

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL

Dear SPCPA Students & Families!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well and settled into a new school year. It is hard to believe that SPCPA's 10th year is already well underway. We thank everyone who was able to join us for our Back-to-School Night event, which allowed us to showcase additional new and renovated spaces at the Lowry, as well as the images in the main entry that signify the mission of the school. We feel very fortunate to have such a great team of people that worked many hours to prepare the Lowry for the start of the school year and continue to demonstrate that same commitment as we continue to tackle a few projects that will further benefit teaching and learning.

This year we welcome Ian Bronson as Principal/Academic Director, Monica Lonergan as Director of Special Education, and Glory Kibbel to assist with academic professional development, as well as recognize the transition of Kelly McQuillan to Dean of Student Achievement and Alison Green to Post-Secondary Advisor. These individuals along with an amazing assembly of new and returning faculty and staff look forward to furthering the education and opportunities available to students.

SPCPA's Board of Directors, administration and staff continue to commit to providing the highest caliber of academic and artistic education to aspiring pre-professional performing artists in the areas of dance, theatre, musical theatre, instrumental music, and vocal arts, as well as preparing students for college and conservatory.

With this said, it is important to remember that SPCPA students have the unique experience of being a visible part of the downtown Saint Paul community on a daily basis and attending classes in a truly remarkable setting for learning. Given our place in this wonderful downtown setting, we must take responsibility for how we represent ourselves to the community and realize that we share our facilities, especially the skyways, sidewalks, and eating establishments, with others. School administration forges numerous connections with community members and encourages feedback when necessary given the school's significant presence in downtown.

We receive positive feedback on a daily basis, which is wonderful, and we continue to request that everyone is mindful of continuing to display appropriate attire, not shouting or yelling indoors, maintaining skyway and sidewalk etiquette, and cleaning up after themselves. We want to be sure that behaviors support the image we desire for our school.

SPCPA

16 W 5th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

651-290-2225 Phone
651-290-9000 Fax
www.spcpa.org

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

7:30 am—4:00 pm

ATTENDANCE HOTLINE

651-222-3200

Please call by 9:00 am

SPCPA

ADMINISTRATION

Callie Jacobs
Superintendent/
Director of School

Ian Bronson
Principal/
Academic Director

Brian Goranson
Principal/
Artistic Director

Monica Lonergan
Special Education
Director



SPCPA is authorized by
Ordway Center for the
Performing Arts

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

Additionally, our reputation extends beyond downtown Saint Paul. Students travel to and from school on different buses from different communities and their behavior is noticed. We appreciate students being respectful and practicing good citizenship while utilizing public transportation. We have the opportunity to affect our communities positively by being thoughtful and conscientious individuals and by choosing our words and actions carefully.

SPCPA students help create and shape their learning environments inside and outside of the classroom with the choices that they make every day. In addition to providing students with a top notch academic education and training and development in the arts, we also strive to help them grow as compassionate individuals with concern for others and a desire to make a positive impact on their communities. Please assist us in reminding the students and each other that we all have the opportunity to serve as role models and help project a positive image for SPCPA in the community.

Please enjoy the first newsletter of the 2014-2015 school year, as school staff have worked to assemble some important information to support a successful start to the school year for families and students. This is just a start, as we look forward to working with you throughout the school year. You are encouraged to contact the school office (651-290-2225) between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM for assistance in directing you to the appropriate staff member should you have questions, concerns, or issues that need to be addressed. It is important to us that we address your needs in a timely and efficient manner and utilizing our main office will help us accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,
Callie Jacobs

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October 15	PSAT for 11th grade students who pre-registered 8:00 am in the Lowry building All students not testing must attend classes as usual
October 16 & 17	SCHOOL CLOSED: Education Minnesota break
October 23	Early Dismissal at 12:05 pm PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 1:30—4:30 pm and 5:30—7:30 pm in the Lowry building
October 24	Early Dismissal at 12:05 pm PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 1:00—4:00 pm in the Lowry building
October 28 & 29	J-Term Auditions Students will participate in pre-selected J-term auditions during regularly scheduled arts classes
November 3	Prospective Student Experiences 8:15—10:30 am and 1:00—3:00 pm Please direct interested students/families to our website for details and to RSVP

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES CONTINUED

November 12	PLAN test for all 10th grade students More details about this state-required test will be sent home as the date approaches
November 13	GIVE TO THE MAX DAY This event is an opportunity for SPCPA to raise funds for much needed items and earn extra money if we are one of the top earners in the state. Donations via credit card can be scheduled in advance on the GiveMN website. More details are included on the last page of this newsletter.
November 13	Prospective Student Experiences 8:15—10:30 am and 1:00—3:00 pm Please direct interested students/families to our website for details and to RSVP
November 17	SPCPA Board of Directors regular business meeting 5:30 pm in Lowry room 246
November 21	Prospective Student Experiences 8:15—10:30 am and 1:00—3:00 pm Please direct interested students/families to our website for details and to RSVP
November 26, 27 & 28	SCHOOL CLOSED: Thanksgiving break
December 4	Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra Winter Concert 7:00 pm in the SPCO Room, 3rd floor, Hamm Building Tickets are \$8.00 via www.brownpapertickets.com
December 10	Prospective Student Experiences 8:15—10:30 am and 1:00—3:00 pm Please direct interested students/families to our website for details and to RSVP
December 15	Theatre Acting Studio Performance 7:30 pm in the TekBox at the Cowles Center for Dance Please check the website calendar for more details
December 16	Musical Theatre Acting Studio Performance 7:30 pm in the TekBox at the Cowles Center for Dance Please check the website calendar for more details
December 18	LAST DAY OF SEMESTER ONE
December 19	No School—Staff Professional Development
December 22—January 2	SCHOOL CLOSED: Winter break

