Harding Newsletter

September 15, 2023

Welcome To Harding High School

Hello Harding Families,

Welcome back to another school year! We are so excited for all of you to be here. This year we're going to focus on safety, security, and achievement. We want all of our students to feel like they are in a space where they can learn and grow without fear or negativity. All our staff have been working hard to create an environment that fosters positivity and support. We hope each student and family feels like Harding is a place they can come to further their development and education.

This year's theme is "Together we are better." We want our school to feel like the staff and students are in this together and we all have something to share that contributes positively to our community. In the words of our new principal Tony Chlebecek, "let's re-engage with each other, re-engage our students in their learning, and re-engage our school with our community." Together we can make this school year a great one.

Thank you,
Harding Staff









Tony Chlebecek, Interim Principal, anthony.chlebecek@spps.org

Greetings from the Assistant Principals and Support Staff

Craig Guidry, Assistant Principal (9th Grade) Craig.Guidry@spps.org
Jimmy Nyembwe, Assistant Principal (9th Grade) jimmy.nyembwe@spps.org
Xong Moua, Assistant Principal (10th Grade) Xong.Moua@spps.org
Jayson Spence, Assistant Principal (11th Grade) Jayson.Spence@spps.org
Evelyn Nordquist, Assistant Principal (12th Grade) Evelyn.Nordquist@spps.org
Phoenix Cobb, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (9th Grade) phoenix.cobb@spps.org
Essa Adam, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (10th grade) essa.adam@spps.org
Steve Solaja, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (11th Grade) stephan.solaja@spps.org
Kelly Brown, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (12th Grade) kelly.brown@spps.org

Harding AVID Team

Hello Harding High School Community,

Welcome back to another amazing year at Harding! The AVID team is thrilled to reconnect with our students, parents, and educators. As champions of academic success and college readiness, we're dedicated to equipping our students with tools that promote effective learning.

This September, let's delve into a powerful organizational strategy: the effective use of planners and to-do lists. Encouraging our high school students to diligently plan their tasks, assignments, and commitments fosters not only structure but also ownership of their learning journey. By jotting down assignments, project deadlines, and extracurricular activities, students can prioritize tasks, manage time efficiently, and reduce last-minute stress.

The AVID program is here to guide our students in using organizational systems effectively. We'll provide tips and resources to help them get the most out of this strategy. Remember, successful students often attribute their achievements to strong organizational skills.

Let's collaborate to make this year exceptional. Join us in empowering our students with the tools they need to excel academically and thrive in life. Keep an eye out for AVID-sponsored events that foster community, growth, and achievement.

The AVID Team

School Pictures & IDs

School Pictures Retakes are on October 18th

Why is it important to get your picture taken?

You can get a professional photo to remember this time which can be fun to look back on in years to come. But more importantly, if you get your picture taken you get a free ID! This ID can be used to get a job or a bank account or to go to the mall. As we focus on safety this year, it will also help Harding staff to identify who is a student and therefore supposed to be in the building.

- Students will receive their 1st ID FREE and after it lost, stolen or missing students will need to Pay $2.00 for a replacement
- Students MUST have their school ID on them at all times
- To get into sporting events or school dances students must have their school ID

NEW Metro Transit and School Bus Information

The school buses have returned! This year we have yellow school buses to take students to and from school. These are for eligible students. We do NOT have Metro Transit Cards for students this year.

- There are discounted rates for lower income families that can be purchased online at: https://www.metrotransit.org/tap-riders

Sporting Events at Harding

Football

Saturday, September 16- vs Two Rivers @ 7pm at the Vikings Practice Stadium (2600 Vikings Pkwy, Eagan, MN 55121)

Friday, September 22- Homecoming Pep Fest (during school)

Saturday, September 23- Homecoming game vs Highland @ 1pm

Women's Soccer

Monday, September 18- vs Hmong College Prep Academy @ 4pm

Thursday, September 21- vs St. Paul Washington @ 4pm
Monday, September 25- vs North St. Paul @ 4pm
Tuesday, September 26-vs Highland Park @ 4pm
Friday, September 29- vs Minneapolis Edison @ 4pm

Men's Soccer

Monday, September 18- vs Cretin-Derham Hall @ 4:45pm
Thursday, September 21-vs St. Paul Washington @ 5pm
Wednesday, September 27- vs Chisago Lakes @ 6:30pm

Tennis

Saturday, September 16- Girls Varsity Quadrangular vs multiple schools @ 9am
Tuesday, September 19- vs Highland Park @ 4pm
Thursday, September 21- vs Johnson @ 4pm
Monday, September 25-vs Mounds Park Academy @ 4pm
Wednesday, September 27-vs St. Paul Academy @ 4pm

Volleyball

Wednesday, September 20-vs St. Paul Washington @ 5:30/7pm

If you want more information about other events happening at Harding or at other schools go to https://sppshardinghighschool.rschoolteams.com/

Homecoming Events

Spirit Week is September 18-22. Dress up each day in a different style of clothes as a way to promote school spirit!

