



Greetings,

Can it be true? Yes, it is almost midyear already. You should have just received your child's progress report in the mail. Please review this, and if you have any questions please contact your child's teacher and or the counselor (763-785-5547).

WHAT ABOUT THAT NEW HOMEWORK POLICY ??????

There have been a lot of conversations and questions about this topic. I can assure you that there has not been a school wide directive from administration in regards to homework *grading* procedures. However, there are a couple of things that are happening this year which took effect at the start of trimester two.

1. **Daily Homework:** Starting trimester two, in order to better align with evidence-based research and with our district assessment practices, teachers will no longer deduct points if a daily homework assignment is handed in late. (Exceptions may apply depending on individual circumstances)

A. PLEASE understand that students will still be expected to hand in the homework by the deadline

B. Many teachers will continue to grade homework. Some have changed the weight of homework within the final grade. (If you have questions about this, please contact that individual teacher.)

C. As the trimester progresses teachers will be allowed to use homework as a tool to get students ready for any upcoming assessments. Students will not be allowed to hand in everything the last day!

Homework can support and enhance learning, provide feedback to teachers about learning, allow students to practice skills, and deepen knowledge. At SLP we are trying to differentiate homework for individual needs, be sensitive about the limitations of home environments, and accept that not all students can or will work at home or may not have the resources to do so. We continue to try to challenge ourselves to reflect the wide social and economic diversity of our schools. With this challenge we are working to balance homework overload (incorrectly assuming that more homework means more rigor in the course) while at the same time working to assure that homework can be a real asset to learning. We want to ensure that we do not compromise the healthy balance between work, play and down-time that all students need (Vatterott, 2009).

2. **Grading Pilot:** This year a group of our teachers have been working on a grading pilot in which we are looking at a couple of options to implement for next year. This may include a dual reporting system that allows for an academic grade and a life skills grade.

To learn more about this there will be a parent informational and input session on January 25th in the Multipurpose Room - B245. This will start at 6:30pm

Parent Information Night on the Grading Pilot: January 25th

Frank Herman
Principal

Winter Conferences

February 4, 2010

Evening Conferences

4:30pm-7:00pm

Held in Cafeteria and other areas nearby.

February 5, 2010

Day Conferences

7:30am-11:00am & 12:00pm-2:30pm (Day) Held in classrooms

Please enter through Door # 1 (Rotunda), or Door # 29 Able Street Entrance (Bus entrance).

Spring Lake Park HS Automated Attendance

Spring Lake Park High School has moved to an Automated Attendance Calling System. If your student has been marked Unexcused Absent, you will receive an automated call informing you that your student is not in school. Calls will be made after 1st period. The system will call between 8:51 and 10:29 and will call your home phone and cell phone number, and you will also receive an email to the email address you designated on Parent Portal.

February Testing Dates:

GRAD Reading Re-test - February 2, 2010

GRAD Math Re-test - February 9, 2010

Yearbook

2009 Yearbook: Books are still available. If you would still like a copy, please contact Maria Ahrndt at mahrnd@district16.org

2010 Yearbook: 3 ways to order

1. Computer: www.smart-pay.com
2. Mailing address: Taylor Publishing, PO Box 650549, Dallas, TX 75265
3. Toll free order number : 1-800-853-1337

AFTER SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

In an effort to create a safer building for students and staff, new procedures will begin on **Tuesday, January 19.**

BEFORE 3:00 PM

Students involved in athletics and other activities must have gathered all personal belongings from the "B" and "C" buildings.

Panther Den and a place for students staying after to study will be located in the lobby in front of the Fine Arts Center (FAC).

3:00 PM

The doors to the cafeteria and the rotunda will be locked.

3:30 PM

ALL students will move into the rotunda or "A" building ("B" and "C" buildings will be cleared) unless the student is:

1. Staying later with a teacher and must be in their classroom.
2. Involved in an after school activity with a teacher, coach or other staff member.
3. Staying for detention

3:30 PM and later

Parents may pick up students at the front of the school (81st Ave. side, door #1). Students may wait in the rotunda or in the lobby in front of the FAC.

5:00 PM

The activity buses will pick up students by the pool area doors on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday only.

Class of 2010

Senior News and Updates:

Senior All Night Party

For Senior All Night Party information, visit their website at:

http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/schools/hs/hs_allnightparty.asp

Dates to Remember

January:

1/25 - Parent Information - Grading Pilot 6:30pm

1/25 - HS PAC, 7pm Multipurpose Room A

1/28 - Early Release Day - 2 hrs early

1/29 - No School - Staff workshop

February:

2/1 - HS Snow Days Begin

2/4 - Evening Conferences 4:30pm-7:00pm

2/5 - No School - Day Conferences

2/6 - Panther Foundation Gala

2/8 - HS All-conference Band/Choir/Jazz Concert
7:30 pm, FAC

2/11 - State One Act Plays

2/12 - State One Act Plays

2/15 - No School - Presidents Day

2/16 - No School - Staff Workshop

Important 10th Grade Information

Due to the change in the date of conferences, another session of the 10th grade PLAN Parent Meeting has been added, to accommodate those parents who would like to attend this meeting the same evening as conferences. This session will be at 6:30 pm in the high school media center (library).

The January 20 and 28th sessions, as well as the February 5 session, will continue as scheduled.

Please call or e-mail Ms. Stoner in the Dept. of Student Services at 763-785-5547 or hstone@district16.org to schedule your session.

Parent Portal

Parent Portal: This is your parent online access to secure and timely information about your child's class schedule, attendance, report card, and transcript. For more information about myCampus, or to sign up for an account, see the links below. If you need technical assistance please contact 763-795-5901 or e-mail portal@district16.org

Park Place

Park Place carries a large variety of Panther merchandise. Park Place is committed to serving the entire community with Panther gear!

Store Hours: Please call for updated store hours at 763-783-5637

Payments: Cash, Check, Visa, Master Card and Discovery. New account set up and valid email address required for credit card orders.

Park Place also offers Gift Certificates.

The School Library Link to Online Technologies

The study of information and its access has changed dramatically over the last 10-15 years. It seems strange to think that students entering college today don't know what a world without Google® or Facebook® or even desktop computers is like.

As technology and the Internet have emerged, the role of librarians has changed dramatically. Librarians are no longer only concerned with print sources. Librarians have had to become experts in online technologies and information sources. In schools in particular, we need to have printed books to support all learning styles and student needs. But online technologies have added another layer to learning. Not only do these technologies offer opportunities to learn, but they are now becoming proficiencies that students are being expected to *know*. In the school library, students have the opportunity to both practice and use technology skills and tools to access information. They are using computers and databases to do research, and they are using interactive websites and media to write their reports and/or produce their projects. Online technologies have opened up a whole new world of information access and tools that aid in both teaching and learning.

Here is a list of a few of the tools I have been introducing to our high school students:

Google Docs and iGoogle www.google.com
NoodleTools <http://www.noodletools.com/>
Ask a Librarian <http://www.askmn.org/>
Delicious Social Bookmarking <http://delicious.com/>

Tori Jensen
Media Specialist

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office 763-786-5571
Student Support Services 763-785-5547
Health Care Office 763-785-5557

Our new Address:

1100 81st Ave. NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432



Energy Assistance Program

Minnesota **EAP**

Money is available to help pay your heating bills

Are you struggling to make ends meet? It is hard with the high cost of basic needs like food, medicine, transportation, and heating. The Minnesota Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps take a bite out of heating bills and wants to connect you to our services.

EAP serves homeowners and renters paying for heat directly to an energy vendor or indirectly (included in rent to a landlord). Homeowners may also get help repairing or replacing a furnace. Eligibility is based on the past three months of income.

Examples of eligible households are:

Household of 1: last three months income below \$5,423

Household of 2: last three months income below \$7,092

Household of 3: last three months income below \$8,761

Household of 4: last three months income below \$10,430

Grants range from \$100 to \$1,400 depending on family size, income and fuel consumption, with an average grant of about \$600. To get help call **1-800-657-3710** or go to <http://www.staywarm.mn.gov/>