



Eagle News

<p>September 2025</p>	<p>PRINCIPAL'S NEWS</p>
<p>INSIDE THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal's News 1 ● Fifth Grade Updates ● Sixth Grade Updates ● Seventh Grade Updates ● Eighth Grade Updates ● Other News for You ● Flipside News ● Latino Consent Decree (LCD) Updates Actualizaciones del Decreto de Consentimiento Latino (LCD) <p>Link to our School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)</p> <p>Farnsworth Upper 5-8 SCIP 25-26</p> <p>Family Calendar Link</p> <p>MDE Report Card</p> <p>Link to our Family Engagement Plan</p> <p>2025-2026 Farnsworth - Family Engag...</p> <p>CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Fall Conferences 6-8th Grade Thursday, October 9th 5-8PM Tuesday, October 14th 5-8PM</p> <p>5th Grade Thursday Nov 6 5-8PM Friday Nov 7 8AM-3PM Tuesday Nov 11 5-8PM</p>	<p>Note from Dr. Tidwell</p> <p>Dear Farnsworth Community,</p> <p>Welcome to the 2025–26 school year! We are excited to see our students back in the building, bringing energy, curiosity, and creativity into our classrooms. September is a time for building strong routines, reconnecting with friends, and setting goals for a successful year ahead.</p> <p>This month, we are focusing on building positive relationships, fostering a safe and welcoming school community, and supporting students in developing strong academic habits. Please check in regularly with your student about their experiences, assignments, and goals, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need support.</p> <p>We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to working together to ensure every student thrives this year.</p> <p>Warmly, Dr. Tidwell Principal</p> <p>Please join us for our first FSO (Farnsworth School Organization) meeting Wednesday, October 29th! From 8:15AM-9:15AM in the library.</p> <div data-bbox="906 1373 1317 1906" data-label="Image"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Farnsworth Upper Community</i> BREAKFAST JOIN US WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 8:15-9:15 IN THE LIBRARY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>COFFEE, DONUTS, JUICE, AND FRUIT 1000 Walsh St. St. Paul, MN</small></p> </div>



Fifth Grade Updates

Math

Students are learning rituals and routines, decimal place-value and will start multiplication and division of Multi-Digit multiplier and divisor.

English as a Learning Language (ELL)

Saint Paul Public Schools is starting a new online program to help 5th grade English Language Learners. This pilot program will allow each student to get a personalized learning plan and teachers can track their progress to support learning.

Families can learn more at:
www.summitk12.com

Please let me know if you have any questions.

~Ms. Hernandez
5th Grade EL teacher

Writing

Social Studies

Students in Ms. Dundek Bell and Ms. True's class began the year learning about rights and responsibilities. They created their own rights and responsibilities for students and teachers. We also began learning about indigenous nations of North and South America.

Reading

Students in all 5th grade classes have taken the beginning of the school year reading and spelling assessments. Students have begun small reading groups to target reading support. Students have also begun to visit the school library and have learned how to pick "good fit" books. Students are beginning to take books home and return them or renew them at the library. We have worked on reading stamina in the classroom. Students have begun nightly reading homework. Every student should be reading 20 minutes minimum every night and writing a response to what they have read.

Students of the Month

- ★ Nathanaelle Rafanotsimiva
- ★ Noah Lee
- ★ Savannah Fang
- ★ Demetrius Hopkins



Sixth Grade Updates

Math :Students are developing their classroom community and establishing norms for success while beginning Unit 1 on Prime and Composite Numbers, Factors, Multiples, LCM, and GCF.



Math class- week-1

Social Studies

In MN Studies course, students are learning about the state’s unique physical characteristics through hands-on mapping and activities involving the exploration of its distinct regions/ecosystems, labeling geographical information on maps of the state, and understanding how people interact with and are influenced by Minnesota’s geography.

Minnesota is known as the “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” but the state actually has more than this. Can you guess? The “10,000 Lakes” slogan originated in the early 1900s as part of a promotional campaign to attract tourists and new residents.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) Readers & Writers Workshops

ELA 6 provides reading, writing, media literacy, and language instruction. Students will read and write while evaluating a variety of genres, will participate in literature discussions and book clubs, and will select books to read independently. Teachers and students will work together to create reading and writing goals in Q1. We will study different aspects of fictional characters to build reading comprehension. Students are expected to read at least 30 minutes a day, and it is an ongoing and consistent responsibility for all students outside of class. For writing, we will be writing to argue. Students will be creating a claim about a text, providing and explaining text evidence that supports their claim, and identifying a counterargument and a rebuttal. We will also be learning foundational writing skills that will be used all year.

