Harding Newsletter

February 15, 2024

Let's Go Harding Let's Go!

Dear Harding High School Families,

I am writing to thank many of our Hmong parents and families for meeting with myself and other Saint Paul Public Schools personnel recently. I think connecting with our diverse student population is so important to the success of not only our school, but individual students.

I want to assure each and every one of our Harding High School families that not only are you valued, but your culture is valued as well. I have learned a lot in the first half of the school year, and I continue to learn each day from our students. If you have any questions or other concerns about school, please call me. I want to hear from you.

I am excited for Harding High School to host Hmong New Year in the future as one of Harding's family engagement celebrations. Our students planned, organized and held a wonderful cultural celebration this year. Thank you again to our Hmong Club Members and all of our students, families and staff members who attended!

I was also excited about the family events we had for National African American Parent Involvement Day this month on Monday, February 12th, 2024. This included a visit from Mayor Carter!

We are truly fortunate at Harding to have such a beautiful and diverse school community! Thank you for your support.

In Partnership,
Tony Chlebecek, Principal
Harding Senior High School

To read in another language click the links below.

Spanish Karen Somali Hmong

ACT Test

On **March 12**, Harding will be hosting the ACT test for any juniors who want to take it. This test can be used on college applications but is not required.

If you want to sign up please fill out this form. https://forms.gle/fD9a3ihZSvXqgLN58
Please contact the test coordinator if you have any questions, micah.zielske@spps.org

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.
February 26th, March 18th, April 22nd. 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.

Choir and Orchestra Concerts

Come join the Harding Choirs & Orchestra in their Annual Mid Winter Concert Performance! The concert will be about an hour in length and will include a wide variety of styles and composers, including original compositions.
Tuesday, February 27 Harding Auditorium 7:00pm Its FREE!

Parent Teacher Conferences

NEW DATE! March 7th 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.

Bilingual Seals Test

Minnesota Bilingual Seals and Certificate

If you can read, write, speak, and understand another language, you may be eligible to

EARN FREE COLLEGE CREDIT

at any MN State College or University!

Be recognized for your language ability and start your college career off right. **Take a Bilingual Seal assessment.**

10th, 11th, and 12th graders!

Assessments will occur
April 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2024

Harding High School
1540 6th St E, St Paul, MN 55106
(651) 793 - 4700

Link to registration form: bit.ly/3Rwc77X
Please use your '**stpaul.k12.mn.us**' email address.

Want to look at a sample test?
https://avantassessment.com/sample-tests
Your language not on list? Choose English.

Registration deadline is January 31, 2024

Assessments are available in:
Amharic • Arabic • ASL • Bulgarian • Czech • Dakota • Dari • French • German • Hebrew • Hindi • Hmong • Hungarian • Italian • Japanese • Karen Korean • Lakota • Mandarin Chinese • Ojibwe • Oromo • Pashto Portuguese • Russian • Somali • Spanish • Swahili • Tamil • Ukrainian • Vietnamese

Certificate/Seals	Level	College Credits Earned
World Language Proficiency Certificate	Intermediate-Low	2 Semesters 8-10 college credits
Gold Bilingual or Multilingual Seal	Intermediate-High	3 Semesters 12-15 college credits
Platinum Bilingual or Multilingual Seal	Advanced-Low	4 Semesters 16-20 college credits

Talk to a language teacher or counselor for more information, or email seepha.vang@spps.org

Saint Paul Public Schools

ACCESS Testing has Started

550 of our students are taking the ACCESS test in February and March. The ACCESS test measures academic English levels in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. We are excited to see the students' progress in academic English compared with last year!

Students and teachers will not see the test results for several months, but it is important for students to do their best. The test measures 6 levels of academic English. Students who test level 4.5 or higher do not need English language services next year and will not take the test again.

Watch this video to get excited about ACCESS! Hype-Up About ACCESS.mov

Genesys Works Internship Program

Throughout the month of February, Genesys Works will be hosting free, online informational sessions for parents and guardians regarding the Genesys Works Internship Program. As part of the Genesys Works Internship Program, high school seniors gain valuable professional experience through paid internships at companies throughout the metro area like 3M, US Banks, Medtronic, Best Buy, and many more.

Sessions will be held in English, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish, and will cover topics related to program eligibility, applications, scheduling and deadlines, and more. Use the links below to access the zoom meetings. If you have questions about the Genesys Works Program, contact Genesys Works at GWTCRecruitment@genesysworks.org.

	ession 1	ion 2
English	Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM

Hmong	Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM	Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM
Somali	Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM
Spanish	Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:30 PM-7:30 PM

2024-25 Registration

2024-25 Student Registration Process

· **February 13th - February 25th**: Students will receive registration materials and learn about the many electives we offer at Harding High School in Advisory. Teachers will make recommendations with students.

· **February 26th - March 1st**: Registration will happen during Advisory. Students will be selecting their core classes and elective classes using the Student Academic Planner on Campus. COME PREPARED!

· **March 4th - March 28th**: Counselors will meet with all students one-on-one through social studies to finalize their individual course selections.

Information on FAFSA

For Parents/Guardians of SENIORS:

The 2024-2025 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now open! Students who are planning to go to college next year need to complete this, as do their parent/guardian(s). By filling this out students could get up to $14,000 in aid to pay for college!

Both the student and parent/guardian will need to first create an FSA ID, if you do not already have one (if you have an older child that did the FAFSA in previous years, you have an ID and cannot make another one – so make sure you can log into your account). After making an FSA ID, the student will complete their portion of the FAFSA, then invite "contributors" (parent/guardian) to complete their portion. Go to this website to get started. See the below documents for a list of what you need to complete the FAFSA, a step-by-step guide, and how to determine who will be a student's contributor(s).

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Harding's College and Career Center Staff: Jamie Shady (jamie.shady@spps.org) and Katie Kovacovich (kkovacovich.ach@spps.org), 651-744-3599.

FSA ID and FAFSA - Gathering Info.pdf

FSA ID and FAFSA Worksheet.pdf

Determine Parent Contributer.png

Spring Sports Registration

Spring Sports Registration - Begins February 12th!
Registration information can be found on the Athletics tab of the Harding website. 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.

Spring Sports
Girls' Badminton - Starts March 4
Boys' and Girls' Track & Field - Starts March 11
Girls' Softball - Starts March 11
Baseball - Starts March 11
Boys' and Girls' Golf - Starts March 18
Boys' Tennis - Starts March 24
Boys' Volleyball* - Tryouts March 11, 12, 13 - Season starts March 18
**Fee is $75 for boys that make the team.*

If you have any questions about athletics or eligibility, or if you are interested in supporting the athletic department, please contact Athletic Director Otto Kraus (otto.kraus@spps.org, 651-744-3153).

SPPS Reads Together

Please join us in these fun reading activities. We want to encourage families to read together! If you participate please take a photo and share it with the hashtag #SPPSReads. If you post a photo you will be entered into a drawing for t-shirts for your family.

- **Monday, Feb. 26**: Set a timer and have every family member participate in a reading activity for at least 20 minutes, such as independent reading, reading a book together, or listening to an audiobook or podcast.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 27**: Read or tell your child a story in your home language.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 28**: Write a mini-story as a family: Tell the story of your family in six words or less and share it on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #SPPSReads. **Click here to see examples.**
- **Thursday, Feb. 29**: Join the SPPS Reads Together virtual read-aloud with a special guest at 6:30 p.m. A link will be shared closer to the date.
- **Friday, Mar. 1**: Visit the Saint Paul Public Library or choose a book from SPPS's collection of e-books on **MackinVIA** to continue your reading journey into the next month!

Yearbook Ordering and ID Replacement

2023 -2024 YEARBOOKS are Now on Sale

January 1st through April 29th $45.00 plus tax

No book sales After April 29th. Must pre-order your yearbook to get a yearbook in the spring (mid/late May they arrive)

Please keep your emailed receipt

Order Online ONLY at www.hardingyearbook.com

Please email questions to: teresa.holmes@spps.org

New to Harding, Lost, Stolen or Replacement Student ID information

- $2.00 to replace cash (limited time only)
- Students NEW to Harding will get a FREE 1st ID they will need to stop by 1242 for a picture so am ID can be made for them
- Students who Lost, got their ID stolen or misplaced it. See Holmes in room 1242 it will cost $2.00 to replace
- Stop by Ms. Holmes room to order 1242
- Information Needed: First/Last Name, Student Number, Grade & DOB
- Students can pick up their New ID the same day!!! (takes less the 10 minutes to print)
- IDs are required to attend all school events, like; sports events, dances, prom ,can be used for checking out library items, and at lunch
- Students are asked to wear their student IDs while at Harding
- Students can stop by 1242 to pick up a free **lanyard** and a **plastic ID holder**
- **Student IDs will NOT be available to order/reorder during the SUMMER**

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.

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

Let's GO Harding!