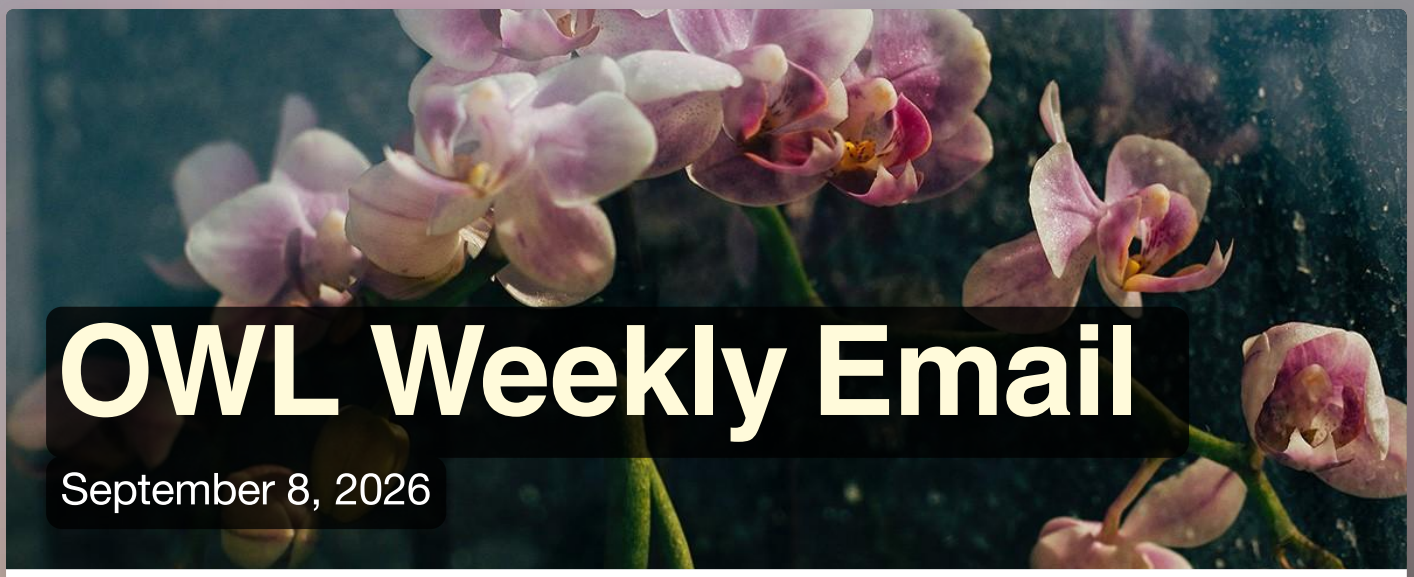
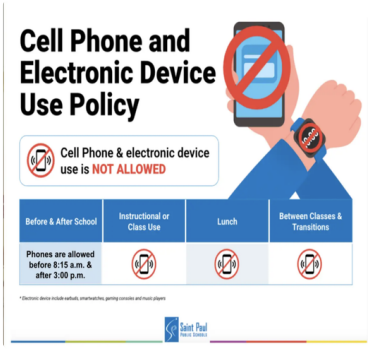


OWL Weekly Email

September 8, 2026

In an effort to increase communication with our students and families, we send a weekly email on Sunday evenings or Monday mornings highlighting upcoming school events. This information will also be shared with students in Schoology and in Crew on Mondays. Events are listed in chronological order.



Welcome (back) to OWL: It was great to see you all for goal-setting conferences last week! We are so excited to begin the 2026-2027 school year!

Fall Retreat Fees Due: Please use THIS LINK to pay for fall retreats. We need everyone who is able to contribute as these experiences are costly. That said, we offer full and partial scholarships to any families that need them. Contact Principal Dave dave.gundale@spps.org to request a scholarship.
Fall Retreat Week—September 22-25 (September 28-October 1 for 12th grade trip): Coming up soon, we will have a big week of learning, service and adventure. We have some great experiences planned. If you did not complete forms at goal-setting conferences, we will be sending them home with your students the first day of school.

•PLEASE RETURN YOUR SIGNED PERMISSION SLIPS AND HEALTH FORMS BY **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** AT THE LATEST.

•If your student needs to take MEDICATION while on retreat, please get them (in original containers) to Nurse Jennifer by **Friday, September 11.**

Look for more information to come from your grade level team. ALL students are expected to participate in their grade-level retreat.

***VOLUNTEER to be a CHAPERONE for Fall Retreats**: We still need more chaperones to pull off our ambitious fall retreat week. If you are able to volunteer, please do. Link to sign up. Thanks!

Application for Educational Benefits (Very Important to Complete!): While all in-person students will receive free breakfast and lunch under Minnesota's Free School Meals program, it remains critical that all families complete an Application for Educational Benefits each school year. Educational Benefit Form These applications determine how much funding your child's school receives for educational programs and supports. Additionally, eligible families can qualify for other benefits. The application can be completed online at schoolcafe.com/spps. Paper applications are available at school. We need 100% of OWL families to complete this form, even if you do not believe you will receive benefits. We have achieved 100% completion on this for the last five years at OWL.

