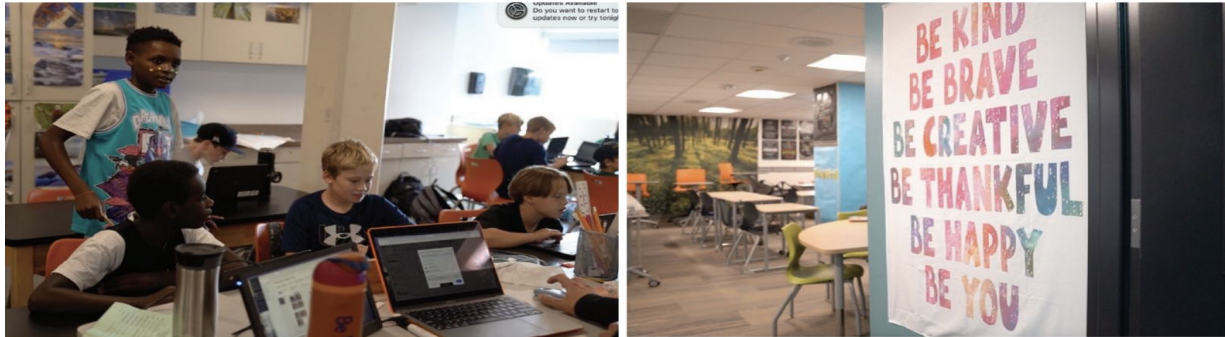


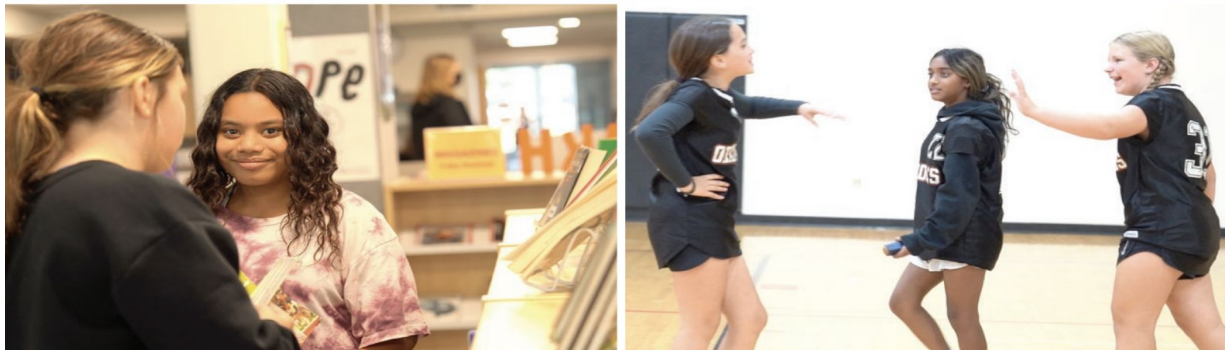


St. Louis Park
Middle School

Welcome Class of 2034



CREATE. ENGAGE. IGNITE.



Incoming 6th Grade Information Night



St. Louis Park
Middle School

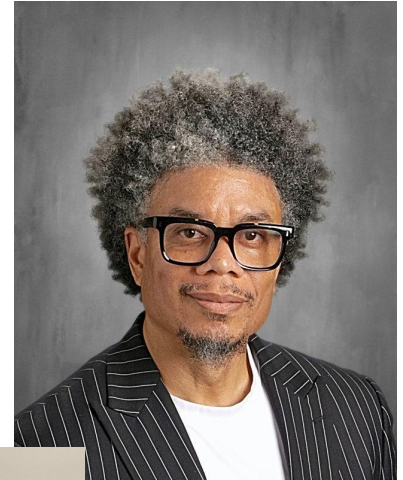
Meet your Registration Team!



Melissa
Kalinowski
Principal



Jason Boll
Asst. Principal



Cam Muata
Asst. Principal



Owen Downs
Counselor



Erin Gates
Counselor



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Land Acknowledgement

We are gathered on the land of the Dakota and Ojibwe peoples.

