

Pilot School News

December 19, 2025 | Volume #8

The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. **Arne Duncan (Former Secretary of Education)**

What an amazing performance by our Murray Band and Orchestra performers. This was the largest spectator performance I have witnessed in my 13 years at Murray. The family and community turnout to support the arts was amazing. It was standing room only with even our balcony being filled. A huge thank you to Ms. Denae and our Murray families for continuing to support such a vital opportunity that is critical to the growth and success of our Murray scholars.



I hope you all have a wonderful break and are able to enjoy time with friends and family. We will see you all in 2026!

Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Kareem would like to celebrate Timothy Goldzes. I would like to recognize Timothy for working hard on his own without being told. Keeping his concentration. And being a polite and calm member of our class.

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Gravert would like to celebrate Vala Matlock. I am so proud to nominate Vala for PilotProps! She has worked incredibly hard in math, not just mastering the material, but stepping up as a classroom leader. She consistently helps her peers and sets a fantastic example. Keep up the amazing work, Vala!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Little would like to celebrate Derrick Coleman. Derrick is a great young man and always takes care of business while he is at school. Along with maintaining good grades, Derrick is also an outstanding athlete. We are proud to have Derrick a part of the Murray community.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

Activity Day Forms Due

January 14th

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

Dec. 22, 2025-Jan. 2, 2026
No School – Winter Break

January 15, 2026
Murray PTO Meeting
6:00pm – 7:15pm

January 19, 2026
No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 22, 2026
Parent Forum – 8th Grade Como Park
Pathway @ Como Park High School

January 28, 2026
Showcase
5:30pm – 7:30pm

January 29, 2026
Activity Day
End of Second Quarter

January 30, 2026
No School – Professional Day



6th, 7th, 8th

Comparative Anatomy with Ms. Dooley:

Ms Dooley's Comparative Anatomy class went on a field trip to the Como Park Conservatory. They made observations on plants with and without seeds, and also did a brief study of different wolves and how their structures match where they live.



Sixth Grade

Minnesota Studies with Mr. Kareem and Ms. Atchison:

In Minnesota Studies, 6th graders are beginning their research into their History Day topics. They are learning about what a good 'source' looks like and how to keep track of their research. Most students have narrowed down their topic and are excited, and a little nervous, about tackling such a big project.

Science with Ms. Crowley:

The St. Paul Ramsey County and the MN Department of Health came to our Environmental class to teach about the possible risks of Radon, how to test for it, and solutions.

The students designed poster to educate the public and entered them in the MN Radon poster contest. Marc Katz and Rachelle Peleska came to Murray to deliver the prizes.



Seventh Grade

English Language Arts with Ms. Steinhoff:

Second quarter brings a variety of text types to the 7th graders! We are working on reading different types of text (play script, poem, nonfiction, fiction etc) and then comparing and contrasting their structure, author's purpose and the elements that make them up. We are very bummed to have had to have missed out on our amazing opportunity to visit The Guthrie this year due to technical issues on their side, but we are resilient and are finding ways to have fun and be creative in class.

Pre-Algebra with Mr. Gravert:

Seventh-grade pre-algebra students are successfully diving into our unit on expressions! We are mastering the crucial skills of simplifying expressions, including combining like terms and applying the distributive property. This unit is foundational, as understanding how to manipulate expressions is key to solving future equations and working with more complex algebraic concepts. Parents can significantly help at home by encouraging students to review their notes on order of operations and practice finding the greatest common factor to simplify terms. Additionally, ask your student to explain how they simplified a problem from their homework, promoting deeper understanding. These skills are incredibly useful, teaching students logical problem-solving methods they will use both in higher math and in real-world scenarios like calculating discounts or managing budgets. We are excited about the progress they are making!

American Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman:

Our next unit will be History Day! Students can start thinking about topics they would love to learn more about. The theme is Revolution, Reform, Reaction in History. Our goal is for students to choose a topic they are passionate about and we will help them make the connections to the theme as they research!

