

Pilot School News

January 19, 2024 | Volume #9



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

January 22, 2024

8th Grade Parent/Student Forum
Como Park High School Pathway
Murray Library
6:00pm – 7:00pm

January 25, 2024

Activity Day

January 26, 2024

No School – Professional Day

January 31, 2024

Showcase
5:30pm – 7:30pm

February 5, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

February 19, 2024

No School – Presidents Day

February 20, 2024

Murray PTO Meeting
6:00pm – 7:15pm

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Welcome to 2024! I certainly hope that everyone was able to find some time to share with family, friends and those that make you feel joy. We are now fast approaching the end of our first semester and I am amazed at how fast this year is flying by. If you haven't already, now is the time to really zero in with your students and have a conversation about where they sit academically. If you have questions, it is critical to connect with your teachers as soon as possible as they will be wrapping up grades, assignments and assessments in the coming days. At the same time, this is also a perfect time to have a conversation with your child around goals that you have as a family for second semester. Most classes will stay the same, but most electives will be changing. It's a great time to frame things as a fresh start. Often times, students need adults to point out breaks and opportunities like this because they can struggle to compartmentalize and see where there are open doors to make change. A new semester is that perfect "open door" to make change!

As Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, intelligence plus character is our true goal. We invite you out to see how we at Murray are supporting the critical thinking and character development of our Murray Pilots. We have our annual Showcase/Open House event coming up on January 31 from 5:30PM-7:30PM. We will have every class and program available for you to speak with and to see. Come on out and see the exciting work your students have been doing and the phenomenal team of educators and support staff we are so very fortunate to have in our community. There will also be drawings for prizes! This is a true open house format that DOES NOT have a hard start time. So, feel free to show up during the time window when it works for you.

We hope to see you all there!

Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Haas would like to celebrate Marleny Jaramillo. Marleny is an awesome artist in Media Arts. She adds a really thoughtful lens to all she creates. Marleny is also exceeding in all of her classes. Murray is proud of you, Marleny. Keep up the great work!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Combs would like to celebrate Ria James. Ria is always doing the right thing. She always helps those in need. She always practices the 4Ps of present, prepared, polite and participates. Ria is an awesome human being and Pilot! Way to go, Ria!

Murray girls' basketball - Huge congratulations to our girls' basketball team for completing their season with an undefeated record! Way to go Pilots! Thank you to Mr. Gravert for coaching and to our families for all of your support.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

Sixth Grade

Math with Mr. Lee:

Our sixth graders have been actively engaged in their Representing and Solving Equations unit. It has been a fantastic learning experience for them, and they have shown great enthusiasm and dedication. As we approach the end of the quarter on January 25th, 2024, we kindly remind you to take a moment to check your child's grades. This will provide you with insights into their progress and achievements this quarter.

Science with Mr. Chase:

Students have been studying different cup features that are important to explaining a phenomenon, about thermal energy. The students modeled how matter can enter or exit the cup via evaporation. However, they find that in a completely closed system, the liquid inside the cup still changes temperature. This motivates the need to trace the transfer of energy into the drink as it warms up. Through a series of lab investigations and simulations, students find that there are two ways to transfer energy into the drink: (1) the absorption of light and (2) thermal energy from the warmer air around the drink. This week they are then challenged to design their own drink container that can perform as well as the store-bought container, following a set of design criteria and constraints.

Through these investigations students:

- build on what they know about the particle nature of matter from 5th grade to develop a particle model of solids, liquids, and gases that include both structure and movement of particles as it relates to the temperature of the substance.
- plan and carry out investigations to systematically test the different parts of the cup system, tracking the flow of matter and energy into or out of the cup system.
- develop a model of temperature as the average kinetic energy of a group of particles.
- model the transfer of energy from light to kinetic energy of particles when light is absorbed.
- model thermal energy transfer between substances through particle collisions, or conduction, to change the average particle motion in a substance.

- revise their models to include factors that minimize energy transfer by reducing the absorption of light and decreasing the opportunities for particle collisions.
- apply what they have learned about features that can slow energy transfer to design, build, test, and revise a cup system to keep a drink cold.

