



Dear Wellstone Elementary families:

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! All of us at Wellstone look forward to seeing students in grades 1-12 on Tuesday, September 5, and Pre-K and kindergarten students on Thursday, September 7.

I am excited to introduce our new Assistant Principal, Alecia Sanders. Together we will focus on relationships to center students and ensure their learning is at the forefront of everything we do. This year we have a new math curriculum in K-5 which will facilitate the understanding of mathematical concepts.

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 August 31, 2023 from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm.

School Hours

School begins at 7:15 a.m. and ends at 2:00 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.

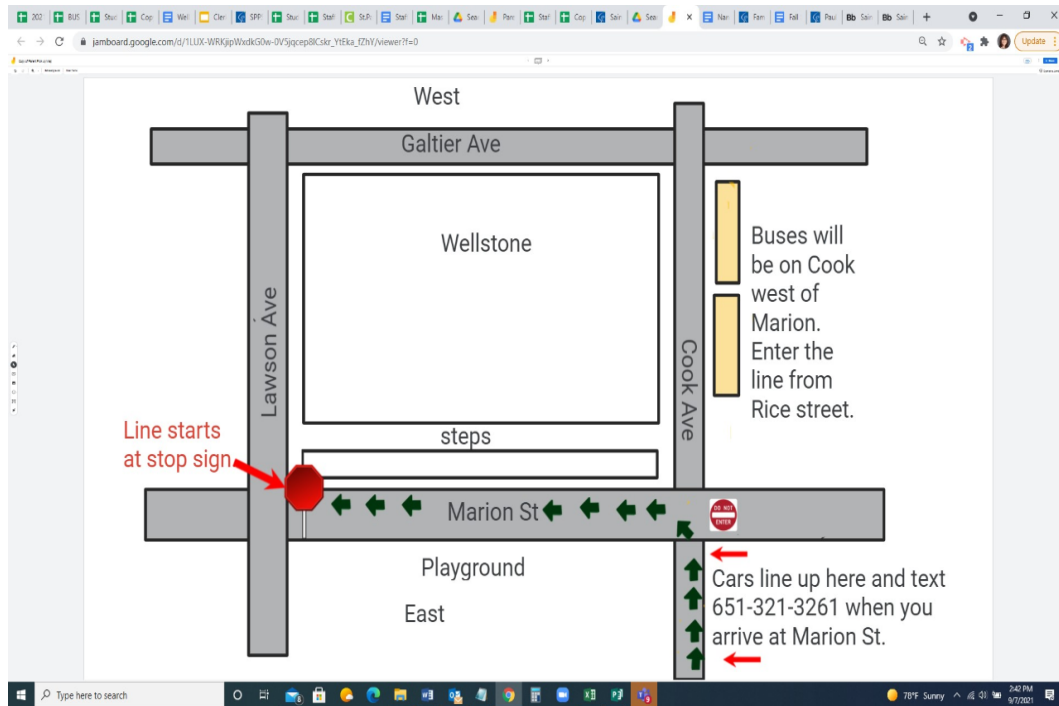
School Drop-off and Pick-up

Parents may drop off students beginning at 7:15 a.m. and pick up the students at 2:00 pm using the Marion Street entrance. Drivers must only use the east entrance onto Marion (the Cook side). Please wait until your car arrives at the front steps before your child exits the vehicle. It's also important that families keep the line moving as soon as the children have safely left the car, as there is frequently a long line waiting.

If you will be picking your child up every day, please complete this [Pick up form](#). Once this form is completed you do not need to call everyday. If you are only picking your child up occasionally please call the attendance line and leave a message stating your child's name and grade by 12:30.

Attendance line: English 651-744-2363 or Spanish 651-744-1619

For pick up in the afternoon we ask that you turn left onto Marion Street from Cook Ave. You must travel westbound to turn on Marion. As cars pull up waiting for students to exit the building, please form a line on the north side of Cook. When your car is stopped, text your name and the names of your children that you are picking up to 651-321-3261. Students will be supervised while walking to your car.



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.

Child Care Before and After School

Discovery Club is a fun and nurturing child care program for students in grades PreK-5 that supports learning and development before school*, after school, on non-school days and during the summer. Space is limited. For a list of fees, locations, and to register or join the waitlist, visit spps.org/discoveryclub or call 651-632-3793. *Before school care is unavailable for schools with a 7:30 a.m. start time.

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department operates the Rec Check Program. Rec Check is a free after-school program for youth, grades 1-5, provided at the recreation centers listed below. Youth check in with Rec Check Staff when arriving at the center and check out when leaving. Parents can request to be notified when their child does not check in at the center. Rec Check is for youth who live in Saint Paul or go to school in Saint Paul.

Rec Check Website-[St. Paul Rec Check](https://www.stpaulrec.org); Rice Rec. Check phone number 651-558-2392.

The program is held Monday - Friday, 2 - 6 pm on days when the Saint Paul Public Schools are in session including early release days.

Children participate in a variety of structured, supervised activities including homework help, arts & crafts, reading and special events. To promote health and fitness, the staff will engage the youth daily in physical activities such as gym games, outdoor play or walking. A daily snack is also provided.

All sites have limited enrollment. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms need to be completed at a site before a child may attend. Rec Check is open for youth who live in Saint Paul or attend school in Saint Paul.

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. Wellstone Elementary 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. If visitors want to go to the classroom, they must make an appointment with the teacher, as we cannot have learning be interrupted.

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](https://www.spps.org/safety).

Contact Information

Please check our school website regularly, <https://www.spps.org/wellstone>, for information and updates. If you have questions the website doesn't answer, please call the front office at 651-290-8354.

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

- [School Supply List](#)
- [2023-24 School District Year Calendar](#)
- [Wellstone Elementary School Calendar](#)

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

Sincerely,

Angelica Van Iperen, Principal
Alecia Sanders, Assistant Principal
Wellstone Elementary