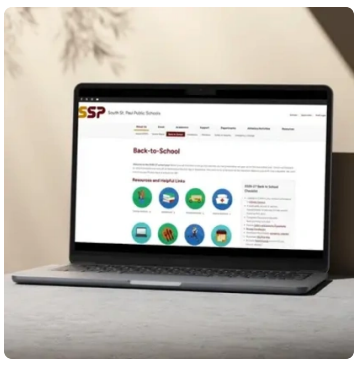


Family News

July 29, 2026

The 2026-27 School year is right around the corner! This newsletter contains important information for the start of the new school year. Be sure to read to the bottom for a back-to-school checklist, action items to complete, and important dates.

Stay Connected for Back-to-School Updates



As the new school year approaches, be sure to check the website throughout August for the latest back-to-school information. Our **School Year Information** page is your one-stop resource for everything you need to get ready for the first day of school, including:

- School supply lists
- Important dates
- Links to key information and resources
- The back-to-school checklist

Visit **www.sspps.org/school-year** to stay up to date and start the school year prepared!

Vaccination Clinic



South St. Paul Public Schools is partnering with Dakota County Public Health to offer a Back-to-School Vaccine Clinic for eligible students.

- Thursday, August 27, 2026
- 1:30 pm to 6:15 pm
- Central Square (100 7th Ave N, SSP)

The clinic will provide free and low-cost vaccinations to eligible children and students. No appointments are necessary. **Learn more on our website**.

SSP Activities is Now Using Bound for Registration and Communications



South St Paul Activities/Athletics is now using Bound, an all-in-one platform for athletics, activities, and facilities management. Bound replaces multiple systems with one easy-to-use platform. It brings all things athletics and activities into one place including: schedules, ticketing, scores, standings, communication, and even fundraising– creating a more seamless experience for our Packer community. Learn more about Bound on the **SSPPS Website**.

Kids' Choice Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year



The South St. Paul Kids' Choice School-Age Care Program is a place where we create a safe atmosphere for youth to develop into self-confident, culturally enriched, compassionate leaders who embrace life-long learning and desire to make a positive change in the world. Kids' Choice operates year round in each of the elementary school buildings. We offer programming before and after school for youth in grades K-5, on non-school days and during the summer for youth in grades K-7. Here at Kids' Choice, students have a voice and we give them skills to become great leaders!

Click here for more information. **Register here!**

Preschool Round-Up



All families registered for South St. Paul Community Preschool in 2026-27 are invited to join us for our Preschool Roundup! Get information about scholarships, transportation, and more while your child gets to meet and have fun with their future teachers and classmates.

- **Lincoln Center:** Tuesday, August 11, 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Kaposia Education Center:** Wednesday, August 12, 5:00-6:00 pm

RSVP for Preschool Roundup Here

Adult Education- Enrolling for the New School Year



South Suburban Adult Education's (SSABE) mission is to provide adults in the TriDistrict Area of Northern Dakota County with educational opportunities to acquire and improve their literacy skills necessary to become self-sufficient and to participate effectively as productive workers, family members, and citizens. Classes are offered during the day, evening, and online. **All classes are FREE!**

- ELL & HSE class information
- English Language Levels 1-6
- English Language Conversation Class
- High School Equivalency (HSE)
- Play, Talk, Learn: Family Learning in Partnership with ECFE

For more information call 651-306-3632 or visit **communityed.sspps.org/abe**

Have You Ever Considered Becoming A Substitute?



South St. Paul Public Schools partners with ESS to manage the recruitment, hiring, training, and placement of substitute teachers, paraprofessionals (classroom and program assistants), and office assistants. We are always looking for caring, dependable individuals, including parents, retirees, college students, and other community members to help support our students and schools.

Substitute positions offer a flexible way to make a meaningful difference while working on a schedule that fits your life. Through ESS, you'll receive flexibility, training, resources and ongoing support needed to feel confident and successful in your substitute role. Their easy to use online scheduling system allows you to choose when, where, and how often you work.

Whether you're exploring a career in teaching, or looking for a flexible part-time opportunity, becoming a substitute is a rewarding way to make an impact.

Interested in joining our team, learn more **on our website**.

Action Needed

Items to Complete Before School Begins

Annual Family Information Verification Begins August 3

Beginning August 3, all SSPPS families will be asked to complete their annual information verification in **Infinite Campus**. When you log into **Campus**, you'll be prompted to "enroll" your student for the 2026-27 school year. Please note, while Infinite Campus uses the word *Enroll* for this annual process, t**his is NOT a new enrollment**. It's simply an opportunity to review and verify the information we have on file for your student and family.

The information we have on file for each student and family will already be pre-populated, so most families will simply need to review and verify that everything is accurate. Please take a few minutes to update any changes to addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts, language preferences, or other important information.

Keeping your information current helps us stay connected with your family throughout the school year. The information we have in Campus is synced with ParentSquare, our district communication system, and is used for both day-to-day school communication and emergency notifications. If your information is up-to-date, the census will only take a few minutes.

Completing the annual information verification is required to:

- See who your elementary homeroom teacher is on August 10
- Receive Middle School and 9th grade schedules at Packer Essentials August 13 and 17

More information will be sent through ParentSquare on August 3.

Apply or Opt Out of Educational Benefits



Educational Benefits is more than free meals and food discounts, it also includes discounted prices for SSP Athletics and Activities. SSPPS needs all families to complete or opt out of the 2026-27 Educational Benefits Application. Qualifying families are eligible for a variety of discounts on top of discounted activities fees. **Visit our website** or log into **Schoolcafe** for more information on discount opportunities and to complete an application.

Accept or Deny District-Provided Transportation



Families who are eligible for district transportation should have received a notice through ParentSquare to accept or deny their spot on the bus. This annual process helps us maintain the most up-to-date student information, plan efficient bus routes, and provide transportation to as many eligible students as possible. Please complete one Transportation Form for each eligible student to indicate whether you will accept or decline district-provided transportation for the upcoming school year. **Click here to fill out the transportation form**. If you are unsure if you qualify, visit the **Transportation webpage** and use the interactive map, or contact Transportation Specialist, Erika Ryan **eryan@sspps.org**.

Pay-to-Ride Transportation

Safe-Way Bus Company offers Pay-to-Ride transportation on a first-come, first-served basis. Pay-to-Ride is for students who are not eligible for District-provided transportation and are attending their assigned SSPPS school. Space is limited and will be available after all District-provided transportation needs have been met. Transportation may not be available on the first day of school. Learn more and join the wait list on the **Transportation webpage**.

Back-to-School Checklist

Things to do:

- Complete or Opt Out of the **Educational Benefits form**
- Review **Safety and Security Procedures**
- Save the back-to-school dates *(below)*
- Download the **printable academic calendar**
- Review **Handbooks**
- If applicable, **accept or decline transportation**
- If applicable, fill out **transportation pay-to-ride waitlist**
- Download **HELPme App**
- Activate **ParentSquare** *(district communication system)* when prompted and download the app

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Important Back-to-School Dates

Secondary (Grades 6-12)

Packer Essentials: Receive schedules/lockers, have their picture taken, and get any needed support from district departments. This is an open house style event.

- August 13 and 17
- 12:00-3:00 pm and 4:00-7:00 pm

Family Connect: Connection teachers will reach out to middle school families in mid-August to schedule a time to meet. High school students and families can walk their schedule and meet with teachers if needed.

- August 26, 3:30-7:30 pm
- August 28, 7:30-11:30 am

Elementary (Grades Prek-5)

Family Connect: Homeroom teachers will reach out to families in mid-August to schedule a time to meet.

- August 27, 8:00 am-8:00 pm
- August 28, 7:30-11:30 am

Open House: Explore the buildings and visit with other school staff. Food trucks will be onsite during this time. No family connection meetings will take place during this time.

- August 27, 5:00-6:00 pm

Kids' Choice Family Connect: Visit with Kids' Choice staff and explore the classrooms

- August 27, 8:00 am-1:30 pm

ECFE Open House: Explore the Early Learning spaces at Kaposia Education Center and meet ECFE teachers and staff

- Sept 3, 4:00-6:00 pm

First Days of School

- **Grades 1-6, 9-12:** Tuesday, September 1, 2026
- **Grades K, 7-8:** Wednesday, September 2, 2026
- **4-Year-Old PreK:** Thursday, September 3, 2026
- **3-Year-Old PreK:** Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Contact Information

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

Phone: (651) 457-9400
Fax: (651) 457-9485
Web: **www.sspps.org**

