Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Harriet Tubman

One of the celebratory events at Murray to celebrate Black History Month is a door decorating contest. The theme for this contest is Leaders Who Are Shaping History Today. I want to take this opportunity to highlight a door that our students created to acknowledge one of our very own community leaders that makes a difference in all of our lives every single day, Mr. Little. It's hard for me to put into words the amazing and lasting impact that Mr. Little has on all of us. He is a sincere and committed educator that always sees the potential in all of our students and goes above and beyond to help carve a path for our young Pilots to both see and achieve their dreams. Over his years of working in the community, he has influenced, supported, guided and cared for thousands of individuals. His name and kindness are known far and wide. Please join me in celebrating Mr. Little as one of our amazing leaders and know that Murray is very fortunate to have him in our community. Thank you, Mr. Little, for all you do and for showing us true commitment to the betterment of a community.

Some quotes from our Pilots -
"Mr. Little helps me make better choices" TC
"Mr. Little always makes me smile when he talks to me" AT
"Mr. Little calms me down when I am frustrated" RB
"Mr. Little helps everyone" BR
"Mr. Little is a leader of all students" ZA
"Mr. Little is a very kind human" PB

Celebrations:
#Pilotprops of the week! Mr. Boyer would like to celebrate Anna Peltier! Anna has done an awesome job all semester contributing thoughtful comments and questions in Health Class. Also, she contributed her amazing art that continues to inspire students in the class. Go Pilots!
#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. J. Engelstad would like to celebrate Jane Williams. Jane is always respectful and shows an interest in her learning. She is a great student and Murray is lucky to have her in our community! Go Pilots!
#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. J. Engelstad would like to celebrate Fodziya Gemeda. Fodziya always participates in class and is always willing to help her peers. Fodziya is a strong Murray leader and we are lucky to have her in our class! Way to go, Fodziya!
#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Quam would like to celebrate Saadik Ibrahim. A huge shout out to Saadik as he is doing an awesome job with his Literacy and has an amazing ability to focus. Also, is always willing to help when needed. Great job, Saadik!

Your Co-Pilot,
Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School
Sixth Grade

Math with Mr. Lee:
I’m thrilled to share that our 6th graders have wrapped up their graphing unit, mastering the art of visualizing data and drawing meaningful conclusions. It’s been quite a journey, and your child has shown exceptional growth in understanding various graph types, interpreting trends, and making connections. Get ready for our next chapter – Ratios! In the upcoming weeks, your 6th grader will dive into the fascinating world of ratios, exploring the relationships between quantities and understanding how they play a crucial role in solving real-world problems. Don’t forget to check your child’s Success Maker minutes at home on Fridays. They should be averaging 60 minutes a week. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child’s educational journey.

Social Studies with Ms. Pfeiffer and Ms. Atchison:
This week in class students are continuing to work on their History Day project. Students will have the opportunity to share their projects in class next week! After History Day, sixth graders will jump back into Minnesota history with the Dred and Harriet Scott Supreme Court Case and then we will read Soldier’s Heart by Gary Paulsen to learn about Minnesota’s contributions to the Civil War.

Seventh Grade

Math with Mr. Gravert:
In Mr. Gravert’s 7th grade Pre-Algebra class we just finished up taking our mid-year diagnostic assessment to see the growth between the beginning of the year and now. It’s exciting to see students start seeing the progress they’ve made. At the beginning of the year, we took a diagnostic assessment through the new curriculum. This places them at a grade level for the 5 different strands of mathematics: number & operation, Algebraic Reasoning, Geometry, Probability & Statistics, and Ratio & Proportion.

This gives teachers an opportunity to see where students are and meet them through math reviews and support. We will use the data to better prepare them for the MCA’s in the spring.

We are also in our Percents Unit. I personally love this unit as there are so many practical uses for percents. We just found the percent of a number like Sale’s tax or percentages of groups and surveys. We will be beginning to find a percent increase or decrease and discounts and markups. While you are grocery or clothes shopping ask your child to find percentages of these items to practice what they’ve been learning in Math class.

Eighth Grade

Science with Mr. Chase:
Earth science classes are starting a new unit called, Why does a lot of hail, rain, or snow fall at some times and not others? as part of the OpenSciEd middle school science curriculum. This unit develops science ideas about weather, climate, and water cycling. During the unit, your student will conduct investigations where they analyze data to draw models to help explain a sudden hailstorm and a large midwestern winter storm in the United States.

Imagine a sunny day then suddenly cars and the pavement are hit with hail, some the size of golf balls! In the first half of the unit, students watch videos of such hailstorms. These hail storms occurred in different locations and different times of the year. Some hail storms accompanied strong winds and rain! Together students are encouraged to wonder and to investigate what causes hailstorms and eventually storms in general, like rain. Students then continue to revise their model drawings to help explain what causes local weather events like hail storms and rain.

