

**OWL WEEKLY EMAIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 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 to Week 2:** We hope everyone had a good first week of school. Monday, September 9 is an A day.

**Monday surveys are BACK!** In Crew on September 9, please take [this fun back-to-school survey](#). Results will be shared in Friday's Community Meeting.

**Family Reminders:** If you have not completed the [Back to school forms \(formerly the iUpdate—linked here\)](#) please do this ASAP. 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](mailto: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.

**THIS WEEK!** **Open House is this 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 a student activity fair in the cafeteria to learn about some of the awesome clubs, groups and sports at OWL! Families can also get support with school forms and schoology. Hope to see you there!

**Students represent your clubs!** If you are a part of a club at OWL and want to have a table at the student activity fair during Open House, talk to 12th grader Lucy Keenan or email [lkeenan002@stpaul.k12.mn.us](mailto:lkeenan002@stpaul.k12.mn.us) before Wednesday.

### **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](mailto: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:** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Tuesday, 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, plus 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who wish to take the test. The test is free for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Interested in downhill ski racing? Join the St. Paul Alpine Ski**

**Team (SPAST)!** The team is open to SPPS students in grades 7-12. Spots are limited so priority will be given to high school students. While some alpine skiing experience is necessary, racing experience is **not** required. It should be noted this is a race team and **not** a ski club. The team practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Afton Alps. The activity fee is \$250/\$40 for free and reduced lunch. In addition, skiers will need their own equipment, and a season pass to Afton is required (currently \$501, price does increase as season gets closer).

Bussing is provided and departs from Central and Highland High School. Please fill out [this form](#) to sign up to be invited to our informational meeting or email [annekettler@yahoo.com](mailto:annekettler@yahoo.com) for more information.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **OWL Schoolwide Norms**

- 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.*