

OWL Weekly Email

March 13, 2023

In an effort to increase communication with our students and families, we send a weekly email on Sunday evenings or Monday mornings highlighting upcoming school events. This information will also be shared with students in Schoology and in Crew on Mondays. Events are listed in chronological order.

NEW! Parking Changes: Remember Saint Paul went to 1-sided parking. Parking is NOT ALLOWED on even sided streets; generally south or east sides of roads. All the street's immediately around OWL and Humboldt are affected.

NEW! Spring Play Family Meeting: Tuesday March 14th from 5:30pm-6:30pm. It will be held both virtually and in person in the choir room at OWL - here is the link if you choose to join virtually: <https://meet.google.com/vdu-rfbs-yzs>

NEW! SPIRIT WEAR IS HERE!!! GET READY TO SHOW YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE! OWL Spirit Wear is on sale now through Friday, March 24! Unfortunately, late orders will be accepted because the online store will close on March 24th! T-shirts, hoodies, hats and pants all available!! See attached link!

NEW THIS YEAR: Ultimate Frisbee merch is also available: Show your team pride with "Ultimate Fanatee" t-shirts and hoodies!

See all the options and get yours now here:

<https://owlschoolstore.com>

This year ALL orders must be placed online through the website. Credit card, venmo and paypal all accepted. Delivery tentatively planned for April. Any profits will go to the OWL PTO to be used for student enrichment activities.

If you have any questions about the OWL School Store, please direct them to spiritwearOWL@gmail.com

NEW! Prom Dress Giveaway: Project Fairy Godmothers creates the opportunity for high school students to choose a formal dress, shoes, and all accessories to attend their prom – at no cost on Saturday, April 1, 2023. For more information and to reserve an appointment, go [HERE](#).

Visual Art Projects: If you would like to see a slideshow of the 7th grade Minnesota Species Project art, [CLICK HERE](#). If you would like to see a slideshow of the 8th grade Greeting Card Project, [CLICK HERE](#).

MCA & MTAS Testing 2022-23: Each spring, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) or the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) are provided to students in mathematics (grades 3-8 and 11), reading (grades 3-8 and 10), and science

(grades 5, 8 and in high school upon completing biology). Most students take the MCA; however, some students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements take the MTAS. Both tests provide information about student learning of grade level content in reading, mathematics, and science. The MCA and MTAS are used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. The tests are administered every year to measure student learning relative to the Minnesota Academic Standards that specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do. Students take the MCA or MTAS between March 6-May 5, 2023.

OWL students will be testing on the following dates:

READING MCA : Grades 6,7,8, 10

Week of March 27-30

3/28-3/29 READING grades 6th, 7th, 8th & 10th

Periods 1 & 2 (8:30-11:08)

MATH MCA Grades 6,7,8,11

Week of April 17-21

4/17 - 7th/6th, 11th

4/18 6th, 8/7th

4/19 6th, 6th/7th, 8/7th

11th grade if needed

Periods 1 & 2 (8:30-11:08)

Science MCA grades 8th, (9&10th Bio only)

Week of April 24 -27

4/24- 9th/10th

4/25-8th

4/26 - 9/10th , 8th Periods 1 & 2 (8:30-11:08)

If you would prefer that your student not participate in statewide standardized testing, please inform your school of that choice by

providing a written note or a completed MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal form no later than March 5th 2023.

For more information on the MCA, MTAS and the MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal form, please go to:

- SPPS Family Testing Information
website: spps.org/Page/33916
- MDE's Family Testing Information
website: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/
- [Parent//Guardian Refusal information](#)

Please reach out to Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org if you have any questions. Thank You

PSEO Information Night Recording: Click [HERE](#) to see a recording of last week's PSEO Info Meeting. Questions: Contact Jolene Jolene.yang@spps.org

PSEO Application Due Dates:

Metro State April 1 (Jolene's Due Date March 18)

UMN April 17 (Jolene's Due Date April 3)

St. Kate's May 1 (Jolene's Due Date April 17)

Concordia May 5 (Jolene's Due Date April 21)

Hamline June 1 (Jolene's Due Date May 18)

St. Paul College May 31 (Jolene's Due Date May 17)

Century College July 1 (Jolene's Due Date May 17)

Inver Hills CC July 1 (Jolene's Due Date May 17)

ALL June and July applications are due to Jolene by May 17th.

Spring Sports sign ups: We are still looking for athletes for all the spring sports. See Damon for forms and instructions on how to sign up.

High School sports offered (For students 7-12th grade)

Girls Softball

Girls Badminton

Boys Baseball

Golf

Track and Field

Boys tennis

Adapted Softball

Clay Target League (capitalcityclaybusters@gmail.com)

Middle School sports offered (For Students 6-8th grade)

MS badminton (Girls)

MS Baseball (Boys)

MS Softball (Girls)

MS Track (Boys and Girls)

Clay Target League (Boys and Girls, Gr 7-8)

(capitalcityclaybusters@gmail.com)

Club sports offered

Ultimate frisbee (6th – 12th) – Send questions: TIMOTHY.LEONE-GETTEN@spps.org

Boys Volleyball (7th - 12th) questions and sign up through Damon

Students need the following to be able to participate for SPPS sports

State forms and registration – download from this link or get from Damon if your student doesn't have them

