

Pilot School News

October 25, 2024 | Volume #4

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. **Coretta Scott King**

A reminder that our final fall conference date is coming up on Thursday, November 7. Connecting with our teachers is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the relationships and the teamwork we are all committed to when it comes to the success of our students. Additionally, the end of Quarter 1 is fast approaching! Where has the time gone? November 7 also happens to be the last day of the quarter. Now is the time to review Schoology with your child, celebrate successes and create immediate plans for any areas they may need to address before the quarter ends. Connect with your teachers via email if you have any academic questions and connect with Ms. Folkema if you have any questions regarding conferences. We hope to see you on Thursday, November 7!

Celebrations:

I want to take this Newsletter Celebration opportunity and acknowledge some of the very powerful ways the Saint Paul community has wrapped around Murray both from inside and outside of our school walls. On the day to day, we have had Murray staff checking in with each other. Students have created messages for Ms. Al-Ahad/Butler's family. Murray's PTO and Community members have donated funds toward the Murray offering for the service. Saint Paul Public schools has leaned in and offered staff support from almost every department to cover our classes as our staff attend the funeral service. Teachers On Call, which is the substitute teacher company we use, even offered additional incentives to any and all guest teachers that could take and cover our open jobs for the day of the service. These are just some of the many ways that our community has really leaned in to show compassion and support for Murray. On behalf of our staff, we are truly grateful and so very fortunate to be serving in this community. Thank you.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

October 30, 2024

Picture Retakes

November 4, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

November 7, 2024

End of First Quarter

November 8, 2024

No School – Professional Day

November 12, 2024

Murray PTO Meeting
6:00pm – 7:15pm

November 28-29, 2024

No School – Thanksgiving Break



Sixth Grade

Minnesota Studies with Mr. Kareem and Ms. Pfeiffer:

In Minnesota Studies 6th grade students are still learning about the Early Dakota, including how life changed during the different seasons of the year and the jobs that men and women had to help a village survive. Students will be starting a summative on the Early Dakota which will involve making a parfleche bag and doing a little oral history telling of their own.

Band/Orchestra

Band/Orchestra with Ms. Denae:

Students are well on their way for their concert. They had their first playing test last Friday. They should have brought home a T-shirt order form. Please make sure that they bring that back to Ms. Denae so she knows how many shirts to order for each size.

Reminder:

Concert is December 17th at 6:30 pm
Students need to be at Murray at 6:00 pm wearing their new shirts, black dress bottoms and black shoes.

Please put it in your calendar now. It is a required event.

Reading

WINN with Ms. Curran:

WINN stands for "What I Need Know" WINN reading class is a phonics refresher for 7th and 8th graders reading comprehension.

Students are reviewing long and short vowels, letter-sound correspondence, and open and closed syllables. Students are mastering foundational reading skills with energy and zest to improve their reading comprehension.

Athletics

Winter Sports: Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, & Wrestling

Registration opens Monday, October 14th!

Please register on RSchool

[rSchool Today registration form link](#)

Gratitude

The Murray Middle School Staff would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Lauren Renner, Jenny McNattin, The PTO, and the countless number of parents who brought, served, and donated food and drinks to us during Family Teacher Conferences. The generosity of the Murray community was amazing! Thank you! It was greatly appreciated.

Kudos

18 SPPS Science Teachers Selected For National Science Foundation Project

<https://www.spps.org/news-details/~board/brag-board/post/18-spps-science-teachers-selected-for-national-science-foundation-project>

Picture Day

•School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at

<https://shop.jostenspix.com/login>

- MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Event Code: FE202524

Staff Spotlight



Hello Murray Middle School Community!

My name is Michelle Penkava and I am excited to be teaching Language Academy Science this year!

This is my fourth year in SPPS and ninth year overall as a teacher. I have worked with both elementary and middle school English language learners in my career, and have done some tutoring with high school level students. As an English Language teacher, I work with students and families who primarily speak a different language at home. My position at Murray is as the Language through Science teacher, meaning I teach English through the context of biology, earth science, and physical science.

I graduated from Winona State University in 2017 with a TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) degree. Additionally, I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Writing also from Winona. My passion has always been with language and linguistics so teaching the English language seemed like a natural choice for me.

When I'm not at school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I have five nieces, one nephew, and several younger cousins who keep me busy! I also enjoy traveling to new places, cooking new foods, and writing. My favorite place I've traveled to is Scotland. I'm also an avid Minnesota Vikings fan thanks in large part to my grandmother whose house was always decorated with purple and gold!

I am very glad to be part of Murray Middle School and I look forward to continuing to work with our amazing community of English language learners!



