OWL WEEKLY EMAIL

September 29, 2025

Annual Report Feature Story OWL



Check out this video about OWL made by EL Education for their 2024 Annual Report. See the entire report HERE.

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.

Congratulations Nurse Colleen! This week marks the retirement of our beloved Nurse Colleen Richardson. She came to OWL in the middle of the challenges of the pandemic and guided us with great skill as we slowly returned to the busy calendar of retreats and interim trips. Her dedication and professionalism are matched only by her deep caring for all of our community. We will miss her greatly and wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

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 the **school climate survey.**
Do you have a survey to give? Email megan.hall@spps.org.

OWL Crew Parliament meets this Wednesday during Crew in Megan and Akira's room (3215). Parliament members should check in with their Crew leaders for attendance before coming up to the meeting.

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! High School Sports Update: Click HERE to learn about how the Hawks teams did this week, upcoming games, Athletes of the Month, Coach Highlights, and much more!

Middle School Sports Update – September 26, 2025:
MS Sports are going strong with a great turnout.
All games are FREE to attend.
Here are the games scheduled for the week of September 29-Oct 1
Monday, September 29th
MS Flag Football –Home game vs Highland Park at Baker Playground (209 Page St W) 4:00pm
MS Boys Soccer – Home game vs Highland Park at El Rio Vista (179 E. Robie) 4:00pm
MS Volleyball – Home game vs Highland Park in JH Gym 4:00pm
Tuesday, September 30th
No games today
Wednesday, October 1st
Girls MS Soccer – Away game at Hidden River MS 4:00
Address: 1700 Summit Avenue 55105
Thursday, October 2nd
No School – no practice

MS SPORT ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT:

This week's spotlight is on **Evelyn on the Girls Soccer team**. She is a captain and attends all practices and games. She is polite, respectful, helpful, and friendly to all her teammates.
For up-to-date schedules, please go to StPaulCity.org
Choose *Humboldt High School*
Under the calendar, click *View Schedules*
Choose the sport and click *View*
Reminder: All students need to be picked up before 5pm at door 23 located on Humboldt Avenue near the loading dock and football field.
Flipside begins October 6th
We are asking that all MS Athletes fill out a Flipside form. For an online version, please use this link:
https://humboldt.spps.org/activities/afterschool
Select: Athlete Success for the course
We also use this form to assign an after-school bus for student athletes.
If you are planning on picking up your student athlete at an away game, you must notify us no later than the morning of the event. You can email Barbara.Lawrence@spps.org

School Picture Day is Tuesday, September 30: All students will have their picture taken the morning of September 30 before lunch. 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.
CLICK HERE for information about the courses offered
CLICK HERE to register

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)

Please Join Us at the Open World Learning Community Fall Family Gathering
Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5:30-8:00pm: at the Harriet Island Pavilion, 200 Dr. Justus Ohage Blvd, Saint Paul. FREE PARKING
Enjoy a relaxed evening in the good company of fellow OWL families!

- Delicious, savory tamales from La Loma: $4/ each (vegetarian option available)
- Hot & Cold Beverages: $1.50
- Outdoor Games- $1/ticket/round to win delicious treats
- On-Site Ice Cream Truck- prices vary

Outward Bound Service Auction*: Bid on fantastic services- past services included homemade cookies of the month, climbing lessons, pet-sitting, yard work & more!
**All proceeds of the Service Auction benefit the Outward Bound Service Adventure trips during the spring interim.*
Come hang out with the OWL Community and enjoy the beauty of Harriet Island! We hope to see your family there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Share in the fun! We need your help to make this event a great success. Please sign up HERE to volunteer or donate a baked good!

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