I ask you to join me in acknowledging the Dakota and Ojibwe community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. St. Louis Park Public Schools also acknowledges that it was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous Peoples, including those on whose land this school district is located. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to dismantling the ongoing legacies of colonial power and the district's desire to support the ongoing work of local Indigenous communities to thrive in our schools.

WE ARE ON

Dakota & Ojibwe

LAND





St. Louis Park
Middle School

MISSION

St. Louis Park Public Schools sees, inspires, and empowers each student to achieve academic excellence and live their brilliance in a racially equitable learning environment that centers student voice and experience to energize and enhance the spirit of our community.

VISION

St. Louis Park Public Schools – Where each student is seen, valued, and inspired to reach their full academic potential as they become their best selves as racially conscious, globally minded contributors to society.



WE BELIEVE IN

THE BRILLIANCE OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS



We believe everyone has the capacity and responsibility to inspire and nurture the growth and potential of our students and each other.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



We are collectively responsible for partnering with our staff, families, and communities to support and enhance each learner's growth and success.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS



We will raise the bar and build a legacy. We believe in setting and reaching achievement goals that help each student and staff achieve their full potential.

ADVOCACY FOR EQUITY



We stand for the dignity of each student and staff and actively work to remove barriers so everyone can succeed.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY



We collectively share the responsibility to create educational opportunities for each student by removing barriers to create an equitable and welcoming learning environment where everyone feels they belong.

PERSISTENT EFFORT



We are committed to building a cohesive, culturally responsive, data-driven educational system where all students and staff can thrive and adapt to the changing needs of learners and society.

RACIAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE



Recognizing and valuing our different backgrounds strengthens our ability to inspire and engage each student and staff member to reach their full academic potential and cultivate a sense of belonging.



St. Louis Park
Middle School



PORTRAIT of a LEARNER

In St. Louis Park Public Schools, our students are active, empowered participants in their education; their success is our success.

Our learners are:

AUTHENTIC, they collaborate with compassion and purpose. Students will invest in their community with care and compassion and build inclusive relationships.

STRATEGIC, they think critically and creatively. Students will lead with innovation as they gain the ability to analyze complex problems, generate creative solutions, and have the knowledge and opportunity to apply their learning to real-world contexts.

CONNECTORS, they communicate with open minds. Students will bridge differences by listening with empathy. They will honor the unique identities of others, advocating for themselves and others.

EMPOWERED, they lead with equity and integrity. Students will demonstrate the courage and responsibility to advance equity, honor multiple perspectives, and stand up for what they believe is just.

NIMBLE, they adapt and thrive. Students will take risks and initiative to embrace change while navigating the world with resilience. They will be engaged, lifelong learners and leaders.

DREAMERS AND INNOVATORS, they live their brilliance. Students will reach their full academic potential and confidently engage with the world. They will be resilient, curious, and possess the drive to pursue their passions.

Together, we nurture a district where each student is seen, valued, and inspired to live their brilliance.

