

# Pilot School News

December 20, 2024 | Volume #8



*The holiday season and/or long breaks are a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us. **Terri Marshall***

First, I want to say how amazing our band/orchestra concert was the other night. While I was not able to attend due to a family obligation, I heard nothing but glowing celebration about the community turn out and how our students performed. None of this surprises me as Ms. Denae is an incredible director, our community support is unmatched and our young Pilot performers are proving to be amazing musicians. Well done by all and we certainly look forward to the spring concert later this year!

Second, our long winter break is now upon us. Like the quote says, I am hopeful that each of us can find ways to reflect on ways we can take care of ourselves and at the same time make lives better for those around us. With the fresh snow, hopefully our Pilots can get out and help the neighbors dig out! Take this time to enjoy the company of friends and family and have some fun!

I wish you a safe and enjoyable break and look forward to kicking off 2025 with you all!

## **Celebrations:**

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Decourt would like to celebrate David Soe. David has worked hard, and is a kind, patient, and conscientious student with a friendly smile that brightens the room.

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Combs would like to celebrate Duane Shaffer. Duane is an outstanding student in Phy Ed. He is always on task and is always willing to help me and his peers. Way to go, Duane!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie  
Principal, Murray Middle School

## **UPCOMING EVENTS >>>**

**Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025**

No School – Winter Break

**January 20, 2025**

No School – Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day

**January 24, 2025**

Activity Day  
End of Second Quarter

**January 27, 2025**

No School – Grading Day

**January 29, 2025**

Showcase  
5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Parent Forum – Como High Pathway  
6:00pm

**Activity Day Forms**

**Due**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

## Sixth Grade

### **Math with Mr. Lee:**

We are wrapping up our Equations unit in Pre-Algebra and will have a test right before winter break. Please encourage your student to review their notes and class materials as they prepare for this assessment. Additionally, students are expected to complete 60 minutes of Success Maker each week. If they are behind, they can catch up at home using their iPads. Staying on top of this work is essential for reinforcing their learning and building strong math skills. Looking ahead, after winter break, we will begin our next unit on Patterns and Graphing—an exciting opportunity to explore how math connects to the real world!

Thank you for your support, and have a wonderful holiday season!

### **Science with Mr. Chase:**

The 6th grade science classes were collecting data on cup experiments to find out what might keep heat energy from moving into the cold water in the cup system. This week they are designing their own cups in a cup challenge where they will be given different materials, design their cups, and support their design ideas with evidence from the previous experiments.



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

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade Minnesota Studies, we started a new unit on 'Treaties.' Students began the unit by looking at some reasons why the fur trade ended. Then students worked on some new vocabulary words that will help them understand this period of change in Minnesota's history such as—territory, assimilation, reservation and ratify.

We've also kept up with our reading of the contemporary young adult novel, 'Where Wolves Don't Die,' which tells the story of a young Ojibwe boy living in Minneapolis.

## Seventh Grade

### **Math with Mr. Gravert:**

This week in Pre-Algebra, students are diving into the foundational skill of simplifying algebraic expressions. We're exploring concepts like combining like terms, using the distributive property, and eliminating unnecessary components to create cleaner, more manageable equations. Through hands-on activities and practice problems, students are learning how to spot patterns, organize their work, and build confidence in their mathematical reasoning. These skills will not only help them excel in algebra but also prepare them for tackling more complex topics in the future.

Beyond the classroom, simplifying algebraic expressions has practical applications in the real world. Whether budgeting, calculating measurements, or solving everyday problems, breaking down complex scenarios into manageable steps is a skill everyone can use. Encourage your student to share examples of how they might apply this knowledge outside of math class—it's a great way to connect their learning to real-life situations. Together, we're building a strong foundation for their mathematical success!

## Eighth Grade

### **Science with Mr. Chase:**

In 8th grade students are studying sound and how it travels. They did a class simulation where students were positioned at different distances simulating particles in a solid, liquid, and a gas. (Solid not in the picture) they passed Legos from one side of the room to the other representing the energy that is being transferred. They soon realized sound would travel fastest in a solid and slowest in a gas.



## Band/Orchestra

Congratulations to all the music students for a job well done in the concert! Starting in January each student is working on a solo or ensemble piece during class. This will be played at the Spaghetti Dinner on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7 pm. They are required to attend. Ms. Denae will be out recovering from shoulder surgery the first two weeks in January. Please have your student check schoolology to see what they need to be working on during those weeks.

## Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost \$24.00. Students can pick up an order form from the office or see Ms. Pittman. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at:

<https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html>



## Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Tina Burton; I prefer to be called Ms. Tina at school. My role at Murray Middle School is a B.I.P (Behavior Intervention Person) for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (Last names M-Z) grade.

I've worked in education with SPPS for 30+ years. I love working with students, families and staff. Every year brings a new experience, time to grow/learn and set new goals. I am passionate about my role, helping students, parents and staff.

I grew up on the West Side and attended three schools in the Saint Paul School District, Roosevelt Elementary, Cherokee Heights and Humboldt Junior/Senior High Schools.

Outside of school, I am a mother of 4 children, ages 38 to 24 years old and Nana to six beautiful grandchildren. I enjoy being with my family, dogs and friends.

Some of my hobbies are traveling, baking, cooking, photography, scrapbooking and being outdoors

## Activity Day

Murray has a mid-year all school celebration called Activity Day. Activity Day takes place on January 24<sup>th</sup>. All students are invited to attend one of 4 field trips: Cheap Skate (Rollerskating), Flahertys Arden Bowl (Bowling), Grand Slam (Arcade, Batting Cages, Laser Tag, Krazy Kars, Mini-Golf, X-treme Trampoline), and Ice Fishing.

Please turn in form, money, permission slip, and waiver (Grand Slam only) to Stefanie Folkema (Office #1005) by Wednesday, **January 8, 2025**. You can also pay online at the following link:

[Activity Day - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschooltoday.com\)](https://www.spsd.net/activity-day-class-registration-v3.0-saint-paul-public-schools-rschooltoday.com)

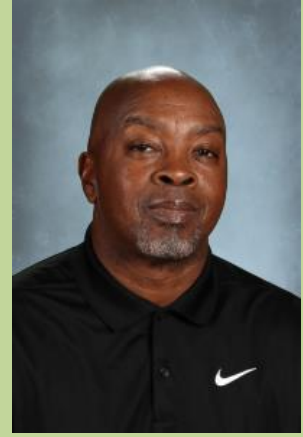
## Out-of-School Time Youth Programs Update

As many of you know, there has been a significant shift in funding this past year resulting in a decrease of Flipside Afterschool program sites. This has left over 1500 middle schoolers with less options for afterschool programming.

Saint Paul Public Schools, the City of Saint Paul and Saint Paul Children's Collaborative are working together, to connect youth and families to additional opportunities in our community and to communicate the need for more resources for youth programming in Saint Paul. We have been working to connect our community organizations to use the SPPS digital flyers website, Peachjar. Each SPPS school website has a Peachjar link under the FAMILY menu. Here you will find electronic flyers for youth and family programs available across the city. We encourage you to visit your school's website and sign up for a Peachjar account so you don't miss out on any new programs or activities not just at your school but within the community as well. Sign up at:

<https://my.peachjar.com/signup#>

## Staff Spotlight



Hello. My name is Marshall Little. I am currently a Cultural Specialist here at Murray Middle School. I have been in this position for thirteen years and love it! Being at Murray has been a great experience because I love being around the students; there is never a dull moment.

I am also the Volleyball Coach. I love coaching the girls. It has been a challenging but rewarding experience. The girls and I have had some very fun and successful seasons.

Coming from a small town in North Carolina, in which the community population was about 50, has made me appreciate everything that I have. Caring for others and respecting my elders was instilled in me by my parents. I try to teach this to my students.

There is no place I would rather be, than Murray!!!



## 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

### **LGBTQ+ Support Group:**

A confidential support group for students who identify as LGBTQ+ will be starting at Murray. If your student has questions about their own sexual orientation or gender identity, and wants a safe place to talk about their questions or experiences with peers, this group may be an option for them. If your student is interested in the group or would like to know more about the group, please email Amy Coad, School Psychologist at [amy.coad@spps.org](mailto:amy.coad@spps.org) or call/text 651-401-6566. Thank you!

### **Coats, Hats, Mittens Donation**

We are always in need of new or gently used/clean jackets, coats, mittens, and hats for our students. If you would like to donate any, please contact one of our social workers or counselors. We greatly appreciate it!

### **Other Resource:**

Holiday Giving/Support: Toy Drives, Clothing Donations, and Free Meals | Minnesota Monthly  
<https://www.minnesotamonthly.com/lifestyle/holiday-giving-toy-drives-clothing-donations-and-free-meals/>

### **Quarter 1 Report Cards**

To check your student's Quarter 1 report card, log into Campus. (click SPPS login):  
<https://spps.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/stpaul.jsp>. Select your student in the top right - hand corner, and then click on the 3 lines in the top left corner, and select grades from the drop-down menu. It should list your student's classes and their course grades for Quarter 1.

### **Internet Hot Spots**

Here's a resource for internet hot spots to check if you're eligible: <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/project-10-million>





# Holiday Food Resources 2024

Please contact locations for additional details or to verify availability.

## On-Site Meals

### Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities

Christmas Day Community Meal  
435 University Ave. E., Saint Paul  
Dec. 25, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.  
**651-292-1721 | [ugmtc.org/thanksgiving](http://ugmtc.org/thanksgiving)**

### FOCUS MN 2024

550 Rice St., Saint Paul  
No registration required.

### FOCUSMN | Facebook

#### Christmas Dinner

Dine-in or Take-out  
Dec. 22, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

#### Bag Lunches

Monday – Friday, 11:30 – 12:00 p.m.

### Loaves & Fishes

Community Meal  
No registration required.  
**[loavesandfishesmn.org](http://loavesandfishesmn.org)**

Available at the following locations:  
**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
1390 Larpenteur Ave. E., Saint Paul  
Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

**Saint Paul Opportunity Center**  
422 Dorothy Day Place, Saint Paul  
Sunday – Saturday 4:30 – 5:15 p.m.

**True Foundation Church**  
5840 Lilac Dr. N., Brooklyn Center  
Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Closed: Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

**St. Matthew's Catholic Church**  
510 Hall Ave, St. Paul  
Monday – Friday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Closed: Dec. 20, 24, 25 and Jan. 1  
Dec. 19, to-go service only

**True Foundation Church of God**  
5820 Lilac Dr N, Brooklyn Center  
Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Closed: Dec. 25 and Jan. 1



## No-Cost Food Distribution Events

### Hallie Q Brown Food Shelf (2024)

Holiday Meal Basket including frozen turkey and fixings.  
270 N. Kert St., Saint Paul  
**Registration required before Dec. 16**  
**Call 651-224-4606 to register.**

### Sanneh Foundation

Conway Food Distribution | Holiday groceries  
2090 Conway St., Saint Paul  
Dec. 17, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
**Registration required (on-site)**  
**[thesannehfoundation.org](http://thesannehfoundation.org)**

### Department of Indian Work

Holiday Meal Groceries including a ham.  
3080 Centerville Rd., Little Canada  
Native American Families  
December 19, 10 - 4 p.m.  
**Registration required before Dec. 12, while supplies last**  
**651-789-3849**

### Franciscan Brothers of Peace

Holiday Food Shelf including frozen turkey or ham.  
1289 Lafond Ave, Saint Paul  
Dec. 16, 17, 18, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
No registration required.  
**[brothersofpeace.org/food-shelf](http://brothersofpeace.org/food-shelf)**

### NOURISH Food Shelf

Give & Go Holiday Distribution  
Holiday groceries including ham, turkey, or Halal protein  
376 Western Ave N., Saint Paul  
Dec. 14, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.  
No registration required.  
**612-440-7768 | [Mount Olivet Lab School \(Facebook\)](#)**

## Discounted Groceries

### Fare For All (double check cost)

\$35 Holiday Pack including ham and fixings  
No registration required.  
**763-450-3860 | [thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/pack](http://thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/pack)**  
**Grace of God Lutheran Church**  
420 Hayward Ave. N., Oakdale  
Dec. 16, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
**Central Square Community Center**  
100 7th Ave. N., South Saint Paul  
Dec. 17, 4 - 6 p.m.



