



### Back-to-School Edition – August 2022

*Dedicated to keeping families informed about Open World Learning Community events & volunteer opportunities*

### Principal Welcome

Greetings OWL Families!

I hope that you have had a nice summer to date. I expect that you have had some time to rest, play, get out in nature, listen to some music and all the other things you like to do.

Over the last two years we have returned to school with a lot of uncertainty and anxiety. While we still have to be very attentive to COVID numbers in our city and county and be alert to the most recent COVID variant, we do know that we are gradually returning to normal functions at school.

Fortunately, we have become very adept at adapting to whatever conditions are thrown our way, which allows us to plan as we would for a normal year.

This back-to-school newsletter will provide some important beginning of the year information, including calendar events, fall retreats, and athletics.

I want to welcome all of our new students and families. We are very honored that you have chosen OWL as your next school. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions that you might have: [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org)

We look forward to seeing you at Goal Setting Conferences on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> or Thursday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> (virtual or in person). I wish you a wonderful end of your summer!

In Crew,

David Gundale  
Principal, OWL

#### In this Back-to-School Newsletter you will find information on:

- Important Calendar dates for August-October (Below)
- Goal Setting Conference Information
- Fall Retreat Summary
- School Supplies List
- iUpdate
- High School and Middle School Fall Athletic information

#### August/September/October Important Calendar Dates

**August 15:** High School Athletics Begins

**August 31:** Goal Setting Conferences 2-6 PM

**Sept 1:** Goal Setting Conferences 4-8 PM

**Sept 6:** 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

**Sept 12:** Middle School Sports Begin

**Sept. 13: 6:00 – 8:00 PM,** Open House

**Sept. 13: 8:00 – 9:00 PM,** Senior Parent Meeting

**Sept 26 – Sept. 30:** Fall Retreats

**Oct. 7:** School Picture Day

**Oct. 13: 5:30 – 8:30,** Fall Family Gathering

**Oct. 20 and 21:** No School MEA

**Oct. 26:** Latinx Family Night 6-8 PM

## **2022-2023 School Supply List and Information**

You can bring your school supplies to your goal-setting conference in September or to the first day of school.

**Community items:** Teachers can use all of these items. Please bring as many as you are able. Do not feel obligated to buy everything on this list.

- 6 boxes of Kleenex
- Scotch tape/masking tape/double-sided tape
- Clear packing tape with dispenser
- Blue painter's tape (tape that's safe to put on the floor)
- Cardstock (8.5 x 11; multiple colors)
- Poster paper (24 x 36)
- Box(es) of pencils to share (Ticonderoga brand preferred)
- Pack(ages) of markers or colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Paper clips
- Standard Staples
- Dry-Erase markers (dark colors)
- Sharpies—black and various colors/thin and thick tipped
- Post-It Notes
- Hot glue gun sticks—variety of sizes (glue guns too)
- 3M Command quick release tabs
- Clorox wipes
- Target/Office Max gift card for miscellaneous supplies
- Paper Plates / Bowls / Napkins / Paper Towels / Utensils (used for crew pot lucks)
- Kickballs for Four Square use or outside time as a crew
- Postage Stamps (First Class or Postcard)

### **Personal items for all students (needed the first day):**

- Backpack
- Headphones for iPad—straight jack (the 90-degree elbow kind doesn't work in iPads)
- Personal planner (if you want a physical planner, not a digital one)
- Pens and pencils (get enough for the entire year)
- Highlighter pens
- Pocket folders and college-ruled notebooks for each class OR a multiple folder/binder that zips
- 1 sewn-bound quad (grid) composition-size notebook OR \$3 to buy it from your science teacher
- Physical Education: Tennis shoes
- AP Biology: 3-ring binder (1.5 or 2 inch) & a set of dividers



### **Kurt Hahn Leadership Program for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students:**

This fall, we will continue a program we started during the 2018-2019 school-year with our partners Voyageur Outward Bound called the Kurt Hahn Leadership Program. One of the highest forms of student leadership at OWL is when older students support, mentor, and tutor younger students. This coming year our Hahn student leaders will mentor and support our 6-9<sup>th</sup> grade students through our Thursday Tutoring program. In addition to tutoring, Hahn students will do six full day outdoor leadership experiences with Outward Bound at locations around the Twin Cities. Hahn Leaders will be able to use this experience for their required graduation service hours. This is an excellent opportunity for 10<sup>th</sup> graders to building their service resume, which will be valuable for a job or college application. If you are interested in applying to this program, please email [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org).



## Fall Goal Setting Conference Information

Launching our school year at our annual goal-setting conference is a critical part of our EL Education model. We believe that when students set goals for themselves and then continually reflect and improve upon those goals that they engage in the process of what EL Education refers to as becoming a "leader of their own learning". On the week of August 9th, you should have received an email with a scheduling link for you and your student to identify a time to meet August 31<sup>st</sup> or September 1st with your child's crew leader. Families can notify their crew leader after signing up for a conference about whether they would like to meet in person or virtually (the calendar date automatically generates a Google Meet code). Along with setting academic and social goals for the year, students will have an opportunity to look and discuss their class schedule as well. It is expected that all students attend goal-setting conferences. Students new to OWL will have the added benefit of being able to walk around the school with their class schedule before the opening day of classes. Please be on the lookout for an email from OWL with a link to schedule your conference!

