

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL
MAY 28, 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 Tuesday is survey day in Crew. In Crew on May 13, please complete this [EL Education Crew survey](#).

Wednesday is the LAST 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 (electronic 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.

Yearbook orders: Order your yearbook [HERE!](#)

THIS FRIDAY--Celebration of Learning is Friday, May 31 from 4-6 PM: Come see the high quality work from the 2023-2024 school year. There will be work displayed and students will be presenting projects. There will be pizza for sale and free ice cream following the Celebration at 6 PM.

Do you want books for the Summer?

Come stop by the SLAC book giveaway during the Celebration of

Learning in the commons by Katie's! All books are free and book donations are encouraged but not required; we'll take whatever you want to get rid of!

Graduation is Monday, June 3 at 7:30 PM at St. Kate's: Come celebrate the Commencement of the Class of 2024. Everyone is invited! If you have never been to an OWL graduation, it is an event not to be missed! Tickets are free but are required. You can tickets from Jolene. There will also be tickets available outside the venue right before the ceremony.

The Last Day of School is Monday, June 10: We will be having an all-school picnic and celebration at Lake Elmo Regional Park. This is a long standing OWL tradition, interrupted by COVID, but it is back!! Each Crew will be having a pot luck lunch.

All Seniors should hand in iPads on Tuesday (all day) or Thursday (morning) room 1116: *The* sign up link has been shared with all Seniors. Students should return their iPad, charging block, and cord. iPad needs to be 100% charged and updated to 17.4

Google [BackUp](#)

Student iPad [BackUp Guide](#)

[iPad Help links](#)

Questions, email Rhonda.Mechels@spps.org

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OWL ranked as the top school in SPPS and #17 in Minnesota in this year's US News and World Report Best High Schools. Click [HERE](#) to see the state rankings. You may notice that OWL's graduation rate is listed at 83%. Our actual graduation rate is in the high 90s but the state of Minnesota does not count students who attend the excellent Focus Beyond transition program even though they have completed all requirements for graduation.

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.

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

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS | High School Students - Current 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Graders

SPPS Credit Recovery (summer school):

- High school students who owe core credits will be enrolled for summer school by high school counselor Jolene.
- Summer school sites for In-person learning for grades 9-10: Humboldt or Johnson High School, Each course carries 2 credits
- Summer school sites for grades 11-12: Como, Each course carries 1 credit and coursework is based on students' individual needs.
- Recovery Network for grades 9-12: Online, Each course carries 2 credits
- Term 1 (June 24-July 18), Term 2 (July 22 -August 13). **All students will be referred to start term 1 and for in-person learning. Families who need online learning and/or TERM 2 must let Jolene know by MAY 1**
- School hours: 8:45 2:45

OWL core credits that students can recover:

- English: English 9, 10, 11, 12
- Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Social Studies: World History, Human Geography, US History, Government, Economics
- Math: Geometry, Algebra 2
- Health
- Critical Ethnic Studies

Grad Stats/Credit Information:

- Crew leaders have shared graduation status at Student-Led Conferences
- Transcripts can be viewed on Campus portals

If you have any questions about summer school and/or your student's credits, feel free to email OWL High School Counselor: jolene.yang@spps.org.

Community Events:

Cool Chem event for middle school girls! WISEChem at the University of Minnesota, a graduate student group that is focused on supporting women and girls in chemistry and other STEM fields, will be holding our annual Cool Chem event on Saturday, May 18 from 10-1pm. Cool Chem is our annual event for girls in 6th through 8th grade, where they can experience hands-on experiments, watch explosive demonstrations, and even make their own ice cream! The cost of this event is \$10, but we are more than happy to provide free enrollment for those who may not be able to pay. For those interested, registration can be found at <https://z.umn.edu/CoolChem2024>. For more information, visit <https://wisechem.umn.edu/outreach/cool-chem>, or email us at chemwise@umn.edu

Summer Opportunities:

Outward Bound Courses this summer free of charge! We still have a number of spots for VOBS Scholars on our summer courses, and are highlighting a few June courses this week! With

your last day of school on June 10, these courses could be a perfect way for some of your students to begin their summer.

We would love to hear from you about 1-2 students that you think would be a great fit for the VOBS Scholar program. They don't have to have participated in Insight before, they could be any student at your school that you think would be up for this kind of adventure.

For 8th grade - Juniors

[Boundary Waters Canoeing & Rock Climbing](#) June 11-25 for 14-16yr olds

[Boundary Waters Canoeing](#) June 15-22 for 14-16 yr olds

For Seniors

[Boundary Waters Canoeing & Rock Climbing](#) June 11-25 for 18-25 year olds (perfect for seniors looking for an experience to launch their college experience!)

[Boundary Waters Canoeing for Adults](#) June 11-20 for 18-25 year olds (another great option for seniors that don't have quite as much time, but still want an amazing summer experience)

Look here for more information: [VOBS Scholar Page](#)

Looking for adventure this Summer?: Sea Change Expeditions leads a sailing trip on Lake Superior for teens. More information: www.seachangeexpeditions.org/teen-trips

3M is providing 15 scholarships to SPPS students to attend a summer Women in Engineering Program, June 16-21, 2024:

Open to Students in 9th-11th grade. Cost: Free! All tuition, fees, housing, meals, and transportation included Location: Michigan Technological University; Houghton, MI. Apply [here](#).

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!

Free summer Women in Engineering Program: 3M is providing 15 scholarships to SPPS students to attend a summer Women in Engineering Program, June 16-21, 2024. Open to Students in 9th-11th grade. Cost: Free! All tuition, fees, housing, meals, and transportation included Location: Michigan Technological University; Houghton, MI. Apply [here](#).

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:

****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.)

Afterschool Activities Reminders: In order for students to attend after school activities, they must attend school that day. This includes sports, theatre, and after-school clubs.

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.