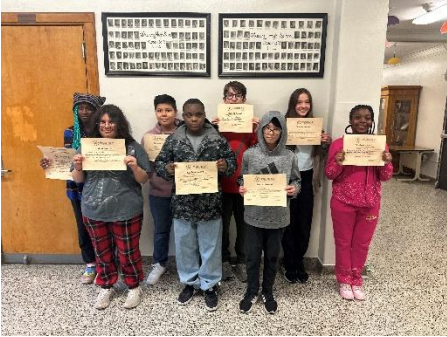


# Pilot School News

May 17, 2024 | Volume #17



## UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

### May 20, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting  
5:00pm – 6:30pm

### May 23, 2024

Spring Band/Orchestra Concert  
6:30pm

### May 27, 2024

No School – Memorial Day

### May 30, 2024

Murray PTO Meeting  
6:00pm – 7:15pm

### June 7, 2024

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition  
9:30am (By Foundations)  
1:30pm (By Foundations)  
(See page 2)

### June 10, 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards (By Invitation)  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards (By Invitation)  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Valleyfair  
9:00am – 6:00pm

*What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades in school, but a different way of looking at the world and learning.* **Chuck Grassley**

Murray just so happens to have a performance with many of our gifted and talented students next Thursday at 6:30PM. Please join us as we present our final band and orchestra performance of the school year as Ms. Denae leads our talented musicians through a wonderful spring experience for all of us to enjoy!

On the note of band and orchestra I want to take a moment to recognize a Murray staff member who is now retired, but served for many years as our band and orchestra director, Mr. Eric Dahlberg. I had a wonderful meeting with Mr. Dahlberg this week catching up with his life events and updating him on how Murray is doing. At that meeting, Mr. Dahlberg presented Murray with a very generous gift in the form of a donation. On behalf of our Murray community, I want to sincerely thank Mr. Dahlberg for keeping Murray in his heart and presenting us with his donation. This is one of many examples of why Murray is such a wonderful place to serve. Our staff and community build great experiences and strong relationships.

Hoping to see you all at our final performance next Thursday!  
Be well and have a wonderful summer like weekend!

### Celebrations:

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Ms. Revermann would like to celebrate Iko Inyang. Iko is a very positive and uplifting student at Murray. He brings a great energy to school every day, and works to help others feel included and joyful in school. He also works hard in his classes and in school sports and activities! We are excited to have Iko here at Murray!

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Ms. Lisa Engelstad would like to celebrate Adalyn Thao. Adalyn has shown strong leadership skills and work ethic this year. She helps out in the main office and has been extra helpful with any assigned tasks. She exemplifies the Murray values of Respectful, Responsible, and Safe and we are so thankful for her help in the Main Office!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie  
Principal, Murray Middle School

Valleyfair – Eighth Grade Celebration!

Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> / 9:00am – 6:00pm / \$37.00

[Valleyfair Trip - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschooldtoday.com\)](https://rschooldtoday.com)

Money and Permission Forms Due May 28, 2024  
Students need to be picked up at Murray at 6:00pm

## Sixth Grade

### **Science with Mr. Chase and Ms. Crowley:**

Earth science classes are starting a unit called, *How are we connected to the patterns we see in the sky and space?* as part of the OpenSciEd middle school science curriculum. This is an earth and space science unit that builds science ideas about Earth's position in space and other celestial bodies. However, before students explain space, they start reflecting on interesting experiences observed in the sky.

Students are first introduced to a common but unique occurrence: a sunset in Manhattan. Known as Manhattanhenge, tourists flock to the busy streets of New York City to witness the sun setting perfectly nestled and aligned with the tall skyscrapers. This uniquely satisfying experience only occurs twice a year. As students debrief Manhattanhenge, they are motivated to think about different patterns and stories about the sun, the moon, and beyond.

From indigenous astronomies to cultural holidays (e.g. Lunar New Year), the skies and space play unique roles in our lives and histories. The Earth in Space Unit uses large data sets and graphical displays for students to analyze and interpret how we can understand and predict these patterns in the sky. Students will gradually build models to explain these sky patterns. Students will gradually zoom out in their models as they incorporate different bodies in space, like the sun, the moon, and other planets. However, don't expect your child to map out the whole universe in a single unit; they have to go home eventually!

