

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL
MARCH 18, 2024

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.

Monday, March 18 is an **A day**.

Monday is survey day in Crew. On March 18, take the [OWL Culturally Responsive Crew survey](#) to share your views. Do you have a survey for all OWL students?
Email megan.hall@spps.org to get on the survey calendar.

Wednesday is Clubs Day in Crew:

Students, click on [this week's Clubs slide](#) to see your club choices.
Students need to go to Crew for attendance and get **smart passes from Crew leaders to go to clubs. Students who do not go to clubs should be doing a Crew lesson with their Crew leader or a buddy Crew leader*

STEM DAY: March is Women's History Month and while we celebrate the women of the past , on **March 21st** we would like to prepare the women of the future, with OWL's first ever STEM Day. Space is limited so students should use this [link](#) to **sign up by March 1** . For more information see the [attached flyer](#).

If you would like to help support the day please donate through [Donors Choose](#).

NEW Dine out for Robotics at Davanni's on Grand and Cleveland Avenues in St. Paul, April 1, 5:00-9:00 PM. Mention the Open Circuits or OWL Robotics when you order your meal, and proceeds will benefit the team.

NEW! OWL's Feminist Club is hosting a poster contest for all crews in honor of Women's Month. Every crew is assigned a different feminist icon and will be expected to create a poster for their icon and hang it on their crew door. Crew leaders will all be receiving an email that will include each crew and the icon they are assigned. Posters will be judged the first week of April, and a gift bag will be rewarded to the winning crew.

NEW! Join the St Paul Mountain Bike Team: Students in grades 6-12 can join. There is a virtual informational meeting on March 26. Practices start in the summer for the fall season. [THIS FLYER](#) has more information. Check out the website at <https://www.spymtb.org>. Questions: Daniel Marcelle daniel.j.marcelle@gmail.com 561-294-5536

The Purple Press: Read the latest edition of the OWL student newspaper [HERE](#)

Cinco de Mayo Button Design Contest: More information [HERE](#).
Designs due March 22.

Seeking student feedback on culturally relevant school menu items: Please consider taking a moment to full out [this short survey](#) to share your views on why it's important for schools to have menu items that reflect students' home cultures.

NEW! **The OWL/Humboldt High School Financial Literacy Debate team is looking for members!** Financial Literacy Debate is an after-school extracurricular run by the Minnesota Urban Debate League - a program of Augsburg University. Financial Literacy Debate teaches you how to argue about the subject matter, but also how to apply these concepts to your real life. It has the critical thinking, public speaking, and research skills policy debate does, but you also get this additional awesome education. The program is focusing on engaging female-identifying and non-binary students due to the persistent, gendered financial literacy gap, but all are welcome to attend and practice. The program runs from early March to late May. Practices are twice a week 3:15-

4:15 schedule will be posted soon! There is no cost to attend, anyone interested should talk to Akira: akira.mally@spps.org

The OWL School Store is open for business at lunch on A days: Families, please encourage students to use their OWL planners; Crew leaders are recognizing completed planners with CRISP tickets that can be spent in the OWL School Store. Donations of fidgets, mechanical pencils, water bottle stickers, books, games, and similar items are welcome. Please bring donations to Bridget in room 2608.

Looking for a fun way to earn service hours this summer? Nature Walk is a summer volunteer program that inspires youth to be stewards of wildlife. Youth will connect visitors to Como's animals and plants to encourage appreciation and preservation of the natural world. Additionally, the Nature Walk program provides youth with valuable work experience and job skills, creating a gateway for potential future opportunities at Como and other conservation institutions. [Apply online](#) by April 8, 2024.

PSEO Application Due Dates: Students in grades 10-12 interested in applying for Post Secondary Enrollment Option classes—here are the due dates for applications. To see the video of the PSEO

information night go [HERE](#). Contact Jolene with questions:
Jolene.yang@spps.org

Metro State: April 1

UMN: April 15

St. Kate's: May 1

Concordia: May 1

Hamline: June 1

St. Paul College: May 31

Century College: July 1

Inver Hills CC: July 1

Metro: March 18

UMN: April 1

St. Kate's: April 17

Concordia: April 17

Hamline: May 17

SPC: May 17

Century: May 17

IHCC: May 17

ALL June and July applications for any PSEO college are due to Jolene by May 17th.

SPRING ATHLETICS REGISTRATION:

We have a new online registration system for athletics. Please use the links below to help you create an account for your student if they are interested in playing a spring sport. This will be the new system going forward and information on fall sports sign-up will come out in May.

[SPPS ONLINE SPORTS REGISTRATION](#)

[POWERPOINT PRESENTATION-ONLINE SPORTS REGISTRATION](#)

Sports offered this spring and when they start are:

Girls Badminton- March 4th

Co-ed Adaptive Softball- March 11th

Boys and Girls Track and Field- March 11th

Girls Softball- March 11th

Boys Baseball- March 18th

Boys & Girls Golf- March 18th

Boys Tennis- March 25th

Boys Golf Team:

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 Boys Golf Coach Humboldt High School
ray.gonzalez@spps.org

OWL's Skateboarding Interim needs your donations: We are looking for any extra skateboards (or parts like grip tape, wheels, trucks, & bearings). We also need protective gear like: helmets, wrist guards, knee pads and elbow pads. If you have any of these items to donate, please send them to school with your child. Items can be dropped off in the main office. If you have any questions, please email Bridget Leba at marybridget.leba@spps.org.

iPad updates! All students update your iPad to 17.3

REMINDER -all iPads should be updated to iOS 17.3 . If you are having trouble updating your iPad it might be a storage issue.

All iPads have 200 GB of storage.

Log into your Apple ID to take advantage of 200GB iCloud space and clear off Videos/Photos.

Your Apple id: student email

Password: student active directory password.

Any questions please contact: Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org

Applications are open for the 5-day fall 2024 HBCU

tour: Students interested in attending Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) can apply to attend a 5-day tour. For more information, [see this flyer.](#)

Attention all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders! We need more

tutors!! Need more service hours? Need to boost that resume? Looking for something high quality to add to the common app?

Sign up to tutor every Thursday during crew! Each tutoring period counts as one service hour!

If you have not yet filled out the form but think that you are tutoring, please confirm your involvement and fill out the form! It is required.

Sign up here - <https://forms.gle/4wLHD52Hah2pRtAx8>

Thank you so much! Raina and Hazel, Tutoring Coordinators
2023-2024

OWL Tutor Referral. Would you like to refer a student to be tutored? Parents, guardians, and teachers can request an OWL tutor using [THIS LINK](#).

Safety Information: Each year, all schools in MN have to conduct 5 safety drills, 5 fire drills, and 1 severe weather drill. Drills are, of course, conducted so that staff and students know the procedures in case an actual safety concern arises. Being a part of a larger school complex with two separate schools means that we coordinate our safety procedures depending on the situation. Please take a moment to look at the SPPS district safety protocols at the following link:

<https://www.spps.org/Domain/14306>. Please don't hesitate to reach out to David or Ma'lene with any questions you might have. You can reach us at dave.gundale@spps.org, malene.walker@spps.org

Summer Opportunities:

NEW! It's time to register for SPPS Summer Learning

Programs! Visit the SPPS Summer Website for detailed SLP information: [CLICK HERE](#). **Register between March 15 - April 15 for the best opportunity to get into the program of your choice.** Many programs fill quickly. Families should select one of the following ways to register: online through Campus Parent Portal *or* paper forms. If you would like a paper form, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Katerina, OWL MS Counselor, at katerina.youngberg@spps.org!

St. Catherine University STEM camp for girls: Registration started and it is free for all participants entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the fall. The camp will take place on our beautiful campus in St. Paul. Students have two opportunities to attend the camp: June 24-28 and July 8-12. There is no overnight stay and food and snacks are included. More information [HERE](#). Questions: Vivian vamartis479@stkate.edu

Have you ever heard of the STEPS Summer Program at the University of St. Thomas, School of Engineering? It is a cost-free program that introduces **middle school girls** to careers in STEM. Go [HERE](#) for much more information!

MITY is a summer program that provides young people with the opportunity to explore their passions, experience life on a college campus. Our diverse and inclusive environment empowers students to be themselves and to learn without the pressure of grades or tests. **Financial aid is available.** We are now accepting applications for elementary, middle school and high school students. See a flyer with more information [HERE](#).

Community Information:

NEW! Youth Job Fair: April, 20 from 10am to noon at Maplewood Mall. More information [HERE](#).

****FREE COVID tests**** are available through the mail from the MN Department of Health if you request them. LINK:
<http://sayyeshometest.org>

Food Resources: We wanted to share with our community that Ramsey County has compiled many resources to support food access for Ramsey County residents.

[Food Resources Map](#): an interactive map of food access locations across the county

[Food Resources Website](#): includes a food resource guide for the upcoming holiday, resource guides by neighborhoods, materials in multiple languages, and food resources for specific groups of people

OWL Schoolwide Norms: Created by representatives of each Crew this fall with input from all students

- Respect people, their boundaries and identities, materials, and spaces
- Be kind, caring and friendly, especially when it's difficult
- Keep an open mind: engage in opportunities and courageous conversation
- Help create safe and brave spaces so that everyone can be their authentic selves and speak their truths
- Actively listen and participate (one mic, one voice), staying engaged and following through on commitments and expectations. *We are Crew, not passengers.*

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 owlattendance@spps.org 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.