

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL
SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

Welcome (back) to OWL: It was great to see you all for goal-setting conferences last week! We are so excited to begin the 2024-2025 school year!

School Food Update: Remember that breakfast and lunch are FREE for all students!

Family Reminders: If you have not completed the [Back to school forms \(formerly the iUpdate—linked here\)](#) please do this week. Also, do not forget to complete the form at [SchoolCafe \(linked here\)](#)—we need each family to do this. Finally, please pay the fee for [FALL RETREATS \(linked here\)](#) (scholarships available upon request). Please call 651-293-8670 or email tammy.plaman@spps.org if you need any help with the above.

Don't have an iPad: Students who do not have an iPad will be getting one during the first two weeks of school.

Open House is Thursday, September 12th from 6-8PM: Come meet your student's teachers and hear about their classes. In addition to meeting with teachers in their classrooms, there will be grade level presentations at the following times:

6:00 – 6:30 – 6th Grade

6:30 – 7:00 – 7th Grade

7:00 – 7:30 – 8th Grade

7:30 – 8:00 – 9th Grade

There will also be an activity fair in the cafeteria to learn about all the clubs, groups and sports at OWL. Families can also get support with school forms and schoology.

Auditions for OWL Theater's Fall Play *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream: Auditions are coming up!

Auditions will be **Monday September 16th and Tuesday**

17th afterschool from 3-5pm. Signups are on the Call Board outside the auditorium.

- Actors: Students will be given a monologue to read at auditions. They will need to arrange a ride home after their 5-minute time slot. If students cannot arrange a ride, they may audition Tuesday during Crew - email Rebekah for a time.

- Designers: Design Crew is responsible for sets, costumes, props, lights, sound, and projections. **Design Crew applications** are due to the folder outside the auditorium by **Wednesday September 18th by 3pm.**

Important Dates:

Auditions, Design Crew Signups

Mon Sept 16th & Tues Sept 17th - Auditions 3-5pm, students sign up for a time

Wed Sept 18th - Callbacks list posted, 8am outside auditorium

Wed Sept 18th- Design Applications Due to Auditorium Callboard by 3pm

Thurs Sept 19th - Callbacks 3-6pm

Tuesday October 1st - Parent/Guardian Info Meeting - 6pm-7pm
(auditorium space 5-7pm) - All students involved in the play must attend, along with one adult.

Rehearsals

Monday Oct 7th - First Rehearsal - All Called - Flipside Begins,
Busing Begins

Performances

December 11th, 12th, 13th at 7pm in the OWL Auditorium

Questions: rebekah.rentzel@spps.org

We'll see you at the show!

Meanwhile...check out [this cool article](#) by the National Endowment for the Arts about our Spring Play ~ UPSTREAM ~ a collaboration with Mixed Blood Theatre. Students in the fall Theatre for Social Change classes will be collaborating with the playwrights. Sign up now!

Fall Ultimate Frisbee Begins TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3:

This fall we have two middle school and two high school teams. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 – 7 PM at Baker Park (Middle School) and the Humboldt Grass Fields (High School) for the first few weeks. Games are Saturdays at the Lake Nokomis fields in Minneapolis. Please contact Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org with questions, for scholarships, or for more information on how to register.

FALL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS: We're still looking for players for this year's fall high school sports. Are you interested? You can still join. Please register [here](#) If you have any questions contact: OWL Athletic Director Athena at athena.bolton-steiner@spps.org

Fall sports available:

Boys and Girls Cross Country

Football

Boys and Girls Soccer

Girls Swimming and Diving

Girls Tennis

Girls Volleyball

Middle School Athletics to begin Mon Sept 9: Other than Ultimate Frisbee and Archery, OWL athletics are run cooperatively our neighbor school, Humboldt. There will be an informational meeting for students during the school day later this week. Interested students will be called to the meeting and given the forms they need to get signed up for sports.

Note: Students will need a **current sports physical** to participate in the fall season; please make an appointment with your physician or visit one of our [SPPS Health Start Clinics](#).

The following fall sports will be offered at OWL/Humboldt:

Flag Football

Soccer (boys and girls)

Volleyball

If you have questions, please contact OWL Athletic Director Athena at athena.bolton-steiner@spps.org

OWL Community Group Meeting—Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 PM in the OWL Cafeteria: We invite students, parents, guardians and staff to learn about how you can help contribute to a rich learning environment, support our fantastic staff & build community.

The OWL Community group combines the functions of our former Site Council and PTO. In addition to the school governance advisory role of the site council, the group works to enrich student learning by continuing PTO functions that provide funding for fall retreats, spring interim courses, program grants for teachers to enhance classroom expeditions, transportation for fieldwork, MCA snacks, and more. In addition, we support opportunities for community building at the Fall Family Gathering, the annual Potluck for Teachers, the spring fundraiser, selling OWL spirit wear, and more. If you would like to volunteer this year, please go [HERE](#). If you have questions, contact Dave: dave.gundale@spps.org.

Fall Retreat Week—September 24-27 (September 23-26 for senior trip): Coming up in 3 weeks, we will have a big week of learning, service and adventure. We have some great experiences planned. If you did not complete forms at goal-setting conferences, we will be sending them home with your students the first day of school.

- PLEASE RETURN YOUR SIGNED PERMISSION SLIPS AND HEALTH FORMS BY **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6** AT THE LATEST.

- If your student needs to take MEDICATION while on retreat, please get them (in original containers) to Nurse Colleen by **Friday, September 6**.

Look for more information to come from your grade level team. ALL students are expected to participate in their grade-level retreat.

***VOLUNTEER to be a CHAPERONE for Fall Retreats**: We still need more chaperones to pull off our ambitious fall retreat week. If you are able to volunteer, please do. [Link to sign up](#). Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE! The OWL Fall Family Gathering will be Wednesday, October 15, 5:30-8 pm, at the Dakota Lodge in West St. Paul. Come together with the OWL community for food, fun and friendship in a beautiful location. Look for more information in future weekly emails.

School Picture Day is Monday, September 16: Information on purchasing pictures from Lifetouch will be coming home in coming weeks. Whether you are buying pictures or not, all students will have their picture taken for Student ID and Yearbook purposes.

After School Programming Begins: Monday, October 7.

Flipside is the fun & free afterschool program for Humboldt and OWL. This program is open to all grades and will begin on October 7th. Classes meet from 3-5 pm either on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class options and registration form will be available here in the coming weeks.

PSAT Testing is Monday, October 14 for all OWL 11th grade students, plus 10th grade students who wish to take the test. The test is free for 11th graders. 10th graders wishing to take the test can reserve a spot for \$15 (Scholarships are available). For more information, contact testing coordinator Rebecca Palmer rebecca2.palmer@spps.org

This test offers great practice taking a timed test in advance of the ACT to be given to juniors in the spring. The PSAT test is also the basis for National Merit Scholarships.

NO SCHOOL—Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18: State Teacher Convention (MEA weekend)

Dia de los Muertos Celebration at OWL is Wednesday, October 30 at 6

PM: Come celebrate Latinx culture at OWL with this family friendly event with lots of fun and great food. Contact: Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org

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.)

OWL believes that access to menstrual/period products is a right. If you are able to donate to help us provide free menstrual/period products so that they are always available, please consider donating some by dropping them off with Tammy in the front office. From there we will make sure they get to where they are needed.

Community Announcements:

Youth (ages 15-18) Job opportunity with Conservation Corps—go [HERE](#) for more information.

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.