



# Harding Newsletter

December 11, 2023



## Let's Learn and Grow Together

Hello Harding Families,

The last month of the year is here! There is very little time left in 2023 and this means we can start looking towards next year and setting goals for 2024. Our goals as a school are to keep connecting with all our students and helping them learn and grow. We also want to keep connecting with the families of our students and getting you all involved in the amazing things we have going on at Harding. Please read on to learn about the great things we have coming up in 2024 and the great things we've done in the last part of 2023.

Have a great new year,  
Harding Staff

### Important Dates

Parent Teacher Conferences: **December 14th at 4-7pm**. Please come to Harding to meet with your students' teachers.

Winter break: 12/23/23- 1/7/24

Students return to school: 1/8/24

### 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 **MCAs** are taken by 10th and 11th graders and anyone taking biology. All ELL students will have to take the **ACCESS** test. Any 11th graders who would like to take the **ACT** can sign up in the spring to take it at Harding. If you'd like to opt out your students from taking the tests please email the test coordinator at the email below.

For any testing questions, contact the test coordinator Micah Zielske,  
[micah.zielske@spps.org](mailto:micah.zielske@spps.org)

## Choir Concert



**Winter Choir Concert**

Tuesday, December 12, 7PM  
Harding Auditorium. Free entry

Come support the choirs at our first concert of the year.!

## Recognition for Two Choir Students



Two students participated in the Urban Choir Festival through Vocal Essence and Singers of this Age. Keng Xiong and Layue Yang joined the honor choir, learned 5 songs, worked with guest directors, and performed for the state American Choral Directors Association Fall Conference to a standing ovation!

## U of M Tour

Harding and Johnson students toured the University of MN last week. They heard from current students, met Native support staff, played Jeopardy to review their day, and heard from Dakota Language professor Neil McKay.



## Band and Orchestra Concert





Come join the Harding Band & Orchestra in their Annual Winter Concert Performance! You will hear music from the Jazz Band, Orchestra, Intermediate & Advanced Bands, and the Drumline! The concert will be a little over an hour in length and will include a wide variety of styles and composers.

**Tuesday, December 19** Harding Auditorium 7:00pm FREE!



## Family Engagement Meetings



**Meetings are always the third Monday of each month at 5:00-6:30 pm. Dinner from 5:00-5:30, meeting starts at 5:30.**

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.



## US Government Students on TV!

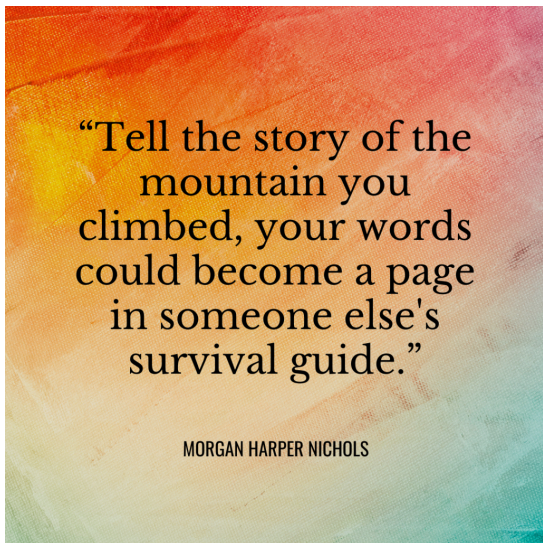


PBS is making a documentary called "A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy" and they came to Harding and filmed in Mr. Fleming's US Government class. You can watch the episode they will be in on **January 2, 2024 at 9pm.** [Click here](#) to learn how to watch it on channel tbt 2.



## Harding AVID Team



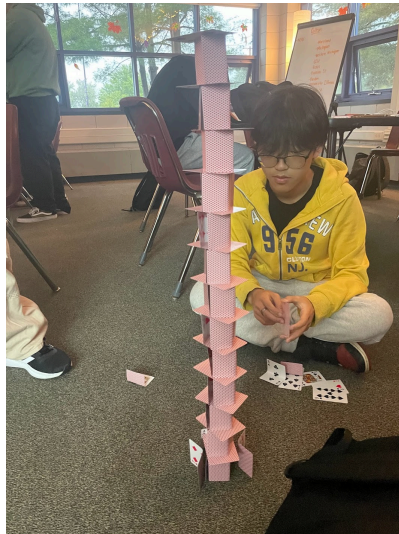
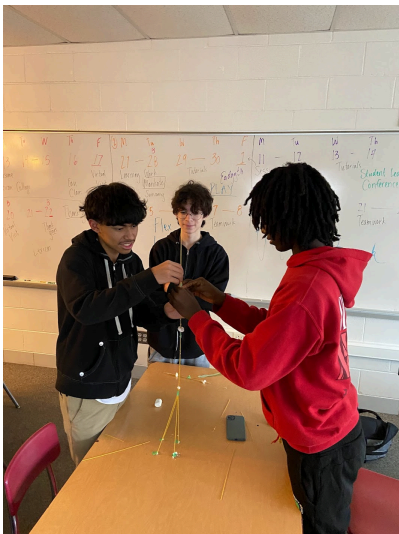


**What are great things?** The great things are up to students to decide. We encourage students to think about different pathways and explore what their future might look like and hold for them.

**How do we support students on their pathways to greatness?** We teach them and give them experiences to develop Life Skills.

The Life Skills we focus on are

- **Awesome** (O.S.S.M: Organizational Skills and Self Management)
- **Communication**
- **Inquiry and Thinking**
- **Collaboration and Teamwork**
- **Reading, Research, and Taking Notes.**







**Food for Thought** If you had to, would you rather fight a duck the size of a horse or 50 horses the size of a duck? ([Inquiry and Thinking](#)) Explain. ([Communication](#))

**Attempt at Humor:** How much do introverts weigh? *Not enough to break the ice.*

Wishing everyone a delightful, rejuvenating break filled with joy and peace!

Happy Holidays to those celebrating!

## The National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) has returned to Harding HS! There are currently 67 juniors and seniors at Harding who are members of the National Honor Society. Members meet monthly to work on projects and activities related to the four pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Some of this year's projects so far include:

- ❖ helping families at fall and winter conferences,
- ❖ spreading positive messages for finals at the end of quarter one,
- ❖ weekly cleaning of tables and desks in teacher's classrooms,
- ❖ weekly peer tutoring in the library (Tues/Thurs from 3:05 -5:00 pm),
- ❖ helping Chelsea Heights Elementary school with their STEM Family Night and
- ❖ conducting a clothing drive with the Student Council that collected 20 large bags of winter gear for Harding students!

### **Upcoming projects include:**

- ❖ building engine mounts for STARBASE Minnesota, which helps fifth grade students from SPPS schools and surrounding districts engage in STEM learning as they prepare for a future human mission to Mars,
- ❖ volunteering at Txuj Ci HMong Upper Campus Hmong New Year on December 21, 2023 and
- ❖ volunteering at Battle Creek Middle School's BINGO family event on December 21, 2023.

If any families would like **to donate paper towels to our desk cleaning efforts** they would be greatly appreciated! Donations can be directed to either NHS co-advisor Emily Lockhart (Rm 1455) or Emily Yang (Rm 1446).

## ‘Construct Tomorrow’ Field Trip



Some students went on a field trip to gain hands-on experience in the construction and building trades.

## Credit Recovery

Hello Harding students! Quarter 2 credit recovery **starts December 11** and ends on January 18. If your counselor signed you up for credit recovery you should see your class/es in Schoology on Friday, December 8. See your counselor if you have questions.

## 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!**

## Student Absences

Please remember to email our Attendance Clerk at [gertraud.kussmaul@spps.org](mailto: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](tel: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.**

## **Districtwide Career Pathways Program**

The career pathways program is for 11th and 12th 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 DCPD 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'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](mailto:recovery@wilder.org)



## Parent Teacher Conferences

**December 14 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](mailto: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](mailto:richard.matthes@spps.org) or call 651-744-3163.

## School Counseling Office

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tami Johnson (AIS counselor) [tami.johnson@spps.org](mailto:tami.johnson@spps.org) or 651-744-1160

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

## Get in Contact with Admin Staff

Tony Chlebecek, Interim Principal, [anthony.chlebecek@spps.org](mailto:anthony.chlebecek@spps.org)

Craig Cuidry, Assistant Principal (9th grade), [craig.guidry@spps.org](mailto:craig.guidry@spps.org)

Jimmy Nyembwe, Assistant Principal (9th grade), [jimmy.nyembwe@spps.org](mailto:jimmy.nyembwe@spps.org)

Xong Moua, Assistant Principal (10th grade), [xong.moua@spps.org](mailto:xong.moua@spps.org)

Jayson Spence, Assistant Principal (11th grade), [jayson.spence@spps.org](mailto:jayson.spence@spps.org)

Evelyn Nordquist, Assistant Principal (12th grade), [evelyn.nordquist@spps.org](mailto:evelyn.nordquist@spps.org)

Phoenix Cobb, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (9th grade), [phoenix.cobb@spps.org](mailto:phoenix.cobb@spps.org)

Essa Adam, Behavioral intervention Specialist (10th grade), [essa.adam@spps.org](mailto:essa.adam@spps.org)

Steve Solaja, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (11th grade), [stephan.solaja@spps.org](mailto:stephan.solaja@spps.org)



Kelly Brown, Behavioral Intervention Specialist (12th Grade), [kelly.brown@spps.org](mailto:kelly.brown@spps.org)

**Have a Great Winter Break!**