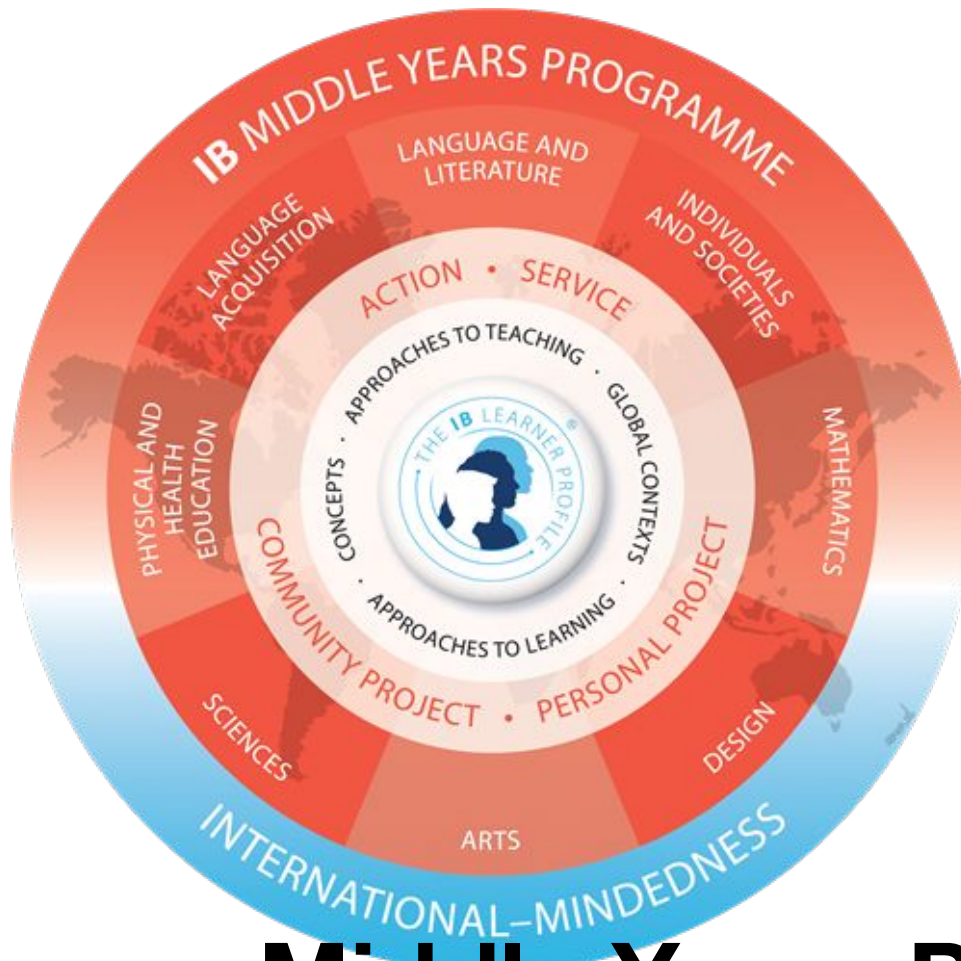


St. Louis Park
Public Schools



St. Louis Park
Middle School

International Baccalaureate (IB)



Middle Years Program (MYP)



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Extended Spanish Program (ESP) ***Grades 6-8***

The ESP is an immersion program and is a continuation of Park Spanish Immersion (PSI) elementary school. ESP classes meet every day.

- Spanish is the only language used for instruction in class, and we expect that both teachers and students only communicate in Spanish in the ESP classes.
- In 6th grade, ESP students have three ESP classes:
 - ESP Science 6
 - ESP Individuals & Societies 6
 - ESP Spanish 6



St. Louis Park
Middle School

SLP Middle School Strengths

- Committed staff who enjoy teaching middle level age students
- International Baccalaureate World School
- Elective class opportunities
- High academic achievement by students
- Extra-curricular activities
- Sense of community
- 30+ Million Dollars in Facility/Classroom upgrades
- State of the Art Performing Arts Center



Interdisciplinary Teaming

- Students are assigned to an interdisciplinary team.
- This is a smaller community within a larger community.
- Shared teachers provides a stronger support system for students.
- Teamed subjects include Language & Literature, Individuals & Societies, Math and Science.



Advisory

- Scheduled daily for 29 minutes.
- Focused on building community playing games and circles of power and respect.
- Social-Emotional wellbeing focused
- Focused lessons around school safety, creating school-wide agreements.
- Weekly academic check-ins
- Flexible Learning Time



After School Activities/Clubs

Athletic Options for Gr. 6

- Fall
 - Soccer - Boys and Girls
 - Volleyball
 - Girls Tennis
 - Girls Swimming
- Winter
 - Basketball - Boys and Girls
- Spring
 - Track & Field - Boys and Girls
 - Boys Tennis

Activities/Clubs

- Theater - Fall Play/Spring Musical
- Select Choir
- Jazz Band
- Chamber Orchestra
- Environmental Club
- Math Club
- Newspaper Club
- Cheer and Dance Club
- Mock Trial
- Quiz Bowl
- ASL Club