## 2022-2023 Student Led Conference Dates

Students will have 3 required conferences this school year. Each conference will be held with the students' crew leader and be student led/crew leader facilitated. In the fall goal-setting conference, students will set the foundation for the school year. At the winter student-led conference, students will do a mid-year reflection with artifacts of both student work and habits of work and learning (HOWLS). In the spring, students will conclude their year by sharing their XELLO portfolio. 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will have some additional requirements to showcase in their "Passage" presentation.

### Goal Setting Conferences

(20-minute scheduled block)

- August 31: 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- September 1: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### Winter Student Led Conferences

\*This conference will prioritize HOWLS (Habits of Work and Learning based on quarter 1 student grades and reflections - 20-minute scheduled block with crew leader)

- November 30: 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- December 1st: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### Spring Student Led Conferences

\*This conference will be artifact/portfolio driven (20-minute scheduled block with crew leader)

- April 18: 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- April 19: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

## Open World Learning Community Mission:

A community of Joyful, curious self-directed learners engaged in the world.

### School Values:

- ☐ Integrity
- ☐ Responsibility
- ☐ Perseverance
- ☐ Stewardship
- ☐ Collaboration

### EL Education Design Principles

- ☐ The primacy of self-discovery
- ☐ The having of wonderful ideas
- ☐ The responsibility for learning
- ☐ Empathy and caring
- ☐ Success and failure
- ☐ Collaboration and competition
- ☐ Diversity and inclusion
- ☐ The natural world
- ☐ Solitude and reflection
- ☐ Service and compassion

"Nobody is allowed to be a passenger; everyone belongs to the ship's crew."

- Kurt Hahn,  
Founder of Outward Bound





## Fall Retreats are Back!!

**Summary:** OWL Fall Retreats will take place Sept. 26th – Sept. 30.

**Purpose:** OWL started the tradition of Fall Retreats about 10 years ago so that students could socially connect with their peers and teachers in a different way. Additionally, Fall Retreat's serve as an entry point in to a student's grade level work for the year. Below is a grade level plan for Fall Retreats, 2022.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mississippi River,** field work to: Interstate Park, Fort Snelling, Mill City Museum

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Community:** Belwin, Green Line trip, overnight to Baker Park Reserve

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Justice:** Think Globally Act Locally, Expert Panels, overnight to Baker Park Reserve

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Service:** Service Launch and High School Success, Overnight Service at Camp YMCA in Hudson, WI

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade, College Visits:** 2-year/4-year, public/private, large/small, trade union training programs, college admission process/paying for college, etc.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Service Trip:** Service Week in Northern Iowa

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Senior Retreat at Camp Du Nord:** Service and Launching senior year around purpose and possibility

## Fall Retreat Chaperones Needed!!!

Last fall our OWL Community Group (led by parents and students) sent out a survey to parents and students around fall retreats. In this survey parents and students overwhelmingly stated how important they believed fall retreats were and how formative overnight experiences were. However, in order for us to run fall retreats, we need your help. We need male and female parent chaperones on both day trips and overnight trips - across all grades. Please use the following link to provide your availability and contact for fall retreat!

[Fall Retreat Volunteer Form](#)

## Funding Fall Retreats

Unfortunately, our school budget is not able to cover the costs of our fall retreats. We need your support to make sure our students get these valuable experiences. Last school year due to the pandemic, the OWL Community group was able to cover the costs of fall retreats and did not collect any funds from families. This year based on parent feedback, we are including overnight experiences again. Between the fee that our cooperating organizations charge and the extraordinary increase in transportation costs, we are asking parents for \$120 per student. We do have limited scholarships available so if you are in need of a partial scholarship, please contact: [dave.gundale@spps.org](mailto:dave.gundale@spps.org). If you have not already done so, please use the link below to pay for fall retreats. If you are able to contribute an additional amount, it will help to increase our scholarship capability. Thank you!!

[Fall Retreat Fee Link](#)





## **Fall Sports and Extra-Curricular Eligibility**

Below you will find information about both High School and Middle School sports. You can register today by clicking on the links below. (be sure to click on the correct link for your student (High School or Middle school))

Information on OWL Specific Sports including Archery and Ultimate Frisbee will be announced during the first few weeks of school. There is a different process for registering for these activities. The below information applies to Minnesota High School Leagues sports.

### **All students need a sports physical on file in order to compete in Fall sports**

**Link to Forms:** <https://spps.humboldthighschool.rschooleams.com/page/3075>

For any questions or information needed about registration, contacts with coaches or general information please contact the Humboldt Athletic Director Matthew Osborne – [matthew.osborne@spps.org](mailto:matthew.osborne@spps.org) or Damon Liberatore, OWL's Athletic Director, at: [damon.liberatore@spps.org](mailto:damon.liberatore@spps.org).

### **High School Sport offerings Fall 2021** (including 7th-12th grade students)

**\*\*Practices begin on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.** Please email the athletic director (above) for detailed information on practice start times.