### **Helping your child make sense of their learning:**

- Encourage your child to talk more about what they are learning in class and give examples.
- Witness with your child nightly experiences in the sky, like a full moon or eclipse. Encourage your child to ask questions about the experience and what evidence they could use to help explain what they see.
- Encourage conversations with your child where you or someone else share personal experiences with the sky, such as conversations about stars, sun patterns, or seasonal events.

- Rephrase or paraphrase what your child says as a way to clarify their ideas. Hearing their idea from someone else is a powerful reflective tool for a child.

### **Having conversations about science:**

- Encourage your child's curiosity through talking about their own noticings and wonderings when observing seasonal patterns and changes.
- Provide your child space and time to think aloud with a drawing, objects, or their voice about different (maybe conflicting) ideas for processing. Sometimes processing ideas won't lead to a clear "answer" or solution yet.
- Ask your child how what they are learning now is connected to other units they have done in school.

Students used steam table experiments to better understand the dynamics of erosion in our last unit on the changes of Earth's surface.



## Seventh Grade

### **Science with Ms. Dooley and Mr. Altringer:**

7<sup>th</sup> grade science: Ms. Dooley and Mr. Altringer's classes are just wrapping up the first half of the unit, where we investigated how plants make food (fats, carbohydrates, and proteins). The rest of the unit will be investigating what happens with that food once the plants make it.

Human Biology is finishing the Immune System unit, which featured a field trip to the U of M College of Biological Sciences to add genes to bacteria plasmids. Students created glow-in-the-dark bacteria.



## Eighth Grade

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition by Foundations 9:30am**

- Atkinson
- Boyer
- Chase
- Cudahy
- Decourt
- Hirthe
- Scheid

### **1:30pm**

- Aal
- Al-Ahad
- Croone
- Engelstad, J
- Gravert
- Hayden
- Helmen/Wenzel
- Miller/Ulven

## Band/Orchestra

9<sup>1st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Murray band students traveled to Lake City, MN on May 11<sup>th</sup> to perform and rehearse with other students from the area in Minnesota. They received the music ahead of time and then rehearsed with everyone on Saturday. At 12:00 they performed for an audience their pieces that they had just gotten together that day.



## **Murray Pilots go to National History Day!**

Six Murray Historians advanced from the State History Day competition with their amazing projects. **Sylvia McRoberts, Scout Murch-Gordon, Maeve Callahan-Schreiber, Charlie Anderson, Peter Laska & Emmett Loth** are all heading to [National History Day](#) for their website, exhibit, and documentaries. National History Day is held at the University of Maryland in June. **Janey Atchison, Kirsten Croone,** and **Carrie Newman** will be accompanying the Murray team to Washington DC. Please help us to support our brilliant Murray Educators and outstanding Murray Historians and as they compete among the best of the best in our nation!

This fundraiser is hosted by the Murray Parent Teacher Organization, a 501(c)(3). Contributions made to this fundraiser will be used to support the travel expenses of the 2024 History Day Team. This trip is organized by the [Minnesota Historical Society](#). A big thank you to the MNHS team for making this trip happen.

<https://www.givemn.org/story/Historyday2024>

### **Band / Orchestra**

This is a reminder for the upcoming required Music concert that is Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students need to be in the music room at 6:00pm for warm up and tuning. Students need to wear their music shirts and dress bottoms like dress pants or a skirt and dress shoes. The concert starts at 6:30pm in the Auditorium.

Please reach out to Ms. Denae with any questions.  
[denae.olsen@spps.org](mailto:denae.olsen@spps.org)

See you Thursday!

### **IPad**

SPPS students should keep their iPads over the summer. Students participating in summer school MUST keep them to bring to summer school. Even eighth graders who are attending an SPPS high school should keep their iPads over the summer.

If your scholar is returning to an SPPS school in the fall, but you do not want them to have an iPad for summer, they will return their iPad the last week of school in the library. They should return the iPad with the case and school issued charging cord/brick. An iPad will be issued to them again in the fall. Eighth graders who don't keep their iPads over the summer will get their replacements from their new SPPS high school in the fall.

If you are leaving the district, you must turn in the school iPad, case, and school issued charger at the end of the year.

If you have questions, email Mr. Rogness at [joel.rogness@spps.org](mailto:joel.rogness@spps.org) or text to (651) 815-1362.

### **Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser**

#### VEGETABLES

Broccoli • Brussel Sprouts • Jalapenos  
Leeks • Peppers • Squash  
Tomatoes • Zucchini

#### **IN-PERSON SALE:**

Thursday, May 30th  
Hours: 3PM – 7PM

All plants are \$3.00

**Cash and check are accepted.**

#### **Proceeds**

This fundraiser will support the E2 (Environmental Inquiry Immersion) Science Elective class at Murray Middle School and students that take this course. This year's students will be caring for your seedlings raising them up from seeds. By participating in this course, the students learn gardening skills while learning about the chemistry that is happening to help the plants grow. The proceeds will be paid forward to the next year's class of students where funds will be used to support science fair, field trips, and other class materials.





## Counselor's Corner

It's already that time - Summer School registration is open TODAY.

Registration info here: <https://www.spps.org/academics/summer-learning-programs#anchorName>.

There is also a paper application attached at the end of this newsletter.

You will register through Campus Parent Portal: <https://spps.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/stpaul.jsp> - if you need to reset your Parent Portal password or find username use this link: <https://www.spps.org/families/campus-parent-portal-onestop/reset-username-password> or call Murray at (651) 293-8740

Contact Murray Middle School Counselors with any questions or to help register: Justine Revermann ([justine.revermann@spps.org](mailto:justine.revermann@spps.org)) 651-744-7130 or Lisa Engelstad ([lisa.engelstad@spps.org](mailto:lisa.engelstad@spps.org)) 651-744-2397.

Here's more information: [Middle School Summer information](#)

3 Middle School Summer Options:

### **K-8 Freedom School:**

- **Location:** LEAP - *former John A. Johnson school*, 740 York Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55106
- **Program Dates and Times:** June 24-August 2 (28 days), 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.  
*No programs on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5*
- **Description:** Freedom Schools strengthens literacy skills through a researched-based Integrated Reading Curriculum that features books, materials and projects that represent the heritages and experiences of our scholars. Essential features include Hero Elementary K-2; science, technology, engineering, arts, and math instruction; parent and family empowerment events; community engagement; pathways to careers; health and wellness; social action and field trips. Scholars see themselves in our high-quality Servant Leader Educators and community leader mentors/role models. This program is developed in collaboration with the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood.

### **Grades 3-8 ESTEM (Environmental Science, Technology, Engineering, Math):**

- **Location:** E-STEM Middle School, 600 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125
- **Program Dates & Times:** June 24-July 26 (23 days), 8:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.  
*No programs on Thursday, July 4 & Friday, July 5*
- **Description:** Students experience hands-on activities and field trips with a focus on environmental science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Classes and activities include engineering, coding, construction, sports, environmental studies, cooking and working with computers. This program is sponsored by 3M and includes multiple STEM-themed field trips.

### **Grades 5-8 Summer Quest:**

- **Location:** Washington Technology Magnet (1495 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117)
- **Program Dates & Times:** June 24-July 26 (23 days), 8:45 a.m.-2:45 a.m. No programs on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5
- Students receive academic support, develop leadership skills and participate in enrichment activities. Students in grade 5 learn skills to prepare for their transition to middle school. When registering, students rank their top 3 elective choices to enhance their summer learning experience.

Based on space availability, students will be placed in 2 of the following enrichment and elective course options:

- *Cooking / Agriculture*
- *Fiber Arts and Textile Design*
- *Intro to Coding*
- *Physical Education / Gym*
- *Robotics*
- *Theater Arts*
- *Various Music Options (band, orchestra, guitar/ukulele, keyboard, digital music, drums)*
- *Visual Art and Design*



## Debate

**Hello from the Minnesota Urban Debate League!** We are excited to announce the results of our **Middle School Citywide Championship Tournament**, hosted by Central High School in St. Paul! At the City Championship, all 20 middle schools choose a select number of debaters to compete for the title of City Champion. You can find photos from the tournament here - it was a great way to end the season for all the Minnesota Urban Debate middle schools!

Your coaches, **Becky Olsen and Lily Teske**, take pride in how the season went, and we agree - there is a lot to be proud of! Murray had over 25 debaters participate this season. Not only did debaters spend a lot of time learning about the police reform topic, but your debaters earned significant awards at every tournament - culminating with every Murray debater finishing in the top half of their respective division at the City Championship! A special shout out to the partnership of Mariya Adam & Mary Grace Lindsley who advanced all the way to the final debate (top 2 teams) in the Rookie division!

It has been a pleasure to be part of your students' educational journey this year. We can't wait to see what next year brings for Murray! Thank you again for your support of the Minnesota Urban Debate League's mission to empower students through competitive academic debate to become engaged learners, critical thinkers, and active global citizens who are effective advocates for themselves and their communities.

Best,

Jake Swede  
Program Director  
Minnesota Urban Debate League

### **Tournament Results**

#### **Rookie Division**

##### Team Awards

- Finalist: Adam & Lindsley

##### Speaker Awards

- 2: Mariya Adam
- 3: Mary Grace Lindsley

#### **JV Division**

##### Team Awards

- 6: Laska & Boyd

##### Speaker Awards

- 18: Kiran Boyd
- 28: Peter Laska

#### **Varsity Division**

##### Team Awards

- 9: Kennedy & Van Keerbergen

##### Speaker Awards

- 4: Alice Van Keerbergen
- 13: Alana Kennedy





## May Is Mental Health & Wellness Awareness Month!

Mental health and wellness are essential to your well-being and the well-being of your family. This is why during the month of May there is an effort to increase awareness about this topic across Saint Paul Public Schools and the nation. Mental health and physical health are closely connected to each other. The green boxes below provide resources to support wellness and mental health.

Check out the links below for simple suggestions for promoting healthy social emotional habits for children of all ages:

- [4 Simple Ways to Promote Optimal Health for Youth 12-18 Years](#)
- [4 Simple Ways to Promote Optimal Health for Youth 5-12 Years](#)
- [4 Simple Ways to Promote Optimal Health for Youth 0-5 Years](#)

If you or your child is feeling sad or down, you may find it helpful to talk to a trusted friend or family member. Help can be found in many places and where you go depends on what type of support may be needed. There are school counselors and social workers at every Saint Paul Public School. Families may reach out directly to those staff or talk to your child's teacher. Many schools also have partnerships with community agencies that place mental health professionals in our schools. Services with those community partners are **voluntary and require parent/guardian permission**.

<a href="#">SBMH English</a>	<a href="#">SBMH Hmong</a>	<a href="#">SBMH Karen</a>	<a href="#">SBMH Somali</a>	<a href="#">SBMH Spanish</a>
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When we receive support, it helps us to learn coping strategies, heal pains from the past, build self-confidence and feel stronger in the face of life's challenges. Talking with someone about overwhelming thoughts and feelings can save lives. If you or someone you know needs support now, there is crisis support available. **Anyone can call or text 988 for free confidential crisis support.** Local free, confidential crisis support is also available and more information about those resources is below.

[Crisis Info in English](#) [Crisis Info in Hmong](#) [Crisis Info in Karen](#) [Crisis Info in Somali](#) [Crisis Info in Spanish](#)

### Crisis Response Phone Numbers:

- [Ramsey County Adult Urgent Care for Mental Health](#): 651-266-7900
- [Ramsey County Children's Crisis](#): 651-266-7878
- [Crisis Text Line](#): Text "MN" to 741 741
- **Try Out** [Finding the Pause](#): In these 4- to 7-minute videos, youth lead you in mind-body practices to help you calm and focus your mind and body as you move through your daily life.
- **Visit** the [Virtual Calm Room](#) and choose a few activities to try. Consider how using these activities regularly might benefit your family.
- **Find More Resources** about Emotional Well-Being from [Sesame Street](#).





Youth in Action

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?

**High school graduation?  
A college education? A successful career?**

CLUES' Youth in Action program (YAI) guides Latino high school students to achieve their hopes and dreams.

### Activities include:

- Monthly Leadership Institutes
- Individual mentoring from professionals
- Check-ins throughout the month
- Service projects
- Networking opportunities

**Participation is free and transportation  
is provided around St. Paul & Minneapolis!**



### Contact

yaprogram@clues.org or 612-  
403-7691 with questions



**SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER!**





## ¿CUÁLES SON SUS SUEÑOS Y ESPERANZAS PARA EL FUTURO DE SUS HIJOS??

¿Graduarse? ¿Asistir a la universidad?  
¿Tener una carrera profesional?

Las actividades del programa iYA! incluyen:

- Reuniones mensuales para los estudiantes y mentores
- Mentores individuales que tienen carreras profesionales
- Trabajos voluntarios en la comunidad
- Reuniones educativas para los padres

**¡Participar es gratuito y proveemos transporte en St. Paul y Minneapolis!**



Para más información sobre el programa, visite nuestra página web escaneando el código QR

Para más información, contáctenos al 612-403-7691 o [yaprogram@clues.org](mailto:yaprogram@clues.org)