Science

We started the year with science safety and scientific methods. Students observed their teacher either bending a spoon with their mind and followed the scientific process to determine how it was done. Then, we transitioned to our first unit of light and matter. Students are observing how light can become reflected and refracted through the same object (like a one-way mirror). The class syllabus and science safety contract that went home at the start of school require a parent signature. **No labs can be done until all forms are received.**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

In English Language Development (ELD), students who are identified as multilingual learners are supported in growing their academic language skills. We spend most of our time practicing the listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills that students will need in order to be successful at school. This year, we are off to a great start. Students are already getting more comfortable using their voices, and I am looking forward to a year full of growth and success.

AEROSPACE

We’ve started this year learning about Newton’s laws and the forces that make flight possible. Students will learn about the different parts of airplanes and how they affect flight. They will apply these ideas to their first design project - straw paper jets.

Art 1

In Art class, we have been making “All About Me” collages. They search for images and words in magazines that are personally representative of who they are as an individual. It’s been really fun getting to know everybody! Many of these will be going up in the glass display case outside the art room.

Students of the Month

- ★ Dechia Lewis
- ★ Da'Khari Carter
- ★ Snow Chang
- ★ David McClain Andrade



Seventh Grade Updates

Math:

During the first week of the school year, students spent time building community, problem solving, developing group norms, and understanding classroom expectations. Then, they took a fall diagnostic assessment. This test provides me with information so I can better understand students' current working level, and will be a baseline I use to show them how much they grow this year (in math). The students will test again in January and in May.

Our first unit of study is on Integers and Rational Numbers. Students will play games and participate in activities so they can develop a good understanding of negative numbers and how to apply them to real-life, math expressions, and how it is just like subtraction. They will also apply the negative to fractions and decimals and expressions that use these forms.

Social Studies:

Students explored their own cultural identities in our first (short) unit. They learned about things like culture, social status, and privilege. To finish up the unit, students made self-portraits of themselves to show to their classmates.

We are just starting our second unit, which focuses on the primary documents that created our country: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Exploring Hmong

Students have been learning about language and culture. Starting with Hmong history and combining with Hmong phrases and language.

English:

ELA students will begin their quarter 1 literacy learning about genres they enjoy reading. They will select a fiction genre they like and a "Just Right" reading level book for reading at home.

Students will also take part in short story club groups. In their groups, they will read realistic fiction stories about young adult characters. Students will analyze characterization and how the characters grow and change by facing challenges. They will reflect on how these characters' experiences can open insights into their own lives.

Lastly, your 7th grade ELA teachers look forward to meeting you at our October fall conferences. These teachers are ELA teacher Ms. Merrill, Special Education teacher Mrs. Reagan, Special Education teacher Ms. Woodsen, and English Language Learner (ELL) teacher Ms. Yang. We would like to share how your child is doing in our class and how we can work together to support literacy both at home and in school. Fall conferences will be held on Thursday, October 9 and Tuesday, October 14 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

English Language Development (ELD)

In the next few weeks, students will identify their various identities, including racial, ethnic, and social, in cooperation with music. Students will create a musical album cover, "Rings of Culture," and a musical playlist to illustrate their different identities that compose who they are. Students will learn the structures of a paragraph to support their own introduction writing for the "Rings of Culture" project.

Art 1

In Art class, we have been making "All About Me" collages. They search for images and words in magazines that are personally representative of who they are as an individual. It's been really fun getting to know everybody! Many of these will be going up in the glass display case outside the art room.

Art 2

Art 2 students are collageing just like Art 1 students, however, they are not looking for objective imagery. Instead, they are searching for color and texture to cut into small pieces. They take the smaller pieces and combine them to create an artwork of their own design. It's a challenge but they seem to be up for it!

