Harding Newsletter

November 15, 2023

Together We Can Make a Difference

Hey Harding Families,

This month we wanted to share with you information about spring testing, 2nd semester classes, family engagement meetings, and band concerts. We have another great letter from the AVID team, this month it's on the "Pomodoro Technique" used for more effective studying. We also want to draw your attention to the section about 'student absences'. It has come to the attention of our office clerks that many people may not fully understand how we mark absences. We have many other great things to share this month, read on to see what they are!

Thank you,
Harding Staff

Harding AVID Team

Hello Harding Community,

As November ushers in a season of gratitude and growth, the AVID team is excited to continue our journey together. With a focus on empowering students for success, we're here to nurture skills that will last a lifetime.

This month, let's explore a powerful organizational strategy: the "Pomodoro Technique." This method involves breaking your study time into focused intervals, usually 25 minutes, followed by a short break. By maintaining this rhythm, students can enhance concentration, boost productivity, and prevent burnout. It's a fantastic way to tackle tasks while maintaining balance.

AVID is dedicated to guiding our students in adopting the Pomodoro Technique effectively. We'll offer insights, practical tips, and resources to optimize this strategy and make the most of study sessions.

Let's work together to make November a month of accomplishment. Join us in equipping students with tools that foster excellence academically and in life. Keep an eye out for AVID-sponsored events that foster camaraderie, personal growth, and achievement.

Here's to a month of meaningful learning and progress!

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
-Student number
-Day and date(s) of absences
-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.

Only certain reasons for being absent will be counted as excused. An absence is excused if it is for an illness, a medical appointment (mental health and dental count), religious holiday, or an extreme family emergency.

Unexcused absences are vacations, missed bus, car problems, needed at home, weather, or oversleeping.

Just because you call does not mean the absence will be marked as excused.

Credit Recovery

Harding students, if you need to make-up credits it is time to sign up for Quarter 2 after school credit recovery. **Sign up begins November 20** and ends on November 30. See your counselor if you want to get signed up.

Hmong New Year

Harding is hosting a Hmong New Year celebration this **Friday November 17th at 4:30- 7:30.** Everyone is welcome! There will be food, entertainment, and a chance to learn about Hmong culture.

Winter Sports

Winter Sports Registration - Is Open Now!
For registration information go to this link https://sppshardinghighschool.rschoolteams.com/
Please note that as of July 1, 2023, SPPS Athletics per-season participation fees have increased to $60 or $30 if a family qualifies for free/reduced lunch economic assistance. Student-athletes must have an up-to-date sports physical on file.

Winter Sports include girls and boys basketball, boys and girls wrestling, boys swimming, cheerleading, and gymnastics.
Please contact Athletic Director Otto Kraus (otto.kraus@spps.org, 651-744-3153) with any questions.

Boys Basketball
December 6 @7pm vs Tartan
December 15 @7pm vs Christ Household of Faith
Girls Basketball
December 5 @6pm vs Minneapolis Edison
December 12 @6pm vs Avail Academy
December 14 @6pm vs Tartan
Wrestling
December 7 @5pm vs TBD
December 13 @5pm vs Como Park
All the games above are at Harding, for other games go to https://sppshardinghighschool.rschoolteams.com/

Spring Testing

During the spring semester, starting at the end of January, there are many statewide tests that students are required to take depending on their grade and status as an English Language Learner.

The ACCESS test is required for all ELL students in all grades. It is a four part test that is taken over two days. It helps to identify where students are proficient in English and where they are struggling. This test helps Harding to determine if a student still needs ELL support or if they can be taken out of the program.

The MCA test is taken depending on what grade the student is in. All 10th graders take the Reading MCA test. All 11th graders take the Math MCA test. Anyone who is in Biology class takes the Science MCA test. These tests measure how well the school and the district are teaching the required information.

The ACT test is no longer a required test but students can sign-up to take the test if they would like to. The ACT tests a student's ability to answer questions in a number of different subjects. The score they get on this test can be used on a college application as another way to show their knowledge. Some colleges require an ACT score on applications.

Students who are in IB classes will participate in the IB test connected to that class. These scores can be used on college applications or in order to get college credit. Students should talk to their IB teacher if they have more questions.

For any testing questions, contact the test coordinator Micah Zielske, micah.zielske@spps.org

Harding Bands

The Harding Bands had a great first quarter season! The Harding Pep Band performed for the Fall Pep Fest, as well as one game each for the football, volleyball, and girls soccer teams!





If you'd like to check out any performances this year, the Music Department has 3 concerts this winter and 2 in the spring! All concerts are FREE to the public.