Integrated Math I with Mr. Gravert:

Our Integrated Math I students are fully engaged in our complex unit on solving systems of linear equations and inequalities. We have focused on mastering three critical methods for solving systems of equations: graphing, substitution, and elimination. Students are also learning how to interpret the graphical solutions of systems of linear inequalities, where the solution is an overlapping shaded region. To support their learning at home, parents can ask students to practice setting up a real-world problem using two variables, such as comparing the costs of two different phone plans. Reviewing the steps for isolating a variable in an equation will greatly assist them with the substitution method. This work is essential because solving systems is a fundamental concept used in various fields, from economics to engineering, to model relationships between multiple variables. We are encouraging analytical thinking and thrilled with the students' focused effort!

Personal Finance with Mr. Gravert:

Seventh and eighth-grade students in Personal Finance are making great strides in our current Savings Unit! We're focusing on the essential techniques of saving money and, more importantly, establishing strong financial habits that will last a lifetime. Students are learning about the difference between short-term and long-term savings goals and discovering practical strategies like the "pay yourself first" method. To help at home, parents can encourage students to create a simple budget for their allowance or chore money, identifying one specific item they are actively saving for. Discussing the importance of an emergency fund and modeling sound financial decision-making are also excellent ways to reinforce the concepts taught in class. These lessons are vital, equipping our students with the discipline and knowledge necessary for financial independence in the future. We are so proud of their developing financial literacy!

Eighth Grade



PTO Corner

Murray Highlights Form

Please share some positive messages to be posted on the PTO Website and shared with the Murray staff.

Please click [here](#).

Activity Day

Murray has a mid-year all school celebration called Activity Day. Activity Day takes place on January 29th. All students are invited to attend one of 4 field trips: Cheap Skate (Rollerskating), Flahertys Arden Bowl (Bowling), Grand Slam (Arcade, Batting Cages, Laser Tag, Crazy Kars, Mini-Golf, X-treme Trampoline), and Ice Fishing.

Permission forms were sent home through Foundations.

Please turn in form, money, permission slip, and waiver (Grand Slam only) to Stefanie Folkema (Office #1005) by Wednesday, **January 14, 2026**. You can also pay online at the following link:

[Activity Day - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschoolday.com\)](#)

Athletics

Winter Sports: Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball & Wrestling!!

Please register on Arbiter:
<https://students.arbitersports.com/st-paul-murray-middle-school>

Extended Day Learning

[Murray EDL Registration Form](#)

EDL Cooking Class

EDL would love to start a cooking class if anyone is interested in helping.

[Donor's Choose link for Murray EDL Cooking class](#)

Picture Day

School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at

<https://shop.jostenspix.com/login>

- MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Event Code: FE33325

Spirit Wear

<https://www.threadartmn.com/showrooms.htm>

Yearbook Photo Share

Share photos from activities, events, clubs, etc.

The yearbook staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be used. Please do not use photos with filters, logos, or hand gestures. Please do not use screenshots or watermarked photos.



The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at:

<https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html>

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Emily Seeger. I am excited to join the Murray team this year as the WINN/SIPPS reading intervention teacher. I spent the last seven years in SPPS at Washington Technology Magnet Middle School and Parkway Montessori Middle School. Prior to that, I taught middle school language arts outside of the district.

I earned my bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and studied abroad in Germany. After graduation I moved to Minnesota and I was an AmeriCorps volunteer for one year through the St. Joseph Worker program where I served as a campus minister at Cretin-Derham Hall. After deciding to pursue teaching, I earned my Masters in Teaching from Hamline University. Because I love learning, I most recently earned my K-12 reading endorsement through the University of St. Thomas on a full scholarship for Title 1 teachers.

My husband and I are both originally from Wisconsin – Go Pack Go! We have two cats and are excited to welcome our first child in February. When I am not teaching, I enjoy trying new recipes, hiking, reading, and traveling the world. Thank you for the warm welcome to Murray community this year!

