

## **OWL Weekly Email**

**March 6, 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.*

**ACT Update:** The ACT will take place on Tuesday, March 7th for our 11th grade students at OWL. Students will need to be at school on time so we can start the exam on time. Students will get timed breaks during the test, we will be offering snacks for students during the quick breaks. If you would like to help us out with snacks, we have an Amazon wish list of snack items linked here: [ACT Snacks](#). Questions: [Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org](mailto:Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org)

**Read Brave at OWL is this Wednesday:** Read Brave is Saint Paul Public Library's annual reading initiative for all ages centered around one theme and five books. Read Brave's goal is to inspire conversations that move Saint Paul forward. Go [HERE](#) for more information about this year's Read Brave program. Contact OWL Librarian Caryl with questions: [caryl.mousseaux@spps.org](mailto:caryl.mousseaux@spps.org)

**NEW! Choir Auditions are this week on Wednesday 03/08 after school and Thursday 03/09 during Crew:** Sign up is outside the choir room. This is rescheduled from the snow days. Students can

email Seth: [seth.bovis@stpaul.k12.mn.us](mailto:seth.bovis@stpaul.k12.mn.us) if they would like to schedule an audition at a different time.

**NEW! Visual Art Projects:** If you would like to see a slideshow of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Minnesota Species Project art, [CLICK HERE](#). If you would like to see a slideshow of the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](https://spps.org/Page/33916)
- MDE's Family Testing Information  
website: [education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/)
- [Parent//Guardian Refusal information](#)

Please reach out to [Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org](mailto: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](mailto:Jolene.yang@spps.org)

**NEW! 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 will be signing up for Spring Sports that begin in March.

[Much information can be found here including schedules](#)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:capitalcityclaybusters@gmail.com))

Club sports offered

Ultimate frisbee (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) – Send questions: [TIMOTHY.LEONE-](mailto:TIMOTHY.LEONE-GETTEN@spps.org)

[GETTEN@spps.org](mailto: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** - get from Damon if you're 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://spps.org/covidvaccine).

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

#### **PTO News:**

##### **Spirit Wear Update!**

Attention OWL Community- Spirit Wear will be coming at you in late winter/early spring 2023! Get ready! (And thanks for your patience)



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS:**

We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in stepping up to chair the **Raffle-O-Rama**: This is an event that is held in conjunction with the Celebration of Learning, the first Friday in June. This event consists of a community dinner along with a raffle and sometimes a silent auction. Feel free to make this your own! I am here as a reference for you as you need.

\*Please note: if you have interest in volunteering to chair the spring fundraiser, consider reaching out soon- work typically begins in January for the fundraiser to take place the first week in June. Thank you so much for considering!

Please reach out to Jennifer Lodahl with interest or questions. [lodahl.stp@gmail.com](mailto:lodahl.stp@gmail.com). Thanks for considering!

**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.