Meal Information: All students are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch under the Minnesota Free School Meal program. As students arrive at school, they can grab their breakfast and eat in class. Hot and cold breakfast options are available.
Single Item Purchases and Second Meals: Second meals, incomplete meals, and single items, such as milk only, must be purchased. The 2026-27 meal and milk prices are:

- Student Second Breakfast: $3.50
- Student Second Lunch: $5.75
- Milk Only: $0.50
- For a complete list of prices, visit spps.org/ns

Monday is Survey Day in Crew: No survey this week.

Fall Ultimate Frisbee Begins TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8:
This fall we have three middle school and four high school teams. Middle School Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Humboldt Grass Fields (High School). High School Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 PM mostly at Humboldt. Games for all teams are Saturdays at the Lake Nokomis fields in Minneapolis. Please contact Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org with questions, for scholarships, or for more information on how to register.

The fall play will be a rendition of William Shakespeare's As You Like It! Mark your calendars for the performance dates on Thursday, December 10th and Friday, December 11th at 7pm in the OWL auditorium.
Design applications and audition sign-ups are on a table outside of the OWL auditorium. All middle and high school students interested in design or acting are encouraged to apply!

- Assistant Director and Design Department Head applications are due Friday, September 11th at 3pm.
- Auditions will take place on Tuesday, September 15th from 3-5pm and during Crew (please only sign-up during Crew if you cannot go after school).
- Design applications are due Wednesday, September 16th at 3pm.

Fall High School Athletics: We're still looking for players for this year's fall high school sports. Are you interested? You can still join. To register go here. You will need to set up a new account first.

If you have any questions contact: OWL Athletic Director Andre Williams andre.williams@spps.org

Fall High School Sports Available:
Boys and Girls Cross Country
Football
Boys and Girls Soccer
Girls Swimming and Diving
Girls Tennis
Girls Volleyball

Weekly Athletic Update: Go HERE to learn about what is happening this week in sports

Middle School Athletics to begin Monday, September 14: Other than Ultimate Frisbee and Archery, OWL middle school athletics are run cooperatively with our neighbor school, Humboldt. There will be an informational meeting for students during Crew on Thursday, Sept 10. Interested students will be called to the meeting and given the forms they need to get signed up for sports.

Note: Students will need a current sports physical to participate in the fall season; please make an appointment with your physician or visit one of our SPPS Health Start Clinics.

Fall Middle School Sports Avaialble:
Flag Football
Soccer (boys and girls)
Volleyball

If you have questions, please contact OWL Athletic Director Andre Williams
andre.williams@spps.org

Picture Day is coming on Tuesday, September 15! You can place your order on mylifetouch.com using your Picture Day ID: **EVT7XXHK6**. Order before midnight on Picture Day to get FREE shipping!
Your child can also bring their completed flyer with cash or check on Picture Day. Orders after Picture Day must be placed online on mylifetouch.com

Student Data Safety and Security: As the only SOC 3 compliant partner in school photography, Lifetouch delivers unmatched protection for student and staff information - backed by third-party verification and trusted by schools nationwide. Learn More.

Open House is Tuesday, September 15th from 6-8PM: Come meet your student's teachers and hear about their classes. In addition to meeting with teachers in their classrooms, there will be grade level presentations at the following times:
6:00 – 6:30 – 9th Grade
6:30 – 7:00 – 8th Grade
7:00 – 7:30 – 7th Grade
7:30 – 8:00 – 6th Grade

There will also be an activity fair in the cafeteria to learn about all the clubs, groups and sports at OWL. Families can also get support with school forms and schoology.

Senior Family Meeting is Tuesday, September 15 from 8-9 PM: All Seniors and their Families will be meeting in the OWL Auditorium right after the Open House to learn all about the senior year expectations and deadlines.

No School on Monday, September 21: Staff Professional Development Day

OWL Community Group Meeting—Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 PM in the OWL Cafeteria: We invite students, parents, guardians and staff to learn about how you can help contribute to a rich learning environment, support our fantastic staff & build community.
The OWL Community group combines the functions of our former Site Council and PTO. In addition to the school governance advisory role of the site council, the group works to enrich student learning by continuing PTO functions that provide funding for fall retreats, spring interim courses, program grants for teachers to enhance classroom expeditions, transportation for fieldwork, MCA snacks, and more. In addition, we support opportunities for community building at the Fall Family Gathering, the annual Potluck for Teachers, teacher appreciation week, working in the OWL gardens, selling OWL spirit wear, and more. If you have questions, contact Dave: dave.gundale@spps.org.

NO SCHOOL—Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16: State Teacher Convention (MEA weekend)

After School Programming Begins: Monday, October 19: Flipside is the fun & free afterschool program for Humboldt and OWL. This program is open to all grades and will begin on October 19th. Classes meet from 3-5 pm either on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class options and registration form will be available here in the coming weeks.