Counselors Corner

Counselors

Here are a few announcements from our counseling team. As a reminder, here is our contact information:

- Ms. Justine Revermann - justine.revermann@spps.org - 651-744-7130: Student last names A-L
- Ms. Stephanie Lee - stephanie.lee@spps.org - 651-744-3600: Student last names M-Z

Community Mental Health Resources

- Ramsey County Children’s Mental Health Collaborative: (800) 565-2575
 - - En Español: <https://www.rccmhc.org/espanol>
- Ramsey County Youth Mental Health Crisis Team: 651-266-7878
- Ramsey County Adult Mental Health Crisis Team: 651-266-7900
- Call CRISIS (274747) from anywhere in MN to reach the local County crisis team
- Crisis Text Line: Text Hello to 74174
- National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Trevor Project: Text Start to 678678 or call 1-866-488-7386, [chat here](#)

Holiday Support

- As we are closer to the holiday season, please let Ms. Revermann (justine.revermann@spps.org or 651-744-7130) know if you could support families who could use a little extra love and care during the holiday season in the form of financial assistance or help getting presents, winter gear, and resources to their children and families. You can also let me know if you are in need of some extra support over the holidays and we will try our best to gather resources and help out!

Tutoring?

- We’ve had many questions about inquiries about tutoring. At this time, there is no organized or specific tutoring resource within the school day at Murray Middle School. While we have interventions and academic support, we do not have specific tutoring resources at this time
- Here are some resources outside of the school building that we have found for families to utilize:

Resource Name	Location/How to Access
Homework Centers at the Libraries	List of Locations and Hours found here: https://sppl.org/homework/
Brainfuse HelpNow	Brainfuse App with St. Paul Library Card - go here to download app: https://sppl.org/resources/homework-help/ Live Tutoring everyday 1-11:00pm • English and Spanish



Counselors Corner

Backpacks/School Supplies

- If you or your student are in need of a backpack or basic school supplies, please let a counselor know and we can get some supplies or a backpack for your student!

Every Meal

At Murray Middle School, we are excited to partner with Every Meal to offer a food bag program:

- Free for all families & no qualifications required
- Students and/or families can pick up food from the Murray food pantry - in the main office
- Every Meal does not collect information from families; privacy is protected
- Please contact Justine Revermann - Justine.Revermann@spps.org, 651-744-7130 or Stephanie Lee - Stephanie.Lee@spps.org or 651-744-3600 to participate or for more information.

QR Code to sign up for EveryMeal Food Pantry so your student can pick up food items:

Link here (same as QR Code): <https://forms.gle/pAAq1HtTZxXNCm8cA>



Schoology

As we get closer to the end of Quarter 1 - please log into Schoology and check your child's grades with them. They should know how to navigate their courses and see what is missing. Often missing work is the reason for lower grades.

- Schoology: <https://schoology.spps.org/> (grades, classes, coursework, missing assignments)
- Campus: <https://spps.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/stpaul.jsp> (schedule, bus, attendance, etc.)

Here is the link to a webpage that has tutorials about how families can access and use Schoology and Campus: <https://www.spps.org/about/departments/infinite-campus/campus-parent-information>

Direct link to schoology tutorial: <https://youtu.be/f6-FofTJESE?list=TLGGx1ANm6Za9gUzMDA5MjAyNA>

Therapy/counseling services with ChangeInc

- If you are interested in your child seeing our school-based Mental health therapist, Ms. Sarah Beam, through our partnership with Change Inc, please contact your child's school counselor. Sarah is at Murray every day and can have therapy appointments during the school day! She has an informational flier included in this newsletter. Please connect with a counselor or social worker to put in a referral for your child to work with Sarah, or to talk more about therapeutic options.



COMMUNITY
& SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE
— A PROGRAM OF —
CHANGE INC.



Your Mental Health Professional

Sarah Beam, MSW, LGSW

I AM HERE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

SERVICES PROVIDED IN SCHOOL, HOMES, AND THE COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- Child, Adolescent, and Family Therapy
- Skills/Support Groups
- Professional Development for Staff
- Psychoeducation and Support for Parents/Guardians
- Online sessions via Zoom

The Community & School Collaborative (CSC) is a program of Change Inc., providing prevention, early intervention and mental health services.

Did you know we also offer out-patient clinic services? Scan the QR code to learn more about Change Clinic:



CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL-BASED THERAPIST:

Sarah Beam

SBeam@thechangeinc.org

612-239-7127

*Speaks Spanish & English

**CSC Services are funded by Saint Paul Public Schools, MN Department of Human Services, and health insurance.*





EVERY MEAL

WEEKEND MEAL PROGRAM

OUR MISSION

FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER THROUGH COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

OUR STORY

Every Meal is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization with a mission to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. We strive to make a difference in children's lives by specifically focusing on food gaps - the times when children aren't at school to access meal programs. Every Meal supports families with programming over the weekends, extended school breaks, and summer.

Providing kids with good food that is nutritious, delicious, and relevant is our focus, and their growth and achievement is at the heart of everything we do.

