THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6



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GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On May 21, South St. Paul residents voted yes on the building bond proposal that would fund the school district's four point Facilities Master Plan for:

- 1. Site improvements and facility maintenance
- 2. Relieve overcrowding in the elementary schools to enhance programming
- 3. Address district-wide safety and security needs; and 4. Reduce rental costs

To kick off the construction for these projects, the district held a Ground Breaking Ceremony at both Lincoln Center Elementary and Kaposia Education Center on October 9. The district is still in the planning and design phase for the secondary site and anticipates breaking ground in the spring of 2014.

The goal for the major construction projects is to have additional early childhood space available near the end of the 2013-14 school year, some secondary building improvements to be completed during 2014-15, and the 6th graders to move to the secondary building in the fall of 2015.



Groundbreaking Ceremony at Lincoln Center Elementary



Board members, students, teachers and parents at Kaposia Education Center

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

South St. Paul Secondary

- New STEM area (Science,
- Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) • Open framework remodeled Media
- Center adjoining the library • A new addition of a 4th gym
- A new addition of a 4th gym station in the Packer Activity Center (PAC)
- Refurbished Print shop / Kitchen / Theater area
- Enhanced natural lighting throughout
- Bidding is expected to take place prior to April of 2014

Lincoln Center Elementary

- Construction started on October 21
- Addition of a 3-story classroom space
- Addition of a performance space (roughly 6,000 sq.)
- Refurbishing of the adjoining classrooms
- New construction exterior is expected in January with interior completion by June of 2014

Kaposia Education Center

- Construction started on October 26
- Addition of a two-story six classroom space
- Renewal of a meeting/commons space in building
- New construction exterior is expected in January with interior completion by June of 2014
- New playground



• Renewal of space in bui • New constru-



SPOTLIGHT ON TECHNOLOGY

Technology has played an important role in educating and connecting South St. Paul students to learning opportunities and preparing them for college and career. South St. Paul High School teachers are efficiently using technology to increase students' learning capabilities inside and outside the classroom. Below you will find classroom examples of how technology is increasing learning opportunities.

7th Grade Math with Mrs. Metille



common assignment for honors students in Mrs. Mettille's math class is to use an internet-connected device to watch a YouTube video. Students use computers, tablets, or phones to login to Mrs. Mettille's class website

to access videos for homework. Videos are created using a Smartboard and microphone so students can watch Mrs. Mettille's writing and hear her voice. Each video teaches a math concept and learning target through direct instruction of vocabulary and examples of problem solving. Students are taught, "What they need to know."

The following class period, students master concepts while they solve problems as a class, with peers, and independently. Students have a class period to work with Mrs. Mettille and their peers if they do not understand a concept. Instead of having trouble solving problems at home alone, students can get help right when they need it.

There are so many advantages to this concept called flipped classroom setting. Students are not stuck on homework at home, they are collaborating with students, and they are mastering learning targets resulting in confidence in their math skills.

Mrs. Mettille uses an e-learning platform called Moodle to create her class website. The Moodle page provides all 7th grade students with not only videos of every math lesson for the year, but also daily problems, textbooks, online resources, and schedules of assignments. The 7th grade classroom is transitioning to an online classroom which provides many exciting new opportunities!





10th Grade U.S. History with Mr. Getzlaff

n Mr. Getzlaff's 10th Grade U.S. History classes students are using the iPads to access the class Moodle page. Moodle is a Learning Management System that houses all of the students assignments, notes, documents, projects, quizzes and tests in class. A typical day in class includes taking a guiz on moodle, which gives immediate feedback to the teacher, organizing learning targets on the iPads, using Notability (an interactive notetaking app) to take class notes and working in collaborative teams to complete assignments. The iPads are helping the 10th grade students improve 21st Century Learning Skills, improve note taking skills and increase college readiness.

A new addition to class this year is the textbook

app through Apple that allows kids access to the textbook through the iPad without wireless internet access so students can use the textbook and complete work wherever they bring the iPad with them. Students have also started the process of accessing mini-lessons, class notes and/or activities using the "flipped classroom" model where students can view the lessons outside of class and then receive individualized instruction when they return to class the next day. The 10th grade students are off and running with their iPads and ready for another great school year!