ATTN: 10th grade students wanting to take the PSAT: The PSAT is given to all 11th grade students in SPPS but 10th grade students have the option to take the PSAT for an $18 fee for extra practice on October 20th. The PSAT is used as an indicator for National Merit Scholarships .
If your student is interested in taking the PSAT in Grade 10 please register by emailing Rebecca Palmer (testing coordinator) at rebecca2.palmer@spps.org by **Friday Sept 11, 2026**.
Payment should be turned into the school office by October 2, 2026 of $18. The payments can be cash or if by check, should be made out to “Office of College and Career Readiness."
Please reach out to Rebecca Palmer (testing coordinator)at rebecca2.palmer@spps.org with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE! The OWL Fall Family Gathering will be Thursday, October 22, 5:30-8 pm, at the Harriet Island Pavilion: Come together with the OWL community for food, fun and friendship in a beautiful location. Look for more information in future weekly emails.

Spirit week is October 19-23: Show your school spirit by dressing up. The daily themes will be announced later this fall.

Homecoming Dance is Friday, October 23 in the OWL Cafeteria: Middle School dance is from 5:30-7PM. High School Dance is 7:30-9:30. Tickets will be for sale in October.

Homecoming Game is Saturday, October 24 at 4PM: OWL's annual Homecoming Game features the high school Ultimate Frisbee team playing one of our rivals at the Humboldt Stadium. All students and families are encouraged to come cheer them on!

Dia de los Muertos Celebration at OWL is Thursday, October 29 at 6 PM: Come celebrate Latinx culture at OWL with this family friendly event with lots of fun and great food. Contact: Tim timothy.leone-getten@spps.org

Last day of Quarter 1 is Thursday, November 12: Be sure to get all your work completed and submitted!

No School on Friday, November 13: Staff Professional Development Day

This month in Crew: We are welcoming all students, getting settled into school routines, and learning about our school's history. Check out the September Crew slides and the September folder in your Schoology Advisory course to learn more.

OWL Crew Parliament: We will begin with all other clubs on October 7. Want to help host the Parliament table at the OWL clubs fair during the September 15 Open House? Reach out to Connie (cvangenderen001@stpaul.k12.mn.us) and Megan (megan.hall@spps.org).

AVID Schoolwide: Everyone at OWL is eligible to receive a free OWL planner the first week of school. Whether you use a school planner, your own planner, or a digital system to track your responsibilities, be sure to prioritize intentional to-do lists. Write down what you did in class and what you need to do to be ready for your next class, every day!

Service Spotlight: Thank you to the many Outward Bound students who worked so hard last week to get OWL classrooms and common spaces ready for the start of school. Your work made a huge difference, and the whole community is so grateful for your stewardship.

Don't have an iPad?: Students who do not have an iPad will be getting one during the first two weeks of school. Also, all students will be getting a NEW iPad during the first two weeks.

Update on Technology Use from Principal Dave:
I am writing today with an update on technology use at our school. Saint Paul Public Schools is responding to family and staff feedback about screen time, social-emotional effects of technology, and the continued need for hands-on learning. There are many new and continuing technology safeguards in place for students in the 2026-27 school year. More information is available at spps.org/digital-support.
Here is a list of ways we are keeping our secondary students safe and engaged.
• Secondary access to YouTube access will be reviewed later this fall in collaboration with teachers and administrators.
• Students carry iPads from class to class and bring home to do homework.

• Google Gemini and other Artificial Intelligence is disabled in grades 6-8.
• Digital Citizenship is a requirement for Saint Paul Public Schools. All students PreK-12 complete Digital Citizenship, Online Safety / Privacy, Online Behavior and Cyberbullying lessons in class each fall. Teachers review lessons with students periodically throughout the year.
Additional student iPad security and restrictions are being enabled to keep students safe and focused. Among these changes:
• No mass e-mailing. There is a 35 recipient maximum for emails on student Gmail accounts.
• Students are unable to sign into their personal Google Account.
• Artificial Intelligence (AI) Google search results have been limited and reduced from student access.
What you can do at home:
Families can use the free Securly app to manage your student's school iPad when it is at home. You can pause internet access, block specific websites or schedule offline time. In the Securly app, enter your Campus Parent email then tap “get instant access” to set up your account.
Families can also use iPad “Screentime Reports” (inside the Settings App) for similar controls and usage information.
Please reach out to me directly with any concerns about iPad or technology use.

One proven way to live a happy life is to express gratitude: Is there a staff member at OWL that has done something you are grateful for? Shoot them an email! An alternative and way has been made available by filling out this link. (This form requires an email but is sent anonymously.)

Important Reminder about Attendance: If your child is going to miss school, please call, email owlattendance@spps.org or write a note to explain the reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is documented as unexcused. After 3 days of unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from the school reminding you to please communicate with us so the absence(s) may be documented accurately. If your child continues to miss school, unexcused, he/she will be referred to the SAM (School Attendance Matters) Program for intervention.

The following reasons for absence qualify as an excused absence; illness, doctor, dental or therapy appointment (please be sure to obtain a note to give to the school), extreme family emergency or religious holiday not already recognized by our school district. When a student misses 3 or more class periods in one day, this is considered to be a full day of absence. Please call us if you have any questions/concerns.


Timothy Leone-Getten
Timothy is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters