May 15, 2020
Parent/Guardian Email Update

Distance Learning Survey Update

Dear SLP students and families: Thank you for taking time to complete the Distance Learning Survey. The survey is now closed. Over the next few days, our teaching community will be studying the feedback of over 1,000 students and 529 families in order to understand what strategies have worked for our community and to determine our areas for growth. The feedback that you have been providing throughout these two weeks has been shared with our leaders and some adjustments have already been made. At Peter Hobart Elementary, for example, there has been an increase in face-to-face class meetings through Flipgrid and other visual platforms. Also, based on student and family feedback, our middle school teachers have been working hard to centralize the location of assignments, clarify expectations around the number of assignments, office hours and length of instruction (recorded and live). Now that the survey has closed, we will dive deeper into your feedback so that we can maximize the distance learning experience of our students and families. Thank you again for taking the time to complete our Distance Learning Survey. - Dr. Silvy Lafayette, Director of Assessment, Research & Evaluation

NEW FREE Meals for Students LOCATIONS STARTING MONDAY

Spring has arrived in Minnesota and temperatures are rising! This is wonderful news for the birds, the grass, and the flowers, but it is not good news for our fresh food delivery in FREE Student Meals. In order to meet food safety guidelines we must keep food refrigerated until it is given to students and families. To do so we are modifying our Grab-and-Go Meal Distribution locations and times. Meals will now be served from school kitchens or refrigerated trucks parked at St. Louis Park Public Schools locations. We will no longer serve from apartment locations.

A few notes about the NEW service:
- Meals will be served to your vehicle via drive-up at all locations.
- Meals distribution times are 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- Meals are served from school kitchens or refrigerated trucks as referenced at each location below.

Click HERE to download a flyer regarding the Free Student Meals Program.

Grab-and-Go Meal Distribution Locations beginning Monday, May 18, 2020:

Aquila Elementary School - Kitchen
8500 W. 31st St., St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Virtual Kindergarten Information Week is May 18-22

St. Louis Park Public Schools was set to hold a Kindergarten Information Night at its four elementary schools on March 12, just as the COVID-19 pandemic started to affect the country, and so the event was canceled.

During the week of May 18-22, we will hold a Virtual Kindergarten Information Week that is intended to provide incoming Kindergarten families with important information about the Kindergarten experience in St. Louis Park Public Schools. All of this content will be available starting Monday, May 18 by visiting www.slpschools.org/kindergarten.

Here is a schedule of the content that will be available each day:
Monday, May 18: Learn more about YOUR elementary school.
Tuesday, May 19: ABCs and 123s … And SO MUCH MORE! They say “Everything You Need to Know, You Learn in Kindergarten,” but what will your child learn in kindergarten in St. Louis Park Public Schools?
Wednesday, May 20: Learn about Transportation, School Nutrition and Special Services.
Thursday, May 21: LIVE EVENT - Ask a question to a kindergarten student, parent, teacher, or principal.

Children First Virtual Ice Cream Social is May 17 at 2 p.m.

Join the Children First team on Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m. for an hour’s worth of fun at its Virtual Ice Cream Social on Facebook Live (https://www.facebook.com/ChildrenFirstSLP). Enjoy live streaming music from Dan Israel, learn some cool new moves from PSI Baile Folklórico, laugh along with puppeteer Kristi Nelson and her zany sidekicks, hear from Project
Runway Junior Alum Cartier Dior, and kick back and enjoy master storyteller Larry Kraft read the book Gorilla Loves Vanilla. (There may be substitutions if any of the participants experience technical difficulties.)

You can be part of the fun too! Practice your ice cream skills and enter one of the Children First contests by posting your entry to the Children First Facebook page by 5pm, Sunday, May 17. Describe your entry and judging will be completed and winners announced by Friday, May 22. Prizes include Joe’s Bucks for free treats at Sebastian Joe’s, courtesy of Sebastian Joe’s. Contest categories are:

- Most creative ice cream concoction,
- Weirdest ice cream ingredient,
- Best video or photo of how you got in the ice cream spirit,
- Healthiest version of ice cream concoction.

