OPEN WORLD LEARNING COMMUNITY
AN EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING SCHOOL | GRADES 6-12

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL

September 15, 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.

NOTE! 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. This week's survey is for **tutoring registration (both mentors AND mentees)**.
· Application to be a mentor/tutor (grades 10-12; students may apply)
· Application to be a mentee/get a tutor (grades 6-10; staff, parents/guardians, and students may apply)
Do you have a survey to give? Email megan.hall@spps.org.

THIS WEEK! OWL Community Group Meeting is Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM: Please consider joining us. We will meet in the OWL music room on the 2nd floor. Below is the agenda for the evening. Also please consider checking your schedule to see if you might be able to volunteer for one of the OWL events that are included on this Sign-up Genius. Thank you!
Meeting: OWL Community Group – planning Meeting

Date: 9/16/2025 (Tuesday)
Meeting Link:
Meeting Leaders:

Start Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Minute Taker:

Location: OWLC - 640 Humboldt Ave.

Meeting Purpose: Review significant school events, work in committees toward school improvement
Participants: Open World Learning Community Group consists of: parents, students, staff, others

Item #	TIME *min.*	TOPIC	LEADER	DESIRED OUTCOME
1.	10	Welcome and Overview of OWL Community Group and Site Council	David and Kirsten	
2.	15	OWL SCIP and Work Plan Goals for 2025-2026	David	
3.	15	Community Group Discussion Topics - will start on Oct. 14.	David	
4.	15	EL Education - What's an Expedition?	David	
5.	10	Treasurer's Report • Fall Retreats • Give MN campaign	Mitch and David	
6.	5	Closing		
7.		Work time - Fall Family Gathering Planning Give MN Planning Volunteering document: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EA8A622A7FA7-57335836-parent#/		

There is NO OWL Crew Parliament this Wednesday, due to 11th and 12th grade fall retreats.

Service Spotlight: Thank you to the students who helped make OWL Open House a successful night of connection and community.

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.

NEW! Open Education Abroad: OWL is travelling to **Peru** Spring Break 2027 and we have a few open spots remaining. A virtual informational meeting will be held September 24th at 7pm. This trip is open to all OWL students and their families (parents, grandparents, siblings, etc). If you want more information or you are interested in attending this information meeting you can RSVP using this link.

Middle School Athletics

- Middle School Sports begin September 8, 2025 through October 30, 2025
- Students in grades 6-8 are eligible to participate
- Fall Sports: Girls and Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Co-ed Flag Football
- Practices are Monday-Thursday (on school days) from 3:00pm - 5:00pm
- Soccer will practice/play at El Rio Vista; Flag Football will practice/play at Baker Playground

- Student Athletes must be picked up from practices NO LATER than 5pm at door 23 near the loading dock on Humboldt Avenue.
- At this time, there is no after school transportation for athletics
- Game Schedules will be given to athletes and can also be found at StPaulCity.org - game times vary depending on our opponent. End times will be an approximation and will be relayed to families ahead of time.
- Forms and Fees required before participating:
  - Fee: $10 or $5 reduced fee for those who qualify
  - **Student athletes MUST have a sports physical** in order to participate. Sports physicals are valid for 3 years. (Humboldt has a Health Start Clinic. Students can get paperwork to have physical done during school hours)
  - Completed registration form
- Questions? Please contact MS Athletic Director Andre Williams - andre.williams@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 (in grades 6-10) 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 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. 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. There is busing home at 5 PM. Message from the Flipside Coordinator: Hello, parents and students, our program starts on October 6th and ends on May 7th, 2026. Our program is for 6-8th graders only. As our program gets ready to launch, we want to see more student involvement with the Flipside program. Below is the link to a survey for student interest in flipside. Please take a few minutes to complete THIS SURVEY, so we know what the students' interest are. This year we will be using Schoology, which will have registrations and newsletters for Flipside. Please check frequently so your student doesn't miss out on upcoming events. Also, we want parents to be aware of upcoming events so you can attend open houses. We look forward to having a very involved and successful year. Thank you.

Flipside Afterschool Ideas
Saint Paul Public Schools and Community Education offers Flipside, an afterschool program at your school. Flipside is FREE and fun! Complete this survey to tell us what you would like to do after school.
docs.google.com

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.)

Community Announcements:

NEW! Voyageur Outward Bound School Event—S'mores and More!: Come learn about VOBS and do some fun events on Saturday, September 27 from 9-11 AM at Hidden Falls Regional Park, St. Paul. Click here for more information and to register.

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