11th & 12th Grade Chemistry with Ms. Ellis, Ms. Kaugman and Ms. King

his year, 11th and 12th grade students in their first year chemistry courses are also experiencing a flipped classroom. What is a flipped classroom? Ms. Kaufman, Ms. King and Ms. Ellis are using a blended approach to teaching, using short instructional videos to teach new content to students at home. This allows these teachers to use the time more effectively in class to help students with more personalized instruction and help with the content, if they are struggling or need more practice.



Students are given a short video (usually 5-7 minutes) on a chemistry topic to watch at home using their Chrome Books. Students can pause, rewind and watch the video as many times as necessary. Students take notes while they watch and can even write down questions that they want to ask the teacher the next day in class. The in-class time is then used to work on practicing the content, and the teacher is available to help students as needed. Instead of struggling on the homework alone at home, students can ask teachers right away if they get stuck!

THE COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

The College & Career Center at South St. Paul High School is designed to help students and their parents with all aspects of college and career decision-making. A one-on-one meeting is held every year with each senior in the fall and juniors in the spring to discuss their personal goals and review timelines in post-secondary planning. All students are encouraged to visit the College & Career Center and are more than welcome to seek personalized help.

The hours of the College & Career Center are from 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. and students are more than welcome to drop in anytime.

Stop by the Career Bulletin Board for updates and announcements.

The center can offer the following help:

- · College catalogs and information files from numerous 4-year and 2-year colleges, universities, graduate schools and private career schools
- Information on military opportunities
- Registration information for ACT and SAT along with test prep materials
- College scholarship information
- Financial aid materials
- Computers to research colleges and careers
- Direction in college selection
- Assistance in completing college applications
- Assistance in requesting high school transcripts
- Assistance in preparing college applications essays

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Barse at dbarse@sspps.org or 651-306-3654.

WALKATHON 2013 RAISED FOURTY THOUSAND DOLLARS

The 26th annual Walkathon held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 raised money that will be used for special student projects and events.

A huge THANK YOU to all who participated, volunteered and supported the walkathon event. With your help and support, we raised over \$ 40,000.00 that goes directly back to classrooms and programs at South St. Paul Public Schools. This would not have been possible without all of your involvement.

Please join us in thanking our tee shirt sponsors Upper River Services, Troje's Trash and Recycling, Total Construction and Equipment, City Auto Glass, VFW Post 295 South St Paul, Pro Pharmacy, Dale and Bette Schenian, CHS, SSP Lions, Sanimax, Twin City Hide, Culligan Milbert Company, Mattie's Bowling, Burger King, and Mackay Mitchell Envelope Company.





SOUTH ST PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERS WITH DAYCARES

The Child Care Aware Program of 360 Communities, South St. Paul Day Care providers, and the district Early Learning staff shared their mutual passion for helping kids realize their full potential when they met on Monday, October 14 at the South St. Paul Library.

Their goal is to partner in sharing information, resources, and guidelines to help all children be successful Kindergarten students. Singing, clapping, and fun were evident in the first of a series of trainings which includes providing a literacy rich environment with rhyming, vocabulary, reading aloud and FUN for our youngest learners. Continuing education credits were available to all who attended.

We welcome all child care providers in South St. Paul to our next meeting on Monday, November 18 at Central Square 6-8 PM.

If you need more information, please call Dawn Rehn at 651-306-3642.

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for next year's walkathon mid-September. This is a fun community event that you won't want to miss!