Show us your best ice cream-y entries so your neighbors can share in the fun! For a fun kid-friendly recipe for ice cream that you can make at home with ingredients you likely have on hand, go to https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/ice-cream-in-a-bag/.

For even more fun, join in the Children First COVID Bingo game, which you can find online at http://www.children-first.org/.

Children First is a nonprofit community partnership founded in 1992 by the business, city, health, faith and education communities in St. Louis Park. Children First builds awareness about the important role all adults can play in the healthy development of young people. It’s based on the 40 Developmental Assets, common-sense experiences, relationships and expectations that help our kids thrive. You can learn more about Children First at http://www.children-first.org/.

Summer Construction Begins May 18

With teachers and students engaged in distance learning through the end of the school year, a number of summer construction projects have been moved up to begin on Monday, May 18. Due to construction, there will be limited site access at Peter Hobart Elementary, Susan Lindgren Elementary and St. Louis Park Middle School between now and late-August.

The best way for parents and guardians to contact school personnel during this time, such as principals or administrative assistants, is via email.

Kids Place Childcare to reopen for the summer

The Governor’s most recent Executive Order 20-57 for the summer school period informs that school districts may provide childcare to all children but must continue to prioritize onsite care for eligible children of critical workers.

Under this order, Kids Place Childcare is able reopen to families for the summer period, June 15 – August 21, 2020. The program will be required to follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines laid out by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department
of Health. These guidelines will require more programming space and staffing thereby potentially limiting the number of children we can serve. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please register by May 22 HERE. We will notify you as soon as possible if we can approve your contract as space allows. Kids Place says THANK YOU for your patience as they work through the details of these unprecedented times.

Middle School Students Perform Virtual Read Through of James and the Giant Peach
Students at the Middle School were excited to present the musical James and the Giant Peach this Spring. The COVID-19 pandemic derailed those plans, but that didn’t stop those students and Director Lil Zumberge from gathering together on a Google Meet on Thursday, May 14 to perform a virtual read and sing through of the play. More than 60 students jumped online to take part in the virtual performance and a good time was had by all. Other staff members involved in the Middle School Theatre experience include Jen Schmerler, John Myszkowski and Jessica Edelheit.

High School Students Collect State and National Honors
A number of St. Louis Park High School students have earned state and national honors over the past several weeks in the areas of academics, music, and athletics.

Junior Thor Anderson recently received a perfect score of 36 on his ACT test. Typically, less than one half of 1% of students who take the ACT earn a perfect score. Of the 1.8 million U.S. High School students who took the ACT in 2019, only 4,879 earned a perfect score.

The High School varsity softball team received the Gold Team Academic Award from the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association for having a cumulative grade point average of 3.954. The team was one of 15 Class AAAAA schools to receive the honor.

Three High School students -- juniors Ari Braverman, Leo Dworsky, and Phoebe McKinney -- have been accepted into the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) All-State Choir. Braverman has been accepted into the All-State Tenor/Bass Choir as a Bass I. Dworsky and McKinney have been accepted into the All-State Mixed Choir, as Tenor I and Soprano I, respectively. MMEA currently has tentative plans to have All-State honorees rehearse the week of February 9-13, 2021 and then perform a concert at Orchestra Hall.

Two High School students -- seniors Thomas Hanson and Fiona Petrie -- have been accepted into the MMEA All-State Orchestra. Hanson plays the upright bass, while Petrie plays the violin.

Senior Aaron Ellingson has been named an All-American Athlete by the National High School Strength Coaches Association. Ellingson is one of 27 male athletes across the country to receive the award this year, and the first ever from St. Louis Park High School. The award is given to high school athletes who demonstrate outstanding achievement on and off the field in regards to strength and conditioning, athletic performance, academics and leadership.
Photos of Completed Construction Inside the Middle School

Construction is now complete on the South side of the Middle School, including a remodeled Media Center, seven new classrooms fitted for next-century learning, student gathering spaces, and a new second floor hallway that links the existing East and West hallways. Click here to view a complete gallery of photos from the new spaces.