

Pilot School News

January 30, 2026 | Volume #10

We are tied together in the single garment of destiny...whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I want to take a moment to give a huge shout out to our Murray Parent Teacher Organization, the Murray staff and all of the supporting entities that have been organizing and taking action to bring resources and accessibility to our families in need. A recent initiative activated by our dedicated community members is the "Murray Market". We have assigned space in our building to collect and organize food resources, household goods, varied supplies, games, etc. The space was established on Monday, January 26 and we are happy to share that the generosity of our community is shining bright! The PTO continues to accept donations through the QR code that is shared in this newsletter. I want to give a special thanks to Nia Anderson, Kerrin Flanagan, Lynnae Erwin and Mandi Rupp all from our PTO as well as the Murray staff members for helping to bring this idea to life. You are all amazing and our families are feeling the efforts being put forth.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

February 2, 2026

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

February 9, 2026

Murray PTO Meeting
6:00pm – 7:15pm

February 16, 2026

No School – Presidents Day

February 18, 2026

Parent Forum – 8th Grade Como Park
Pathway @ Como Park HS

February 19, 2026

7th Grade Vision Screening

March 2, 2026

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

March 12, 2026

Murray PTO Meeting
6:00pm – 7:15pm

March 13-15, 2026

School Musical

March 19, 2026

Family/Teacher Conferences
4:00pm – 7:00pm

March 20, 2026

No School for Students –
Professional Day

March 28, 2026

Regional History Day

Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Phillips would like to celebrate Lou Grotzke. Lou is an interesting, creative, and funny student who has been a great addition to the Murray community this year. I have enjoyed hearing Lou's perspective on different topics and seeing a variety of Lou's creative expressions!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Noah would like to celebrate Anna Reimringer. Over the past few years, I have seen Anna grow and become more outgoing and confident in herself. She is always thinking of others and how to make Murray a better place for all students. I can't wait to see what she does in the future!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

Sixth Grade

Minnesota Studies with Mr. Kareem and Ms. Atchison:

In 6th grade Minnesota Studies we are in the final stretch of History Day! Some students are ready for the project to be over and some would love to work on it all year but each student has put lot of effort into their projects. We will begin 3rd Quarter by returning to the early days of Minnesota history—as the Fur Trade winds down and the Civil War and US-Dakota War mark a turning point in our history.

Seventh Grade

History with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman:

Our Historians are currently putting their finishing touches on their rough drafts for their History Day Projects. The theme is Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History. We plan on sharing our Final Projects with each other during the first few weeks of 3rd quarter. Students are finishing their website, documentary, virtual exhibit, performance, or paper to show what they know about their topic. After our due date we will be entering the competition part of our History Day experience. The Regional Competition is at Harding High School on Saturday, March 28th. Students who wish to be considered for advancement to Regionals will complete a google form for the committee. More information about the Regional Competition will be emailed to students chosen to advance in February.

Math with Mr. Gravert:

Our 7th-grade pre-algebra students are wrapping up their unit on solving multi-step equations and are now ready to tackle the world of **inequalities**! Transitioning from finding a single "perfect" solution to identifying a **range of possibilities** is a big conceptual leap, but the class is showing great persistence. We'll be learning how to graph these solutions on a number line to visualize "greater than" and "less than" relationships effectively.

At home, you can support your student by asking them to explain why the inequality sign "flips" when multiplying or dividing by a negative number—it is famously the trickiest part of the unit! This skill is incredibly practical because real-world constraints, such as staying under a **budget of \$100\$** or meeting a minimum height requirement, are naturally expressed as inequalities. Practicing mental math with "**at most**" or "**at least**" scenarios during daily errands is a fantastic way to reinforce these concepts in a low-pressure way. Mastering inequalities builds the logical foundation needed for everything from computer programming to complex engineering projects, and we are excited to see them grow!

Science with Mr. Altringer:

The trout are here and growing. They have already developed their cells from about 300 eyed eggs into sac fry. We are currently starting our studying of genetics trying to figure out the phenomena of extra-muscled cattle. Looking to answer "how do those cattle get so many muscles?"



