



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District 625
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Bruce F. Vento Elementary

409 Case Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55130

Phone: (651) 293-8685 | Fax: (651) 293-8688 | spps.org/domain/64

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

We hope you have been enjoying your summer! All of us at Bruce F. Vento Elementary have been busy preparing for the upcoming school year and we are excited to get the year off to a great start.

Please take some time to read through the following information. Our goal is to answer all of your questions as we prepare for Distance Learning 2.0. Should you need anything else please call our office at (651) 293-8685. The phones will be answered by our staff even though we are not in the building.

We look forward to starting school on **Tuesday, September 8** for grades 1-5 and on **Thursday, September 10** for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Pre-K and Kindergarten families will be invited to attend virtual welcome meetings with their teachers before the first week of school.

School Hours

We are following our school's regular start and end times from 9:30-4:00, regardless of whether students are in distance learning, hybrid or in-person learning scenarios. Instructional availability for learning will occur during this time.

School Contact Information:

Main..... 651-293-8685
Attendance..... 651-744-3493
Nurse..... 651-888-7608
Fax..... 651-293-8688



Please check our school website regularly, spps.org/domain/64 for information and updates.

SPPS uses Blackboard Connect to alert families about important school news and information, events, weather cancellations, emergencies and more through email, phone and text. **Update your phone number, email and other contact information with our clerk jean.dunfee@spps.org or through Campus Portal.**

- For more details, and to update your information, visit spps.org/onestop.

You may also download the MySPPS app from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Once you "Follow" Bruce Vento, you'll have instant access to school news and updates. Just search "MySPPS" in the app stores. Learn more at spps.org/MySPPS.

Open House

Bruce Vento will host a virtual open house to welcome students and families to a new year on **Thursday, September 3**. We will have a morning-10:00 and afternoon-3:00 and evening-7:00 option for you to choose from. Please log into Google Meet on your child's iPad using the code – **Open House**

The first day of school can be overwhelming for students, and there is no doubt this year will bring some new and additional challenges. Here are a few things to know so you and your child can prepare.

School Supplies

At this time you do not need to purchase school supplies. Your child will be receiving learning supplies from school to support their academics. Please plan on picking up these supplies at Bruce Vento between 9:00-3:00 on Tuesday, September 1, Wednesday, September 2 or Thursday, September 3. iPads for new students will also be distributed at this time.

Student and Family Distance Learning Checklist

Please view and use this technology checklist as a guide to make sure you are ready for the first day of school. This checklist is available at spps.org/fallchecklist.

iPad Help

If your iPad is damaged or needs to be replaced, please report the issue by emailing or calling Saint Paul Public Schools Technology Services:

- Email: familysupport@spps.org
- Call: 651-603-4348 from 7 am – 4 pm. Please leave a detailed voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

If you are having problems with your iPad, you may also contact your student's teacher or your school. After a report is made, a member of the SPPS technology support team will contact you about replacement options to continue distance learning in Saint Paul.

If you are having issues logging into Seesaw, Schoology or other district-approved apps, please see the information on spps.org/ipadhelp.

Childcare

SPPS Community Education will offer two childcare options for families this fall while students are in distance learning. Both programs are open to enrolled elementary age students.

- Essential Kids Care will operate at three sites this fall for children of Tier 1 essential workers. Care is free during normal school hours, and transportation is available. For more information: spps.org/ekidscare
- Discovery Club will be available at four sites this fall for PreK-5th graders. The fee-based program does not include transportation. For more information: spps.org/discoveryclub

Both options will be staffed by non-licensed childcare staff. Children will remain with the same small group each day. Masks will be required for all students and staff, and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for childcare programs will be strictly enforced.

A portion of the day will be set aside for students to work on their independent learning, and the remainder of the time will include enrichment and physical activity. Breakfast and lunch are also provided. For questions, please contact Discovery Club at discovery.club@spps.org or call 651-632-3793.

Meals

Nutrition Services will continue to provide weekly meal boxes through home meal delivery and curbside pickup while SPPS is in distance learning. All students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will receive meals at no cost.

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals -- regardless of family income. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows SPPS to receive federal dollars for classroom programming.

Applications are available online on [SchoolCafe](https://www.schoolcafe.com), and paper applications were mailed to homes in August.

Classroom Teacher

You and your student will be contacted by your child's teacher the week of August 31.

Distance Learning 2.0

- All PreK-12 students will be issued an iPad
- Distance Learning 2.0 will be a balance between any time (asynchronous) and same-time (synchronous) learning
- Students will receive daily same-time (synchronous) instruction from their teachers
- There will be daily student-to-student interaction
- Students will have access to enhanced WiFi options

More details about Distance Learning 2.0 will be shared and updated on spps.org as it is made available. To view information about Distance Learning 2.0, visit spps.org/distancelearning.

If you have questions that you cannot find answers to on our website, please call Bruce F. Vento Elementary. You may also call the Parent Help Line at 651-767-8347 or email family.engagement@spps.org for assistance.

School Calendar

A copy of the Bruce F. Vento Elementary calendar is posted online at spps.org/domain/64. Please note that dates may change as the year progresses, and updates may be posted from time to time. For the full district calendar, visit spps.org/calendar.

Health And Wellness

Immunizations

Even though SPPS students will start the year in distance learning, it's important to make sure your child's immunizations are current and provide records to your child's school. Learn more at spps.org/studentwellness.

COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines

Saint Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff and their families. To ensure this commitment is met, we have developed and will continue to revise the [COVID-19 Guidance for Students and Families](#) in response to the everchanging Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

COVID Testing Resources

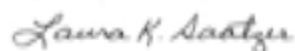
Visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#) to find a location providing free COVID-19 testing. Reminder: Check with your insurance provider before making an appointment to make sure the office visit fee will be covered.

Student Mental Health

We recognize that school closure, distance learning, and COVID-19 may cause extra stress to many in our school community, including families, students and staff. Reach out to our school counselor, Katy Steinbach or the social workers, Cass Heigarrd, Jen Geng or Hannah Soule for support for your child's mental health and to be connected with [community resources](#), where appropriate.

I am looking forward to welcoming you and your child to a new school year **Tuesday, September 8, for grades 1-5, and Thursday, September 10, for Pre-K and Kindergarten.** I'm so proud to be part of this wonderful school community.

Sincerely,



Laura K. Saatzer, Principal
Bruce F. Vento Elementary

Find more detailed information and updates about the new school year at the following websites:

- spps.org/domain/64
- spps.org/reopen2020
- spps.org/distancelearning
- spps.org/virtualllearning
- spps.org/backtoschool