## Winter Break Activities and Supports

### Ways to have fun at home

- Read
- Sledding (Como Golf Course)
- Make art
- Do a meditation, rest, relax
- Journal, listen to music
- Go on a walk or hike
- Play/Open Gym at a [Rec Center](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers)  
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers>
- Catch up on schoolwork
- Learn to code
- Make Slime
- [Como Zoo](https://comozooconservatory.org/) - <https://comozooconservatory.org/>
- [MN History Center](https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter) - <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter>
- Learn a new skill
- Try a new recipe, bake cookies
- Follow along to PE exercise videos on Youtube
- Play a brain training app
- Attend a [sporting event](https://www.stpaulcity.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=13) - <https://www.stpaulcity.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=13>
- [Sprockets St. Paul](https://www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/) - <https://www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/>
- [St Paul Public Library Events](https://sppl.org/winter-break/) - <https://sppl.org/winter-break/>



### Community Resources:

- [St. Paul Parks and Rec](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers)  
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers>
- [Parks and Rec non-school day events:](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers/parks-recreation-programs/no-school-day)  
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers/parks-recreation-programs/no-school-day>
- St. Paul Public Library - [sppl.org](https://sppl.org)
  - [Kids & Tweens](https://sppl.org/kidsandteens/) - <https://sppl.org/kidsandteens/>
  - [Teens](https://sppl.org/teens/) - <https://sppl.org/teens/>
- [Ramsey County Calm Room](https://www.rccmhc.org/breathe) - <https://www.rccmhc.org/breathe>

### Food Resources:

Several community organizations provide free meals for families around Saint Paul.

- [Minnesota Food Helpline](https://www.hungerolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/): <https://www.hungerolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/>  
Call 888-711-1151 for assistance, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [Ramsey County Food Resources](https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources)  
<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources>



- **Interactive Food Locations:**

<https://ramseygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afe8d7067726472da336deaecb957c9d>

(food shelves, groceries at low or no-cost, farmer's markets, meals at no-cost)

Customer Contact Center 651-266-8500 (Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm)

- **Keystone:** <http://keystoneservices.org/food-shelves/>

Call 651-917-3792 or 651-487-2792

- **Neighborhood House** <https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/>

(food support, housing stability, educational programs) 651-789-2500

**Mental Health Resources:**

- Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

- Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative (651-266-7878):

<https://www.rccmhc.org/resources>

- 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 741741

- National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

- Trevor Project: Text Start to 678678 or call 1-866-488-7386, [chat here](#)





Continuum Care Center

## YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION & AWARENESS

Join us for an informative & Interactive event to help youth & parents navigate today's challenges. Get the tools you need to build stronger connections, improve communication & promote healthy choices.

"Start the Conversation: Empowering Families & Community Against youth Substance Use!"

### Event Highlights

- Understanding The Challenges Youth Face Today
- Building Stronger Connection
- Community Resources & Support
- Support Healthy decision Making

### Who Should Attend ?

- Youth
- Parents, Guardians & Caregivers
- Community members interested supporting local families

There will be a meal provided !  
& a raffle for a prize for  
participants

### When

**FEBURARY  
6TH**

5:30pm-7:30pm

### Where ?

**COMO HIGH  
SCHOOL**

IN THE CAFATERIA

740 Rose Avenue West, St Paul, MN  
55117



### For More Information and to RSVP

Nelly Pettersen

Phone : (651) 621-0418

Email : [Danellee@continuumcarecenter.com](mailto:Danellee@continuumcarecenter.com)