MSHSL sports physical - need one every 3 years - check with Damon if you're not sure on the status (Students won't be able to participate without a physical)

Sports fee- \$45 or \$20 for free and reduced lunch (High School) - \$10 for middle school - bring to Damon
(Middle schoolers need to fill out a separate registration form that they can pick up from Damon)

Direct any questions to Damon Liberatore - Owl Athletic Director Damon.liberatore@spps.org

Clay Target League Team: OWL students and parents are invited to attend a virtual informational meeting to find out more about the Minnesota Clay Target League and our own team the SPPS Capital City Claybusters. This combined sport is open to any student in grades 7-12 from across SPPS. Coaches and current athletes will be on hand to provide information on the sport and help folks get registered. Go [HERE](#) for more information. Contact capitalcityclaybusters@gmail.com for more information and to register for the virtual meeting on March 15.

Golf Team Information: OWL has a strong history of student participation in athletics in partnership with Humboldt High School. OWL student athletes have made significant contributions towards numerous athletic teams at Humboldt in the past.

My name is Ray Gonzalez, I am the Boys Golf Coach at Humboldt. I am inviting OWL students and parents to consider increasing the number of OWL students that participate on our Boys and Girls Golf Team. We have had a few OWL students participate in golf in the past but not close to the number that have participated in other Fall, Winter, or Spring sports.

I am asking all students interested in joining the Boys and Girls Golf teams at Humboldt High School to contact me for further information regarding the upcoming 2023 Spring Golf Season.
Ray Gonzalez ray.gonzalez@spps.org 651-744-5581

School Newspaper: Click [HERE](#) to read the latest edition of the Purple Press.

What is TutorMe? TutorMe is an online tutoring platform that allows students to connect with a live tutor 24 hours a day in over 300 subjects, right from their home. Their network of over 10,000 verified tutors are ready to help with any question, no matter how big or small. Additionally, students can submit a paper on TutorMe's Writing Lab and receive detailed feedback in less than 12 hours.

For more information, [check out this link](#).

E-Learning Day Plan: As we are entering the heart of winter, there may be occasions when SPPS informs families that there will be an e-learning day (criteria here: <https://www.spps.org/weather>).

[Here is a link to our e-learning plan](#) posted on our school website.

We will also send this out by 7:30 a.m. the morning of an e-learning day along with whether the day is an A or B day. Staff will have their Google Meet codes available by 8:25 a.m. Attendance will be taken through synchronous attendance or completion of an assignment per class.

An important message from Nurse Colleen:

Each day, please continue to observe and monitor your child/children closely for any signs or symptoms that they are not feeling well and keep them home to watch closely to see if symptoms persist or worsen. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19, to other people. Students, staff and visitors must conduct their own symptom screening prior to coming to school/work, and again when arriving at any SPPS facility, and throughout the day.

ILLNESS AND SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

- Keep your child home if they:
 - Have a fever of 100 degrees or more during the previous evening or night or in the morning.
 - Have vomited or had diarrhea during the night or in the morning.

- Have a rash that may be caused by a disease or if the cause is unknown, check with your family physician **before** sending the student to school.

If a student is at home sick, please call the school attendance line daily to report the reason for absence.

COVID-19:

Find resources and locations at spps.org/covidvaccine.

Time to Order your OWL Yearbook 2022-2023: Use [THIS LINK](#) to order your very own yearbook.

Summer Opportunities:

NEW! **Summer Job as a Language Assistant:** 11th or 12th grade students who are bilingual in French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, or Hmong are eligible to apply. Also there are two positions for students who are knowledgeable of American Indian culture. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch will be given preference. Language Assistants will work with language teachers in the 1st-4th grade language and culture programs this summer at Adams Spanish Immersion School. The dates are June 20th-August 1st, 2023.

Students will be paid \$12.50/hour for up to 15 hours per week. Language Assistants will also work at the CRI Expo in late June. **The deadline for students to apply is March 15th!** Apply [HERE](#).

NEW! Summer Sailing Trip around Isle Royale: If you are an adventurous and environmentally aware teen, you might be interested in this trip especially for teens. There is a steeply sliding scale for the fees. Here is the link that will tell you everything you need to know: www.seachangeexpeditions.org/teen-trips

OWL Community Group Facebook Page: If you use Facebook and want to stay connected to other OWL families, [HERE IS THE LINK](#) to the OWL family page.

One proven way to live a happy life is to express gratitude. Is there a staff member at OWL that has done something you are grateful for? Shoot them an email! An alternative and way has been made available by filling out [this link](#). (This form requires an email but is sent anonymously.)

Important Reminder about Attendance:

If your child is going to miss school, please call, email or write a note to explain the reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is documented as unexcused. After 3 days of unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from the school reminding you to please communicate with us so the absence(s) may be documented accurately. If your child continues to miss school, unexcused, he/she will be referred to the SAM (School

Attendance Matters) Program for intervention.

The following reasons for absence qualify as an excused absence; illness, doctor, dental or therapy appointment (please be sure to obtain a note to give to the school), extreme family emergency or religious holiday not already recognized by our school district.

When a student misses 3 or more class periods in one day, this is considered to be a full day of absence. Please call us if you have any questions/concerns.