STUDENTS IMMERSED IN CHINESE AND SPANISH CULTURE THROUGH SUMMER CAMP

This past June, through a grant from the East Metro Integration District (EMID), South St. Paul had the opportunity to send 38 students (grades 3-6) to Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, and Callaway, Minnesota for a week of overnight camp. Concordia Language Villages has a long standing tradition of offering unique immersion experiences to children ages 6-18, as well as college, adult, and family learning opportunities. At Sin Lin Hu, the Chinese camp, and El Lago del Bosque, the Spanish camp, students were immersed in culture, language, food, and activities. Counselors come from around the globe to teach students the target language, as well as to share traditions and culture from their place of origin. We are so very proud of our students for being risk-takers and inquirers to further their knowledge about another culture and language. South St. Paul has had a growing relationship with Concordia Language Villages over the past year, thanks to EMID. We have hosted multiple residents from the villages who have come into our elementary classrooms to share about Latin American countries and their cultures, including Argentina, Chile, and Colombia.



MARVIN AND RUTH (ANDRUS) SKAURUD LEAVE THE LARGEST BEQUEST IN SOUTH ST PAUL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HISTORY

The South St Paul Educational Foundation is proud to announce the largest single donation in foundation history. Marvin and Ruth included the South St Paul Educational in their estate plan years ago and sadly Ruth passed away February 3, 2005 and Marvin passed on February 11, 2012. The Skaurud's left the South St Paul Educational Foundation \$958,300.00 to be used for scholarships for future graduates of South St Paul. These funds established the Marvin and Ruth endowed memorial scholarship fund. We are thrilled to have this endowment scholarship so we can share the stories of Marvin and Ruth each year with our graduates and their families. An equal amount has been left to the Virginia Minnesota Foundation.

The South St. Paul Educational Foundation was established in 1984 to provide an innovative source of public school funding to support the South St. Paul public schools educational plan. Such initiatives provide enrichment, scholarships, research opportunities, training, intervention and prevention strategies, and extend the educational effort. The funds provided by the Foundation directly benefit students and staff and enhance educational opportunities.

Their commitment to education was very strong in this community. Ruth's father, Bernard, served on the South St Paul school board for several years. They both had a great love for the communities in which the spent their childhoods and wanted to give back in a way that was meaningful to future generations.

Ruth (Andrus) Skaurud was a 1937 South St Paul graduate. She went on the University of Minnesota and received a degree in dental hygienist. Marvin Hoyle Skaurud was a 1932 Virginia High School graduate and went on to the University of Minnesota receiving his PHD. Marvin taught History for the Minneapolis public schools of years.

The Skauruds met and married during World War II. They didn't have children and they traveled the world. Ruth Skaurud accompanied her husband as he taught summer session around the world for the University of Maryland. They visited 119 countries and went around the world 15 times.

It warms our hearts for us to think that while Marvin and Ruth moved away from South St. Paul so many years ago yet this was where they wanted to make a difference; for the future of our students. I think this says a lot about the people of South St Paul and the pride people have living here and coming from our town.







EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS HAVE MOVED

We are excited to be starting a new school year with new sites for our Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes. At Kid Connections we are thrilled with new space, new carpeting, fresh paint and a fantastic new look. Sharing space with Community Preschool and Head Start helps staff be energized by other colleagues and families. Although we have new space, we do have the same caring, knowledgeable and nurturing staff to provide the foundation for families in preparing for school success!

For more information, visit tridistrictce.org or contact Rosie Krumrie at rkrumrie@sspps.org or 651-457-9418.

SOUTH ST PAUL SCHOOLS MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

In 2011, South St. Paul Schools developed a partnership with Headway Emotional Services to provide confidential mental health and therapeutic services in the schools. Headway accepts most major insurances, medical assistance, and has a sliding scale fee for families who are uninsured or have a high deductible plan.

WHAT IS HEADWAY

Headway is a private non-profit agency that transforms lives by providing hope, healing, and encouragement to thousands of children and families each year. Headway has offices located in Richfield, Golden Valley, Hopkins, and in several area school districts.

WHAT IS THE REFERRAL PROCESS?

Anyone can make a referral, the easiest way is to call the therapist assigned to your child's school or send them an email. Therapist will need to obtain a signed Parental Consent Form prior to initiating therapeutic services, along with a Release of Information to have further communication with school staff regarding academic information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Megan Manning School-Based Mental Health Therapist Elementary Buildings 651-206-5006 megan.manning@headway.org Jill Hubble Mental Health Therapist Secondary Building 651-552-5561 jhubble@sspps.org

4 Six Times

WE DAY

This year, South St. Paul Public Schools had over 100 students participate in the 2013 We Day event at the Excel Energy Center on October 8. We Day is an educational event, a movement of young people leading local and global change. It is tied to the yearlong We Act program, which offers curricular resources, campaigns and materials to help turn the day's inspiration into sustained activation. By attending WE Day students commit to one local and one global action for the year.