Upcoming Music Department Concerts Include:

- Tuesday, December 12 - Choir Concert @7:00pm in the Harding Auditorium
- Tuesday, December 19 - Orchestra & Band Concert @7:00pm in the Harding Auditorium
- Tuesday, February 27 - Midwinter Collaboration Concert with Choir & Orchestra @7:00pm in the Harding Auditorium

What is AVID?

AVID, which stands for Achievement Via Individual Determination, is an amazing program designed to help students succeed both in high school and beyond. It's like a toolkit with strategies and support to help them reach their full potential.

Imagine AVID as a powerful tool for becoming a more adept learner. In AVID, individuals acquire skills that are truly effective, such as organizational and self-management skills, and find a learning process that works best for them so they can be successful academically.

However, AVID isn't just about the academic stuff – it's about building life skills as well. Students develop important skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. These skills will come in handy not only in high school, but also in whatever pathway they choose to take going forward.

One of the coolest things about AVID is that it's a community of students who are all determined to succeed. They'll have the chance to work with classmates who share their vision and teachers who are there to guide and support them every step of the way.

AVID is like having personalized coaches who help students see opportunities and help them navigate the next steps going forward. Whether they're aiming for college, a dream job, or just becoming the best version of themselves, AVID is here to help them make it happen.

New Semester 2 Class Options

Are you interested in being a teacher? These classes can help you explore the field of education!

Education Pathway Classes at Harding 2023/24: Semester 2

The **Education Pathway** provides opportunities for students to explore the field of education. Students in the program will have the opportunity to participate in internships, earn college credits and make a difference by working with youth in the community.

Classes offered on A Days:

1A

Exploring Education & Social Justice (Grades 9-12)

- Great opportunity for students to explore the amazing field of education
- Volunteer/Observe at Elementary schools
- Examine schools from a social justice perspective

2A

Multicultural Approaches to Education (Grades 10-12) /Minneapolis College Dual Enrollment Course

- Opportunity to earn 3 free college credits
- Examine how personal understanding of race, class, gender, culture, and ability impact instructional choices in the classroom
- Students reimagine the future of education
- Volunteer/observe at elementary schools

See your school counselor to join the classes!

Counseling Department: Career Chat







On October 25th Harding's Counseling Department hosted their first monthly Career Chat of the year on Nursing. We had 3 amazing panelists (including Harding alumni Tiara Smith!) present to over 60 students on their careers and educational pathways. Students learned about the field of nursing, training and education required, and got to participate in a Q&A at the end. We are grateful to our panelists for taking the time to share their knowledge and experiences with our students and look forward to hosting our next career chats! Career Chats are open to all students, 9-12, and are hosted once a month with rotating career topics.

Districtwide Career Pathways Program

The career pathways program is for 11th and 12the graders who are interested in taking college courses. If enrolled you would spend your mornings at Harding and then a bus would take you to the center where you'd take your DCPP classes. **Click on the link below** to learn more information or talk to your school counselor about signing up for these classes for the second semester.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fwsoWVgEDXNfamAcPTgzFjQTsxFra1UNhU-xlpGq5N4/edit

Classes are offered in a variety of careers from engineering to business, law, automotive, construction, and more.

Wilder's SUD Program



Wilder Community Mental Health & Wellness

Alcohol & Substance Use Supports



Wilder's SUD program is partnering with high schools across the Saint Paul School District to provide alcohol and substance use supports for students and their families. Our aim is to decrease overdoses and other concerns related to substance use by providing prevention education and support, consultations for students, families and school faculty.

- **Wilder's SUD Team** is on-site at Harding, Humboldt, Central and Washington High Schools at least 2 days a week. Consultations are available by e-mail or phone Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00pm.
- **Team includes** Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselors (LADC), Mental Health Professionals, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and Mental Health/SUD Interns
- **Other services provided through referrals:** Substance use assessments (Rule 25/Comprehensive Assessments), individual SUD treatment, and outpatient or residential SUD Treatment.

- Walk in's Welcome for support, consultations and resources!
- Contact one of the building School Social Workers or Counselors to learn more about the referral process.

SUD Contact 651-280-2147 | recovery@wilder.org

AMHERST H. WILDER FOUNDATION
Here for good.

Family Engagement Meetings

Meetings are always the third Monday of each month at 5:00-6:30 pm.

November 20th, December 18th, January 22nd, ect. This is a place for families to meet and discuss what they would like to see happen at Harding, learn about Harding's programs, and create connections.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are on December 14th from 4-7pm and February 29th from 4-7pm. This is a chance for families to talk to teachers about how their child is doing in class. It's a great opportunity to connect and grow, remember we are all in this together and coming to conferences can be a place to figure out how best we can support our students.

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) tami.johnson@spps.org or 651-744-1160
Jamie Shady (CCC) james.shady@spps.org or 651-744-3599

Get in Contact with Admin Staff

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

HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!