7th & 8th Grade Personal Finance with Mr. Gravert:

Our first-semester Personal Finance students are wrapping up an eventful term by diving headfirst into our final unit on **investing**. To bring these concepts to life, everyone is participating in the "**Stock Market Game**," where they manage a virtual \$100,000 portfolio to trade real-time stocks, bonds, and funds. This simulation provides a high-stakes, yet zero-risk, way for students to see how global events and market trends impact the economy. At home, you can support their learning by discussing your own approach to **long-term financial goals** or asking them to explain why they "bought" a specific company for their game portfolio. These lessons are invaluable because they demystify the financial world and teach students how to make their money work for them over time. As we close out this semester, I am genuinely excited to welcome a **new group of students** for the second semester to start their own financial journeys. Together, we will explore the essential cycle of **making, spending, saving, and investing money** to build a foundation for lifelong success!



PTO Corner

Click [here](#) to see the latest
PTO Newsletter

Murray Highlights Form

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

Please click [here](#).

PTO Newsletter Archives

[January #1](#)

Athletics

Winter Sports: Boys' Basketball

Please register on Arbiter:

<https://students.arbitersports.com/st-paul-murray-middle-school>

Extended Day Learning

If your child is interested in changing classes for the second session or wants to join EDL, please complete this Google form. [EDL session 2](#)

I am looking forward to a great second session of EDL

Lise Ciancio
Murray EDL Site Lead

Murray Market

Dear Murray Families,

We're excited to introduce the Murray Market, a new resource designed to support our students and their families. The Murray Market is a welcoming space, located in Murray Middle School, where students can grab essential items for home, including non-perishable food, household goods, baby supplies, hygiene products, and much more. This initiative reflects our community's commitment to caring for one another and ensuring all families have access to everyday necessities. If you would like to donate to the Murray Market, please consider purchasing from the Murray PTO Amazon wishlist. Thank you so much for continuing to show your care and respect for all families.

Amazon Wishlist - Murray Market



Murray Middle Presents... Cinderella; Youth Edition

Performances will be:

Friday, March 13th, 7:00PM

Saturday, March 14th, 7:00PM

Sunday, March 15th, 2:00PM

Picture Day

School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at

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

- MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Event Code: FE33325

Spirit Wear

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

Tours

Tuesdays, January 6th, 13th, 27th,
February 3rd, 10th

3:15p.m.

Check in at office – registration not required

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>.



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>

8th Grade families:

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! Murray Parent Forum – 8th Grade Como Park Pathway @ Como Park High School is Wednesday, February 18th from 5:00-7:00.



Dear 8th grade Murray families:

Our class and all 8th graders in St. Paul will participate in an exciting Junior Achievement program called *JA Finance Park* this spring. *JA Finance Park* encompasses important educational lessons about personal financial literacy and career awareness that will take place in the last quarter of school on April 27-28.

As part of the program, we will spend the day at a hands-on, experiential *JA Finance Park* site on either April 27 or April 28, depending on their permission slip given by Foundations teacher.

Half the class will go each date depending on who their Foundations teacher is. This visit will provide all 8th grade students with an opportunity to apply, in a realistic setting, what they have learned in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to practice planning a budget for themselves and their fictional family.

The goal of experiential education programs such as *JA Finance Park* is to help students see how classroom learning connects to real-world actions and events. Students will begin that curriculum during the 3rd quarter in Foundations. They start February 25th and the last lesson is March 18th. Ask them about it. Students acquire knowledge through hands-on classroom activities and discussions and then seek relevance between their new learning and their future fictional lives. Because of this unique learning format, students remember this Junior Achievement experience for many years.

Parents, please ask your student about the **permission slip** which will be handed out **during conferences**, or the following school day. **Please come to conferences to get it filled out right there!**

We will look for you to indicate:

***Yes or No for bag lunch. This means from the cafeteria. If they want to bring from home say NO. Don't forget to send one.**

*** Whether they have medication they need to have during the trip for which I will notify the school nurse. She will notify me of any needed medications that she knows of.**

We are aiming to get these slips turned in by April 3, so preparations can begin on this outing. Thank you for your help in planning this free opportunity for your 8th grade student.

Sincerely,

Murray Middle School



2025-2026 WIDA ACCESS Test

State and federal laws require that all English Learner (EL) students are assessed yearly to measure their English reading, writing, listening and speaking progress.

Minnesota uses the WIDA ACCESS test as its annual assessment. EL students who receive special education services and who meet certain guidelines may take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS test instead.

These tests are used to see if students meet the WIDA English Language Development Standards and if a student is ready to exit from SPPS's EL program.

All SPPS EL students in grades K-12 will be given the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS tests between January 26 - March 19, 2026.

If you have questions about your student's participation, please reach out to your child's principal.

For more information on English language proficiency assessments and the MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal form, please go to:

- ACCESS Family Test Information website: spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- MDE Family Testing Information website: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

Please reach out to your child's school if you have any questions.



2025-2026 WIDA ACCESS

Lub xeev thiab tsoom fww tsab cai tseev kom txhua txhua xyoo mas yuav tsum xeev cov tub ntxhais kawm ntawv askiv (EL) seb lawv txoj kev paub nyeem, sau, mloog thiab hais lus Askiv nce li cas lawm.

Minnesota siv tus xeev WIDA ACCESS los xeev cov tub ntxhais kawm ntawv Askiv txhua txhua xyoo. Hos cov tub ntxhais kawm EL uas tau txais kev pab los ntawm fab kev kawm ntawv tshwj xeeb thiab muaj feem raws li cov lus qhia mas yuav xeev tus WIDA Alternate ACCESS.

Cov kev xeev no yog siv los saib seb cov tub ntxhais kawm ntawv puas ua tau raws li cov qauv ntawm qhov WIDA English Language Development Standards thiab seb tus tub ntxhais kawm ntawv puas tsim nyog tawm hauv qhov khoos kas kawm ntawv Askiv hauv SPPS mus.

Txhua tus tub ntxhais kawm EL hauv SPPS uas nyob rau qib K-12 yuav tau xeev tus ACCESS los sis WIDA Alternate ACCESS rau lub caij thaum lub 1 Hlis tim 26 mus rau lub 3 Hlis tim 19, 2026.

Yog nej muaj lus nug txog nej tus me nyuam txoj kev koom tes rau tus xeev no, thov tiv tauj tus thawj xib fwb tom nej tus me nyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv.

Yog xav paub ntxiv txog kev xeev ntawv Askiv thiab MDE cov lus qhia txog niam txiv/tus saib xyuas kev koom tes thiab daim ntawv tsis tso cai, thov mus rau:

- ACCESS Family Test Information website: spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- MDE Family Testing Information website: education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

Yog tias nej muaj lus nug, tiv tauj nej tus me nyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv.



ကိုနိုပ် ၂၀၂၅-၂၀၂၆ WIDA ACCESS တၢ်ဒီးစဲး

ကီၢ်စံၣ် ဒီး ကီၢ်စၢ်ဖျိၣ်သဲးစးတဖၣ် လိၣ်ဘၣ်ဝဲလၢ English Learner (EL) (ပုၤမၤလိၤအဲကလံးကျိၣ်)ကီၢ်ဖိကိးဂၤ ဒဲးကဘၣ်တၢ်မၤကွၢ်အိၤ တနီၣ်တဘျီဒီးသိး တၢ်ကထိၣ်ဒူး အဝဲသ့ၣ် တၢ်ဖးလိာ်, တၢ်ကွဲးလိာ်, တၢ်ဒိကန့ၣ်တၢ် ဒီး တၢ်စဲးကတိၤတၢ်လၢအဲကလံးကျိၣ်အတၢ်သ့တၢ်ဘၣ်ပတီၢ်အဂီၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤ.

မံၣ်န့ၣ်စိထံၣ်ကီၢ်စံၣ်စူးကါဝဲဒၣ် WIDA ACCESS ဒ်အမၤတၢ်ဒီးစဲးမၤကွၢ်ကီၢ်ဖိတၢ်သ့တၢ်ဘၣ်ပတီၢ်တနီၣ် တဘျီန့ၣ်လီၤ. EL ကီၢ်ဖိလၢအဒီးန့ၣ် ကူၣ်သ့လီၤဆိအတၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲၤတဖၣ် ဒီးပုၤလၢအကြၢးဝဲဘၣ်ဝဲလၢ တၢ်န့ၣ်ကျဲၤလီၤဆိဆိတဖၣ်န့ၣ် ကဘၣ်ဒီးစဲးဝဲဒၣ် WIDA Alternate ACCESS တၢ်ဒီးစဲးန့ၣ်လီၤ.