Counselors Corner

Here are a few announcements from our counseling team. As a reminder, here is our contact information:

- Ms. Justine Revermann - justine.revermann@spps.org - 651-243-4663 ext. 744052: Student last names A-L
- Ms. Lisa Engelstad – lisa.engelstad@spps.org - 651-243-4663 ext. 745675: Student last names M-Z

Coats, Hats, Mittens Donation:

We are always in need of new or gently used/clean jackets, coats, mittens, and hats for our students. If you would like to donate any, please contact one of our social workers or counselors. We greatly appreciate it!

Every Meal:

We have a partnership with EveryMeal and students can pick up free food bags to take home. More information and sign up on the link here or QR Code: <https://forms.gle/JYus6pV3yRTN7ByQ6>.



Holiday/Winter Support:

As we are closer to the holiday season, please let Ms. Revermann or Ms. Engelstad know if you could support families who could use a little extra love and care during the holiday season in the form of financial assistance or help getting presents and resources to their children. You can also let us know if you are in need of some extra help over the holidays and we will try our best!

- Ramsey County info: <https://www.ramseycountymn.gov/your-government/volunteer/holiday-sponsorship-program>
- Ramsey County Resource Search Tool: <https://www.rccmhc.org/search-tool>
- United Way "First Call for Help" - Dial 211 to find out about programs in your area, regardless of where you live

Internet Hot Spots:

Here's a resource for internet hot spots to check if you're eligible: <https://www.tmobile.com/brand/project-10-million>

Quarter 1 Report Cards:

To check your student's Quarter 1 report card, log into Campus:

<https://spps.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/stpaul.jsp>. Select your student in the top right-hand corner, and then click on the 3 lines in the top left corner, and select grades from the drop down menu. It should list your student's classes and their course grades for Quarter 1.

8th Grade families:

The PreK-12 School Choice Fair will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 9:30am – 2:00pm at the Saint Paul RiverCentre (175 East Kellogg Blvd). Attend the fair to learn more about SPPS schools, programs and services, and ask questions about selecting a school for 2026-27.

Please note that 8th graders have information that was posted in Schoology regarding the High School Transition process. It will be in the MMS Class of 2030 folder. This includes information about tours at various high schools (most students go to Como and some may go to Central or Roseville).

Tours and Shadowing (attending high school for a day with a 9th grader): Tours are after school starting between 2:45-3:15. Tours last about 40 minutes. Families can contact jamie.Hoffman@spps.org or 651-744-5529 to set up a tour or for you to shadow a 9th grader for a half day or day of school! Como Showcase/Open House: January 22 from 5-7 PM at Como HS.



Winter Break Activities and Supports



Ways to have fun at home

- Read
- Sledding (Como Golf Course)
- Make art
- Do a meditation, rest, relax
- Journal, listen to music
- Go on a walk or hike
- Play/Open Gym at a [Rec Center](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers) <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers>
- Catch up on schoolwork
- Learn to code
- Make Slime
- [Como Zoo](https://comozooconservatory.org/) - <https://comozooconservatory.org/>
- [MN History Center](https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter) - <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter>
- Learn a new skill
- Try a new recipe, bake cookies
- Follow along to PE exercise videos
- Youtube
- Play a brain training app
- Attend a [sporting event](https://www.stpaulcity.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=13) - <https://www.stpaulcity.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=13>
- [Sprockets St. Paul](https://www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/) - <https://www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/>
- [St Paul Public Library Events](https://sppl.org/winter-break/) - <https://sppl.org/winter-break/>

Community Resources:

- [St. Paul Parks and Rec](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers) <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers>
- [Parks and Rec non-school day events](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers/parks-recreation-programs/no-school-day): <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers/parks-recreation-programs/no-school-day>
- St. Paul Public Library - sppl.org
 - [Kids & Tweens](https://sppl.org/kidsandtweens/) - <https://sppl.org/kidsandtweens/>
 - [Teens](https://sppl.org/teens/) - <https://sppl.org/teens/>
- [Ramsey County Calm Room](https://www.rccmhc.org/breathe) - <https://www.rccmhc.org/breathe>

Food Resources:

Several community organizations provide free meals for families around Saint Paul.

