

Pilot School News

March 1, 2024 | Volume #12



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

March 4, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

March 14, 2024

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

March 16, 2024

Regional History Day

March 19, 2024

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

March 22-24, 2024

School Musical

March 26-28, 2024

MCA's (Reading)

March 28, 2024

End of Third Quarter

March 29, 2024

No School for Students – Professional Day

Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly. **Author Unknown**

We have two important messages to share with you for this newsletter. First, we have **19** school days until the end of Quarter 3. Where is this school year going!? The family-teacher-student partnership is critical to the success of our young scholars. If you haven't already, now is the time to check in with your students on their academic progress. Review their Schoology records, help them create game plans for making up work or taking reassessments, ask them about their grade checks that should be taking place in foundations class and get signed up for our upcoming conferences. Conferences will be held on March 14 and March 19 from 4PM-7PM. Please reach out to Ms. Folkema, our family engagement coordinator, with any questions around conferences. Consistent attendance (in class and on time), work completion, actively engaging, self-advocacy and performing well on summative assessments are the formula for success!

Second, we will be taking some time in the coming days to regroup our Murray community around the topics of Harassment and Bullying. We have created a presentation that will be shared through our Social Studies classes to ensure that all students receive this necessary information. The presentation will be facilitated by an administrator and a counselor/social worker. It will take approximately 6 days for us to get through the whole school. We believe this information is critical to a healthy and supportive learning community and any time is a good time to make sure that we are all clear on the definitions and expectations. As stated above, the family-teacher-student partnership is critical. We invite you to extend the conversation at home after your student has received the presentation. Please keep in mind, it will take us approximately six days to get through everyone and we will begin our presentations on Monday March 4. Link to presentation - [Murray Presentation](#)

As you prepare to engage with your student around this topic, here are some questions that can help get the dialogue started -

- What actions can you take to make Murray a safe school climate for all students, including yourself?
- What are some strategies that have worked well for you when trying to interrupt situations when you see someone using harmful language to others? What else could you try in the future?
- When you do see an issue of harmful language or behavior, who will you report it to at Murray?

As always, we appreciate your support and we look forward to leaning in as partners while we all work to ensure the success of our Murray Pilots.

Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Robertson would like to celebrate Alison Tristan Quiroz. Alison is a hard worker, is very respectful, and gets along well with everyone. Alison is an excellent class citizen and always looks for ways to serve her teachers and the other students. She is very much appreciated.

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Cudahy would like to celebrate Ler Wah Paw. Ler Wah Paw is a fantastic student. She works hard in all her classes and loves to learn new things. Her enthusiasm and laughter make everyone's days better. Congratulations and thank you!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Voves would like to celebrate Bon Chan. Bon Chan is a wonderful student. His curiosity for learning always makes learning science fun. He is a joy to have in class. Keep up the great work! Murray is proud of you!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

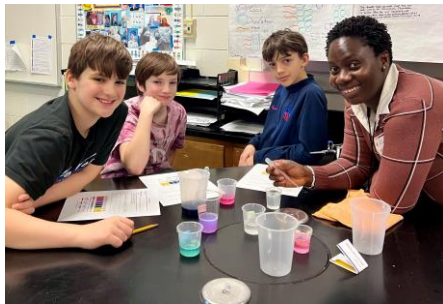
Sixth Grade

English with Ms. Stedje:

The 6th-grade Readers and Writers classes are working hard in book clubs and the Essay Boot Camp to share their ideas. In Readers Workshop, students read and analyze a fiction book about a social issue and then discuss their findings with a book club group. For Writers Workshop, students are working hard to complete a series of basic 5-paragraph essays in a matter of weeks for the Essay Boot Camp mini-unit. Writers will then transition into writing character analysis essays and theme essays about their book club books. Ask your 6th-grader what they are reading and writing about today!

Science with Ms. Crowley:

In environmental science the University of Minnesota comes to teach a class once a month in a program called "Science for All." Twelve PhD students volunteer to work with Murray students to inspire future generations of scientists. We will be going on a FREE fieldtrip on May 17th to the U of MN for the students to experience science on the campus for ALL students who have taken environmental science this year.



Seventh Grade

English with Ms. Steinhoff:

Seventh graders are working on writing their very own realistic fiction stories! Students are working their way through the writing process, developing their own characters, creating a detailed setting and planning out a clear plot. We can't wait to read the fantastic stories they are working hard on. Ask your student what they are writing about!

Social Studies with Ms. Newman and Ms. Atchison:

7th Grade American Studies – Now that History Day is done for the classroom level, we are diving into the Roaring 20's with all the glamor of jazz music, the automobile, the Harlem Renaissance, and flapper girls. Students will be creating a 'Life' Magazine cover to show all of the large changes in US culture. After our work with the 1920's, we will examine the causes for the Great Depression and what life was like for those living through the Dust Bowl.

For History Day - The Regional Event is at Johnson High School on March 16 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Eighth Grade

Math with Mr. Hayden:

In Integrated Math, we are in the middle of our unit about real numbers. Students have learned how to differentiate between rational and irrational numbers, how to convert repeating decimals into fractions, and properties of exponents. Lastly, we will be learning about scientific notation and the rules for operations with scientific notation.