Helping your student make sense of their learning:
- If your child sees or thinks of other weather events from prior trips or shows, encourage them to share it in class the next day.

Having conversations about science:
- Encourage your child’s curiosity through talking about their own noticings and wonderings.
- If your child has experienced the Cup Design Unit, ask how that prior engineering design unit is similar and different to the current unit. Follow up with “how so?”
- If your child has experienced the Cup Design Unit, ask about what science ideas do they see useful in the current unit. Follow up with “how so?”
Counselor’s Corner

Upcoming events:

Central High School:
Registration Night for those enrolled at Central: March 28th

Como Park High School:
Tour/Shadowing Information:
8th graders/Families interested in shadowing at or touring, please contact Jamie Hoffman: 651-744-5529 or jamie.hoffman@spps.org

Link to all dates for Open Houses and Showcases in SPPS: https://www.spps.org/openhouses

Earn as you Learn:

• There is a district-wide opportunity for 8-12 grade students to learn new skills while earning money through the Earn as you Learn program.
• Earn a $300 stipend while exploring career interests, working on industry certificates, preparing for the workplace, and learning financial literacy! Students can complete the work from home.
• Courses offered in: OSHA, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access.
• More information here: https://www.spps.org/Earnasyoulearn
• Earn as You Learn Application/Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHkahKqym7hecQgBoflieTby1yL0- EWfrYN2fCIxbLSjCkkCw/viewform

Right Track:

The application will be open on January 15 until February 29. The general link is here: https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track.

It's for summer paid jobs!

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 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.

Murray Middle
Presents…Mary Poppins, Jr.

Performances will be:
Friday, March 22nd, 7:00PM
Saturday, March 23rd, 7:00PM
Sunday, March 24th, 2:00PM
Murray Musical - Mary Poppins - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools (rschooltoday.com)

Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost $25.00. Sale: There will be a sale February 17th – February 29th. The cost will be $20.00. https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html

Staff Spotlight

Hello, my name is Kristina Robertson. I have 28 years of EL teaching and leadership experience mostly in the Twin Cities area, although I began my teaching career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sri Lanka! I still remember my first teaching day. I was in a field with my Sri Lankan students – the sky was bright blue, the cows were grazing, and my students were giggling and speaking English and I thought, “This is AMAZING!” I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

I returned to the states, got my EL teaching license and proceeded to teach and lead in Bloomington, Minneapolis, Burnsville, Roseville, a stint at MDE and two years as a national WIDA trainer before the honor of arriving in St. Paul. I have been leading EL programming and professional learning for the past 15 years and it was time to return to my roots – to teach again and remember why I started this crazy career long ago. I never thought I’d return to middle school but I’m glad I did. While most days I’m exhausted and overwhelmed, I am happy and I know I’ll never be bored.

I live in the Merriam Park neighborhood with my husband Paul, dogs Rocky and Fern, and two cozy calico cats Libby and Lottie (named after my grandma and her twin sister). My six kids are all grown and only two live locally but I enjoy spending time with them and my granddaughter, Annie. For fun I love reading, camping, and music.

In my spare time I teach adult ESL at Hubbs Center, mentor Karen students, and dabble in writing my dissertation… My secret vices are staying up late binge-watching British murder mysteries, eating Cheetos, and creating/abandoning Pinterest boards.
Academic All-Star Quarter 2

Blen Adalo – Excellence in OT Literacy

Narah Ailabouni – Narah is a prime example of a math All Star! Her work ethic and positive attitude are above and beyond expectations.

Ximena Alvarado – Ximena is always on task and is always well behaved. Awesome to be around!

Kara Bergman – Kara does an excellent job using specific historical details to support her historical claims.

Marcel Bolden – Excellence in OT Literacy

Henry Bui – Henry is an eager participant in class discussions and activities. He consistently checks and reviews his writing to create strong historical arguments.

Riley Carney – For your strong commitment to moving your science thinking forward and that of your classmates around you.

Shoshi Castino – Shoshi is a remarkable student who works well with others, asks questions to enhance her learning, and leads by example. Way to go Shoshi!

Javier Cerda – Javi is a great participant in class. His work is always detailed! He is constantly striving to improve his work and build his knowledge.

Gennika Chang – Amazing work as a Historian! Always striving to improve her historical skills! Keep it up!

Edison Chit – Excellence in OT Literacy

Tha Ya Choeh – Excellence in WINN Reading

Gustavo DeLeon Reyes – Excellence in OT Literacy

Lily Flores-Diaz – Lily always turns in great work. She is dedicated to submitting detailed and well thought out answers!