- [Minnesota Food Helpline](https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/): <https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/>
Call 888-711-1151 for assistance, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [Ramsey County Food Resources](https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources) <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources>



- **Keystone:** <http://keystoneservices.org/food-shelves/>
Call 651-917-3792 or 651-487-2792
- **Neighborhood House** <https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/>
(food support, housing stability, educational programs) 651-789-2500

Grocery Stores with Delivery Options: [Recursos de Entrega a Domicilio/Home Delivery Resources](#)

- **Form to receive free grocery delivery through volunteers:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOOpozrt_1O8x5RedwsSRHiMOgtk0IGIMDKhLF27dn2Wp8qQ/viewform

Mental Health Resources:

- Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988
- Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative (651-266-7878): <https://www.rccmhc.org/>
- Ramsey County Youth Mental Health Crisis Team: 651-266-7878
- Ramsey County Adult Mental Health Crisis Team: 651-266-7900
- Call CRISIS (274747) from anywhere in MN to reach the local County crisis team
- Crisis Text Line: Text Hello to 741741
- National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Trevor Project: Text Start to 678678 or call 1-866-488-7386, <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>



Activity Day!!!

Date: January 29, 2026

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Foundations Teacher: _____

- Cheap Skate (Rollerskating)
Cost: \$20.00
(Includes Hot Dog, Chips, and Soda)
- Flahertys (Bowling)
Cost: \$21.00
(Includes Pizza and Soda)
- Grand Slam (Arcade, Batting Cages, Laser Tag, Crazy Kars, Mini-Golf, X-treme Trampoline)
Cost: \$22.00
(Includes a Hot Dog and Soda)
- Ice Fishing
Cost: \$15.00
I would like a bag lunch provided by Murray – **(Please circle one)** Yes or No
I will bring a bag lunch of my own – **(Please circle one)** Yes or No

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[Murray Middle School - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschooltoday.com\)](https://spps.cr3.schooltoday.com/public/getcategory/program_id/70)
https://spps.cr3.schooltoday.com/public/getcategory/program_id/70

I can contribute to a Scholarship Fund. \$ _____ Any amount is greatly appreciated!!!



Type II Field Trip Parent/Guardian Authorization Form

Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-293-8740

A field trip to: _____
for the purpose of: Activity Day
is planned by: Murray Middle School
for (day/date): Thursday, Jan 29, 2026 from (time) 8:30 to (time): 3:00
Cost (if applicable): _____

NOTES (if any):

This form must be completed and returned before the student will be permitted to participate in the above field trip.

****VERBAL APPROVAL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED****

Detach and Return

Field Trip Type II Parent/Guardian Authorization

I/We authorize _____
Student's Full Name (please print)

to participate in the field trip to _____

on (day and date) _____

Does the student have any special health problems or handicapping conditions that will require special attention or supervision on this field trip? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is the problem/condition and what special considerations should be made?

I/We understand that necessary arrangements, plans and precautions will be taken for the care and supervision of the student during the trip.

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Telephone:

Name:

1. _____

2. _____



SOUTHEAST ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES, INC.
PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, LIABILITY RELEASE, AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

General Terms: Southeast Entertainment Enterprises, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, operates entertainment facilities under the name Grand Slam Sports. These facilities offer various types of equipment for recreational use. I have had an opportunity to inspect the facilities and equipment and become familiar with the various recreational activities offered. I agree that the equipment and activities offered by Grand Slam Sports do not constitute a public or essential service, but rather provide voluntary recreational activities of a type that can be obtained at other similar facilities. My choice to use the equipment and participate in the recreational activities at Grand Slam Sports is wholly voluntary.

