

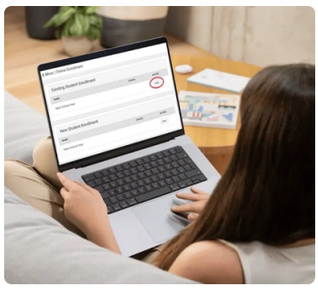
Family News

October 28, 2026

Important School Year Reminders

With the school year well underway and colder weather approaching, we want to share a few important reminders to help families stay informed and connected throughout the year.

Keep Your Contact Information Updated



Whether communicating about weather-related school closings or other emergencies, having accurate family contact information is essential. Please take a moment to make sure your contact information is current in the **Campus Parent Portal** so you don't miss important district or school notifications.
Need help accessing your account?
View our Parent Portal Instructions: **English** | **Spanish**

Winter Weather & Emergency Closing Reminders



As we head into the colder months, we want to remind families how South St. Paul Public Schools communicates school closings, late starts, or early dismissals due to weather or other emergencies. We aim to make decisions by 5:30 AM, with notifications sent to families shortly thereafter through:

- **ParentSquare:** Email, text, and phone call if necessary
- **District Website: www.sspps.org**
- **Social Media:** Facebook, X, and Instagram
- **Local Media:** WCCO-AM (830), WCCO (Channel 4), KSTP (Channel 5), FOX 9, and KARE 11

Emergency Closing Procedures

Closing Day 1: A traditional snow day, with no school or e-learning. This allows staff time to prepare for potential e-learning days.

Closing Days 2–6: E-Learning Days to maintain instructional time and support continued learning.

Closing days are counted throughout the entire school year, not separately for each weather event. Your student's teacher will be in contact when there is an emergency closing to communicate which **e-learning plan** to follow for that day.

School Safety Reminders



In addition to weather-related closings, we also want families to be informed and prepared in the event of other school emergencies. Throughout the school year, our students and staff participate in training and drills to help ensure they are familiar with our emergency response procedures and know how to respond.

SSPPS follows the Standard Response Protocol (SRP), developed by the I Love U Guys Foundation, which provides consistent language and procedures for responding to different types of emergencies. We also work closely with local law enforcement and other community partners as part of our ongoing safety planning and preparation.

We encourage families to take a few moments to review our **Safety & Security webpage** to learn more about these procedures and what to expect in the event of a school emergency.

Have You Completed Your Application for Educational Benefits?

All South St. Paul Public Schools families are encouraged to complete an Application for Educational Benefits each school year, regardless of income or past eligibility. Families who qualify may receive discounts on athletic and activity fees, internet and phone services, and membership opportunities. Your application also helps our schools qualify for important grants and state and federal funding that support students and learning. If your household's financial situation changes during the school year, you can submit a new application at any time with updated information. More information in the **Nutrition Services** section of the website.

Education on the Ballot this Election Tuesday

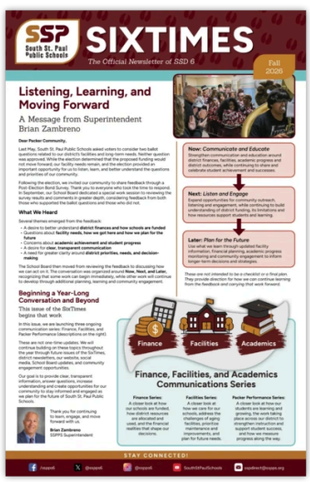


The November 3 general election includes five SSPPS School Board seats and a proposed Minnesota Permanent School Fund constitutional amendment.

- **Permanent School Fund:** The amendment would change how an existing state fund supports public schools. It would not create a new tax or require a local property tax increase. If approved, SSPPS could receive an estimated $80,000 in additional annual revenue.
- **School Board Candidates:** See who is on the ballot and learn what each seat opening entails.

More information about the amendment and frequently asked questions, as well as where to find your polling location can be found on our **elections webpage**.

Fall 2026 SixTimes


SSP South St. Paul Public Schools
SIXTIMES
The Official Newsletter of SSD 6
Fall 2026
Listening, Learning, and Moving Forward
A Message from Superintendent Brian Zambreno
Beginning a Year-Long Conversation and Beyond
Finance
Facilities
Academics
Finance, Facilities, and Academics Communications Series
STAY CONNECTED!

The fall 2026 edition of SixTimes arrived in mailboxes last week, sharing results from the community survey following last spring's unsuccessful bond and capital projects levy ballot questions. This edition also introduces our new Finance, Facilities, and Packer Performance communication series. These series are a yearlong effort to help our community better understand how our schools are funded, what's next for our district facilities, and how we're working in our classrooms to improve academic outcomes. We'll share special-edition newsletters throughout the year featuring the latest updates in each area.

You can read the full digital version of the Fall SixTimes (also in Spanish) **on our website**.

Packer Pride in Action

TriDistrict CAPS at Regions Hospital



TriDistrict CAPS Healthcare and Medicine students visited Regions Hospital Simulation Center to explore healthcare careers, practice medical skills, and work as a team to treat "Frank" in an operating room crisis simulation. Hands-on learning in action! **Read more on our website**

Base Camp Middle School Field Trips



Throughout October, SSP Middle School students headed to Base Camp for hands-on experiences focused on teamwork, leadership, outdoor skills, and personal fitness. Students challenged themselves, built confidence, and strengthened connections with classmates. A big thank-you to the SSP Ed Foundation for sponsoring the field trips and grade-level t-shirts! **Read more on our website**.

Building Social-Emotional Skills for Success



South St. Paul Public Schools is introducing a new social-emotional learning (SEL) framework for students in PreK–5. Students will build skills like managing emotions, solving conflicts, building positive relationships, and making thoughtful decisions. These skills support classroom learning, our Packer values, and success beyond school. Learn more about SEL and how it helps students thrive on our **website**.

Upcoming Community Ed Programs

- **Winter 2026 Gymnastics**
- **Puzzle Competition**
- **Fitness Classes Starting Soon at Central Square!**

School Board Meeting

Here are highlights from the SSPPS School Board meeting on October 26, 2026. You can view the whole meeting on the **SSPPS School Board section of the website**.

Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Reading (CACR) Report

Leaders from the SSP Educational Services Department presented to the board on the district's annual Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) Report, formerly known as the World's Best Workforce. The presentation provided an overview of the district's progress toward student achievement and readiness goals, highlighting key outcomes, areas of growth, and opportunities for continued improvement. **View the Board Presentation Video here**.

Quality in Action: Lincoln Center Student Ambassadors



Lincoln Center staff and students shared an overview of the Student Ambassador Program, which gives 4th and 5th graders opportunities to build leadership skills, serve their school and community, and develop positive relationships. The presentation highlighted student involvement, the program's impact, and opportunities for ambassadors to continue leading, serving and making a difference.

MSHSL Grant Foundation Approval

The School Board approved participation in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Foundation grant program. The program helps expand access to high school athletics and fine arts by providing financial support to encourage student participation, particularly for students from families with limited incomes.

Board Approves Preliminary Costa Rica Student Trip

The School Board approved preliminary plans for a proposed Costa Rica trip during spring break 2028 for students enrolled in Spanish classes. The trip would give students the opportunity to practice Spanish, experience Costa Rican culture, and extend their classroom learning. The proposal will return to the Board for final approval closer to the trip date.

Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Public Health

The School Board approved a Joint Powers Agreement between South St. Paul Public Schools and Dakota County Public Health. Through this partnership, Tri-District CAPS students will explore public health careers through presentations, projects, and hands-on learning experiences. Students will also have opportunities to share their perspectives and provide feedback on Dakota County's public health outreach efforts.

The following policy reviews were approved by the Board:

- **205- Open Meetings and Closed Meetings**
- **306- Administrator Code of Ethics**
- **808- Memorials**



Important Dates

- **November 25:** No school for students, staff PD day
- **November 26-27:** District Holiday, Buildings Closed
- **November 30:** No school for students, staff PD day
- **December 23-January 1:** Winter Break

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**