You can't buy your ticket

o We Day, you earn it through service.

For the local action, students from the Secondary Building have organized a city wide event on Halloween called WE Scare Hunger. The student organizations will be trick or treating for canned goods to be donated to Neighbors. Last year, Lincoln Center Student Ambassadors earned their way to We Day. The students organized efforts and took local action to raise over 2000 lbs of food for Neighbors. They also took global action by partnering with H2O for Life. The students became passionate about the water crisis and took action to raise awareness and educate our school community. This project helped to build a hand washing station, latrines and a well for the students at Galessa Koft Primary School in Ethiopia providing them with access to clean water.

Thank you to the student leaders in South St. Paul Public Schools for organizing and dedicating local and global support to those in need.

Learn more about We Day at weday.com



How can a therapist help?

Therapists are trained mental health practitioners that address a variety of student and family concerns:

- Anxiety and Stress Depression Behavioral Issues (i.e. anger) Adjustment Concerns Addiction/Chemical Health Relationships Academic and Learning
- Difficulties Parenting Concerns Family Conflicts Trauma Social Skills LGBTQ Grief and Loss

What services are available? Individual, Group, and, Family Therapy are provided conveniently at your child's school

Six Times

ANNUAL REPORT ON CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT | OCTOBER 2013

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



South St. Paul Public Schools (SSPPS) is committed to helping every student leave high school prepared for college and career success. This is a commitment that we strive at even before a child steps into a classroom here in South St. Paul. We know you as parents, are your child's first and most important teacher. In

addition, our Early Childhood and Family Education program has done an excellent job of meeting the needs for many of the families in our community. But we have decided to take this pledge another step further. On page three of this issue, you will see how we are partnering with local day care providers to share information, resources, and guidelines to help all children be successful students when they walk through the kindergarten classroom door. We want to do our part in helping children be prepared and ready to learn from their earliest school days through their graduation ceremony.

With the growing complexity of the world and the increasing demands of the 21st-century workforce, there is little question that all students should graduate from high school fully prepared for college AND careers. Studies show that this year's graduates will face a global economy where most jobs require education and training beyond high school. Nearly every job, including electrician, auto mechanic, and office worker, requires extended education and training. If this training continues, there will be fewer and fewer jobs available to those with only a high school diploma.

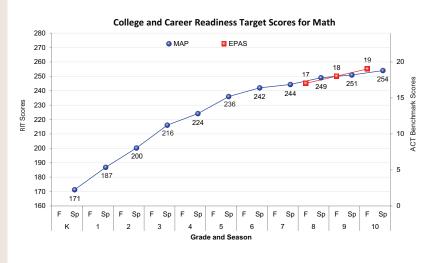
To help our students be better prepared for College and Career Ready, SSPPS is utilizing one of the largest research studies for college and career readiness in the United States involving K-12 students. This study highlights academic grade level goals for students in grades K-12. These grade level goals are based off the ultimate goal of a student achieving a composite score of 24 on the ACT assessment which is the score needed to enter most four year state colleges in Minnesota. The ACT (American College Testing) college readiness assessment is the most common standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States.

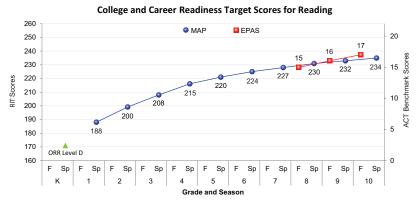
The graphs that you see at the right highlight the NWEA MAP assessments that all SSPPS students take and the scores they need at every grade level in order to stay on a college and career ready path. The MAP assessment is a computer-based test, through Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), that is given to all students in grades K-10 at least twice a year. As parents visit conferences, we will be sharing your child's score information along with the grade level targets for college and career readiness. We want to strengthen our partnership to help a larger percentage of our students become college and career ready. We believe that the partnerships that we are developing are critical to the success of each and every child.