တၢ်ဒီးစဲးတဖၣ်ဘၣ်တၢ်စူးကါအိၤဒဲးသိးတၢ်ကကွၢ်ကီၢ်ဖိတၢ်သ့တၢ်ဘၣ်အပတီၢ်မၤအတုၤထီၣ်ဘးဝဲလၢ WIDA English Language Development Standards အသိးလိၤဒါ ဒီးမ့ၢ်ကီၢ်ဖိတဂၤအိၣ်ကတိၤသးလၢကဟးထီၣ် ကွံာ်လၢ SPSS's EL တၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲၤလီၤန့ၣ်လီၤ.

စ့ၣ်ဖိလပ်ဒိၣ်ကီၢ် EL ကီၢ်ဖိကိးဂၤဒဲးလၢ ခုၣ်-၁၂ တီၤတဖၣ် ကဘၣ်ဒီးစဲး WIDA ACCESS တၢ်ဒီးစဲး မ့တမ့ၢ် WIDA Alternate ACCESS တၢ်ဒီးစဲးတဖၣ် ဖဲ လၢယနူၤအါရံၤ ၂၆ သီ တုၤ လၢမးရှး ၁၉ သီ, ၂၀၂၆ နီၣ် အဘၢၣ်စၢၤန့ၣ်လီၤ.

နမ့ၢ်အိၣ်ဒီးတၢ်သံကွၢ်တဖၣ်လၢအဘၣ်ဃးဒီး ကီၢ်ဖိအတၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤပၣ်ဃုာ်လၢတၢ်ဒီးစဲးအပူၤန့ၣ်, ဝံသးစူၤ ဆဲးကျိးန့ၣ်အကီၢ်ခိၣ်န့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.

နမ့ၢ်အဲၣ်ဒီးသ့ၣ်ညါအါထီၣ်တၢ်ဂ့ၢ်တၢ်ကျိၤလၢအဘၣ်ဃး ဒီး English language proficiency assessments (တၢ်မၤကွၢ်အဲကလံးကျိၣ်တၢ်သ့တၢ်ဘၣ်ပတီၢ်တၢ်ဒီးစဲးတဖၣ်) ဒီး MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal (မံၣ်န့ၣ်စိထံၣ်တၢ်ကူၣ်ဘၣ်ကူၣ်သ့ဝဲကျိၤ မိၢ်ပၢ်/ပုၤကွၢ်ထွဲတၢ် တၢ်ပၣ်ဃုာ်မၤသကိးတၢ် အလံာ်န့ၣ်ကျဲၤ ဒီး တၢ်သမၤကွၢ်တၢ်) လံာ်တကီၢ်ဒိးန့ၣ်, ဝံသးစူၤ လဲၤန့ၣ်လီၤဆူ -

- ACCESS ဟံၣ်ဖိဃိတၢ်ဒီးစဲး တၢ်ဂ့ၢ်တၢ်ကျိၤ ပုၤယဲၤ - spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- မံၣ်န့ၣ်စိထံၣ်ကူၣ်သ့ဝဲကျိၤဟံၣ်ဖိဃိတၢ်ဒီးစဲးအတၢ်ဂ့ၢ်တၢ်ကျိၤပုၤယဲၤ - education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

နမ့ၢ်အိၣ်ဒီးတၢ်သံကွၢ်ဂုၤဂၤတဖၣ်န့ၣ် ဝံသးစူၤ ဆဲးကျိးန့ၣ်အကီၢ်န့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.



2025-26 WIDA ACCESS

Sharciyada gobolka iyo kuwa federaalku waxay doonayaan in la qiimeeyo sannadkiiba dhammaan ardayda Ingiriiska barato (EL) si loo cabbiro horumarkooda ah xagga akhriska, qorista, dhegeysiga iyo ku hadalka luuqadda Ingiriisiga.

Minnesota waxay u isticmaashaa imtixaanka WIDA ACCESS qaab sannadle ah oo lagu qiimeeyo ardayda. Ardayda barato luuqadda (EL) ee hesha adeegyada waxbarashada gaarka ah oo sidoo kalena buuxiya hab-raacyada qaarkood waxa laga yaabaa inay qaataan imtixaan ka duwan nooca caadiga ee la dhaho WIDA Alternate ACCESS.

Imtixaannadan waxaa loo isticmaalaa in lagu eego haddii ardaydu ay buuxiyaan heerarka koboca luuqadeed ee la dhaho WIDA English Language Development Standards iyo haddii uu ardaygu diyaar u yahay inuu ka baxo barnaamijka barashada luuqadda (EL) ee SPPS.

Dhammaan ardayda barato luuqadda (EL) ee SPPS ee fasallada K-12 waxa la siin doonaa imtixaannada WIDA ACCESS ama midka la dhaho WIDA Alternate ACCESS inta u dhaxaysa January 26 ilaa March 19, 2025.

Haddii aad qabtid wax su'aalo ah oo ku saabsan ka-qaybgalka ardaygaaga ee imtixaankan, fadlan la xiriir maamulaha iskoorka ilmahaaga.

Wixii xog dheeraad ah ee ku saabsan qiimaynta aqoonta luuqadda Ingiriisiga iyo foomka MDE ee ah diidmada ka qaybgalka waalidka/masuulka ee imtixaanka (MDE Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal form), fadlan booqo:

- Bogga Xogta Imtixaanka ACCESS ee loogu talagalay qoysaska: spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- Bogga xogta imtixaanka ee qoysaska loogu tala galay ee Wasaaradda Waxbarashada (MDE Family Testing Information): education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

Fadlan la xiriir iskoorka ilmahaaga haddii aad wax su'aalo ah qabtid.



Prueba WIDA ACCESS 2025-2026

Las leyes estatales y federales exigen que todos los estudiantes aprendiendo inglés (EL por sus siglas en inglés) sean evaluados anualmente para medir su progreso en lectura, escritura, comprensión auditiva y expresión oral en inglés.

Minnesota utiliza la prueba WIDA ACCESS como su evaluación anual. Los estudiantes EL que reciben servicios de educación especial y que cumplen con ciertas pautas pueden tomar la prueba WIDA Alternate ACCESS en su lugar.

Estas pruebas se utilizan para ver si los estudiantes cumplen con los Estándares de Desarrollo del Idioma Inglés de WIDA y determinar si un estudiante está listo para salir del programa EL de SPPS.

Todos los estudiantes EL de SPPS entre K-12 grado tomarán las pruebas WIDA ACCESS o WIDA Alternate ACCESS entre el 26 de enero y el 19 de marzo del 2026.

Si tiene preguntas sobre la participación de su estudiante, por favor converse con el director de su niño.

Para obtener más información sobre las evaluaciones de dominio del idioma inglés y la Guía de Participación Para Padres/guardianes y Formulario de Rechazo de MDE, visite:

- Sitio web para las familias con información sobre la prueba ACCESS:
spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access-family-information
- Sitio web para las familias con información sobre pruebas de MDE:
education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/

Si tiene preguntas, contacte a la escuela de su niño.



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!





June 22-26, 2026 | Camp check-in 8-8:45 a.m.; Check-out 4-5 p.m. | Ages 11-14 (grades 6-8)

Did you ever wonder where the food you eat every day comes from? How is it grown?

How do we figure out its nutrition content, and create more nutritious and tastier varieties? Can we adapt the plants we eat so they can survive the changing climate? How is sustainable agricultural research guiding us back to more eco-friendly practices?

Go behind the scenes at the U of M to get hands-on experience with these issues delivered by practicing scientists in the field, literally!

Cost: **FREE***

**Free for eligible students who qualify. Note: Lunch not provided. Early registration for eligible students will open February 2, 2026 – one week prior to standard registration.*



Scan code to see if you are eligible for free registration or visit z.umn.edu/FoodAgUpReg

Contact Erica at 612-625-2242 or ypsummer@umn.edu with questions.

FREE BUSSING will be provided if there is interest and demand.

Held in partnership with University of Minnesota Recreation & Wellness Youth Programs; half of your day at camp will feature recreational activities, and half will be filled with science fun!

DAY 1 Use your scientific skills and experiment with chemistry at the Analytic Chemistry Lab.

DAY 2 Visit with the Genomics Center staff where students will extract DNA, learn about cutting edge DNA sequencing methods and see a mini sequencer working. They will also learn about how genes control the development of an organism and examine fruit fly mutants.

DAY 3 Visit an agricultural field on campus and explore where the plants are grown and how plant doctors help sick plants.

DAY 4 Tour the St. Paul Campus dairy barn, observe the microbes in a cow's rumen, measure out the feed ingredients for a lactating cow, and lead an assigned calf in the field.

DAY 5 Visit the Supercomputing Institute and see how we use fast computers to link the information learned on Days 1-4 with the world's vast amount of information on food, animals and plants.

