

In an effort to increase communication with our students and families, we send a weekly email on Sunday evenings or Monday mornings highlighting upcoming school events. This information will also be shared with students in Schoology and in Crew on Mondays. Events are listed in chronological order.



Presidents' Day is Monday, February 17: No School

Welcome to Week 4: Tuesday, February 18 is a **B day**.

Monday is survey day in Crew: All students , please complete this essential Interim registration form today. The form will be open through Friday.

OWL Community Meeting: Students and Families are warmly invited to join the OWL Community Group—the organization that combines our PTO and Site Council functions. This is a great way to have your voice heard in the vision of our school community and to find out what is happening at OWL. Here are the dates of the meetings for this school year:

· **Tuesday, February 18 - 6:30 - 8:00**
· Tuesday, March 18 - 6:30 - 8:00
· Tuesday, April 15 - 6:30 - 8:00

· Tuesday, May 20 - 6:30 - 8:00
All are welcome and encouraged to attend—hope to see you!

NEW! Our Middle School boys' basketball team has one final home game scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th, at 3:30 PM in the Humboldt JH Gym: Our opponents will be Murray Middle School, and it promises to be an exciting match. This season, we've had a strong turnout of Humboldt and OWL students. We hope you can join us to support the team!
If you can't make it to the game on Tuesday, we still have a few away matches that may fit your schedule. Here is our away game lineup:

- Monday, February 24th at Capitol Hill at 4:30 PM
- Monday, March 3rd at Murray Middle School at 3:30 PM
- Monday, March 10th at Washington Tech at 3:30 PM

Thank you for your continued support of our Middle School Sports Program!

Dining out with OWL at NOODLES & CO on Wednesday, February 19 from 4-8PM: at the Highland Park location, 2110 Ford Parkway. To ensure that purchases qualify for the fundraiser mention OWL's Model UN, before checking out, or if you are ordering ahead/ online through the noodles reward program use code "GIVING25" to the Highland Park location.

PSEO Info Night (Virtual) is Wednesday, February 19 at 6pm: Families of students in grades 9-11 who are interested in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option for next school year can join us **virtually** to find out more about the program and application process. Here is the LINK to the meeting.

NEW! Spring Interim Registration Information: Interim is a week at OWL where teachers offer immersive classes that students explore deeply for a single week. This year, Interim is May 27 to May 30. Most of these offerings differ from what students could take during a normal semester, and many students share that interim is a highlight of their fourth quarter.
Our list of offerings for interim can be viewed **HERE**. Starting Tuesday, students will be selecting their top three choices for Interim in Crew. Students will have from Tuesday, February 18 to Thursday, February 27 to make their selections. In the past, we have been able to give every student one of their top three choices.
We are asking that you look over the course offerings with your student(s) in the coming days and have a conversation with them about their top preferences, so they can pick the three best courses for them. Interim is an opportunity for students to explore new ideas of interest. We want students to pick carefully, so they are placed in a class that they will be excited to explore. It's important to note that last-minute changes are not possible. Similarly, we do not keep track of what students have taken in the past. If students pick a course they have taken previously, they are agreeing to potentially take the course again. If you have any questions, please reach out to Preston preston.west@spps.org or Katerina katerina.youngberg@spps.org.

NEW! Weekly Athletic Update: As always, please refer to the Weekly Athletic Calendar for the weekly schedule, as well as the Humboldt Athletic One-Stop Document if you have any questions.
ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY will host Rochester tomorrow at 4:30pm in the aux gym.
BOYS BASKETBALL won 3 games last week beating Washington, Mounds Park and Roosevelt. Senior Pharroh Holliman racked up a lot of points. The Hawks have now won 4 in a row and will finish conference play this week as they travel to Johnson on Wednesday for 3 games at 5:00pm (B & JV), 6:30pm (V). The team will then have senior night as they host Central on Friday for 3 games at 4:00pm (B), 5:30pm (JV), and 7:00pm (V).
BOYS SWIMMING finished 4th in the conference meet last week. They will have the week off before competing in sections next week.
GIRLS BASKETBALL played their last regular season game on Monday. The team will find out their section seed this weekend and start playoffs next week.
WRESTLING competed in team sections this past weekend. Losing 30-39 to Chisago Lakes. The Hawks will wrestle in individual sections this Friday and Saturday at Cretin-Derham Hall.
GO HAWKS!

Read the Latest Edition of the Purple Press: OWL's student newspaper HERE!

2024-2025 ACCESS Test for English Learners: State and federal laws require that all English Learner (EL) students are assessed yearly to measure their English reading, writing, listening and speaking progress. Minnesota uses the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs test as its annual assessment. EL students who receive special education services and who meet certain guidelines may take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS test instead. These tests are used to see if students meet the WIDA English Language Development Standards and if a student is ready to exit from SPPS's EL program. All SPPS EL students in grades K-12 will be given the ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Alternate ACCESS tests between January 27 - March 21, 2025.
OWL ELL students, who work with Bridget throughout the school week, will be testing between February 12-28. If you have questions about your student's participation, please reach out to your child's principal: dave.gundale@spps.org
For more information on English language proficiency assessments and the MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal form, please go to:

- ACCESS Family Test Information website: spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- MDE Family Testing Information website: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

Questions: marybridget.leba@spps.org

NEW! Come plan for your future at the annual Thinking Career and College Early Fair on Saturday, February 22nd 2025, at Harding High School! At this unique event, you'll have the chance to meet with HBCU representatives and alumni, college admissions staff, and local employers. There will be musical performances, FAFSA support for 12th grade families, an HBCU panel, and a presentation on how to earn college credits while in high school. Visit spps.org/tccefair for more information.
Students who attend the fair will have the chance to apply for the fall HBCU college tour!*
What: Thinking Career and College Early Fair
Who: All students grades 6-12 (childcare will be provided)
Where: Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul
When: February 22nd, 2025 from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

From our school nurse: As you are already aware, we have seen an increase in illnesses in our SPPS and broader MN community, including Influenza A/B, COVID-19, Pertussis, RSV, Norovirus, and other gastrointestinal illnesses.
Here are some steps you can take to stay healthy:

- Take time to get your FLU and COVID-19 shots. It is still appropriate to get both your FLU and your COVID-19 vaccinations if you haven't done that yet this 2024/2025 school year.
- School staff and students~Please stay home if you have a fever, respiratory symptoms like a cough, runny nose and/or sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, OR if you simply do not feel well enough to go to work or school.
- Consider wearing a face mask which are also available at school in the front office and the health office.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Get plenty of sleep and manage your stress levels.
- Stay hydrated and eat a balanced diet.
- Get enough sleep.
- Include physical activity in your daily lifestyle.
- Students-Please report any concerning symptoms promptly to your parents and/or guardians or if they occur while at school, please visit the health office

DONATIONS NEEDED: The student leaders of OWL's environmental club are looking for 5 trash bin donations for their newest service project. These bins need to be at least 36in tall, and preferably 30in wide. Please drop off these donations at the front office with Tammy, or contact mmoe003@stpaul.k12.mn.us with any questions. In Crew, OWL Environmental Club

This month in Crew we are learning about neurodiversity. After exploring what neurodiversity is, what it feels like to be neurodivergent, and some of the good things about neurodiversity, OWL Crews will come up with ideas for how to make our school an even better place for neurodivergent students. The Better Crew Bureau will synthesize a proposal for the OWL Leadership Team based on these ideas.

Scholarship Opportunity: Are you a male high school senior planning to attend the University of Minnesota - Twin Cites? Apply for the Farmhouse Scholarship, available to students of all majors:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K7Ck3ippfbD-CCcDL_Tjug-W9K7FJmktfLFVQnN9LrE/edit?usp=sharing

One proven way to live a happy life is to express gratitude. Is there a staff member at OWL that has done something you are grateful for? Shoot them an email! An alternative and way has been made available by filling out this link. (This form requires an email but is sent anonymously.)

OWL believes that access to menstrual/period products is a right. If you are able to donate to help us provide free menstrual/period products so that they are always available, please consider donating some by dropping them off with Tammy in the front office. From there we will make sure they get to where they are needed.

Community Announcements:

NEW! Looking for a summer adventure?: Sea Change Expeditions leads **10-day sailing trips on Lake Superior** for teens this June. They have a steeply sliding scale for fees. Here is the link with more information: www.seachangeexpeditions.org/teen-trips

Summer Employment with Right Track is the City of Saint Paul and Mayor Carter's initiative to diversify the workforce and provide high quality internships to youth ages 14 to 21. We partner with employers across industries to provide internships in healthcare, education, youth development, STEM, finance, trades and more. More information and application link HERE

Summer Youth Employment Opportunity with Tree Trust: Click HERE for more information about a great job in the great outdoors.

Community Resources for Eye Care and Glasses HERE

Important Reminder about Attendance:

If your child is going to miss school, please call, email owlattendance@spps.org or write a note to explain the reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is documented as unexcused. After 3 days of unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from the school reminding you to please communicate with us so the absence(s) may be documented accurately. If your child continues to miss school, unexcused, he/she will be referred to the SAM (School Attendance Matters) Program for intervention.

The following reasons for absence qualify as an excused absence; illness, doctor, dental or therapy appointment (please be sure to obtain a note to give to the school), extreme family emergency or religious holiday not already recognized by our school district. When a student misses 3 or more class periods in one day, this is considered to be a full day of absence. Please call us if you have any questions/concerns.

OWL Schoolwide Norms

· Respect people, their boundaries and identities, materials, and spaces

· Be kind, caring and friendly, especially when it's difficult

· Keep an open mind: engage in opportunities and courageous conversation

· Help create safe and brave spaces so that everyone can be their authentic selves and speak their truths

· Actively listen and participate (one mic, one voice), staying engaged and following through on commitments and expectations. *We are Crew, not passengers.*



NAAPID Family Culture Night: Seniors Shadae, Basha, Shalimar and Yusuf organized the event as their Senior Project



Shalimar shares a poem



Sixth graders dance





The Jazz Choir sang the Black National Anthem: "Lift Every Voice"

Open Circuits Robotics Team prepares the robot for their first competition this weekend

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Timothy Leone-Getten
Timothy is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

