

MURRAY PILOTS

February 27, 2026

A Note from Your Principal

If you fall behind, run faster. Never give up, never surrender and rise up against all odds. Reverend Jesse Jackson

The mid-quarter for Q3 is already upon us as of March 4. The days are buzzing by and I can feel spring on our door step. Mid-quarter is a great time to have a conversation with your student regarding their academic progress and their plans moving forward to finish strong. A very important framework that we have at Murray for academic success is our Standards Based Learning and Grading system that allows for reassessments. I encourage all families to review Schoology and create a plan with your student for any reassessments that need to take place or for any missing work that needs to be completed. It's important that we stress with our Murray Pilots that they should never give up and always take full advantage of the systems and supports that are in place to foster success. All of our teachers have steps established for reassessment. Students need to advocate for themselves and begin to own their academic outcomes. This is a life-long skill that we are working to instill in our Pilots as self-advocacy is something that we use for our entire lives. If you have questions, please reach out directly to your student's teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Celebrations:

Band/Orchestra - 11 Murray musicians, Ksenija Cantrell, Jonas Bell, Ollie Callahan Schreiber, Trygve Golden-Lundquist, Robin Courtney, Petra Mueller, Bea Power, Lucia Barnes, Emmett Loth, Ethan Dotzauer and Johnny Reinhardt, went up to UMD-Duluth on Tuesday, Feb 24th for a Middle School Honor Band. Students received music at 9am and performed a concert at 4pm. They worked hard and had a lot of fun with musicians from around Minnesota.

#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Revermann would like to celebrate Ashley Htoo. Ashley has been working hard as an 8th grader, including in her classes, sports, activities, and band. She's also stepped up as an amazing leader and helper in our school as a WEB leader. Ashley's hard work has earned her great success this year in a variety of ways, and she shows what it means to be a consistent and reliable leader and role model. She is an amazing Murray Pilot! Great work, Ashley!
#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Engelstad would like to celebrate Sonia Ooh. Whenever I see Sonia, she seems very positive, kind and has a smile on her face. Seeing that kindness and positivity

makes my day!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Denae would like to recognize Oliver Yang. Oliver always goes above and beyond in class to learn new things. Oliver always sees what is needed and volunteers to help. He will pick up things in the room, go get reeds for other students, and is willing to take any challenge that Ms. Denae gives him.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie

Principal, Murray Middle School

Classroom Happenings

Sixth Grade

Minnesota Studies with Ms. Atchison and Mr. Kareem:

We started learning about the Fur Trade! We learned why so many people were obsessed with beaver furs, and why trading became important. We looked at the various jobs involved in the trade and most decided they would not want to Voyageurs. Up next, we will be learning about treaties and why the United States and the Dakota and Ojibwe signed treaties with each other.

Seventh Grade

American Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman:

We are wrapping up History Day in these first weeks of February. Students whose projects are chosen to advance will have more information about the Competition mid-February. In class we are jumping back into content by exploring the Roaring 20's with all the glamor of Jazz, the automobile, the Harlem Renaissance, and Flappers. Students will be creating a 'Life' Magazine cover to show all of the large changes in US culture. Looking past the 1920s, we will examine the 1930s and the Great Depression.

Pre-Algebra with Mr. Gravert:

Our 7th graders have officially stepped into the role of data analysts as we begin our new unit on Data. Over the next few weeks, students will learn how to transform raw information into meaningful stories. We are starting with "Measures of Center" (mean, median, and mode) to help students identify typical values in any data set. From there, we will explore various ways to visualize that information, including frequency tables, histograms, and circle charts. Understanding these diagrams is a vital real-world skill for interpreting the graphs and statistics seen in daily media.

To put these skills into practice, students will complete a comprehensive Data Project at the end of the unit. Each student will develop a unique research question and collect their own real-world data. They will then summarize their findings through statistical analysis and create a frequency chart, histogram, and circle chart to illustrate the results. The project culminates in a written paragraph where students explain exactly what their data reveals. I look forward to seeing the creative questions students choose and how they apply these mathematical tools to topics they are passionate about!

Eighth Grade

Integrated Math 1 with Mr. Gravert:

In Integrated Math 1, students are currently laying the groundwork for higher-level mathematics through our Foundations of Geometry unit. This unit transitions students from basic shapes to the formal logic required for geometric proof. We began by defining essential terms and postulates that serve as the "building blocks" of the subject, alongside hands-on constructions of geometric figures. Students are also mastering key coordinate geometry tools, specifically the Midpoint Formula and the Distance Formula, to analyze segments algebraically.

Beyond just formulas, we are focusing heavily on the logic behind the math by exploring both inductive and deductive reasoning. These reasoning skills are the final piece of the puzzle as students begin the challenging task of writing formal geometric proofs. By the end of the unit, students will be able to use their knowledge of definitions and theorems to construct logical arguments that prove mathematical truths. It is a rigorous shift in thinking, but it provides the critical thinking skills necessary for all future math courses.

Physical Science with Ms. Dooley and Ms. Atkinson:

8th grade students investigating electricity.



Sixth, Seventh, Eighth Grade

Personal Finance with Mr. Gravert:

In our Personal Finance elective, students have begun their second unit of the semester, Consumer Skills, which focuses on the art of spending money responsibly. This unit is designed to transform students into savvy consumers by teaching them how to navigate everyday financial decisions with confidence. We are currently exploring the practicalities of Comparison Shopping, the strategic use of Coupons and Discounts, and the often-overlooked skill of accurately Reading a Receipt. Additionally, students are learning the mechanics of managing Checking Accounts and evaluating the pros and cons of Different Types of Payments, from cash and debit to digital apps.

Our primary goal is to empower students to understand where their money goes and how to make it work harder for them. By mastering these foundational habits now, they are building the discipline necessary for long-term financial independence. We encourage you to involve your student in your next shopping trip or banking errand to see these skills in action! For more tips on how to support these lessons at home, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau offers an excellent [guide on talking about financial decisions](#) with your child.

Band/Orchestra

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Announcements

8th Grade JA Finance Park Fieldtrip

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.

ATHLETICS

Spring Sports: Baseball, Girls' Badminton, Softball, Track & Field

Please register on Arbiter:

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

EDL

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](#)

Murray Middle Presents...

Cinderella; Youth Edition

Performances will be:

Friday, March 13th, 7:00PM

Saturday, March 14th, 7:00PM

Sunday, March 15th, 2:00PM

[Murray Musical - Cinderella; Youth Edition - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools](#)

Picture Day

School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at <https://shop.jostenspix.com/login>

MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL · Event Code: FE33325

Yearbook

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

Deadline to purchase online: May 29, 2026

Murray to Regionals 2026

Individual Exhibit:

1. Ethan Dotzauer: The CCC in Minnesota
 2. Emma Gutierrez Worthington: Night Witches
 3. Adeline Moody: The Creation of the National Park Service
 4. Felix Mortensen: The Solar Cell
 5. Molly Ehlers: The Vine that Ate the South
 6. Joselyn Morales Tlacuatl: Zoot Suit Riots
 7. Siri Shepard: Trudy Ederle
 8. Arnav Jagtap: A Dearly Bought Victory
 9. Maeve Gudmastad: The Hello Girls
- Honorable Mentions: Junah A., Asha L., Myles A., Shannon S., Lulou M., Hazel H., Carter P., Alyssa P., Piper S., Ivan H., Ray G., Augie J., Jackson R-J.

Group Exhibit:

1. Oliver Yang & Carl Johnson: How the Game Changed Forever
 2. Nico Nyala, Lucy Keeler & Benji Staloch: Steps to Equality
 3. Shiprah Dutta & Mabel Haugo: Boston Tea Party
 4. Ruby Laska & Katerina Hanson: 9/11 Air Travel
 5. Iko Inyang & Theo Martinson: The Riveting Revolution
 6. June Anderson & Olivia Rentmeester: Anne Frank; A writer in History
- Honorable Mentions: Alexandra & Isabelle, Autumn W. & Adie B., Ellie F. & Noelia G.

Individual Documentary:

1. Kara Bergman: The Victorian's Poisonous Pigment
2. Seraphine Courtney: A Pledge to All
3. Vala Matlock: Roe V. Wade
4. Aubrey Washington: We need to be heard
5. Lucia Barnes: Amber Alert
6. Joseph Ehlers: How Sesame Street Revolutionized Children's Television
7. Riley Carney: Food Pyramid
8. Simon Small: TV Dinners

Group Documentary:

1. Emmett Loth, Robin Courtney & Peter Laska: Reforming Occupational Lead Use: The Alice Hamilton Story
2. Henry Leach, Adrian Johnson & Duncan Peterson: The Battle of Blair Mountain
3. Ikeah Hakanson & Johnny Reinhardt: The Boundary Waters Wilderness Act of 1978
4. Oliver Callahan Schreiber & Erik Bollman: Brick By Brick: how Lego shaped the toy industry
5. Emile Liuzzi-Mohar & Sylvia Turk-Themes: Different from the Others
6. Elliot Lueck, Jordi Rovira & Charlie Anderson: Invention and Implementation of Instant Replay

Individual Performance:

1. Carter Matlock: AAGPBL: The Shoulders We Stand On

Group Performance:

1. Myles McCormick & Piper Williamson: The Salem Witch Trials
2. Declan Zimowicz, Charles Youngquist, Timmy Inyang & Isaac Vanasse: Steamboat Willie: The Mouse that started it All
3. Maggie Hayes & Beatrice Power: Jane Goodall

Individual Website:

1. Frank Connolly: Make Sure the Wilderness Retains its Title, the 1964 Wilderness Act
2. Trygve Golden-Lundquist: Ford Model T And The Assembly Line
3. Petra Mueller: Inez Milholland
4. Emine Cakir: Protests That Last a Lifetime Before During and After The Iranian Revolution
5. Harriet Zbacnik: Roe v Wade
6. Spencer Hosch: The Conservationist President
7. Maja Briggs: Jaw Dropping
8. Cleo Lemke: We Can Do It!
9. Maddy McBride: Stunt Reporter Explores NY Asylum

Group Website:

1. Ingrid Sheu, Mariya Adam & Evelyn Amman Steger: Night Witches: Revolutionizing Air Warfare
2. Finn Murch Gordon & Zaid Ahmed: The Bolshevik Revolution
3. William McLafferty & Alex Stoessel: The Attack on Pearl Harbor
4. Ja'Mel Williams & Javier Cerda: Refrigerated Trucking

Podcasts:

1. Anna Patroski: "Pippa Latour: Behind Nazi Lines"
2. Calvin Schwartz: The Rubrics Cube

Papers:

1. Luc Dreamer: P-9 Hormel Strike
2. Leah McGlone: Katherine Kubler
3. Norah Clark: The Miracle of Dunkirk

Counselor's Corner

Counselor's 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

Current 6th and 7th grade families:

We have elective preference registration dates set for April. More information, including a course guide, will be coming soon once our electives are decided on for next year. Please know scheduling is complicated so no classes are guaranteed, and are all dependent on the master schedule and our capacity in classes.

- April 13 week - Foundations teachers will go over elective options with their classes of 6th and 7th graders
- April 20 week - 7th grade registration in science classes during the school day
- April 28 - 6th grade registration in science classes during the school day

8th grade families: Please make these registration dates a priority as all students need to register for high school courses.

- Como Park High School Registration: Tuesday, April 14 from 5-7 PM at Como Park High School
 - Registration form:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rd72sjzqniDumwDqLLjdwB23ILAhBGHKKzesEGo8h5g/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Registration Info:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZtI3tyMPejiQdh3S1bqeD44fN0o8oXmyDXQ3W0hUJuU/edit?usp=sharing>
- Central High School Registration: Thursday, April 24

If you need to make an update to your child's high school enrollment, contact the placement center at spc@spps.org or 651-632-3760.

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: <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>

Murray PTO Website

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](#)

[January #2](#)

Spirit Wear

Visit our showroom at [ThreadArt](#) to order your custom Murray Middle School clothing! Now available: Debate shirts!! You can also purchase a Debate shirt to donate to a student.

****AVAILABLE NOW****

Murray Pilots 100 Years throwback shirts to celebrate 100 years of Murray Greatness!

6:00pm in the Murray Media Center

Thursday, March 12th

Monday, April 20th

Monday, May 18th

Additional Information

VIRTUAL TUTORING FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

**Each School Day | 2-4 p.m.
February 17-March 3**

All middle and high school students who received an "N" in a Quarter 2 class have until March 4 to complete or redo assignments to earn a passing grade. Join a virtual tutoring session for help with accessing materials on Schoology, getting organized, starting assignments, and communicating with teachers about grade updates.

How to join virtual tutoring:

- Log into Clever portal (spps.org/clever)
- Tap the "Q2 Virtual Tutoring" button
- Google Meet will open
- Staff will greet you and provide support



Important Dates

Friday, March 13th - Sunday, March 15th
Murray Musical Performance

Thursday, March 19th
Family/Teacher Conferences
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Friday, March 20th
No School

Saturday, March 29th
Regional History Day

Friday, April 3rd
End of Quarter 3

Monday April 6th - Friday, April 10th
No School, Spring Break

Monday, April 13th
Murray PACT Meeting

5:00pm - 6:30pm

Thursday, April 16th

Family/Teacher Conferences

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Sunday, April 19th

State History Day

Monday, May 4th

Murray PACT Meeting

5:00pm - 6:30pm

Thursday, May 21st

Murray Band & Orchestra Concert

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Monday, May 25 - Wednesday, May 27

No School

Wednesday, June 10th

8th Grade Recognition

9:30am - 11:00am

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Thursday, June 11th

6th Grade Awards - 10:00am

7th Grade Awards - 1:30pm

8th Grade Valleyfair

Last Day of School

Murray Middle School