Monday 9/18- Twin day, match outfits with someone else at school or a celebrity

Tuesday 9/19- PJ day/ dress as yourself day, dress in your PJs or as authentically you as you can

Wednesday 9/20- Surfer/ Biker day, dress as a surfer or a biker

Thursday 9/21- cosplay day, dress as your favorite film or book character

Friday 9/22- Knight Pride day, dress in Harding colors (red and gold) or school gear

The homecoming game is Saturday, September 23 at 1pm at the Harding Football field

The Homecoming Dance will be held in the Harding cafeteria on Saturday, Sept. 23rd from 6:30–9:30 PM, with no admission after 8:00 PM. Students can access online ticket sales through the link posted to Schoology and posted via QR code on the bulletin boards outside the library. Tickets will be sold in-person (depending on availability) on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 8:15–8:30 AM from room 1404. Online ticket sales will close at 3:15 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 20 and no tickets will be sold after this time.

Students attending the dance will need to present their ticket (sent to their email), as well as their school ID or their Infinite Campus to enter. Students will enter and exit through the 6th street doors and will need a plan to be on their way home by 9:30 PM.

Homecoming week is also a great opportunity to come out and support many of our sports teams at home! Students can find a sports schedule for the week in their Advisory slides. Does your student need Harding gear?? They can come to room 1404 to get old Harding jerseys!

Family Knight

Family Knight is October 5 from 4:00-7:00 pm. It is a fun night for families and staff to form connections and learn about Harding. It is held instead of one of the conference nights as a more fun and interactive way for families to learn about what their student is doing at school or what they could be a part of. We encourage all families to come!

Say Hello to Our New Staff

Hi! I am Micah Zielske and I worked part time at Harding last school year and I'm glad to be back this year as the full time test coordinator for the standardized testing. I love going on walks and watching movies. I am passionate about traveling around the world and seeing as many countries as possible.	

Hello, my name is Gertraud, but most people call me Trudi. I have been a temporary clerk for Harding High School for the last 2 years. This year I'm happy to come on board as the new Attendance Clerk! I'm looking forward to a great year at HHS.

Elizabeth Yost is a new English teacher at Harding and uses she/they pronouns. She returned to Minnesota from a while away in New England and is excited to be back in St. Paul visiting her favorite bookstores and finding good spots to walk their dog, Hugo.



Hello! My name is Kris Mullins & I am excited to be a part of the Harding counseling team. I live in Cottage Grove with my husband and two daughters, who are both in high school. My favorite thing to do is read; I love to explore new worlds in the pages of a book. Fun fact about me: I have an identical twin and I HATE the smell of Tide laundry detergent! I look forward to a great year of supporting Harding students, staff and families.



Teresa Savage, part of the counseling office, loves to bike outdoors and workout at the gym. She grew up in central MN lakes country and played college basketball. She has two adult children and is getting married in October to her lovely fiance, Larissa! She has a sweet tooth which depending on how you look at it is either a terrible or wonderful thing.



I am a Saint Paul based Multimedia artist, currently mastering photography + knitting!! Professionally, I have committed time and energy towards political organizing, youth advocacy and taught popular education to TC youth 9-26 y/o over the past decade. Circle Keeping as practice and culture/familial practice. I have kept community building as well as diversion Circles. RCAO initiative ETHOS is a restorative justice principles that works with those who have committed certain first-time, non-violent misdemeanor offenses + low-level felonies. Academically, I graduated with an interdisciplinary degree from Metropolitan State University, focusing on PoliSci, Environ. Studies and Communications Minor in Phil.

Hobbies: Nature, Music, Travel



Student Absences

Please remember to email our Attendance Clerk at Gertraud.Kussmaul@spps.org or call the attendance hotline each day your student is absent from school. If your child is absent from school, it is necessary for a parent/guardian to call the **Attendance Hotline** at **651-744-3063**. Please leave the following information:

-Student name
-Day and date(s) of absences
-Student number
-Reason for the absence

If you need to pick up your student early, before the end of the school day, please call the office at least 2 hours in advance of the departure time.

Contacting Harding High School

The Harding office phone number is **651-793-4700**. School office hours are 8:00-3:30. If you need to reach a teacher or staff member directly, please contact them through email.

All staff email addresses are: **firstname.lastname@spps.org** and can be found on Harding's **online staff directory**.

Technology Help

If students need iPad help please contact Richard Matthes at Richard.Matthes@spps.org or call 651-744-3163.

School Counseling Office

Shanie Xiong (A - F) shanie.xiong@spps.org or 651-744-1428

Teresa Savage (G-K & W) teresa.savage@spps.org or 651-774-3506

Edward Xiong (L, M) edward.xiong@spps.org or 651-744-5656

Kris Mullins (N-S) kris.mullins@spps.org or 651-744-2092

Mana Vue (T, U, V) mana.vue@spps.org or 651-744-3152

James Lo (X, Y, Z) james.lo@spps.org or 651-744-3664

Tami Johnson (AIS counselor) tamara.johnson@spps.org or 651-744-1160

Jamie Shady (CCC) james.shady@spps.org or 651-744-3599

HAVE A WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR!