

Family Newsletter

November 2024

The Heights

Community School



1863 E. Clear Ave.
St. Paul, MN, 55119

Phone 651-293-8815
Attendance Line 651-744-2273

<https://theheights.spps.org/>

Important Dates:

November:

- 5 Election Day
- 7 Conferences
2:40-8:00pm
- 8 No School
Conferences 8am-1pm
- 28 & 29 No School
Thanksgiving Break

December:

- 4 Picture Retake Day
- 12/23-1/3 No School
Winter Break

January:

- 1-3 No School
Winter Break
- 6 Classes Resume



Stay Healthy!

Do Not Send your child to school if sick with the following:



- *Fever 100.4 degrees or higher
- ***Throwing up/diarrhea** in the last 24 hours
- OR**
- *If **medications** have been given to keep fevers down in the last 24 hours

*Cold Symptoms, Cough or other concerns - send/bring your child to school and have our health team assess your child. We're here to help!



The Heights Website

Please check out our website at
<https://theheights.spps.org/>

Please read and discuss the Family Handbook with your students at:
<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1705473127/sppsorg/q8uxogsln3abkjk2fegd/19copy.pdf>

Click the link below for Title I information regarding:
School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)
Family Friendly SCIP
Family Engagement Plan (FEP)
Compact
Parent's Right to Know

<https://theheights.spps.org/about/title-i>

Title I information will also be available in the school office and the family resource room.

Look for updates and more information in emails, texts, newsletters and flyers.

November Conferences

Thurs, Nov 7 conferences are between 2:40-8pm.

The daytime conferences are Friday, Nov 8 between 8am-1pm.

There is no school on Friday, Nov 8.



Interpreters will be available as needed.
Transportation is available but limited.
Contact Julie Wellman for information regarding transportation.

The Heights Community School
651-293-8815

Testing Info

Cognitive Ability Testing (CogAT7) Dates

Cogat7 Gifted identification testing will be between October and November.

Find all the info here:
<https://www.spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/cogat-family-information>

Access Family Information

Find out all about the Access Test at this link:

<https://www.spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information>

Tests and Testing Schedules

For information on ACCESS 2.O, CogAT, FAST literacy and MCA testing for the school year check out the SPPS District Testing Calendar, Test Descriptions and School Schedules at this link:

<https://www.spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/testing-calendars>

Office Hours 7:15am-2:45pm



7:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go

7:30 All students must be in their classrooms or they will be marked tardy.

Please, always use the Attendance Line to call in an absent student!

(use even during regular school hours!)

651-744-2273

The Attendance Line is Available 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week!

iUpdate

Please complete iUpdate online at <https://www.spps.org/onestop> or call the school at 651-293-8815, to request a paper version. Updating your information in iUpdate will ensure that you receive proper services, eligible transportation and important communications by U.S. mail, phone, email or text. One parent or guardian from each primary household is expected to complete iUpdate.

Yearly Lunch Forms

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals each school year. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows the District to receive federal dollars for classroom programming. Additionally, families who have completed an application and have experienced a change in household income or size are encouraged to complete a new application. Please complete your application ASAP. Applications are available online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/spps> or call the school at 651-293-8815, to request a paper application.

News from Mr Xiong

Greetings Heights Hmong Families,
Lus tseem ceeb nyob rau lub 11 hlis ntuj 2024:
Los ntawm: Mr. Xiong

Lub 11 hlis ntuj 2024

Tim 7 Muaj conference thaum 2 teev 40 – 8 teev tsaus ntuj
Tim 8 Tsis kawm ntawv | Muaj conference thaum 8 teev – 1 teev tav su
Tim 28 Tsis kawm ntawv (Thanksgiving Break)
Tim 29 Tsis kawm ntawv (Thanksgiving Break)
Yog nej leej twg xav yuav duab rau nej cov me nyuam, thov saib daim flyer qhia txog tus nqi yees duab thiab muab nyiaj rau cov me nyuam nqa tuaj nyob rau hnuv thaj duab.

The Heights Community School
651-293-8815

How to Opt Back Into Email or Text Messages

Please note that if you have “stopped” text messages or emails, you will no longer receive any district or school messages.

Below are instructions for users to opt back into our blackboard connect message service.

Phone: Recipients can call the opt-out hotline at 855-502-7867 from the phone number that was opted out.

Email: Please call The Heights office to update your email address.

SMS: If the recipient has opted out of receiving text messages, they can text "Subscribe SPPS" to the following shortcodes 23177, 63079, 82932, and 53291 to opt back in.

Please ensure they send the text to all numbers to opt back in for emergency and non-emergency messages.

Stay Healthy!

Do Not Send your child to school if sick with the following:

- *Fever 100.4 degrees or higher
- *Throwing up/diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- OR
- *If medications have been given to keep fevers down in the last 24 hours

*cold symptoms, cough or other concerns_send/bring your child to school and have our health team assess your child.

We're here to help!



Fruits & Veggies Program

The Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program runs October through April/May. Students at The Heights will receive a fruit or veggie snack on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Menus are available online only. Go to <https://www.spps.org/ns>, click on “view school lunch menus” and check out School Cafe, the online interactive menu! Families can view the menu for The Heights.

It has a feature for parents of students with allergies to filter out the menu items containing each allergen.

It also gives nutritional information and can help with counting carbs for diabetics. It's a great tool for parents to help educate their kids about their allergies!

Cafeteria Information

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows the District to receive federal dollars for classroom programming. A new form must be completed each school year. Additionally, families who have completed an application and have experienced a change in household income or size are encouraged to complete a new application.

How to apply for free and reduced-price lunch?

- Applications can be completed online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/spps>.

Call the school at 651-293-8815, to request a paper application.

Paper applications can be mailed to your home by request by calling Nutrition Services at 651-603-4950

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

9 days or less = School Success

Missing just 2 days or more days a month puts students at risk for not reading well by the end of 3rd grade, struggling in middle school and unable to graduate from high school.

Being in school helps students get to know their teachers and their classmates so they can build trusting relationships which helps motivate them to learn and keep trying even when schoolwork becomes hard.

Please contact your child's teacher, or Melinda Vaillant at (612) 470-0638, or Rachel Fulin at (612) 314-3337 if you need help brainstorming how to get your child to school every day on time unless they are very sick.

Classroom Counseling Lessons

I have been enjoying teaching weekly counseling lessons in each grade since the start of the school year! During the first quarter, the Social-Emotional and Academic lessons focused on:

- K-** The importance of consistent attendance, feelings, ways to learn
- 1st-** The importance of consistent attendance, managing feelings, being a successful learner, showing compassion
- 2nd** - The importance of consistent attendance, emotional regulation, brain basics, empathy
- 3rd** - The importance of consistent attendance, growing as a learner, complex emotions, cultural connections
- 4th** - The importance of consistent attendance, learning strategies, perspectives, solving conflicts respectfully
- 5th** - The importance of consistent attendance, growth mindset, personal learning plans, identity and culture

During Quarter 2, our counseling classroom lessons will focus on Bully Prevention.

Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!



The Scholastic Book Fair will be held during Conference Week:

Wednesday, Nov 6 & Thursday, Nov 7

Students can bring cash or use an online wallet account to buy books during the school day and Families can buy books during conferences after school from **2:40-7:45pm.**

Friday, Nov 8

Families can buy books during conferences from **8:00am-12:30pm.**

Families can set up an online wallet account for students to use at school. Families will also be able to buy books online.

Pay with: Cash * Credit Cards * eWallets Accounts

The Heights Community School
651-293-8815

Check out the resources below if you or someone you know needs extra support for the holiday season coming up!

Josephs Coat is an agency that provides free winter clothing to children and families. Their hours are Mon/Wed by appointment only 9am – 3pm Call 651-291-2472 to schedule

Salvation Army Angel Tree: The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. Once a child or senior adult has been registered and accepted as an **Angel** their Christmas wish list is shared with donors in your community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. <https://saangeltree.org/>

Toys for Tots' goal is to provide two toys to each child. Orders are filled with the toys we have on board when the order is requested. Organizations must coordinate the date and time of toy pickup. For further information, contact your [local Toys for Tots Office](#).

Toys for Tots Application Start Date: 10/01/2024
Date campaign begins accepting toy applications

Application End Date: 11/18/2024
Date campaign stops accepting toy applications.

Application Response Start Date: 11/15/2024
Date when campaign will begin reviewing and responding to applications.

Application Response End Date: 11/23/2024
Date when campaign will complete reviewing and responding to applications.