Koh Naw Gae – Excellence in WINN Reading

Antuan Garcia – Excellence in OT Literacy

Soliana Gebreyohanes – For your active participation and dedication to high academic standards in pre-algebra.

Yordanos Gebreyohanes – Yordanos is an excellent student that is always on task and cares about her work.

Kingston Griffin – Excellence in OT Literacy

Adeline Hanson – For excellent work in all areas of Comparative Anatomy.

Safa Hassan – Excellence in OT Literacy

Eric Her – Excellence in OT Literacy

Dah Dah Hser – Excellence in WINN Reading

Zari Ingram-Jordan – Excellence in WINN Reading

Catherine Isaac – Excellence in WINN Reading
Eh Ku – Eh Ku is a straight A student and always does her work and leads by example.

Connor Kue – Connor is a prime example of a math All Star. His work ethic and positive attitude are above and beyond expectations.

Glenn Kyel – Excellence in OT Literacy

Brexton Lindell – Excellence in WINN Reading

Emmett Loth – Emmett is a student who shows grit when things get tough. He does a great job showing work and making connections to the math we do in class.

Rayann Mahamed – Excellence in OT Literacy

Edwin Martin-Cumes – Excellence in WINN Reading

Wah Doh Moo – For always striving to excel and do quality work. Wah Doh Moo also supports new students and is a good role model for her classmates.

Leah Moore – Excellence in WINN Reading

Sofia Mortensen – For your active participation and dedication to high academic standards in algebra.

Jalante O’Neal – Jalante works hard in class, participates in class discussions, and always has a positive attitude! Keep it up!

Duncan Peterson – Duncan combines consistency and hard work to achieve high academic standards. He also helps and motivates his lab partners. An all-around amazing person!

Amelia Reiban Alberca – Amelia always participates positively and does excellent work. She also helps her classmates to reach a high standard.

Adelyn Riedlberger – For consistent, high quality work and excellent team work in Life Science.

Linn Let Sandar – LinnLet’s commitment to creating her Art is an inspiration for the whole class.

Thanarthon Satjathamwaree – Tan has a no-nonsense approach to doing his work. He comes in and gets the job done.

Kai Schou – For your strong commitment to moving your science thinking forward and that of your classmates around you.

Logan Small – Logan prioritizes his academics, does an outstanding job of explaining his thought process, and holds himself to and meets his exceptionally high standards. Congrats Logan!

Adalyn Thao – Excellence in OT Literacy

Ka Lu Thaw – Ka Lu Thaw is such a leader in class! Besides doing his own work, he is always willing to help his classmates. Excellence in WINN Reading.

Tobias Tyler – Tobias combines consistency and hard work to achieve high academic standards. He also helps and motivates his lab partners. An all-around amazing person!

Melody Xiong – Excellence in WINN Reading

Annie Yang – Excellence in OT Literacy
Family-Teacher Conference Request Form
Or complete online form at http://murray.spps.org

1) CHECK CHOICE: ☐ Thursday, March 14, 2024 (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)
   ☐ Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)
   ☐ No Preference on Date
   □ On the date you requested, do you prefer: □ 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level for Student 1</th>
<th>School will fill in Time</th>
<th>Grade Level for Student 2</th>
<th>School will fill in Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 conferene with the specialist teachers in the Library. These times are not scheduled.

List of Teachers by Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Arcklin, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Clarke, Ms. Crowley, Mr. Klemme, Mr. Lee, Mr. Pfaffler, Ms. Stedje, Mr. Willis</td>
<td>Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Dooley, Ms. Klinka, Ms. Newman, Ms. Steinkeff</td>
<td>Mr. Aal, Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Croone, Mr. Grauer, Mr. Hedden, Mr. Ritte</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language Academy:
- Mr. Codby
- Ms. Robertson
- Ms. Schmid
- Ms. Vee

If your student has one or more of these teachers, check the box. We will schedule times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Programs:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Al-Atab</td>
<td>Ms. Garcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Al-Abdin</td>
<td>Ms. Helman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Al-Abdin</td>
<td>Ms. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Al-Abdin</td>
<td>Ms. Paim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Al-Abdin</td>
<td>Ms. Ueno</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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-served basis.

School Only, Date Received: __________________________
2024 Thinking Career & College Early Fair

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Program: 10:30-11:30 a.m.  •  Fair: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN

For more information, visit spp.org/tcefair

The purpose of the fair is to help students and families understand the importance of planning for college and careers early. Attendees will get an opportunity to talk to school and college representatives, ask questions, and gather important information for their future education and career.

