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

OWL WEEKLY EMAIL

November 24, 2025



OWL Students at the U of M Institute for Engineering in Medicine Inspire Conference. High School science enthusiasts spent the day learning about wearable devices from cutting-edge researchers.

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.

Monday is survey day in Crew: Please take a moment to respond to this cool survey from Kanon, who is writing an article for the Purple Press. Do you have a survey to give? Email megan.hall@spps.org.

OWL Crew Parliament: does not meet this week because we have a Community Meeting.

Service Spotlight: A big thank-you to all the students and parents who provided delicious meals to the OWL staff during student-led conferences. We are grateful to you!

This month in Crew: November Crew lessons focus on building skills in the area of responsibility, and all Crews are invited to participate in a poster competition in preparation for Asian/Pacific American Family Culture Night on December 3.

Trip to NEW YORK CITY in spring 2027: Humboldt is planning a group trip with EF Education to NYC in spring of next school year. They have invited OWL students to be part of the trip. HERE IS MORE INFORMATION about the trip. Fill out the RSVP even though the initial meeting has already happened—they will plan another meeting for any new interested families.

Yearbook: Order your copy of this year's OWL yearbook here!!
If you have any photos that you think would make a great addition to the yearbook, please email the photos to Emily, our lead student editor, at **etotushek001@stpaul.k12.mn.us**

NEW! DONATIONS NEEDED: There is an upcoming project in the art classes that needs **thin cardboard**. Please send thin cardboard to school with your OWL student. (cracker boxes, cereal boxes, pasta boxes, etc...) The art room is just off the front door so students coming to school can drop it off as they come in the door in the morning and give it to Kent. Thanks for saving and sending your thin cardboard!

Food Drive Donations Needed: This is Rayne and Grant. We are doing a food drive for our senior project and we need donations! Your donations will be going to the local Neighborhood House, food shelter. We will be collecting certain food items, new or gently used winter gear and other basic needs items. We will be going crew to crew this week with more information for you on specific items and how to donate. This is a crew contest-- whichever crew collects the most will win a prize. This is an opportunity to help your community when a lot of people are struggling due to the pause in funding of snap benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Here's a link to the neighborhood house website if you want additional information
https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/donate/in-kind-giving/

The Closet - a service to provide free items to students in need! We're in need of donations: Hoodies (all sizes, especially L and XL, 2XL) Sweatpants (all sizes, especially smaller ones) gloves, belts, socks (crew all sizes, especially larger feet) shorts for swimming, and clothes in Youth sizes (10-16).
Please bring items to Rebekah's room - 2209

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

Families, if you had a student in Middle School Fall Sports: please take a moment and fill out THIS FEEDBACK FORM. Your input is important to us. Thank you.

Middle School WINTER SPORTS – Registration is now open!!
Middle School Winter Sports Registration is open!
Use this link to register for all MS Winter Sports: https://students.arbitersports.com/programs/st-paul-humboldt-middle-school-winter-athletic-registration-25-26
Winter I season-
Girls MS Basketball - November 10, 2025 - January 17, 2026
Wrestling (co-ed) - November 10, 2025 - January 17, 2026
Winter II season-
Boys MS Basketball - January 19, 2026 - March 15, 2026
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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 from practice before 5pm at door 23 located On Humboldt Avenue near the loading dock and football field.
· Flipside has begun. Some students will have a after school bus to ride. At games, ALL students Must be picked up as our games run later than 5:00pm
· 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

News from Flipside: We are in full swing here at Flipside, and things are moving along wonderfully! More and more students are joining our program, which is exactly what we love to see. Many of them are coming to Flipside after fall sports ended, often encouraged by friends who are already part of the program. This kind of peer connection is what makes Flipside such a welcoming and exciting place.
We encourage you to talk with your student about joining us after their sports season. As we continue to grow, we look forward to hearing student input on the types of programs they'd like to see offered. One exciting addition coming next semester is an **American Sign Language (ASL) class**, which has already sparked a lot of interest among students.
Thank you, parents and students, for your ongoing involvement and support of the Flipside program. View this year's Flipside calendar HERE. Together, we're building something special.
Warm regards, The Flipside Team

Join OWL PTO on Facebook: Keep up with what is happening at OWL:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/878792348867374

HOWL AWARD!!! The Assistant Principal HOWL Award!! The November HOWL Award theme is Responsibility!

Ms. Ma'lene will be awarding 1 student who has gone above and beyond showing the HOWL of the month.

Examples of Responsibility:

- Cleaning up after yourself
- Attending classes on time
- Completing school assignments on time
- Owning up to mistakes & apologizing when appropriate
- Following the school expectations - using appropriate language
- Keeping cell phones away during instructional time

Students can enter by taking a picture of themselves doing the HOWL and using this **LINK HERE** or scan the QR code on the window outside my office and uploading it on the form. Some possible prizes are:

- **Ice Cream for you and your Crew!**
- **Tickets to special events!**
- **Lunch with 4 of your friends and Ms. Ma'lene!**
- **Sports equipment!**
- **Gift cards!**

All entries must be submitted by Nov. 24th to be considered for the Assistant Principal November HOWL Award. The winner will be announced at the November community meeting!!

I'm so excited to present this award and to celebrate your hard work!

Good Luck, Ms. Ma'lene

From the Nurse: SPPS has a protocol for students to self-carry **over the counter medications**. Students in grades 6 and above can self-carry most over the counter medication (excluding medication containing ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine). Attached you will find the form to complete if you would like your student to carry over the counter medication in their backpack (common medications are Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen).

All medications that are self-carried must be in the original bottle and clearly labeled. Due to safety and security, we do not allow students to carry medications in baggies. If you would like your student to self-carry over the counter medication, please complete THIS FORM and mark "self-carry" "self-administer" and have your student drop off the form in the health office. This form needs to be updated annually. Thank you for your understanding. Jennifer McFarlane LSN

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.

Community Resources:

White Antiracist Parenting Shared Learning and Peer Coaching Cohort: Led by OWL Parents Julia Hobday and Becky Dale.
The cohort itself will meet twice a month, January–March, on Thursday evenings via Zoom, and will include three tiered pricing options to make it as accessible as possible.
A little background from the facilitators:
When my kids were young, I often wished I had other parents to talk with as I tried to raise them with awareness and courage in a world shaped by racism. I wanted space to learn, reflect, and grow together - like we had with ECFE! This cohort is the group I wished I'd had — and now, with my kids nearly grown, I'm excited to help create it for others.
Becky has had a similar journey, and her work aligns closely with mine. Folks can read more about her and her work here and learn more about my work here.
If you know parents (of kids ages 0–18) who might be interested — or if this sounds meaningful to you personally — please share this information with them, or join us for the info session.
julia@betterworldpartnersmn.com

Food Resources Information from Ramsey County: Click HERE for more information

Christmas Toy Assistance: Click HERE for more information
Asistencia son Jueguetes de Navidad: Clic AQUI para más información en español

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