Structure of the School Day

- All courses at the Middle School are year-long
- We have an A/B schedule - every class will meet every other day
- Each day, students will take 5 classes:
 - 3 will be a Blocked Period (83 minutes)
 - 2 will be a Mini Period (40 minutes)
- Students will have advisory every day
- Lunches will be by grade-level



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Required Classes (Blocked - 83 minutes)

- Math - Pre-Algebra I
- Science
- Individuals & Society (Social Studies)
- Language and Literature (English Language Arts)
- Design
- Physical Education
- *ESP Language Acquisition (Spanish Language Arts)*



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Required Classes (Mini'd - 40 minutes)

- Music Choice
 - Band 6,
 - Choir 6,
 - Orchestra 6, or
 - Music Studio 6
- Writing 6 (non-ESP students)
- Language Acquisition Choice
 - Spanish 6,
 - French 6, or
 - German 6



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Elective Choices (Mini'd - 40 minutes)

- Writing 6 (for ESP Students)
- Minnesota Outdoors 6
- Digital Storytelling 6
- Theater Tech 6
- Exploring Art 6



6th Grade Sample Schedule

Period	“A” Day	“B” Day
	ADVISORY	
1/2	PRE-ALGEBRA I	LANGUAGE & LITERATURE
3/4	SCIENCE OR ESP SCIENCE	INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES OR ESP INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES
	LUNCH	
5	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION*	MUSIC REQUIREMENT
6	WRITING *	ELECTIVE CHOICE
7/8	DESIGN	PHYSICAL EDUCATION

* ESP LANGUAGE ACQUISITION/SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS will occur as a Blocked Class in lieu of Language Acquisition and Writing Mini's.



What can I expect in a Blocked Period?

- A variety of learning opportunities throughout the class period - direct instruction, collaborative work, independent work
- Targeted small group instruction
- Opportunities for movement throughout the class period



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Information About Required Classes

You can find out more about each
in the breakout sessions following
this presentation.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Pre-Algebra I

BLOCKED

This rigorous, research-based course engages students in collaborative problem-solving of complex, real-world math challenges.

Classes emphasize active participation, justification, and multiple perspectives to foster a growth mindset, student-centered learning, and mathematical confidence.

Daily homework reinforces concepts with increasing complexity for deeper understanding and retention.

The course uses both print and digital resources and aligns with the 2007 and 2022 Minnesota K–12 Mathematics Standards.

Middle School Math Pathways

- Standard Pathway: **Pre-Algebra I** → Pre-Algebra II → Algebra → Geometry (at high school).
- Accelerated Pathway: **Pre-Algebra I** → Algebra → Geometry (at middle school)

All students will have opportunities to engage with Pre-Algebra II topics during Pre-Algebra I through extension and enrichment activities. For this reason, the optimal time to consider acceleration is after completing Pre-Algebra I.

All 6th grade students will have the opportunity to take the math acceleration test at the end of 6th grade to determine if they will go directly into Algebra as a 7th grade student.



Lang and Lit 6 is a comprehensive course. Both fiction and informational texts will be used throughout the year.

Skills and knowledge developed in this course include: citing textual evidence, elements of fiction, providing relevant details to support conclusions, comparing and contrasting ideas, summarizing, identifying themes, and more. Students will read class-wide novels, be in literature circle groups, and read independently. Listening, speaking, and writing skills will also be taught.



This class is automatically assigned to 6th graders unless they are enrolled in ESP. Those enrolled in ESP can choose Writing 6 as an elective.

Students will use the writing process to produce quality pieces of writing across topics with an emphasis on structure & supporting details. Greek and Latin roots will also be taught.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Science 6

ESP Science 6

BLOCKED

Science 6 is a yearlong earth science course with emphasis on **earth and space systems, climate science, environmental awareness, and the engineering design process.**

This inquiry-based curriculum will provide hands-on investigations for a variety of engaging topics including:

- Geology
- Weather & climate
- Earth's resources
- Human impacts sustainability
- Earth's place in the universe

*****ESP Science is taught in Spanish in 6th grade*****

7th grade science focuses on **life science**; 8th grade science focuses on **physical science**



