



December 10, 2025

Monthly news and updates

Kindergarten Registration Kick-Off

We're excited to welcome the 2026-27 'lil Packers to our kindergarten kick-off events! Kindergarten is a meaningful start to every child's learning journey. At SSP, our 'lil Packers grow in language, math, social skills, and emotional development in a supportive, engaging environment.

- Lincoln Center: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:00 pm
- Kaposia Education Center: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm

At the event:

- Meet your school's teachers, staff, and administration
- Learn more about the school and kindergarten in SSP
- Register on-site with help from specialists on-hand to answer any questions
- Walk away with your kindergartener's first Packer swag!

Enrollment for 2026-27 school year is now open. Families can begin the enrollment process now. Visit: www.sspps.org/enroll to:

- See which elementary school boundary you live in
- Learn more about open enrollment
- Enroll in SSPPS!



Secondary Building Vaccination Clinic

South St. Paul Secondary is hosting a vaccination clinic for anyone in need or interested in updated vaccinations. Students in 6th and 11th grades will need updated vaccination records before starting their 7th and 12th grade years. The needed vaccinations for those age groups will be available at the clinic.

- January 22, 2026
- 4:00-8:00 pm
- SSP Secondary Media Center Classroom

Vaccinations are free and registration is recommended. More information can be found in the news section of the [**SSPPS website**](#).



Packer Pride in Action

CLC Students “Build a Better Snack”

The Community Learning Center kicked off its first X-Term of the year, a weeklong hands-on project where students explore food production, nutrition, and product design. After starting with a blind taste test, student teams then created their own snack and packaging prototype. The week concluded with a Gallery Walk for families, staff, and community to view the student’s snacks and prototypes.



Magic of Science at Kaposia

Students at Kaposia Education Center discovered that science can be downright magical! All grades were treated to The Magic of Science, an exciting assembly presented by Mobile Ed Productions that blended the wonder of magic with the power of scientific discovery.



Engaging in Science at Lincoln

This December, Lincoln Center will host the Bakken Mobile Museum! K–5 students will explore hands-on STEM exhibits aligned with state science standards. Kindergarteners kicked off the fun with “Feel the Force,” and grades 1–5 are diving into magnets, electricity, and the science of sound.

Wakota Federal Credit Union Donation

Leaders from Wakota Federal Credit Union presented the first proceeds from a partnership with the school district at the November 24 School Board meeting. The initiative, launched in 2025, included a school-branded debit card that generates funds for the district. This year’s donation supported the Careers in Business and Entrepreneurship class, with students helping decide how the funds would enhance their hands-on learning.



School Board Meeting Highlights

Below are highlights from the school board meetings on November 24 and December 8. You can watch the full meeting online on the [SSPPS website](#).

December 8, 2025 Meeting Highlights

Facilities Planning Update

- The School Board has been in ongoing conversations with district leaders about the condition of our facilities and the long-term needs identified in recent planning work. This includes examining findings from the 2022 Facilities Review, which identified more than \$150 million in maintenance needs across our buildings. For perspective, the district only receives about \$1 million each year for facility upkeep. Because of this gap, district leaders have also been exploring possible long-term solutions, including whether the community may consider continuing its investment in our schools as a 2013 bond approaches expiration.
- Much of the need identified in the review relates to essential building systems such as HVAC, plumbing, roofing, and electrical work. It also includes safety and accessibility improvements at spaces like the bleachers at Ettinger Field and the Roosevelt tennis courts. Our buildings are aging, and many systems are already at or beyond their expected lifespan, which makes long-term planning even more important.
- At this time, the School Board has **not** made any decisions about bringing a bond referendum or capital project levy renewal forward. These conversations are ongoing, and this update is meant to keep staff informed about the planning work taking place. The board is scheduled to discuss possible next steps at their meetings in January.

2026-27 School Year Calendar Approved

- The board has approved the **2026-27 academic district calendar**. Thanks for the collaboration of staff and families in the creation of the new calendar.

Educational Support Professionals Tentative Agreement

- The district has reached a two-year agreement with the South St. Paul Educational Support Professionals Local 7312 for the 2025–2027 contract period. The ESPs approved the agreement on December 5, 2025.

Fall Athletics and Activities

- Students, coaches, and advisors of fall athletics and activities were at the school board meeting to talk about the highlights from the fall 2025 season.

Nordic Skiing Cooperative

- The School Board has approved South St. Paul's participation in a Nordic Skiing cooperative with our Tri-District partners, Two Rivers and Simley, with Two Rivers serving as the host school.

November 24, 2025 Meeting Highlights

Quality in Action and Academic Updates

- The Student Services Department provided an overview of the department's work in supporting students across all levels of needs. It highlighted the district's tiered systems of support and special education services.
- The Educational Services Department provided highlights of the work in the district around the READ Act implementation and support.

Teacher Contract Approved

- The school district reached a two-year contract with the South St. Paul Teachers Association for July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027. Teachers approved the agreement on November 4, 2025.

Principal Contract Approved

- The school district reached a two-year contract with the South St. Paul Principals' Association for July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027. Principals approved the agreement on November 19, 2025.

High School New Course Proposals

- The high school invited teachers to propose new elective courses for the 2026–27 school year. Approved courses are added to the catalog and offered if enough students register. Proposed electives include: Arabic Language and Culture, Latino Studies, Radio Carmesí (a bilingual podcast), and Intro to Ojibwe.

Policies Approved at the Nov 24 and Dec 8 Meetings:

- **204: School Board Meeting Minutes**
- **208: Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies**
- **209: Code of Ethics**
- **210: Conflict of Interest – School Board Members**
- **211: Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student**
- **516: Student Medication & Telehealth**
- **516.5 Overdose Medication**
- **518: DNR-DNI Orders**
- **521: Student Disability Nondiscrimination**
- **532: Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds**
- **905: Advertising**



Important Items from Past Newsletters

- **School Closing Reminders**



Important Dates

- **December 24-January 2**, No school- Winter Break
- **January 16**, Prek-5 No school, 6-12 regular school day
- **January 19**, No school- District Holiday

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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**ENGAGE. EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.**

[Thursday, Dec 11 at 9:28 AM]

Please see update to Important Dates