In consideration for being allowed to use the facilities and equipment and participate in the activities of Grand Slam Sports, I, for myself and on behalf of my minor children and/or legal wards identified herein, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, estate, and insurers, agree to the following terms:

Assumption of Risk: I and/or my minor children and/or legal wards identified herein will be using various equipment and engaging in various recreational activities at Grand Slam Sports. I understand that this equipment and these activities expose participants to certain inherent and serious risks. The risks associated with the use of any of this equipment involve certain dangers that cannot be completely avoided or eliminated, and may include, but are not limited to, serious personal injury, death, or disability. I further recognize that use of the trampoline system exposes participants to additional risks, including but not limited to, the variable effects of rebound forces that may directly injure a person or that may throw a person out of control; the possibility that a person may land improperly or fall on, or be thrown against other persons or objects; and the potential of severe injuries from flipping, running, or bouncing off the walls of the trampoline system. To the maximum extent allowed by law, I, for myself and on behalf of my minor children and/or legal wards identified herein, voluntarily **ASSUME ALL RISKS** for any property damage, personal injury, whether physical or mental, death, or disability that may result from the use of any of this equipment or participation in these activities, including those arising from ordinary negligence of the Releasees identified hereafter.

Release and Waiver of Liability: In consideration for being permitted to participate in the recreational activities and to use the recreational equipment, including the trampoline system, at Grand Slam Sports, I, for myself and on behalf of my minor children and/or legal wards identified herein, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, estate, and insurers (collectively, "Releasers"), do hereby voluntarily release, waive, and discharge all claims, lawsuits, and demands that Releasers may have in the future against Southeast Entertainment Enterprises, Inc., Grand Slam Sports, their affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, or assigns, as well as each party's owners, officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, or representatives, and their successors and assigns (collectively, "Releasees"), arising from the negligence of the Releasees or anyone else using the equipment or participating in the activities at Grand Slam Sports. This release and waiver applies to claims, lawsuits, or demands for all types of damages, including but not limited to, property damage, personal injury, death, or disability, to me or to my minor children and/or legal wards identified herein incurred while using any of the equipment or participating in any of the activities offered at Grand Slam Sports. I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Releasees against any claims arising out of the negligent or willful acts or omissions of me or my minor children or legal wards identified herein.

In accordance with Minnesota law, nothing in this Participant Agreement, Liability Release, and Assumption of Risk should be construed as releasing, discharging, or waiving any claims that I, my minor children or legal wards identified herein, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, estate, or insurers may have for gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or reckless or intentional acts by or on behalf of Releasees.

Agreement Duration: I agree that this Participant Agreement, Liability Release, and Assumption of Risk extends into the future and covers any and all visits to Grand Slam Sports by either me or my minor children or legal wards identified herein for a period of one year from the signing of this document, including the visit on the day this document was signed.

Severability: I, for myself and on behalf of my minor children and/or legal wards identified herein, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, estate, and insurers, agree that if any portion of this Participant Agreement, Liability Release, and Assumption of Risk is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this document shall remain in full force and effect.



**SOUTHEAST ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISE S, INC.
PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, LIABILITY RELEASE, AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, LIABILITY RELEASE, AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I AM WAIVING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO ASSERT CERTAIN CLAIMS AGAINST SOUTHEAST ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES, INC., GRAND SLAM SPORTS, AND ALL OTHER IDENTIFIED RELEASEES.

MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD TO FILL OUT THIS SECTION (All minors must be listed on page 2)

Signature of Adult Participant (at least 18 years old) or Parent/Guardian: _____

Print Name (Adult Participant or Parent/Guardian): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Today's Date: _____ Parent/Guardian and/or Adult Participant DOB (MM/DD/YYYY): [____/____/____]

Minor Name: _____ DOB (MM/DD/YYYY) [____/____/____]



RAISE SOME DOUGH

MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, February 10
4 - 8:30pm

Punch Roseville
1767 County Rd B2 W

Join us for dine-in or takeout and 20%
of the proceeds will go back to our organization

Use Code: MURRAY when placing your order

Invite Family and Friends!