Individuals and Societies 6

ESP Individuals & Societies 6

Students will study the history of Minnesota in I&S 6. Students will develop and demonstrate research and map skills in addition to engaging in reading of non-fiction texts, writing as a historian, and discussing historical and current events. Themes that are studied in Year 1 include:

- Early People of Minnesota (Dakota and Ojibwe)
- Fur Trade
- Treaties and Sovereignty
- Minnesota in the Civil War
- US-Dakota War
- Flour, Lumber, Iron Industries
- Immigration in Minnesota

**ESP Individuals & Societies 6 is taught in Spanish.*



Students will be working through the design cycle (research, plan, build, reflect) to process through some real world problems/applications. The main projects for 6th grade design are:

1. Using physical structures (balsa wood bridge) to represent and demonstrate the use of models for testing ideas.
2. Stop motion animation
3. computer coding

Students will be working through digital portfolios on each project to keep track of their learning and help to manage their time.



- The main focuses of Phy Ed 6 are on being physically active and community building.
- Units include Fitness, Indoor/Outdoor Community Games, Create-A-Game, Personal Wellness & Nutrition and Puberty & Abstinence (Health units), and Pickleball.
- Students wear athletic shoes to class to safely participate in our activities & should bring a water bottle.
- We strive to have fun, be physically active and social with others!



- The 6th grade Spanish language acquisition class continues the development of Spanish language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will read two novels in the class along with many short stories and nonfiction works.
- Students will work on refining their grammar and vocabulary in daily usage for communication through various activities.
- During the school year students are expected to show mastery in IB phases 2-3.
- Spanish is the only language used for communication.



All students will take either French, German or Spanish and will remain in this language all three years at the MS.

All introductory courses focus on speaking and listening in the target language and also practice reading and writing. Topics covered include:

- Alphabet, numbers and greetings
- Free time activities
- Personality
- Family
- Ordering in restaurants

Students will be in consecutive years of the same language. The language you choose for 6th grade will be the same for 7th and 8th. This is an IB requirement.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Music

MINI'D

Music Course Options

- Band 6
- Choir 6
- Orchestra 6
- Music Studio 6

Extracurricular Activities

- Chamber Orchestra
- Select Choir
- Jazz Band

- All 6th grade students are required to take a music course.
- Students also have an arts elective so it is possible for students to have multiple music electives.
- All music courses (except Music Studio) are performance-based, so you can expect your student to perform 1-3 times a year.
- For band and orchestra, students will need an instrument, in which we have four options:
 - a. You own an instrument
 - b. Rent-to-own option from Eckroth Music
 - c. School rental from SLPMS
 - d. Instrument donation from Friend of the Arts (local non-profit)

Special Education Services

The primary purpose of the Special Education Department is to directly support students. St. Louis Park Public Schools is committed to providing educational opportunities to all students across multiple settings.

Some of the Special Education Classes and Services include:

- Co-Taught Classes
- Language Arts
- Skills Development
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Alternative Instruction in Language & Literature, Math, Individuals and Societies and Science
- Life Skills Instruction in SEL, Reading, Math, Individuals and Societies, Science, and Independent Skills for Living
- Speech/Language Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Audiology, Visual, and Physical Impairment Support

St. Louis Park Middle School Special Education Department Leads:

- Blair House
(house.blair@slpschools.org)
- Meredith Richards
(richards.meredith@slpschools.org)
- Kristin Vaillancourt
(vaillancourt.kristin@slpschools.org)





St. Louis Park
Middle School

Multilingual Learner Services

St. Louis Park Middle School values our community of diverse learners.

The goal of the Multilingual/English Language Learners Program is to develop students' academic English language proficiency so they can access the content and fully participate in their grade level classes.

Service and support decisions are made based on the individual student's strengths and needs.

Service may be provided through English Language Development Classes or co-taught classes



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Library Media Center (LMC)

The primary purpose of the Library Media Program is to create lifelong learners, readers, and library users.

Library media staff work with students and staff to ensure efficient access, effective evaluation, and responsible use of information and ideas.