Neighborhood House: Neighborhood House located in West St. Paul provides winter gear for families in need, you can contact them at 651-789-3602 for more information



Do you need
Winter Gear?

COATS - BOOTS - SCARVES - GLOVES

CHILDRENS & ADULTS

Monday – Friday
(Starting October 28)
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
& 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Wellstone Center
179 Robie Street East
St. Paul, MN 55107

For more information contact Service Connect (651)789-3602 or
neighborhoodhousemn.org/service-connect
neighborhoodhousemn.org

 **Neighborhood House**

What is Family-School Compact?

A Family-School Compact for Achievement is an agreement that parents, students and teachers develop together. It explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all students get the individual support they need to reach and exceed grade level standards.

Jointly Developed with Parents

The parents at The Heights Community School helped develop this Compact for Achievement. Schoolwide meetings are held each year to update the compact during family events and complete revisions at the April PTA meeting. Parents are welcome to contribute comments at any time during the year.

For more information on the compact please contact Julie Wellman at 651-293-8815.

Communicating about Learning

The Heights Community School is committed to communicating regularly with families about children's learning. Some of the ways you can expect us to communicate are:

- Weekly Thursday take home folders
- Monthly "check-in" notes, and emails
- Teachers will give parents their prep time and email at the start of the school year.

Do you have questions about your child's progress? Parents can contact your child's teacher.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parents are welcome at The Heights at any time. Parents wishing to volunteer in teacher requested classrooms and at activities in the building to support partnerships during the year need to fill out a volunteer form each year.

Parents who want to go on field trips will need to have an approved background check to chaperone. Background checks require a completed background check form and \$20 cash deposit submitted to the school. Please allow 2 weeks for processing.

The \$20 cash deposit will be returned when the background check is approved and the parent attends 1 field trip.

Translated flyers, interpreters, child care and transportation will be provided as needed. Contact Julie Wellman for more information.

Activities to Support Partnerships

Conferences

- Aug 7, 3:00-7:40pm
- Nov 8, 8:00am to 12:40pm
- March 27, 3:00-7:40pm
- March 28, 8:00am to 12:40pm

Family Events

- Thurs, Aug 29: Outdoor Open House & Meet the Staff 3-4:00pm
- Thurs, Oct 24: Family STEM Night/Title I Mtg
- Mon, Feb 10: National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)
- Thurs, March 6: Family Reading Night

Title I Annual Meeting

- Title I Slideshow Presentation: Oct 22 PTA & SCIP Update parent meeting & Oct 24 Family STEM Night

Title I Spring Budget

The Heights' 2025-26 budget will be discussed at the March & April PTA & SCIP Update meetings

PTA & SCIP Update Meetings

- 2024-25 PTA, Site Council, SCIP Update meetings will be held virtually from 5:30-6:00pm on the following Tuesdays:
 - Oct 22
 - Jan 14
 - March 18 & April 22. includes Title I Budget Info
 - May 20 PTA Budget & Officers

PTA fundraising events:

- SchoolStore.net kick off Sept 23
- Cherry USA catalogue fundraiser Oct 3-21
- KinderCoffeeLab TBD Oct/Nov
- Chuck E Cheese, Woodbury 3-9:00pm TBD
- Wed, Oct 16
 - Fri, Jan 17
 - Thurs, March 14
 - Fri, May 16
- Chipotle, TBD
- World's Finest Chocolate Bar Sale Mar/Apr 2025

All Fundraisers are Completely Optional!

Family-School Compact for Achievement 2024-2025

The Heights Community School



1863 Clear Ave E St Paul 55119

651-293-8815

theheights.spps.org



www.spps.org

The Family-School Compact will be discussed with families during November conferences.

SPPS Achieves

Long Term Outcomes

- Decrease disparities based on race, ethnicity, culture and identity.
- Increase achievement of English Learners
- Increase achievement of students receiving special education services
- Improve kindergarten readiness
- Increase academic growth in reading and math for all students
- Prepare all graduates for college, career and life

School Goals

Reading: The percentage of grade 3-5 students scoring proficient or higher in reading will increase by at least **8%** points as measured by the MCA III Reading Assessment administered in April.

Math Proficiency Goal: The percentage of grade 3-5 students scoring proficient or higher in mathematics will increase by at least **8%** points as measured by the MCA III Math Assessment administered in April.

Math Complimentary Goal: The percentage of students "On Level" or "Above Level" in grades K-5 will increase by at least **15%** points as measured by fall, winter, spring HMM Math Growth Measure during the school year.