Science

We began our year with science safety and transforming our thinking in the science classroom by following a set of classroom norms. We then transitioned into our first unit on chemical reactions, including a demonstration using both store-bought and homemade bath bombs. The class syllabus and science safety contract that went home at the start of school require a parent signature. No labs can be done until all forms are received.

Students of the Month

- ★ Lucky Vang
- ★ Sinaab Xiong
- ★ Janyla Robinson
- ★ Prince Jones



Eighth Grade Updates

Math

To get a clear picture of each student's math skills at the beginning of the year, we'll be administering a math assessment in class. The results of this assessment will help us understand where your child is currently in their learning. Based on the assessment results, students will use

SuccessMaker, an online program that creates a personalized learning path for them. SuccessMaker adapts to each student's needs, providing targeted practice and instruction to help them strengthen any weak areas and build a solid foundation in math. This will ensure every student receives the support they need to

Our first unit is about **real numbers**, which are simply all the numbers they've ever encountered, from counting numbers like 1, 2, 3 to fractions, decimals, and even negative numbers. These aren't just abstract concepts; they are used all around us! For example, real numbers help us manage money, measure ingredients while cooking, or understand time and distance when planning a trip. They are the foundational building blocks for solving everyday problems.

Students of the Month

- ★ Amariah Harris
- ★ Sylvia Kampling
- ★ Kelly Xiong

English

English Language Arts provides a chance to get ready for high school reading, writing, media literacy, and language instruction. Students will read and write and use their communication skills, and apply them to literature discussions and book clubs. Students can look forward to being challenged on finding a book they can read independently.

8th Grade Students are expected to read at least 45 minutes a day, and it is an ongoing and consistent responsibility for all students outside of class.

Art 1

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Hmong Language 1

Students in Hmong Language class have been learning the basics of Hmong language, focusing on single vowels, blending sounds, and the traditions of Hmong culture, history, and language construction in context of oral history.

English Language Development (ELD)

Students have been introduced to the goals of our ELD class - to be a good communicator, reader, and writer so that they can be successful in their core academic classes. We have started studying vocabulary and practicing writing with the precise academic words/phrases that students are expected to use in 8th grade.

Social Studies:

Students are learning geographic skills and studying the region of the United States and Canada. Students will learn how to read and create maps and learn how to use the five themes of geography to explain features of a specific place. Students will also learn about the indigenous groups of the United States and Canada, they will study the various cultural groups of the region by comparing and contrasting, and study the different ways Canada and the United States trade goods, ideas and information.

Science:

At the start of the school year, students practiced planning investigations and collecting data by figuring out whether double-stuffed Oreo cookies actually have double the filling. We just started our first unit on collisions and contact forces. We are learning about why some things get damaged and others do not. Students are using collision carts to closely observe what happens to the shape and motion of different objects when they collide.



Other News for You

Counselor Updates

Welcome students and families to the 2025-2026 school year! The mission of the Farnsworth Upper's School Counseling Program is to prepare students for a happy and healthy life after high school through academic, social/emotional, and college/career readiness. This is done through direct and indirect services and a close partnership with students, families, staff and community members. Your students will receive multiple School Counseling lessons in their core content classes throughout the year. Topics will include career exploration, mental health, conflict resolution, bullying, interest surveys, and much more. Students will also meet one-on-one with their school counselor at least one time throughout the year. During these meetings, students will be asked about their strengths, interests, challenges, goals, dreams, and more. We will also go over grades, GPAs, academic data, and discuss plans to achieve their future goals. This is part of Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Personal Learning Plans for all SPPS students.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your students' grade-level counselor listed below. We are excited for another year together!

Maddy Cahill
5th and 8th
madelyn.cahill@spps.org

Maria Evans
6th and 7th
maria.evans@spps.org

From the Nurse:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! I am so excited to be the school nurse for Farnsworth Upper!

As we begin the school year, please let me know about health conditions your child may have or medications I need to give during the day. Some medications the student may be able to carry on their person and some must be kept in the health office.

Let me know if you'd like to keep over the counter medication like Tylenol or Advil in the health office for your student to be used as needed.

Please ensure your student is up to date with immunizations. Let me know if you would like me to check to see if your student is missing anything.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to working with you!

Heather Miller, RN, LSN
heather.miller2@spps.org
Health Office: 651-888-7621
Direct line: 651-744-6380

Library News

Students in all grades have been buzzing in and out of the library all month checking out over 1500 books! All students visited the library with their reading/ELA teacher during September.

Top 5 Most Popular Books in September



iPad News

All students received a new iPad and iPad charger in September. 5th and 6th graders are keeping their iPad and charger at school. 7th and 8th graders should be bringing their iPad home every night to charge.

We recommend that all 7th and 8th graders keep their iPad chargers at home and do not bring them to school to prevent theft and loss. We do not have any replacement chargers. If a student loses their charger, families are responsible for replacing the charger or students will need to leave their iPad at school each night for charging. Please help students with keeping track of their school iPad and charger.



Eagle News

Flipside News

Registration is now OPEN!

Click this [link](#) to register Online!

Flipside start date is Oct 6, 2025

Free Transportation home!!

Paper registration can be found in the Main Office or the Flipside office.

Return to Afterschool Coordinator or the main office by Friday, September 26, 2025

***Registrations will still be accepted after this date. Please expect up to 1-2 weeks to process after this deadline.**

Thank you to the wonderful organizations partnering with our program this year: Extend Day Learning (EDL), Nutrition Services, Sweet Kendamas, Illusion Theater, Saint Paul Public Library, SPPS Athletics, TRIO, 3M (Lego League).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at brient.pokornowski@spps.org

We encourage students to attend all four days of Flipside.

Monday & Wednesday Class Options

Micro Drones Racing

Description: Join the exciting sport of micro drone racing, starting with virtual flights in the VelociDrone FPV Racing Simulator and progressing to real-life flying after a simple flight test. Pilots will build advanced flight skills, learn safety and race-day etiquette, and compete with other school teams.

Instructor: Sea Blake

Kendama

Description: Kendama Club supports students' mental health by teaching emotional regulation and growth mindset through engaging challenges with the Kendama skill toy. Students will leave with strategies to manage emotions, land impressive tricks, and turn adversity into opportunities for growth in all areas of life.

Instructor: Yosh Beardall

Art of Staying Active

Description: Get ready to have fun and stay fit with "The Art of Staying Active," a class full of exciting activities that promote health and happiness. From sports to creative workouts, you'll explore ways to make movement a regular and enjoyable part of your life.

Instructor: Markie Smith

Band Practice

Description: Band Practice is a fun and collaborative space where students build musical skills, improve technique, and rehearse as a group. Whether you're a beginner or experienced musician, you'll grow in confidence and performance while preparing for concerts and school events.

Instructor: Emmitte Lockley

Cheerleading

Description: Students will build confidence, teamwork, and school spirit through fun and energetic cheerleading routines. This class teaches basic cheer motions, jumps, and chants, while promoting fitness and positive peer connections.

Instructor: Hser Htoo, Faith Vance

Tuesday & Thursday Class Options

Createch SPPL (Location: Arlington Hill Community Center) Description: Explore creative talents like video game design, painting, drawing, 3D printing, sewing, drone piloting, and music recording—all designed by teens, for teens! Whether you want to create new digital worlds, record your next song, or learn how to design with cutting-edge tech, this is your space to experiment and grow.

Instructor: Markie Smith

K-pop/Hmong Cultural Dance

Description: Experience the energy and creativity of K-Pop and Hmong dance as you learn key moves, explore their history, and celebrate styles like Hip Hop, Pop, R&B, and EDM. This student-led class is open to Farnsworth students—if you're interested in leading, talk to Mr. Pokornowski!

Instructor: Jodi Niedert



Eagle News

Student Council (7th & 8th Grade ONLY)

Description: Join the 7th & 8th Grade Student Council: Leadership and Service in Action to build leadership skills and make a difference in your school and community. Through exciting projects and teamwork, you'll help shape school activities and policies while learning to lead.

Instructor: Darren Kihega

History of Video Games

Description: Level up your knowledge in "The Awesome History of Video Games: From Old School to New Cool," a class that explores the evolution of gaming. From pixelated classics to modern adventures, you'll discover how video games have transformed over time.

Instructor: Daniel Reynolds

Lego Robotics

Description: Think it. Build it. Solve it. In LEGO League, you'll take on real-world challenges using creativity, coding, and engineering! Research a big problem, build a smart solution, and bring your ideas to life with a LEGO robot. Show off your innovation at the big competition in January!