The library media specialist partners with teachers to plan and facilitate instruction that nurtures development of information literacy skills and stimulates reading.

In addition to a current collection of print materials, the library media center provides a variety of electronic resources for personal productivity and multi-media production. These services and resources are available throughout the school day as well as before and after school.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

LMC: Technology and Information Access

Chromebooks: Each student at SLPMS is issued a school Chromebook in the fall and then collected at the end of the school year with the following requirements:

- Keep it safe and bring it to school fully charged
- Use it for school-related tasks including appropriate printing
- Do not let others borrow it
- Keep personal information private, ex: passwords, student ID number

PowerSchool: A portal with which students and parents/caregivers can access class schedules, grades, assignment scores and attendance.

Links: [PowerSchool Website](#) and [Directions for signing up](#)*

Schoology: A digital classroom tool with which students and parents/caregivers can access and interact with course content posted by teachers..

Links: [Schoology Website](#) and [Directions for signing up](#)*

*Feel free to contact Greg Holmbeck with any questions: holmbeck.gregory@slpschools.org and/or 952-928-6338



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Registration Worksheet

Your student will come home with a **Registration Worksheet**.

Please use this worksheet to help plan for class choices. All students are pre-registered for Pre-Algebra I, Science, Individuals & Societies, Language and Literature, Design, Physical education, and Writing.

Your student will need to choose:

- **Music class**
- **Language Acquisition class**
- **Elective class**

Extended Spanish Program students will be enrolled in appropriate classes when choosing the ESP program.

*** Refer to the course catalog for course descriptions.



Reminders

All students are required to take ONE Music course and ONE Visual Arts course during their Middle School years.

- **Music course is taken in 6th Grade
- **Visual Arts course is taken in 7th Grade

Language Acquisition Choice: French, German or Spanish
Learning a language is a 3 Year commitment at SLPMS.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Students will register via a **google form** that will be sent to their school-issued Gmail on Friday, January 30.

The deadline for submitting your registration is Friday, February 13.

If you have any questions about the registration process, please send an email to msregistration@slpschools.org

6th Grade Registration

Please select your courses below to register for 6th grade at St. Louis Park Middle School.

Refer to the course catalog for course descriptions and a sample schedule at <https://www.slpschools.org/domain/851>

If you have any questions or would like to request something different, please send an email to MSregistration@slpschools.org. (You may need to copy and paste the email address.)

The deadline for special requests is June 1, 2025

NOTE: Each student will only be able to submit one form.

[MS Course Catalog](#)



6th Grade Registration Next Steps

- Week of January 26 - SLPMS Counselors will visit with 5th Grade classrooms at SLP Elementary Schools.
- Friday 1/30/26 - Google Registration Form sent to Student's SLP school email account with instructions sent to Parent/Guardian emails.
- **Friday 2/13/25 - Google Form due**

Families who have completed enrollment paperwork with SLP district and/or have been approved for open enrollment, will receive an email early next week with class registration information.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

6th Grade Registration Next Steps

Please note: you will need to complete the registration form using your student's school email account. If you need the password, please contact your student's classroom teacher.

You will also need your student's school ID number in order to complete the form. MS counselors will hand out instruction worksheets that include your student's ID when they visit elementary schools next week.



St. Louis Park
Middle School

6th Grade Upcoming Events

April 17, 2026: During School Day

Jump Start for registered 6th Grade Students

May 7, 2026: 6:30 p.m.

Middle School Rally Night at SLPMS

August 27, 2026: Day/Evening

Family Connect Day - Scheduled 20 minute meeting with Advisor

August 31, 2026

First Day of School



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Options for Tonight

Live Breakout Rooms

- English Speaking Q&A (stay in main call)
- Spanish Presentation
- Somali Presentation
- Language and Literature
- Individuals & Societies
- Extended Spanish Program
- Science
- Math
- Music
- Language Acquisition
- Art and Design
- Physical Education and Health
- Multi Language English Learners
- Special Education Q&A
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- LMC - PowerSchool and Schoology



St. Louis Park
Middle School

Questions ???

Call SLPMS Front Office

952-928-6300