Students who attend the fair will have the chance to apply for the fall HBCU college tour!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the HBCU College Tour!
Lub Rooj Qhia Txog Kev Npaj Ua Ntej Rau Kev Ua Hauj Lwm & Mus Kawm Qib Siab 2024

Saturday, Lub 2 Hlis Tim 17, 2024

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Rooj Qhia: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m
Harding High School, 1540 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN

Yog xav paub nteev, mus saib hww sps.org/lovefair

Yee nhav qiub txaw qom daw, koj hov ngev koj hauj nhew kawm nuv yij "achieve TWIN CITY"

Yeoq ooj QR code ngev maw moom kom pawb riik ling qiub nuv ntej saib 655-565-3977 kawm ntej hoobo wq saq qab tse "HBCU College Tour"
პირველი ყოფილობის გამარჯვება და ძალიან განხორციელებული ყოფილობის გამარჯვება. ჰარდინგ სკოლი, 1560 E 6th St, St. Paul, MN. ძალიან მნიშვნელოვანი დღესდღეობით ყოფილობის ფარგლები ერთბავებით შესწავლის პროცესში და მათი ჩაერთვის შემთხვევაში. ყოფილობის ყურადღები და შეცვლის სახით შეიქმნება გამარჯვების პროცესში. მათი შემთხვევაში ყველა წვეროდება და შეცვლა მატირდება შემთხვევით მომენტში.
Bandhigga 2024 ee
Ka Fikirka Kolleejo
& Shqo Xirfadeysan
Goor Hore

Sabti, February 17, 2024

Barnaamijka: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Bandhigga: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul MN

Wixii ugu dhexdaah ah, baagaaga.org/ceecfaah

Ujeedhada caruurada wax in laafo ooway u mbetayda iyo caawimaad in ay Ee Jawaabka odayaa u jeediyay inay oo u 2 Unlimited noloshaan.

Kollejka wax u sharaxaasay xirfadeysan. Ka jawaabka waxay hore kala kooban doonaa oo la haadi doonaa waxa 2 Kollejka waxa uu kala kooban doonaa oo 2 Unlimited noloshaan.

Xirfadeysan wuxuu u baahan tahay oo ku saabsan markaahadda u leeyihiin u baahan tahay oo ku saabsan marka ah oo 2 Unlimited noloshaan.

Source caawimaadka qaarka u aad u ogaato wax badan oo ku saabsan baarashada HCRI College!

achieveTWIN CITIES
PRECEDE
Educator Health Community

[QR Code]
Feria Thinking Career & College Early 2024
Sábado 17 de febrero, 2024
Programa: 10:30-11:30 a.m. - Feria: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN

Para más información, visite sps2.org/accefair

El propósito de la feria es ayudar a los estudiantes y familias a
comprender la importancia de planificar temprano para la universidad y
empleo. Los asistentes podrán conversar y hablar con representantes de
cortesía y universidades, recibir guías y recibir información
importante sobre la universidad y el empleo.

Los estudiantes y aquellos que asistan a la feria tendrán un
opportunity de postular para la gira universitaria de College de HECL.

Escanea el código QR para aprender más sobre
la gira universitaria de College de HECL.
Paint a Mural Fundraiser

Donate $5 per person or pay what you can to help support our Family Fun Night event in May.

An opportunity to leave your legacy at Como Park High School.

3:15-7:15 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
February 20 & 22
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Minnesota Department of Education invites you to join us as we share resources to support student’s academic success and wellbeing.

The conversation will focus on helping Asian American families understand how to access educational services and resources available in schools and in the community. However, this event will be beneficial to all families.

Dinner provided

To request an interpreter please email mde.engagement@state.mn.us or call 651-528-8550

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Washington Technology Magnet School
1495 Rice St.
St. Paul, MN 55117

Parking map on second page
Parking Map
Washington Technology Magnet School
1495 Rice St.
St. Paul, MN 55117

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Redefining Strength
Transforming Black Parenting &
Breaking Cycles of Trauma

Embark on a transformative journey to reshape Black parenting

Join us for an all-day event empowering attendees with strategies for fostering healing and supportive environments for Black families.

Presentations will examine the historical roots of Black parenting practices, highlighting the need to heal from trauma and eradicate corporal punishment.

Sessions will be led by Dr. Stacey Patton, an adoptee, child abuse survivor and former foster youth turned award-winning journalist, author and nationally-recognized child advocate and educator.

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
451 Lexington Parkway N
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

SATURDAY, Feb. 24
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Families receive a $50 gift card after attending a workshop!

RSVP by Feb. 18

Ramsey County Social Services
RS Eden
ramseycounty.us/RedefiningStrength