OWL WEEKLY EMAIL

September 2, 2025

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.

Welcome (back) to OWL: It was great to see you all for goal-setting conferences last week! We are so excited to begin the 2025-2026 school year!

George Street Resurfacing: George Street from Cherokee Avenue to State Street will be resurfaced this fall. Plan your route to/from OWL accordingly. George Street Resurfacing Plan

Meal Information: All students are eligible to receive **free breakfast and lunch** under the Minnesota Free School Meal program. As students arrive at school, they can grab their breakfast and eat in class. Hot and cold breakfast options are available.

Single Item Purchases and Second Meals: Second meals, incomplete meals, and single items, such as milk only, must be purchased. The 2025-26 meal and milk prices are:

- Student Second Breakfast: $3.00
- Student Second Lunch: $5.50
- Milk Only: $0.50
- For a complete list of prices, visit spps.org/ns.

Fall Retreat Fees Due: Please use THIS LINK to pay for fall retreats. We need everyone who is able to contribute as these experiences are costly. That said, we offer full and partial scholarships to any families that need them. Contact Principal Dave dave.gundale@spps.org to request a scholarship.

Application for Educational Benefits (Very Important to Complete!) While all in-person students will receive free breakfast and lunch under Minnesota's Free School Meals program, it remains **critical that all families complete an Application for Educational Benefits each school year.** Educational Benefit Form These applications determine how much funding your child's school receives for educational programs and supports. Additionally, eligible families can qualify for other benefits. The application can be completed online at schoolcafe.com/spps. Paper applications are available at school. **We need 100% of OWL families to complete this form, even if you do not believe you will receive benefits.** We have achieved 100% completion on this for the last five years at OWL.

Monday is survey day in Crew. Stay tuned for our first survey of the year, Clubs Sign-up, on Monday, September 8.

OWL Crew Parliament is a new representative leadership program for all OWL Crews. If you are interested in learning to lead games and activities in your Crew, please let your Crew leader know. All Crews will send one middle school student and one high school student to Megan and Akira's room Wednesdays during Crew, starting September 10.

Service Spotlight: Thanks a million to the Outward Bound Service Adventure students who helped set up OWL classrooms last week! OWL staff are very grateful for your support.



This month in Crew: We are focused on welcoming students to Crew, learning OWL rituals and routines. Students have lots of team-building to look forward to, with time set aside for getting grounded in good academic habits, including using a planner.

Don't have an iPad: Students who do not have an iPad will be getting one during the first two weeks of school. Also, all students will be getting a NEW iPad during the first two weeks.

Fall Ultimate Frisbee Begins TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2:
This fall we have two middle school and two high school teams. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Humboldt Grass Fields (High School) for the first few weeks. Games are Saturdays at the Lake Nokomis fields in Minneapolis. Please contact Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org with questions, for scholarships, or for more information on how to register.

FALL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS: We're still looking for players for this year's fall high school sports. Are you interested? You can still join. Please register here If you have any questions contact: OWL Athletic Director Andre Williams andre.williams@spps.org
Fall sports available:
Boys and Girls Cross Country
Football
Boys and Girls Soccer
Girls Swimming and Diving
Girls Tennis
Girls Volleyball

Middle School Athletics to begin Monday, September 8: Other than Ultimate Frisbee and Archery, OWL athletics are run cooperatively our neighbor school, Humboldt. There will be an informational

meeting for students during the school day later this week. Interested students will be called to the meeting and given the forms they need to get signed up for sports.
Note: Students will need a **current sports physical** to participate in the fall season; please make an appointment with your physician or visit one of our SPPS Health Start Clinics.
The following fall sports will be offered at OWL/Humboldt:
Flag Football
Soccer (boys and girls)
Volleyball
If you have questions, please contact OWL Athletic Director Andre Williams
andre.williams@spps.org

Open House is Thursday, September 11th from 6-8PM: Come meet your student's teachers and hear about their classes. In addition to meeting with teachers in their classrooms, there will be grade level presentations at the following times:
6:00 – 6:30 – 6th Grade
6:30 – 7:00 – 7th Grade
7:00 – 7:30 – 8th Grade
7:30 – 8:00 – 9th Grade
There will also be an activity fair in the cafeteria to learn about all the clubs, groups and sports at OWL. Families can also get support with school forms and schoology.



Senior Family Meeting is Thursday, September 11 from 8-9 PM: All Seniors and their Families will be meeting in the OWL Auditorium right after the Open House to learn all about the senior year expectations and deadlines.

OWL Community Group Meeting—Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM in the OWL Cafeteria: We invite students, parents, guardians and staff to learn about how you can help contribute to a rich learning environment, support our fantastic staff & build community.
The OWL Community group combines the functions of our former Site Council and PTO. In addition to the school governance advisory role of the site council, the group works to enrich student learning by continuing PTO functions that provide funding for fall retreats, spring interim courses, program grants for teachers to enhance classroom expeditions, transportation for fieldwork, MCA snacks, and more. In addition, we support opportunities for community building at the Fall Family Gathering, the annual Potluck for Teachers, teacher appreciation week, working in the OWL gardens, selling OWL spirit wear, and more. If you would like to be a lead volunteer this year, please go HERE. If you have questions, contact Dave: **dave.gundale@spps.org**.

No School on Tuesday, September 23: Staff Professional Development Day

Auditions for OWL Theater's Fall Play *A Wrinkle in Time*: Acting auditions are coming up! Auditions will be **Monday September 22nd and Wednesday 24th** afterschool from 3-5pm. Callbacks are Thursday the 25th. Signups are on the Call Board outside the auditorium.
Design Crew applications are due to the folder outside the auditorium by **Friday September 19th by 3pm**
•Actors: Students will be given a monologue to read at auditions. They will need to arrange a ride home after their 5-minute time slot. If students cannot arrange a ride, they may audition Tuesday during Crew - email Rebekah for a time.

•Designers: Design Crew is responsible for sets, costumes, props, lights, sound, and projections. Turn in an application outside the auditorium.
Questions: rebekah.rentzel@spps.org

School Picture Day is Tuesday, September 30: Information on purchasing pictures from Lifetouch will be coming home in coming weeks. Whether you are buying pictures or not, all students will have their picture taken for Student ID and Yearbook purposes.

No School on Thursday, October 2: Professional Development Day

Fall Retreat Week—October 6-10 (September 15-18 for 11th and 12th grade trips): Coming up in early October, we will have a big week of learning, service and adventure. We have some great experiences planned. If you did not complete forms at goal-setting conferences, we will be sending them home with your students the first day of school.
•PLEASE RETURN YOUR SIGNED PERMISSION SLIPS AND HEALTH FORMS BY **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5** AT THE LATEST.
•If your student needs to take MEDICATION while on retreat, please get them (in original containers) to Nurse Colleen by **Friday, September 5**.
Look for more information to come from your grade level team. ALL students are expected to participate in their grade-level retreat.
***VOLUNTEER to be a CHAPERONE for Fall Retreats**: We still need more chaperones to pull off our ambitious fall retreat week. If you are able to volunteer, please do. Link to sign up. Thanks!

After School Programming Begins: Monday, October 6.
Flipside is the fun & free afterschool program for Humboldt and OWL. This program is open to all grades and will begin on October 6th. Classes meet from 3-5 pm either on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class options and registration form will be available here in the coming weeks.

PSAT Testing is Wednesday, October 8 for all OWL 11th grade students, plus 10th grade students who wish to take the test for extra practice. The test is free for 11th graders. **If your 10th grade student is interested in taking the PSAT, please register by emailing Rebecca Palmer (testing coordinator) at rebecca2.palmer@spps.org by Sept 5, 2025 . Payment of $18 will be due on Sept 19, 2025.** The test this year is is during Fall Retreat Week. The 10th graders will miss this day of fieldwork which will be either Normandale Community College or the Living Land & Water Educational Barge.
This test offers great practice taking a timed test in advance of the ACT to be given to juniors in the spring. The PSAT test is also the basis for National Merit Scholarships.

NO SCHOOL—Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17: State Teacher Convention (MEA weekend)

SAVE THE DATE! The OWL Fall Family Gathering will be Thursday, October 23, 5:30-8 pm, at the Harriet Island Pavilion. Come together with the OWL community for food, fun and friendship in a beautiful location. Look for more information in future weekly emails.

Spirit week is October 20-24: Show your school spirit by dressing up. The daily themes will be announced later this fall.

Homecoming Dance is Friday, October 24 in the OWL Cafeteria: Middle School dance is from 5:30-7PM. High School Dance is 7:30-9:30. Tickets will be for sale in October.

Homecoming Game is Saturday, October 25 at 4PM: OWL's annual Homecoming Game features the high school Ultimate Frisbee team playing one of our rivals at the Humboldt Stadium. All students and families are encouraged to come cheer them on!

Dia de los Muertos Celebration at OWL is Thursday, October 30 at 6 PM: Come celebrate Latinx culture at OWL with this family friendly event with lots of fun and great food. Contact: Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org

Last day of Quarter 1 is Thursday, November 6: Be sure to get all your work completed and submitted!

No School on Friday, November 7: Staff Professional Development Day

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.)

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.



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