PBIS: At least **85%** of grade 3-5 students will take the Student Climate Survey in the fall and spring, and all student groups scoring at least "3" on questions 1,4,6, and 11 will show an overall man score of "3" or above by spring.

Attendance: At least **85%** of all students will consistently attend school, and all student groups will reach at least **85%** consistent attendance by June.

Parents Have the Right... to request regular meetings for their suggestions and decisions relating to the education of their children.

Please attend already scheduled meetings such as The Title I Annual Meeting, PTA/SCIP Update Meetings for opportunities to learn about parent rights, give suggestions and make decisions.

A light meal, interpreters, childcare and transportation will be provided as needed.

Teachers, Parents, Students— Together for Success

Grade level teachers will work as a team to work with students and their families to support students' success in reading, writing and math. Some of our key connections with families will be:

Provide a Thursday folder to send information home on a weekly basis.

Provide information/activities for parents to help their child/ren learn at home.

Provide homework appropriate for each grade level.

Provide a monthly newsletter for classroom and school wide news and events.

Provide information and educational links on the grade level Webpages at spps.org/heights.

Provide information regarding student progress and academic achievement at regular intervals including conferences.

At Home

The Heights Community School parents joined staff to develop ideas about how families can support students' success in reading and math. Families may have other ideas to add to this list. To help support students' success in reading, writing and math, families can do the following fun activities at home:

- Read with my child every night.
- Encourage my child to complete assigned homework.
- Check the Thursday Folder and return it.
- Help my child practice their self-help skills.
- Attend Family Nights.
- Look for and read the classroom and family newsletters.
- Check out the school and classroom webpages.
- Attend Parent Academy.
- Attend conferences in November and March.

The Heights Community Students

The Heights Community School students joined staff and parents to develop ideas about how they can succeed in school and reach for the stars in math and reading. Students thought of the following ideas to make connections between learning at home and school:

- Read every day.
- Bring home the Thursday Folder and return it every week.
- Complete assigned homework.
- Practice self-help skills.



SEPTEMBER

2	No School, Labor Day	PreK-12
3	First Day of School	1-12
3-4	No School, Family Welcome Meetings	Pre-K & K
5	First Day of School	Pre-K & K

OCTOBER

3	No School, Professional Development Rosh Hashanah	PreK-12
17-18	No School, State Teacher Meeting (MEA)	PreK-12
25	No School, Conference Preparation	PreK-5

NOVEMBER

7	End of Quarter 1	
8	No School, Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences Secondary Professional Development	PreK-12
28-29	No School, Thanksgiving Break	PreK-12

DECEMBER

23-31	No School, Winter Break	PreK-12
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JANUARY

1-3	No School, Winter Break	PreK-12
20	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day	PreK-12
24	End of Quarter 2	
27	No School, Elementary Professional Development Secondary Grading Day	PreK-12

FEBRUARY

17	No School, Presidents Day	PreK-12
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MARCH

7	No School, Elementary Conference Preparations Secondary Professional Development	PreK-12
28	No School, Parent-teacher conferences End of Quarter 3	PreK-5
31	No School, Eid al-Fitr	PreK-12

APRIL

1-4	No School, Spring Break	PreK-12
18	No School, Teacher Professional Development	PreK-12

MAY

26	No School, Memorial Day	PreK-12
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JUNE

10	Last Day of School End of Quarter 4	PreK-12
19	District Holiday, Juneteenth	

GRADES

PreK-12
1-12
Pre-K & K
Pre-K & K



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2024-25 School Year Calendar

Important Dates

No School for Pre-K and Kindergarten
(ECSE follows the Pre-K calendar)

No School All Grades (PreK-12)

No School PreK-5

(6-8 grade students at PreK-8 schools are in school)

End of Quarter

August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

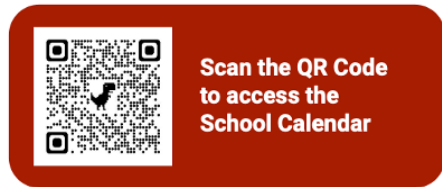
March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Scan the QR Code
to access the
School Calendar

**QR Code for SPSS 2024-25 Calendars
English, Hmong, Karen, Spanish, Somali**

Link for more languages:

<https://www.spss.org/about/calendar>