MEAL PROGRAM

- Free for all families
- No qualifications required
- No contact information collected
- Families may participate in the program at any time throughout the school year
- Students will receive food bags each week, typically on Fridays

Weekend Food Bag Options: Families may choose from five options structured around the USDA MyPlate standards. All bag types contain 4-5 pounds of non-perishable food, including a variety of fruits, vegetables, proteins, and grains. Bag types are identified by different colors of Every Meal logo.



Blue Bag

Tailored for East African dietary preferences, this bag is pork-free and may contain items such as tuna, spaghetti, black-eyed peas, corn flour, and tomato products.



Green Bag

Tailored to offer the widest variety of food items, this bag may contain items such as chicken, tuna, pasta, rice, mac and cheese, chili/soup, and varied vegetables and fruits.



Orange Bag

Tailored for Latino dietary preferences, this bag may contain items such as rice, black beans, pinto beans, corn flour, fideo pasta, enchilada sauce, chipotles in adobo, and diced chiles.



Purple Bag

Tailored for Southeast Asian dietary preferences, this bag may contain items such as rice, rice noodles, coconut milk, bamboo shoots, curry paste, green beans, and mandarin oranges.



Yellow Bag

Tailored with all ready-to-eat items which require little or no preparation, this bag may contain items such as dried fruit, chicken salad, sunflower seeds, granola, pasta cups, and soups.

Every Meal

612.568.4003 | 2723 Patton Rd, Roseville, MN 55113 | everymeal.org



SPPS Parent Guide to Schoology



Welcome to Schoology! This guide will help parents and guardians understand what Schoology is and how to use it. You can find out more at the Schoology Help Center website at support.schoology.com

What Is Schoology?

Schoology is an online Learning Management System that helps you stay informed about your student's classes, assignments and grades. You can use Schoology to:

- View your student's Courses and Groups
- View your student's upcoming, current and overdue assignments
- Monitor school and course announcements
- Stay involved in your student's education

How to Access Schoology

- Go to spps.org/onestop and click on Schoology.
- Use your One Stop username (g#####) and password that you received in the mail to log in.
- If you don't have your One Stop username, contact your school's front office for assistance.

Using Your Parent/Guardian Schoology Account



Viewing your child's activity

Click on the dropdown menu arrow in the upper-right corner of your account next to your name. Select your child's name to view account activity.



Home

Both parents and students have separate Home Pages. Similar to Facebook, the Home Page is the first place a user lands after logging in to Schoology. Here, you'll see all events, activities or updates that have taken place.



Courses

Here you will find all your child's academic courses listed in a pulldown menu. Click on a course to see more information, details or assignments.



Groups

Groups are most often used for information, activities, or special interests. For example, your child might belong to an athletic team that maintains a Schoology Group. Groups do not issue grades.

Note: Guardians are only able to see their own student's Schoology account, **Courses and Groups**. They are not able to join other Courses or Groups, or post comments, or see other student information.

Navigating Student Schoology Accounts:

The screenshot shows a Schoology student account interface. On the left is a navigation menu with items: Summary (1), Grades/Attendance, Mastery, Calendar, and Messages. The main content area is titled 'Student Activity - Enrollments' and contains three sections: 'Courses' (2) with a table of current courses, 'Groups' (3) with a list of groups, and 'Recent Grades/Attendance' (4) with a list of assignments and grades. The 'Upcoming' section (6) is also visible on the right side of the main content area.

Courses	Current	Grade	Attendance
Spanish Section 2		80%	-
Algebra Section 1		80%	-
English 10 Section 1		92%	-
U.S. History 3rd Period		-	-

- 1 Use the left menu to quickly view specific information about your student's Schoology Activity:
 - Summary:** Click to see an overview of your student's courses and grades (Enrollments in the center column), or notifications about grades on individual assignments (Student Activity in the middle column).
 - Grades:** Review your student's grades for all courses.
 - Mastery:** If your student's school aligns materials to standards and learning objectives, you can check progress here.
 - Calendar:** Click to view a calendar of past and upcoming events and assignments. Events and assignments in the near future are also listed in the Upcoming column on the right.
 - Messages:** Parents do not have access to **Messages**.
- 2 Select **Enrollments** in the center column to see a list of your student's current courses, along with their grade. The grade may not be displayed while the course is in progress, as in the grade column for U.S. History in the sample above. Click on an individual course to see grades for assignments, tests, and discussions.
- 3 Here under **Groups**, you can see a list of your student's Schoology Groups. Groups can be used for a variety of activities, from school projects to extracurricular teams and clubs.
- 4 The **Recent Grades/Attendance** section displays your student's recent grade. **Attendance is not tracked in Schoology. Please refer to the One Stop Campus Portal link to check on attendance.**
- 5 The **Overdue** section displays a list of course materials your student did not turn in by the due date.
- 6 The **Upcoming** section displays a list of your student's upcoming assignments and events.

