



Battle Creek Middle School

Welcome Zoo Siab Txais Tos တာ်တူၢ်လိာ်မုၢ် Soo Dhawoow Bienvenidos

Dear Battle Creek Middle School families:

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! All of us at Battle Creek Middle School (BCMS) look forward to seeing students in grades 6-8 on Tuesday, September 5.

We also want to introduce and welcome new educators to BCMS. To view our complete school staff directory, visit spps.org/domain/2949.

Brandon Bell, 6th Grade Student Support
Trevor Crawford, Music Teacher
Windy Daye, Clerk
Jaclyn LaVanier, Math 6
Mohamuud Mohamuud, Science 7 Teacher
Desmond Rakestraw, Health/Phy Ed Teacher
Carlottia Ruff, 6th Grade Assistant Principal
Jonathan Shepard, Science 8
Anna Toegel, Science 7
Tou Vang, Cultural Specialist
Bryale Winters, Attendance EA
Kenny Yang, ELA 8 Teacher
De Zhang, ELL Teacher

At Saint Paul Public Schools, our mission is to inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world. This means providing challenging and engaging instruction in welcoming classroom environments that represent and respect the diverse backgrounds of our students. This way, every student can feel seen, empowered, and ready to find joy in learning.

The first day of school is exciting for students, families, and staff alike. It can also be overwhelming. Here are a few things to know so you can help your students be ready for the first day.

Open House

Please join us at our open house to welcome students and families to a new year on Thursday, August 31 from 5 - 7 p.m. This would be an opportunity to visit our school and meet staff. Food trucks will be available for purchase. Free school supplies will be available for BCMS students.

School Hours

School begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

Transportation

Students will receive a postcard in the mail with transportation information at the end of August. The postcard lists details about where and when to get on and off the bus. Please arrive at the bus stop **five minutes before** the bus is scheduled to pick up your child. Track the status of your child's bus on our school's website or the Bus Status app.

If you believe your student is taking the bus but did not receive a postcard, please call Transportation at 651-696-9600 as soon as possible.

School Drop-off and Pick-up

In an effort to ensure student safety, students are not allowed to walk or cross in between buses that are loading and/or unloading on North Park Drive.

Morning Drop-Off:

Students that are being transported to school in the morning by a parent/guardian must be dropped off in the appropriate location. The Parent Drop-Off locations are the staff parking lot entrance OR along the west bound intersection of North Park Drive and Winthrop Street. Please plan accordingly in case of bad weather.

Classes begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. Please do not drop your child off at school before 8:15 as there is no staff to monitor students before that time. A staff member will be in the parking lot each day from 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. helping students unload safely.

Afternoon Pick-Up:

In an effort to ensure student safety, students are not allowed to walk or cross in between buses that are loading and/or unloading on North Park Drive.

School is dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Students who are being picked up will be directed to the parent pick-up/drop-off zone in the parking lot. A staff member will be in the parking lot each day from 3:00 - 3:10 p.m. helping students load safely.

Parent pick-up in the staff parking lot entrance or along the west bound intersection of Park Drive Winthrop Street N.

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 2023-24 meal and milk prices are:

- Student Second Breakfast: \$2.85
- Student Second Lunch: \$5
- Milk Only: \$0.50
- For a complete list of prices, visit spps.org/ns.

Application for Educational Benefits

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.** 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.

Immunizations

Please check in with your health care provider to make sure your child's immunizations are up to date before school starts in the fall. Visit spps.org/immunizations or call our school nurse for more information.

Extracurriculars

Flipside: Free afterschool program that provides a fun and safe opportunity for students to participate in a variety of high-quality academic and enrichment activities.

Middle School Sports: Students have the opportunity to participate and play sports against other schools. There is a participation fee and a current health physical is required.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

SPPS strives to create welcoming schools where each and every student is seen, known and valued. There are rights students are guaranteed when they are at school as well as responsibilities that accompany those rights. Families are strongly encouraged to review the [Rights & Responsibilities Handbook](#).

Attendance is an important part of student success. We realize there are many reasons that a student may be absent from school. If your child will be absent from school, please notify the school at your earliest convenience. Communication between home and school is a vital component to a positive school experience.

School Safety

Safety is a top priority at our schools. BCMS has an Emergency Operations Plan that is created specifically for our school and regularly reviewed. Families receive communication home when an incident directly impacts their students, such as a lockdown. Exterior doors are always locked and all visitors must sign in.

Families, students and staff can use the MySPPS app to [“Send a Tip”](#) and confidentially report unsafe behaviors to SPPS Security and Emergency Management (SEM). Every tip is taken seriously and acted on right away. Learn more at spps.org/safety.

Battle Creek Middle School Habitat Restoration

The Battle Creek Middle School Habitat Restoration project will fix flooded areas on the east side of Battle Creek Middle School. Flooding has damaged the sidewalk and field along Winthrop Street, and has created an environment that attracts invasive plants. The project will transform the damaged field into a wet prairie habitat. Surrounding the wet prairie will be trees and outdoor classroom spaces.

The project involves moving soil to change the shape of the land to redirect water away from the bus stop, sidewalk and field into a new area that will become a wet prairie filled with native plants. To prevent water from pooling on the ground’s surface, sand infiltration basins will be built below the surface to help absorb rainwater into the soil.

Native plants will provide a home for native pollinators like the rusty patched bumble bee and leadplant flower moth. With its closeness to Battle Creek Regional Park and Battle Creek, the restored habitat will serve as a refuge for insects, birds and animals as they travel in all three areas.

This is an exciting opportunity to restore native habitat, reduce erosion, protect water systems, beautify community spaces, and teach students how they can positively impact the natural environment. Through this project, students will learn first-hand about the importance of maintaining sustainable relationships between humans and natural environments.

The restoration project is an exciting partnership with Battle Creek Middle School, Davey’s Resource Group, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, and the SPPS Facilities Department’s Environmental Services Group. The project will begin in summer 2023.

Contact Information

Please check our school website regularly, spps.org/bcms, for information and updates. If you have questions the website doesn't answer, please call the front office at 651-293-8960.

Attached to this letter you'll find the following important documents:

- [2023-24 School Year Calendar](#)
- [Bell Schedule](#)
- [Cell Phone and Electronics Policy](#)
- [School Supply List](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Student Dress Code](#)

I am looking forward to welcoming you and your child to a new school year. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful school community.

In partnership,

Oulia Yang, Principal
Battle Creek Middle School

All school documents can be translated or interpreters upon request.

Hmong

Tej ntaub ntawv tom tsev kawm ntawv uas xa los rau nej, peb yuav pab txhais thiab nrhiav neeg txhais lus rau nej yog nej hais qhia peb.

Karen (Due to formatting this translation is pasted in as an image)

ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏လက်ခံရရှိသည့်အား မှတစ်ဖန် ပြုလုပ်ထားသည့်အခါက အိတ်လေးနုယုထိုင်တီးအဖိခိတ်နှုတ်လို့။

Somali

Dhammaan dukumiintiyada iskuulka waa la turjumi karaa ama waxaa la heli karaa turjumaan haddii la codsado.

Spanish

Todos los documentos pueden ser traducidos o interpretados oralmente si usted lo solicita.