Measuring Growth Toward College Readiness: NWEA MAP® and ACT

College, career and citizenship readiness is quickly becoming the accepted measure of accountability in K-12 education. According to a recent study, Measuring Growth Toward College Readiness: Using MAP® Scores to Predict Success on the ACT Test Benchmark Scores, "The current conversation in Washington, DC regarding reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act focuses heavily on college readiness for all students. As this represents an important shift from the NCLB mandates toward proficiency for all, our assessments for measuring student progress must soon shift correspondingly" (Theaker and Johnson 2012).

To that end, several research studies have been able to link ACT scores associated with college success with NWEA MAP® scores which schools can use to track student growth from kindergarten through grade 12. These studies are building links between two highly reliable, well validated, widely used measures of student progress in order to create a guide to measuring growth toward college readiness. Growth benchmark MAP® scores through the elementary grades, and the ability to predict future ACT performance offers a unique way for teachers to appropriately target early interventions needed for students' continued academic success.





Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Series (MCA) are the state tests used to measure student proficiency and achievement under the federal NCLB Act. The tests help districts and individual schools evaluate student progress toward proficiency on the state academic standards.

Since NCLB was first implemented, Minnesota has transitioned to new reading and mathematics standards and assessment to demonstrate success in meeting the more challenging standards. Students took the new reading test and math test for the first time in spring 2013 and spring 2011 perspectively. When test results are released there is the potential, given the more challenging content students are being tested on, for what looks like a drop in test scores.

Comparing last year's reading scores to this year's reading scores is not appropriate: last year's tests and this year's tests are measuring two different standards of expectation. Instead, this year's test scores should be considered a new starting point for performance. The state saw a similar dip in statewide test scores after the new mathematics test in 2011. It is important to note that new assessments always give us the opportunity to establish a new baseline for student performance, and comparisons cannot be made between results on two different tests.

Grade 11 MCA-II

Academic Standards.

MN 53.4% proficient

• Statewide average scores went up.

• SSP encouraged by the continued

growth made on the grade 11 math

tests with a 13.2 point gain overall.

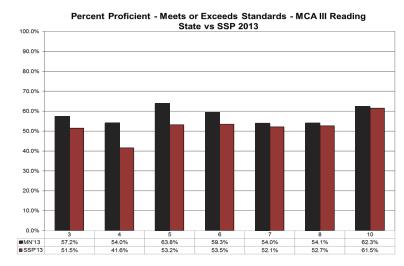
SSP Secondary 54.9% proficient,

2013 Mathematics Results Grades 3-8 MCA-III

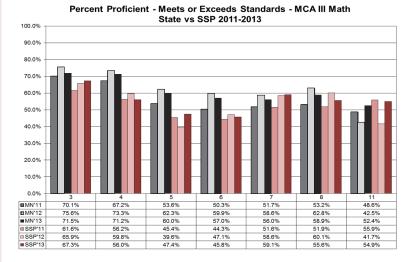
- Mathematics assessments in grades Mathematics assessments in grade 11 3-8 test performance on 2007.
- Minnesota Academic Standards
- MCA-III was first given to students in 2011.
- 2013 statewide average scores in all grades declined 2-4 points from 2012.
- SSP scores were up in grades 3,5 and 7. Grades 4,6 and 8 reflect similar 2-4 point decline.

2013 Reading Results

- Grades 3-8 and 10 MCA-III
- Reading assessments in grades 3-8 and 10 test performance on 2010 Minnesota ELA Academic Standards. (Minnesota Academic Standards are based on Common Core State Standards)
- MCA-III was first given to students in 2013.
- New more difficult assessments this year.
- Increased rigor consistent with Minnesota ELA Academic Standards.
- 2013 scores establish new baseline to monitor progress in student's
- meeting higher Reading standards.
- · Comparisons between the percentages of students who scored proficient in Reading from 2012 to 2013 should be avoided because the standards changed from one year to the next.