Seventh Grade

Science with Ms. Dooley:

Life Science:

Students are investigating the connection between chromosomes, proteins, and the level of muscle in cattle. They are looking for cause and effect relationships. Next, they will be creating mathematical models to predict offspring of various cattle parents.

Comparative Anatomy:

Students are wrapping up their studies with the Birds and Mammals unit. They spent a day comparing different parts of each of these animal types to see how they meet the needs of life.

Eighth Grade

Social Studies with Ms. Croone and Mr. Kareem:

8th Grade Global Studies

Welcome back! This week we are looking at religions of the Middle East and current events. As we are wrapping up the Middle East and Northern Africa and there will be a test the week of January 15-19.

Accelerated classes are also in the midst of working on History Day with Turning Points in History as this year's theme.

The end of the quarter is January 25 so it's also time to complete any missing work!

flipside

the opposite of boredom.
Afterschool activities for middle school youth.

Registration for Flipside Session 2 is available now. We have some great options! If you are interested in signing your student up for Flipside Session 2 applications can be found [here](#), in person, and in the office!

If your student is currently in Flipside, please only fill out the class choice form. If this is your first time signing up for Flipside, complete the entire form. First choice isn't a guarantee, so pick a second option for each day.

The classes start January 29th; your student will get their schedule the week of the 22nd!

If you or your students have any questions or concerns, email Ms. Abby abiola.adegeye@spps.org Call: 651-744-3189, or visit office 1011

Murray Middle Presents...Mary Poppins, Jr.

Performances will be:

Friday, March 22nd, 7:00PM

Saturday, March 23rd, 7:00PM

Sunday, March 24th, 2:00PM

Parent Forum

We're very excited to announce Como Park High School Principal Dr. Diana Brown will be joining us to speak at our Parent Forum, January 22, 2024, at 6:00pm in the Murray Library.

She will share with us the "Really Good News" of Como Senior High and answer any questions you may have.

We hope to see you there!

Tours

Tuesdays, January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

3:15p.m.

Check in at office – registration not required

Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost \$21.00. Students can pick up an order form from the office or see Ms. Pittman. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html>



Counselor's Corner

8th grade families:

By now, students and families should have received in the mail their school assignment for the 2024-25 school year. If you do not want to attend that specific school, you need to apply to go to a different school by February 9th. Here is the application link for the Placement Center <https://apply.spps.org/> The main office also has paper copies available as well.

Upcoming events:

Como Park High School:

- Tour/Shadowing information for Como:
 - 8th graders/Families: If you are interested in shadowing at or touring Como Park Senior High School, please contact Jamie Hoffman at Como: jamie.hoffman@spps.org or 651-744-5529.
 - Event for Murray Students & Families for information about Como Park HS: Monday, January 22nd at 6:00 PM at Murray Middle School
 - New program for 2024-2025 school year for Como 9th graders: [3DE Info here](#)

Central High School: Flyer included in following pages for more information

Central HS Showcase night: Thurs, February 1, 2024 6pm-8pm at Central HS

- Registration Night for those enrolled at Central: March 28, 2024

Tour dates for Central:

Jan 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 all at 10-11 am (adults must accompany students)

[Link to register for tours: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16COn4GYH1nkBN46e0uq-YlylrsZa0i8dPuffbJeP6_U/viewform?edit_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16COn4GYH1nkBN46e0uq-YlylrsZa0i8dPuffbJeP6_U/viewform?edit_requested=true)

Link to all dates for Open Houses and Showcases in SPPS: <https://www.spps.org/openhouses>

Earn as you Learn:

- There is a district-wide opportunity for 8-12 grade students to learn new skills while earning money through the Earn as you Learn program.
- Earn a \$300 stipend while exploring career interests, working on industry certificates, preparing for the workplace, and learning financial literacy! Students can complete the work from home.
- Courses offered in: OSHA, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access.
 - \$300 stipend for completion of each course
- More information here: <https://www.spps.org/Earnasyoulearn>
- Earn as You Learn Application/Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHkahKqym7hecQgBofleTby1yL0-EWfrYN2fClxbLSjCkkCw/viewform>

Right Track:

Keep your eyes out for Right Track information coming out soon. The application will be open on January 15 until February 29. The general link is here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track>. The application isn't open until Jan 15 though. It's for summer paid jobs!

EVERY MEAL

Please fill out our QR code or this link if you are interested in getting items from the Murray food pantry sponsored by Every Meal. Link: <https://forms.gle/Uu7GTHWuTCiZgZ9b9>. We have food available at Murray for students to pick up at the end of the day on Fridays. It is in our Food pantry – see Google Form for more info. Please write down your name, your contact information, and which items you'd be interested in your student picking up each week. Students will take these items home in their backpacks.

Contact Justine Revermann (justine.revermann@spps.org or 651-744-7130) or Lisa Engelstad (lisa.engelstad@spps.org or 651-744-2397). You can reach out to us to schedule an appointment to pick up some food items.



SHOWCASE!

Why Murray? Come check out the great things happening!

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Murray Opportunities:

- Accelerated course opportunities for high school credit in math
- Athletics
- Band and Orchestra
- College and Career Readiness Support
- History Day
- In-School Activities -Academic All-Star, Activity Day, Dances, Food Drive, Recreation Time, Spirit Week
- Middle School Model that emphasizes teaming, elective options and social/emotional growth
- Murray Musical (Theater program)
- Performing and Visual Arts electives
- Student Leadership through Boys' Group, Girls' Group, Journalism, Mental Health Leadership Group, National Junior Honor Society, Restorative Practice Leadership, Student Council, Student PBIS Team, WEB Leaders (Where Everybody Belongs)
- Flipside after school enrichment classes

Murray Partnerships:

- University of Minnesota
- U of M Raptor Center
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning
- Ujamaa Place
- COMPAS Artists
- Trout Unlimited

Showcase brings together school staff, families, community members, and neighbors from across Area E to build stronger relationships and collaboratively support our young people.



Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-293-8740 | murray.spps.org
Questions?? Contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-744-3922



CENTRAL
HOME OF THE MINUTEMEN

SHOWCASE!

FEBRUARY 1
5:30-7:30 PM

Learn About:

- Course Offerings
- Arts Programming
- Family Engagement
- Student Groups
- Athletics

Schedule a Tour:

Tuesdays: January
16th, 23rd, 30th

Thursdays: January
18th and 25th

10-11am

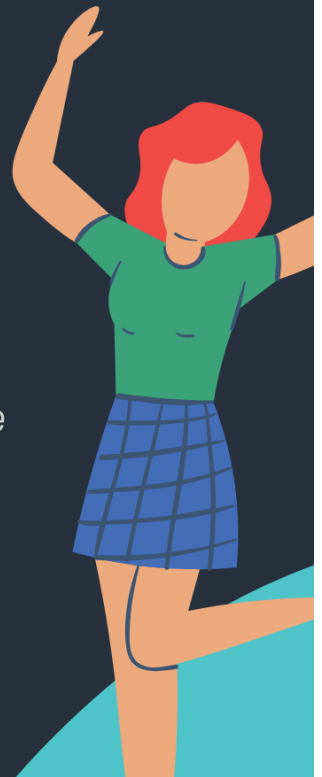
275 N Lexington Pkwy
651-744-4900

Sign up for a tour here



SCAN ME

We Are in This T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.
Since 1866



Johnson Senior High School Open House



Thursday, February 8, 2024

5:30 PM-6:30PM

We are looking forward to meeting all of our future Governors
and your families at this event.

All future Governors and Families that attend Open House will
receive free entry into the Johnson High School Boys' Basketball
game versus Harding High School that night.



VS



We Are ONE Johnson, The Pride of The East Side!



COMO PARK BOOSTER CLUB PRESENTS

*A Midwinter
Fundraiser*



MEET OTHER COMO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, ENJOY UNLIMITED
BEER, HAVE A COUPLE TACOS, AND RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR
STUDENT COMMUNITY!

<https://rb.gy/lzccqx>

PRICE PER PERSON

\$25

JANUARY

26th

STARTING AT

7 pm



BILLY'S ON GRAND

857 GRAND AVENUE SAINT PAUL, MN