In Algebra, we are finishing up our unit about functions. We learned how to tell if a relation is a function, various ways in which we can represent functions (tables, graphs, equations, etc.), how to differentiate between linear and nonlinear functions, how to create functions that model linear relationships, and our last lesson introduced us to function notation.

Band

Band students from Murray went and joined Como Park Sr High School's pep band for a girls' basketball game on February 9th. We had a great time!



8 Murray Musicians went up to UMD-Duluth on Monday, Feb 26th for a Middle School Honor Band. Students received music at 9am and performed a concert at 4pm. They worked hard and had a lot of fun with musicians from around Minnesota.



Como Park HS Boys' Volleyball

Open Gym Dates:

2/27 & 2/29 7:30pm – 9:00pm
3/5 & 3/7 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Tryout Dates:

3/12 & 3/13 6:30pm

First Day of Practice:

3/18

Monday – Friday

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Last Day of Practice:

TBD (early June)

Open gyms are not required but recommended. All will need to show their school ID upon entry to both the open gym and the tryouts.

Please reach out to Koob Lee with any questions. kooble193@gmail.com

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 Middle School - Class](#)

[Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschooltoday.com\)](#)

Counselor's Corner

8th Grade Registration:

Central High School: Registration Night for those enrolled at Central: April 18th / 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Como Park High School: Registration Night for those enrolled at Como Park: April 17th / 5:00pm – 7:00pm

6th and 7th Grade Registration: Murray Middle School / During science class

April 1st – Life Science - Dooley

April 2nd – Life Science - Altringer

April 4th – Earth Science - Crowley

April 5th – Earth Science - Chase

Incoming 5th Grade:

April 30th / 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Google Meet information TBD

Some 8th grade students have begun the process for Right Track applications. Please talk to your student about if they have applied. They will soon be hearing back from Right Track for further details. Right Track is a program that helps middle and high school students have paid jobs during the summer. More information is here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track>

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.



Music Fundraiser

Murray Middle Schools Music program is doing a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on April 2nd from 5pm-7pm at Murray Middle Schools Cafeteria. They will be serving Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and a Dessert. Music students will be performing solos or ensemble pieces while you eat. This will be a pay as you can with suggestions of \$10.00 per individual, \$30.00 per family, \$50.00 or more for a pay it forward. Please come and support our great music program. Proceeds will buy supplies, transportation costs for getting out in the community, buying music, and helping pay registration fees when needed for honor bands/orchestra.

Purchase here: rschooltoday.com



Murray Pilots advancing to Regional History Day 2024

Performance Individual:

1. Addie Power-Theisen
2. Sofia Patronski
3. Anna Peltier
4. Nijja Wheeler
5. Paloma Dashevsky

Performance Group:

1. Nora Johnson & Isaac Ruhland
2. Maida Sharif, Jachelle Whitner-Davis & Brissa Marquez Diaz
3. Ethan Imbertson & Cole Eichenberger
4. Mary Grace Lindsley & Hazel Collins

Exhibits Individual:

1. Scout Murch-Gordon
2. Sofia Mortensen
3. Anneliese Lindfors
4. Ian McKee
5. Kaleb Vaiphei
6. Will Olsen Krengel
7. Maja Johnson

Exhibits Group:

1. Lucy Geary & Jane Williams
2. Carly McNattin & Alana Kennedy
3. Timmy Inyang, Isaac Vanasse & Ben Buhr
4. Aminat Akindele & Samiro Muse
5. Alasia Washington & Emelia Kary
6. Matthew Peltier & Elias Keeler

Websites Individual:

1. Kai Schou
2. Rohan Stebleton
3. Ellia Stoessel
4. Sylvia McRoberts
5. Julia Umut-Bejarano
6. Adeline Hanson
7. Miles Wagner-Hemstad
8. Riley Carney
9. Lily Flores-Diaz
10. Marcus Hanson

Websites Group:

1. Robin Courtney & Javier Cerda

Documentaries Individual:

1. Ingrid Bollman
2. Jamie Nemec
3. Maeve Callahan Schreiber
4. Lu Beckman
5. Charlotte Stevenson
6. Tate Spaulding
7. Carter Matlock

Documentaries Group:

1. Charlie Anderson, Peter Laska & Emmett Loth
2. Georgia Kountoupes Ruddy, Elsa Washington & Alice Van Keerbergen
3. Harper Lorenz & Jillian Grunditz
4. Owen Johnson, Keller Ruhland & Jimmy DeLuca
5. Owen Muller & Graham Kitt
6. Gus Orezzaoli Robinson & Loudan DeGaetano

Historical Papers:

1. Anna Amman Steger
2. Selena Frazier

Honorable Mentions: Thalia Reckas-Jackson, Frannie Howatt, Sadie Kersey, Victoria Nicholson, Abel Dilks, Luc Dreamer, Duncan Peterson, Elliot Lueck, Declan Zimowicz, Isaac Vanasse, Augie Johnson, Derrick Coleman, Grace Klinge, Ari Lee, Mae Shanafelt, Narah Ailabouni, Logan Blank & Fritz Schilling, Madyson Gabrelcik & Lila Finch.

Congratulations to everyone and Murray is so very proud of you all!



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)
 OR Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (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. Wills	Mr. Alringer, Ms. Bittner, Ms. Dooley, Ms. Nalipka, Ms. Newman, Ms. Steinhoff	Mr. Aal, Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Croone, Mr. Gravert, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hithe
	Language Academy: Mr. Cudaly _____ Ms. Robertson _____ Ms. Scheid _____ Ms. Voves _____	
If your student has one or more of these teachers, check the box. We will schedule times. Special Programs: Ms. Al-Ahmad _____ Ms. Ciancio _____ Ms. Helmen _____ Ms. Miller _____ Ms. Prom _____ Ms. Uven _____ 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:



Breakthrough Twin Cities

Breakthrough Twin Cities is a registered 501c(3) non-profit that runs a completely free six-year college access program for students in the Twin Cities.

- Students can only apply in 6th grade for this six-year program
- Two main "arms" to the program:

1. Middle school program focusing on academic success and social-emotional learning. This is not a remedial program or a traditional "summer school". Our goal is to help students get ahead in their academics to prepare them for honors/AP classes in high school, and to help them develop into resilient, well-rounded students and people. The middle school program runs during the summer and the school year.

2. High school program focusing on developing "hard" skills (writing quality applications, interviewing for jobs, developing professional experience, working through the college admissions process). The goal of this arm of the program is to prepare students to thrive academically and professionally in college and beyond, helping them to develop the skills and tools they will need to be successful long after leaving Breakthrough Twin Cities. The high school program only runs during the school year, but high school students have the opportunity to work for Breakthrough over the summer as a program intern.

- Free program including transportation (transportation only available to families that live in the SPPS attendance boundaries, typically addresses that end in Saint Paul qualify)
- Middle school summer program runs June 25th to August 3rd, M-F from 9-3 PM
- School year program is a half day once a month on a Saturday from 10-1:30 PM, transportation is provided for Saturday sessions as well
- Regular Admissions Deadline: **March 11th**

The link to the application: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4869088>

The link to our website: breakthroughtwincities.org

Who to contact for questions or further information: Simon Lee, Program Manager. slee@breakthroughtwincities.org, 651-967-4165

A virtual information session will be held for families on Tuesday, March 5th. The link to join the virtual session is here: <https://zoom.us/j/94441655792>





AmeriCorps
Minnesota

2051 Larpenteur Ave E
Saint Paul, MN 55109
651.748.5504
admin@breakthroughtwincities.org

Breakthrough Twin Cities envisions a future where all students have the resources to reach their full potential, where every classroom is led by an engaging teacher committed to each student's success, and where society as a whole realizes the ultimate social and economic benefits of fully investing in its youth.



Our Middle School Program

is a 5.5 week program with monthly Saturday sessions during the school year. Middle school students receive 150+ hours of rigorous academic instruction in STEM, literature, writing, and electives. They also experience social-emotional skill-building, community building, and 1x1 support.

Every one of our students shares the goal of graduating from a four-year college or university.

100%
of Class of 2023 students that applied were accepted to college!
[*compared to the 69% state average]



Angela Nguyen, she will be attending Stanford University



Our High School Program

provides students with social-emotional skill building, academic support, individualized college counseling, as well as career exploration.

All Breakthrough Twin Cities students are expected to:

- Enroll in at least one honors (pre-AP/IB) course each year, starting in 7th grade (only if pre-AP/IB courses are available at your school).
- Earn a B- or above in all core courses.
- Have 95% attendance at Breakthrough Twin Cities programming (unless excused for illness or family emergency).
- Maintain a respectful, constructive attitude at Breakthrough Twin Cities and school.
- Complete 90 minutes of "Boo-Yah!" (homework) each night during the middle school summer program.
- Complete assignments and attend workshops during the high school program.
- Be involved in at least one extracurricular activity (outside of Breakthrough Twin Cities) each year.

Breakthrough staff are fully committed to supporting students to meet these expectations if students are struggling to reach any of these goals.



During the 2022-2023 school year, we served 533 middle and high school students. Our students are required to meet at least two of the following criteria to be eligible to participate:

98% identify as a race under-represented in college

86% eligible for free or reduced lunch

77% first generation college students

68% speak a language at home other than English

29% live in a single parent household

Parents & Guardians of Breakthrough Twin Cities students make a commitment to:

Understand and follow through with the six-year commitment that your child makes to Breakthrough Twin Cities!



Summer 2023 Recap!

-We're an AmeriCorps site! Starting this summer, eligible Teaching Fellows were also AmeriCorps Service Members!

-Social Studies is back!

-July 3 - 7 was STEM Week!

-July 28th was our Summer Alumni Event!

How to get involved this summer! (or Volunteer opportunities!)

-Join our Board of Directors

-Event volunteers:
Senior Celebration Committee
Booyah Bash Planning Committee

-Volunteer at a Saturday Session

-Translation volunteer: (as-needed)

For more information on these opportunities, contact:
Andrea Hite, Community Engagement Officer
at ahite@breakthroughtwincities.org