This report is published electronically in its entirety on the district's website at www.sspps.org **Copies are available at the District Office



National Clearinghouse StudentTracker

StudentTracker is the only nationwide source of college enrollment and degree completion data. More than 3,500 colleges and universities which enroll over 98% of all students in public and private U.S. institutions regularly provide enrollment and graduation data to the Clearinghouse. StudentTracker for High Schools is a unique program designed to help high school districts more accurately gauge the college success of their graduates by answering such key questions as:

- How many of my high school graduates enroll in college?
- Do they persist and graduate from college?
- *How long does it take for them to get their degree?*
- Do they go in or out of state, and do they attend a 4-year or 2-year school?
- Which colleges do they most commonly attend?
- Did any students go on to college who started 9th grade in my high school *but did not graduate?*

	Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012
Enrollment - Fall after Graduation	73%	72%	77%
Male	72%	77%	82%
Female	75%	73%	78%
Free/Reduced	69%	63%	71%
Not Free/Reduced	78%	80%	82%
Special Education	0%	58%	47%
Not Special Education	77%	77%	82%
LEP: Limited group size	*	*	*
Not LEP	76%	75%	80%
White	76%	77%	80%
Black: Limited group size	*	*	86%
Asian: Limited group size	*	*	*
Hispanic	70%	77%	66%

SSP College Enrollment and Degree Completion

Degree Completion Rate (Associate's, Bachelor's, or Higher)	Complete in 4 years	Complete in 5 years	Complete in 6 years
Class of 2005	21%	37%	41%
Class of 2006	30%	41%	45%
Class of 2007	26%	35%	
Class of 2008	28%		

South St. Paul Public Schools

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27-29 2 12 6-8 Visit sspps.org for more detailed calendars 12 NOVEMBER Secondary Finals Hours 2, 4, 6 **No School** District-wide Elementary Conferences Hours 1, 3, Grades 7p.m. Grades 7-12 District-wide No School Theater Production (HS) Secondary Finals Band Concert Choir Concert p.m 'Be Our Guest' p.m. 7-12 6-7 26-28 23-31 14 DECEMBER 30-31 EVENTS CALENDAF District-wide winter break Tournament Boys Varsity **Classic Debate State** Girls Varsity **Hockey Kaposia Classic** Mistletoe Dance (HS) Tournament (HS) No School **Hockey Premier** 23-24 25 20 17 28 16 13 JANUARY One Act Play Festival (HS) Holiday **Hockey Kaposia Classic** Conferences Girls Varsity Registration **KEC Kindergarten** Invite (HS) 7p.m. District-wide No School Secondary Building winter break District-wide No School Veldman Wrestling District-wide No School

2013 HOMECOMING CANDIDATES



Back row: Victor Boomgaarden, Hayden Cameron, Jamar Suggs, Nick Jerhoff, GeradoRoco Herrera, Max Oelerking, Spencer Hood, Marcos Perez, Colton Weiser, Preston Woods, Billy Brandecker Front row: Shelby Brady, Kelly Counihan, Clair Ravn, Brigette Miller, Victoria Poole, Abby Palmquist, Brooke Fisher, Alexis Pearson, Abby Rogish, Ryanne Strickland, Cynthia Callais

Congratulations to the 2013 Packer Homecoming Royalty!



Left to right: King, Marcos Perez Queen, Alexis Pearson Princess, Claire Ravn Prince, Preston Woods

South St. Paul Secondary School Theatre invites you to "Be Our Guest" as we present Disney's Beauty and the Beast at the High School Auditorium.

"BE OUR GUEST"

This fantastical musical based on a "Tale as Old as Time" and updated colorfully and creatively by the magic-makers at Disney will be thrilling entertainment for the whole family.

Dates: November 7, 8, and 9 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Advance reserve-seat tickets are \$7 for students and seniors, and \$9 for adults. Tickets are also available at the door for \$1 more.

Tickets can be ordered online at www.showtix4u.com or by phone at 651-457-9430.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eric Holsen at eholsen@sspps.org.