

# Pilot School News

November 8, 2024 | Volume #5

*Each sunrise brings a new day filled with new hopes for a new beginning.* **Debasis Mridha**

Quarter 2 is now upon us! This is the perfect time to pause and have a dialogue with your student about what their goals and aspirations are for the next 12 weeks of school. New beginnings have many advantages. By this time students should be reaching a point of being well adjusted to the flow of the school year and should be taking ownership of their academic success. Ownership of academic success can involve goal setting, reflecting on progress, self-advocacy, increased organizational skills and a feeling of accomplishment. As our vision states, our goal is to prepare our Murray Pilots for success in High School and beyond. We want to continue to move our young scholars from being dependent learners to independent learners. Through the family-teacher partnership, we believe we can accomplish this vision. Quarter 2, here we go!

Assistant Principal Vacancy Update - The search process for Murray's new assistant principal has been completed. We anticipate having an announcement to the greater community in our next newsletter with a message from our new team member. Stay tuned. We are very excited to welcome our new Murray Pilot!

## Celebrations:

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Mr. Hirthe would like to celebrate Lu Beckman. Huge Pilot Props to Lu for acing ELA first quarter and loving Creative Writing so much that Lu is taking it twice! Way to go!

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Mr. Gravert would like to celebrate Isabella Koschney. Big #PilotProps shoutout to Isabella! Her dedication in Pre-Algebra has been inspiring, and she's worked so hard to earn those top grades and has been helping and inspiring other students! Keep up the awesome work, Isabella – your efforts are truly paying off!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie  
Principal, Murray Middle School



## UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

### November 12, 2024

Murray PTO Meeting  
6:00pm – 7:15pm

### November 28-29, 2024

No School – Thanksgiving Break

### December 2, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting  
5:00pm – 6:30pm

### December 4, 2024

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

### December 17, 2024

Winter Band/Orchestra Concert  
6:30pm

### Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025

No School – Winter Break

## Athletics

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

Registration opens Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>!

Please register on RSchool  
[rSchool Today registration form link](#)

## Picture Day

•School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at  
<https://shop.jostenspix.com/login>

- MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Event Code: FE202524

## Sixth Grade

### **English Language Arts with Ms. Williams, Ms. Steinhoff and Ms. Carter:**

In Readers Workshop we are wrapping up our unit, Deep Study of Character, by analyzing themes and motifs. Students should be wrapping up their independent reading books as well. Please check in with your students to see how many books they finished during quarter one.

In Writers Workshop, students are finishing editing work on their personal narrative story by learning about grammar and punctuation rules. We are also turning our story into a video. Please ask your student to share their video story with you.

### **Minnesota Studies with Ms. Pfeiffer and Mr. Kareem:**

Students have been learning about early Dakota history (before the 1800s). Students wrote a story to teach a lesson about a value important in early Dakota culture. Students learned about gender roles in early Dakota history and considered how seasons influenced early Dakota housing and lifestyles. We have now moved onto learning about early Ojibwe history including the Ojibwe migration story, gender roles and interactions between the Ojibwe and Dakota nations.

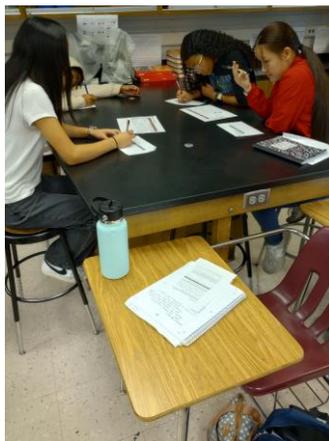
## Seventh Grade

### **American Studies with Ms. Newman and Ms. Pfeiffer:**

Seventh grade history recently wrapped up the Reconstruction Era. We have begun work on the Progressive Era, including immigration, Industrial Revolution, Transcontinental Railroad, and the destruction of Indigenous lands and lifestyle.

### **Science with Ms. Dooley:**

The students have wrapped up their studies of chemical reactions and are now moving into the study of healing and how the human body systems and cells help us to repair when we are sick or injured. Students dissected chicken wings to see connections between skin, muscle, and bone in the wings compared to our arms.



## Eighth Grade

### **Math with Mr. Hayden:**

In Algebra 1, students are finishing Part 1 of their unit on solving equations. This emphasizes a skill that we will be circling back to multiple times throughout the year and one of the fundamental principles of algebra—the idea of using inverse operations to isolate a variable and determine its value. We often use the analogy of an equation being like a scale that needs to maintain its balance. We have to do the same thing on both sides of our equal sign (if we add 10 to one side, we must add 10 to the other side) otherwise, the equality of the equation is compromised. We've also seen how to solve equations with variables on both sides. In Part 2 of Unit 2, students will learn more about multi-step equations and equations with infinitely many or no solutions.

In Integrated Math, students were also reviewing solving equations, but they

took it a step further and also learned how to take formulas or equations with multiple variables in them and use inverse operations to solve for one of those variables. In Part 2 of Unit 2, this class will see how solving equations is incredibly similar to solving inequalities, albeit with a few very important differences.

### **Global Studies with Ms. Croone:**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Global Studies has been working on the 5 Themes of Geography—Movement, Region, Place, Location and Human Environment Interaction. These five themes are connected to Unit 1—Tools of Geography and will now be incorporated into each of our upcoming units that will look at the world in a regional context. We will be moving to a new region of study as we start Quarter 2. Check back to see where we are!

### **Science with Ms. Dooley:**

The students are nearing the end of their first unit, which focused on contact forces and other elements of physics. They ended the unit by doing an engineering design process on a cushioning material to protect something valuable. They took into account the physics attributes as well as elements that stakeholders would need in order for the product to be a success.

## Physical Education

### **Physical Education with Mr. Combs:**

Hi. We are full steam ahead in Murray Physical Education. We have completed a Softball unit as well as the super exciting Bike Unit. There were 4 kids who learned to ride a bike for the first time. We received a \$3000 grant to have the bikes tuned up. We also received \$1000 for 3 Stryder bikes for kids who needed help to learn to ride a bike. We are currently working on Volleyball. We have completed pool play and the learners will be competing in a volleyball tournament at the end.

Please watch for permission slips. Students are currently signing up for our annual Ski trip to Hyland Hills. The trip will cost \$30.00 and permission forms are Due December 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Give To the Max Day 2024 November 21<sup>st</sup>

Help Murray Middle School raise \$5,000.00 to support our students!

Your Donations Support:

- Academic Support
- Affinity Groups
- Athletics & Clubs
- Band & Orchestra
- Classroom Supplies
- School Events
- School Musical



<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Murray-Junior-High/welcome>

### Kudos

Congratulations to Como Park High School girls' swim team. They participated in their conference championship on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Varsity swimmers:**

Alice Van Keerbergen: All-Conference honors; 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 freestyle, 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle

Alana Kennedy: 9<sup>th</sup> in the 200 IM, 9<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle

Sadie Kersey: 8<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle, 9<sup>th</sup> in the 100 butterfly

Sylvie McRoberts: 11<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle, 11<sup>th</sup> in the 100 breaststroke

#### **Junior Varsity swimmers:**

Lucia Barnes: 17<sup>th</sup> place in the 50 freestyle, 8<sup>th</sup> place in the 100 backstroke

Carter Matlock: 26<sup>th</sup> place in the 50 freestyle, 9<sup>th</sup> place in the 100 breaststroke

Julia Rentmeester: 23<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 free, 11<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle

Results from the Section 4A championships prelims Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

Alice Van Keerbergen – qualified for finals in the 100 free  
Alice Van Keerbergen, Alana Kennedy, Sadie Kersey and Sylvia McRoberts will be swimming in finals on Friday as part of relay teams.

#### Other finishes

Alana Kennedy – 22<sup>nd</sup> in the 200 IM and 26<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle

Sadie Kersey – 30<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle and 25<sup>th</sup> in the 100 butterfly

Carter Matlock – 33<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 breaststroke

Sylvie McRoberts – 21<sup>st</sup> in the 100 breaststroke and 28<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle

Alice Van Keerbergen – 19<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle

Finals will be Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm at John Glenn Middle School

### Washington D.C.

Next year's eighth graders, join Murray Middle School as we adventure to Washington, D.C. in October 2025

This trip will provide endless opportunities for hands-on interaction with the history and landmarks you may have only seen in your classroom. Experience the monuments, memorials and more! We will get an up-close and personal look at our country's past. Witness democracy in action, get inspired by the sights, and have a blast making unforgettable memories with your Murray friends.

Sign up at [worldstrides.com/register](https://worldstrides.com/register) using trip ID #220137

Join us parents and students on 11/14/24 at 6:00 pm in the Murray Library. A light meal of pizza and salad will be provided!

## Staff Spotlight



Hello Murray Community,

I am Isis Davis and I am TA-2 with Special Education.

I attended Murray Middle School when I was in middle school, so it's a pleasure to be back. This will be my first full school year working throughout education, as I still plan to further my own education, to become a teacher.

I believe that all students have some strengths and weaknesses. But us adults are there to support them, every step of the way throughout their journey to success.

In my free time outside of school, I am a Head Manager for Como Park Girls' Basketball, which I really enjoy as the girls grow and develop new skills through their high school career and even college. I also enjoy coloring, watching cartoons or even spending time with family.

I am glad to be a part of Murray Middle School, and I look forward to continuing to work with this wonderful program and overall community!

## Counselors Corner

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

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

### **Backpacks/School Supplies**

- If you or your student are in need of a backpack or basic school supplies, please let a counselor know.

### **Community Mental Health Resources**

- Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative: (800) 565-2575
  - En Espanol: <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](#)

### **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](mailto:Justine.Revermann@spps.org), 651-744-7130 or Stephanie Lee - [Stephanie.Lee@spps.org](mailto: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/pAAq1HTZxXNCm8cA>



### **Holiday Support**

- As we get closer to the holiday season, please let Ms. Revermann ([justine.revermann@spps.org](mailto: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!



## Counselors Corner

### Schoology

- 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>

### 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:

Homework Centers at the Libraries  
Brainfuse HelpNow

#### Locations/How to Access

List of Locations and Hours found here: <https://sppl.org/homework/>  
Brainfuse App with St. Paul Library Card – go here to download app: <https://sppl.org/resources/homework-help/>  
Live Tutoring everyday 1-11pm / English and Spanish

### Therapy/Counseling Services with Changelnc

- 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 flyer 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.





## 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**

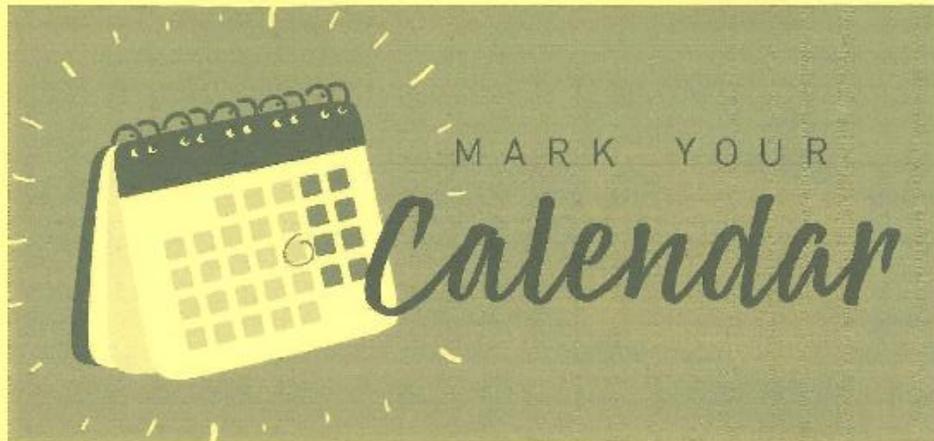
[SBeam@thechangeinc.org](mailto:SBeam@thechangeinc.org)

612-239-7127

\*Speaks Spanish & English

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





for an important meeting about  
Murray Middle School's  
**Washington, D.C. Trip**

**Meeting Date and Time:**  
11/14/24, 6:00 PM

**Meeting Location:**  
in the library

Come learn about all that the students will experience on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Come to this meeting to learn more about our trip along with the many tools we have in place to help you pay for this incredible opportunity.

**Trip Dates:** 10/16/25 - 10/18/25

**Sign up at [worldstrides.com/register](https://worldstrides.com/register) using Trip ID #: 220137**

**Questions? Contact: Richard Terrell at [richard.terrell@spps.org](mailto:richard.terrell@spps.org)**

Richard Terrell will act as trip leader but does not represent the school or district in this role. This is a non-school-sponsored activity.





**Para una importante junta sobre  
Murray Middle School's  
El Viaje a Washington, D.C.**

**Fecha y hora de la junta:**  
11/14/24, 6:00 PM

**Ubicación de la junta:**  
in the library

Venga a conocer todo lo que los  
estudiantes experimentarán en esta  
oportunidad única en la vida.

Se encuentran  
disponibles planes  
de pago, asistencia  
financiera y  
herramientas de  
recaudación de  
fondos.

**Fechas del viaje:** 10/16/25 - 10/18/25

**Regístrese en [worldstrides.com/register](https://worldstrides.com/register) usando el Trip ID #: 220137**

**¿Preguntas? Contacte a: Richard Terrell at [richard.terrell@spps.org](mailto:richard.terrell@spps.org)**

Richard Terrell actuará como líder del viaje, pero no representa a la escuela o al distrito en esta función. Esta es una actividad no patrocinada por la escuela.



# give TO THE MAX

Nov. 21, 2024

**Give to the Max Early Giving has begun!** Give to the Max is a statewide giving event that raises millions each year for thousands of causes across Minnesota and beyond.

When you give, you are helping to support the students, staff and educators at Murray Middle School.

Each gift made GiveMN.org qualifies the Murray Middle School for additional grants from the Give to the Max prize pool, thanks to the continued generosity of the Bush Foundation. Help us win one of these Golden Tickets:

- \$500 Early Giving Golden Ticket prizes daily Nov. 1-21
- \$500 Golden Ticket prizes every 15 minutes on Nov. 21
- \$1,000 Hourly Golden Ticket prizes every hour on Nov. 21
- \$10,000 Super-Sized Golden Ticket from all donations made through GiveMN.org Nov. 1-21

To participate in Give to the Max:

1. Follow this QR code **OR**
2. Visit GiveMN.org, click on the Donate button, and search for Murray Middle School



**Thank you for your financial support and all you do for the Murray community!**



## ACCELERATED PROGRAMS NIGHT

THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

**What:** Como Park High School is hosting their Accelerated Programs Night. This is an opportunity for prospective students and families to learn more about Como's college-level Advanced Placement classes, Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) and Concurrent College Enrollment options from Como staff and a student panel. Learn about our successful programs and have all your questions answered! Light refreshments will be provided.

**When:** Nov. 21, 2024 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Como Park Senior High School Library  
740 Rose Avenue W, Saint Paul, MN 55117



**Panera**  
**FUNDRAISING**



*Help support us!*

# Como Park Senior High School

**25%**  
**OF SALES**  
**WILL BE**  
**DONATED**

**November 21, 2024**  
**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**1620 County Road B2 W, Roseville, MN**

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App,  
or at the kiosk in-café.\*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café or enter the  
promo code **FUND4U** at checkout on [Panerabread.com](http://Panerabread.com) or the Panera App to ensure your  
organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\*

Learn more at [fundraising.panerabread.com](http://fundraising.panerabread.com)

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\*Gift card and catering order placed on [Panerabread.com](http://Panerabread.com), and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by café.