- Football (co-op w/Harding)
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Tennis
- Boys & Girls Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Girls Swimming and Diving
- PI Soccer
- CI Soccer

**As always - High School Sports are only open to 7th-12th students per the MSHSL guidelines. (7th and 8th grade students interested in high school sports should contact the OWL athletic director Damon first - [damon.liberatore@spps.org](mailto:damon.liberatore@spps.org)**

### **Middle school sports offerings Fall 2022** (6th - 8th graders)

Middle School sports will begin September 13.

- Flag Football (boys and girls)
- Volleyball (girls)
- Soccer (boys)
- Soccer (girls)

Middle School Participation Form Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKRKfqK3uN1WB7-9UorUHUIaQmkb7gJzVm-1Lp2oAHYBFUpw/viewform>

**Meet:**

**Kent Miller**

OWL's new Art Teacher



I started teaching in Saint Paul Public Schools in the fall of 2001. I have previously worked at Battle Creek Middle School, Johnson Senior High School, Parkway Montessori Middle School and Gordon Parks High School.

I am a licensed teacher in Visual Art. I have a BA from St. Olaf College in Studio Art and Education. I also have a Masters in Education from Saint Mary's University in Teaching and Learning. I received my Montessori teaching certification from CMSTEP in Secondary 1 and Secondary 2 Montessori Education. I also have a Masters in Montessori Education from University of Wisconsin River Falls.

I am a co-coach for St. Paul Youth Mountain Bike Team and besides being out on team rides I also really enjoy mountain biking with friends and family. I stay active with my own pottery studio making functional pottery for everyday use. Keeping up with commissioned work and having enough pottery for a sale from time to time keeps me busy in my home studio. I also cook soups and stews in the cold winter months and love making homemade pizza for friends and family.

I live with my family in St. Paul. I have two sons; both my sons attend St. Paul Public Schools and keep active with the many interests they have. My wife is a school nurse for Minneapolis Public Schools and loves to travel. So, we are often going on trips to places near and far.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks, Kent Miller  
kent.miller@spps.org

## **Technology at OWL**

Most students who have been a part of St. Paul Public Schools will be returning with their iPads in the fall. However, it is a good time to locate your iPad and have it fully charged for the start of the school year. For those new to SPPS or who opted to leave their iPad at school for the summer, you will receive your iPad during the first couple weeks of school.

It is important to emphasize a couple of things with both iPads and personal cell phones. Both are allowed at school but both are used at the discretion of the students' teacher. If a student brings a cell phone, it is expected to be packed away in their bag or locker. The only time of use for their personal cell phone is during lunch.

Every year we do a lot of proactive work through crew and classes on digital citizenship, but it is a good time to remind our students that in order to maintain a positive school climate and culture, online interactions through social media sites and email/text messages (in and out of school) should to be respectful and supportive of each other. Please take time in advance of this school year to discuss these expectations with your student. The more aware and proactive we all are of our child's online footprint, the better we can guide them toward making positive choices in their interactions.

## **Please Complete! Very Important!**

### **iUpdate and Free and Reduced Lunch Form Application:**

During the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, SPPS sent a link out to all families asking them to complete the iUpdate. This process is very important to do as it updates all information in our Campus information system and completes important items such as localized fieldtrip permission, media permission, etc. We do a lot of field work at OWL which requires permission so completion of this is very important for the success of our Fall Retreats, etc.

Here is the link for the iUpdate in One Stop.

<https://www.spps.org/Domain/11325>

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Form:**

After you have submitted the iUpdate, there will be a prompt for “applying” for Household Application for Education Benefits (Free and Reduced Lunch). We need all families to click on that link and complete it even if it involves clicking the Opt-Out button. This form provides us our Free and Reduced enrollment number, which translates into federal funding. Even if you don’t qualify or opt-out, we need that to be done through the link below. Thank you for helping us with this as it will help us from having to come back and ask you later on in the fall.

Nutrition Services / Free and Reduced Lunch Application

<https://www.spps.org/Page/34308>

## **Bussing, Dropoff/Pick up and Parking procedures at OWL**

**Bus Information:** Bus information should be sent via the SPPS Transportation department around the August 29th. This information will indicate what bus your child has, what time the pick-up and drop-off is, and where your child will be pick-ed up and dropped off.

### **Drop off and Pick up**

**Drop Off:** In the morning, please drop your child off at the corner of Humboldt Ave. and Elizabeth St (NW corner). Please drop off between 8:15 and 8:25 a.m. Also, please do not do U-turns on Humboldt Ave. as it is very dangerous due to busses and speed of traffic.

**Pick-up:** Please pick-up your child at 3:10 after the busses have left. Your child may wait in the OWL Cafeteria until 3:10 and then meet you outside of our building. At 3:10, you may pull up directly outside of our school building.

**Parking:** We have street parking across the street and in the neighborhood for both staff and students at OWL. We encourage families, students, and staff to be mindful of cross walks, driveways, etc. so as not to receive a parking ticket. During evening events, families are welcome to park in front of the building. During school hours, parents will need to find a spot on the street across from OWL or into the neighborhood.