you have 2 students at Murray.**

Grade Level for Student 1	School will fill in Time	Grade Level for Student 2	School will fill in Time

You will be able to meet with each teacher approximately 4 to 5 minutes. 6th grade teachers will be in the cafeteria, 7th & 8th grade teachers will be in the gymnasium. Before or after your conference with the Grade Level Teachers you can conference with the specialist teachers in the Library. These times are not scheduled.

List of Teachers by Grades

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Ms. Atchison, Ms. Carter, Mr. Chase, Ms. Crowley, Mr. Klemme, Mr. Lee, Ms. Pfeiffer, Ms. Stedje, Mr. Willis	Mr. Altringer, Ms. Bittner, Ms. Dooley, Ms. Nalepka, Ms. Newman, Ms. Steinhoff	Mr. Aal, Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Croone, Mr. Gravert, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hirthe
	Language Academy: Mr. Cudahy _____ Ms. Lee _____ Ms. Scheid _____	
If your student has one or more of these teachers, check the box. We will schedule times. Special Programs: Ms. Al-Ahad _____ Ms. Ciancio _____ Ms. Helmen _____ Ms. Miller _____ Ms. Prom _____ Ms. Ulven _____ Mr. Wenzel _____		

- 3) Do you need an interpreter provided by school to interpret at conferences? If so, Language needed _____
- 4) You can return this form by: sending to school with your student
 Or, mailing to: Stefanie Folkema, Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Ave. St. Paul, MN 55108
 Or, faxing to school at 651-293-8742 Attn: Stefanie Folkema—please be sure it goes through.
- 5) How do you want the school to return the form to you once we've filled in the times? (Choose One from list below)
- ___ Send home with my child through Foundations: Teacher is _____
- ___ E-mail to (your name) _____ E-mail Address _____
- ___ Fax — Attention: (receiver's name) _____ (Fax number) _____
- 6) It is important to get your form in early since scheduling is done on a first-in, first-scheduled basis.

School Only Date Received:





Murray Middle School

Fall planter Fundraiser
**CHOOSE FROM
THREE OPTIONS!**



12" MUM

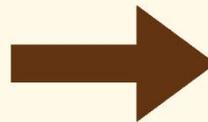


MIXED 12"
PLANTER



12" GRASS
PLANTER

ORDER ONLINE



MURRAY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

This fundraiser is hosted by the Murray Middle School Parent/Community Organization. All proceeds support Murray students. Please contact Nia Anderson at yeseniag@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!



FREE FARMER'S MARKET

Drive-Through Event



ALL ARE WELCOME!

You will receive **free, fresh fruits and vegetables**



All events take place from
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Scan the QR code to learn more!

**ROSEVILLE
COVENANT CHURCH**
2865 Hamline Ave N, Roseville

- June 2
- July 7
- August 4
- September 1
- October 6

**RICE AND
ARLINGTON FIELD**
1500 Rice St, St. Paul

- June 9
- July 14
- August 11
- September 8
- October 13

ALLIANZ FIELD
400 Snelling Ave N, St. Paul

- June 16
- July 21
- August 25
- September 15

📞 651-645-0349

@ info@keystoneservices.org

🌐 keystoneservices.org





**MIRACLE
LEAGUE**



**OCTOBER
8TH, 15TH, 22ND, AND 29TH**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
340 S Colborne St., St. Paul, MN**

For more information or questions please call Sarah Gottfredsen
651.288.9884 | sgottfredsen@saintsbaseball.com



**Interpreter Available
Upon Request**

**Intérprete disponible
bajo petición**

**neeg txhais lus muaj
raws li qhov kev thov**

**ล่ามแปลภาษาให้บริการ
ตามคำขอ**