MEET YOUR CAMP LEADERS:



George Annor
Food Science & Nutrition



Daryl Gohl
Genomics Center Innovation Lab



Isaac Salfer
Animal Science



Christy Henzler
Minnesota Supercomputing Institute



Kevin Silverstein
Minnesota Supercomputing Institute



Getiria Onsongo
Macalester Computer Science



Emily Conley
Agronomy and Plant Genetics



Toby Fitzsimons
PepsiCo Ag R&D



Becca Hall
Plant Pathology

PRESENTED BY:



To request disability accommodations, contact Erica Churchill at ypsummer@umn.edu or call 612-625-2242. We will do our best to accommodate requests. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



Did you ever stop to think when you bite into a warm fluffy slice of fresh bread how it was made?



Did you know that bread is one of the key foundations of modern society, first prepared over 5,000 years ago? And that the characteristic fluffiness is due to the work of helpful bacteria and yeasts?

Come join us for 4 days of exploration where you will use modern science to tease out the factors that affect bread's properties and taste, plus shape, bake and eat your own bread products!

Cost: **FREE***

**Free for eligible students who qualify. Note: Lunch not provided. Early registration for eligible students will open February 2, 2026 – one week prior to standard registration.*



Scan code to see if you are eligible for free registration or visit z.umn.edu/BreadPreReg.

Contact Erica at 612-625-2242 or ypsummer@umn.edu with questions.

FREE BUSSING will be provided if there is interest and demand

- DAY 1** **Food Science Lab I:** Students will perform experiments with dough under different conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity, rising time, yeast species, grain source) and see how it affects its properties (e.g., elasticity, rising volume).
- DAY 2** **Genomic Lab and Super computing Institute:** Students will perform lab tests and sequencing to compare the microorganisms in a sourdough culture that was frozen in March 2020 with one that was continually used since then.
- DAY 3** **Plant Sciences:** Students will explore the traits that make wheat ideal for different baked products and learn how breeders improve quality through active experimentation, demonstrations, role playing and product tasting.
- DAY 4** **Food Science Lab II:** Students will bake buns filled with their favorite treats, experiencing the fun of shaping, proofing, rising, and baking their loaves.

MEET YOUR CAMP LEADERS:



Christy Henzler
Minnesota Supercomputing Institute



Kevin Silverstein
Minnesota Supercomputing Institute



Getria Onsongo
Macalester Computer Science



Becca Hall
Plant Pathology



Emily Conley
Agronomy and Plant Genetics



Susan Reynolds
Agronomy and Plant Genetics



Daryl Gohl
Genomics Center Innovation Lab



George Annor
Food Science & Nutrition

Held in partnership with University of Minnesota Recreation & Wellness Youth Programs; half of your day at camp will feature recreational activities, and half will be filled with science fun.

PRESENTED BY:



PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



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THE RAPTOR CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Ecosystems of STEM

Middle School Workshops



Learn about raptors



Study outdoor ecosystems



Explore STEM careers



Join us at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center for a 5-day, summer-camp style workshop! Throughout the week, we'll investigate our local ecosystems and engage with the STEM professionals that study and protect these spaces.

About the program:

- Free of cost
- 5 day camp, 9am-3pm Monday - Friday, aftercare optional
- One off-site field trip with lunch provided
- Open to Minneapolis and Saint Paul students entering 6th-8th grades



Program Dates:

July 20 - 24th
July 27 - 31st
August 3 - 7th
August 10 - 14th

Registration opens on February 9th on raptor.umn.edu

Questions? Please contact Claire Sponheim at sponh012@umn.edu



Funding for this project is provided by the Cargill Foundation, which supports STEM Education programs that increase equitable access and participation in STEM.





THE RAPTOR CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Ecosystems of STEM Internship Program



Shadow conservation careers



Study outdoor ecosystems



Research your own topic



Become an intern at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center this summer! This program gives high school students the opportunity to dive into the diverse STEM career network that supports wildlife conservation in the Twin Cities.

About the program:

- 4 week program (June 15th - July 10th)
- 9am-3pm Monday - Friday
- 4 off-site field trips
- Paid, \$18/hour
- Open to Minneapolis and Saint Paul students entering 10th-12th grade



Application Timeline:

March 2026 - Applications go live on raptor.umn.edu

Early April 2026 - Candidate Interviews

Late April 2026 - Candidates Selected

Questions? Please contact Claire Sponheim at sponh012@umn.edu



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