Instructor: Keesha Pfeifer

Intro To Theatre

Description: Thinking of a career in acting or simply wanting to learn what it takes to be in a play? Join us for fun games to help get out of your comfort zone and perform in front of others!

Instructor: Ricky Morisseau

Enter the DoJo (TRIO)

Description: Join our high-energy MMA & Boxing afterschool class designed just for middle school students! This dynamic program combines the fundamentals of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and Boxing to build strength, confidence, discipline, and focus—all in a safe and supportive environment.

Instructor: Pete Wong

Artful Crafts

Description: Discover your creative side in "Artful Crafts: Creative Fun with Hands-On Projects," a class full of exciting DIY activities. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just starting out, you'll enjoy making unique art while having fun.

Instructor: Hser Htoo, Faith Vance

Success in Sports Monday-Thursday (6-8 grade Athletes ONLY)

Description: If you are participating in sports and would like to receive busing and nutrition services (snack), please sign up for Success in Sports. Success in Sports runs Monday through Thursday during the sports season and provides student-athletes with transportation, meals, and academic support.



Hablamos Español: LCD Updates

¡Bienvenidos a este nuevo año escolar!

Mi nombre es **Evelyn Hernández**. Soy maestra y representante del Decreto Latino en las escuelas públicas de Saint Paul aquí en Farnsworth Upper. Estoy disponible todos los días de 11:00-11:30am. para ayudarlos. El señor **Zacarías Varela** también está a su disposición durante el día los lunes, miércoles y cada otro viernes. Estamos buscando padres para la junta directiva del **Decreto Latino (LCD)**. Avísenme si están interesados. Gracias! Nuestro número de teléfono es **651-744-6693**. Pueden enviar mensajes de texto a éste número también. ¡A la orden!



Latino Consent Decree Parent Advisory Council (LCD PAC)



WHAT WE DO

The general purpose of the Latino Consent Decree (LCD) Parent Advisory Council (PAC), is to serve as a forum for the expression of concerns and recommendations of Latino parents, representatives of community-based organizations and public school personnel, pertaining to the education of Spanish-speaking students in SPPS.

SPPS MISSION:
INSPIRE STUDENTS TO THINK
CRITICALLY, PURSUE THEIR
DREAMS AND CHANGE THE
WORLD.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT LCD PAC?

For more information, please contact:
Adriana Ríos Dessalet
(612) 523-2330
adriana.riosdessalet@spps.org

JOIN US FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR!

We meet once a month

- Time: 5:30- 8 p.m.
- Location: 360 Colborne St. Paul, 55102

2025-26 Meeting Dates:

- September 16th
- October 14th
- November 11th
- December 9th (Virtually)
- January 13th (Virtually)
- February 10th (Virtually)
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th
- June 9th

A light meal will be provided. Childcare and transportation is available upon request.

<https://www.spps.org/families/family-engagement-community-partnerships/parent-advisory-councils/latino-consent-decree-program>



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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15 to October 15

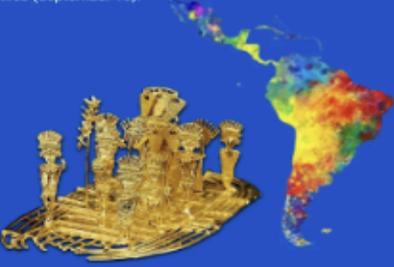
Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual celebration in the United States that recognizes and honors the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

ORIGINS
Hispanic Heritage Month originated as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, established by President Lyndon B. Johnson to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans. It was expanded to a month long celebration in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.

WHY SEPTEMBER 15?
The celebration begins on September 15, chosen to coincide with the independence anniversaries of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico (September 16).

SPPS FUN FACTS
There are 5,026 Latino/Hispanic students in SPPS.
3,359 SPPS students speak Spanish as their home language.

We would like to acknowledge and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our Latino staff and students at Saint Paul Public Schools. Your dedication, expertise and efforts significantly enhance our district and community. We are grateful for your hard work and the unique perspectives you bring, which serve as a source of inspiration to us all.



Nasua Mall, Inc. 1208-1470, 5000, Made in
Oriz, Mexico, Colombia.