FROM THE PRINCIPAL/ ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

I am delighted to join the SPCPA community as we celebrate our 10th year as a school. In my opinion, excellence in education is a balancing act between setting high standards and strong academics against the varied opportunities of working with a diverse group of students who each have a broad range of skills and abilities. This is not a new development in education. As Plato reflected on the student, he had this to say:

“Do not train a student to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what engages their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.”

How do educators harness and develop that “unique genius” found within each student? One of my interests in education is exploring the notion of how we increase a student’s curiosity about the world around them. I am a firm believer that as we capture the hearts and minds of our students, they will discover the love of learning. This begins with a great school culture, continues with superb teachers, and becomes reality when the students themselves are invested in the discovery of new learning. Our goal is to develop the innate curiosity within each student.

I have discovered in my short time at SPCPA that we have amazing students. I have also been inspired and encouraged with the exceptional teaching staff. They are dedicated, intelligent, and bring a wealth of experiences to each subject area. We continue to collaboratively approach the work of teaching. I will be highlighting five core values throughout the year that we as an academic staff believe are foundational to the success of each SPCPA student. These were developed as we explored the characteristics, dispositions and skills we aspire to instill in each graduate of SPCPA.

The Core Values assert that Academic Teaching:

- Educates and prepares ALL students for entrance into college or university.
- Stimulates and sustains interest in the academic and intellectual world as a source of truth and insight into the human condition.
- Constructs an environment that encourages inquiry and intellectual curiosity.
- Encourages students to raise questions and develop a pattern of lifelong learning.
- Promotes individual academic discovery with a collaborative spirit.

These values will guide our instructional practices as an academic staff preparing all students for success both at SPCPA and in their future endeavors.

Here are a few details that might aid in your student’s success at SPCPA this year. All academic teachers update their grades at least every two weeks. Parents and students can check SchoolView for grades and attendance. Each class has a Moodle page which is a great resource for both parents and students. Moodle will always have an updated syllabus, calendar of due dates, tests and assignments, as well as grading criteria for each class. Each student has at least one study hall which gives the opportunity to work on homework and stay on top of assignments and deadlines.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions, concerns, stories, or learning that you make note of either at SPCPA or at home. I am thankful for the partnership we have as educators, parents, and community members working together to create a truly unique and wonderful experience for the students at SPCPA.

Sincerely,
Ian Bronson

FROM THE PRINCIPAL/ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The 2014-15 school year marks SPCPA's 10th year, and the anniversary has us reflecting upon our history. In the fall of 2005, the school opened its doors to 154 students. This past August, enrollment had grown to 650! The students who have moved through SPCPA during that time share in the responsibility for that rapid growth. We will be inviting some of those students to join us for a special afternoon. Near the end of fall semester, select alumni will be joining us to watch student work, participate in classes, and engage in panel discussions for 11th and 12th graders. There are a number of former SPCPA students who have graduated from college or conservatory and are working professionally as actors, dancers, singers, musicians, directors, choreographers, and composers. We hope to honor their contribution to the SPCPA community and draw inspiration from their stories.

There are other ways we plan to circle back to our origins this year and acknowledge this exciting milestone. Founding SPCPA Artistic Director, Wendy Lehr, will return to direct the J-Term project, *You Can't Take it With You*. Wendy set forth the Conservatory's primary purpose to provide pre-professional, pre-conservatory training to students of all ability levels. Since her departure from SPCPA in 2009, Wendy has continued to brighten Twin Cities' stages. Additionally, she has since been honored with the 2010 Ivy Award for Lifetime Achievement, as well as the 2013 McKnight Distinguished Artist Award. We are thrilled to have her back with us for J-Term and look forward to engaging the students with her unbounded enthusiasm and curiosity.

Besides her passion for what she called "authentic training," taught by professional artists who bring current work "from the field" into the classroom, Wendy instilled arts programming at SPCPA with themes of balance and temperance, and with the idea that art and artistic training involves a kind of alchemy of two opposites. For instance, a conservatory has roots, but it must also look toward the future; it is rigorous but fun; structured but free; classical while also contemporary; the work is planned yet must always leave room for inspiration. And as Wendy was also fond of saying, "in order to move forward it is necessary to occasionally pause and reflect back."



*Founding Artistic Director
Wendy Lehr*

Plans are in motion to incorporate SPCPA's history into the 2015 graduation/commencement ceremony to pay homage to our beginnings while encouraging continued innovation, improvement, and growth. Year 10 is an important check-point, and one that we will continue to consider throughout the year.

A hearty welcome back to returning students! And to those who are new to SPCPA, welcome aboard this grand journey of continual change through the transformative power of the arts!

Sincerely,
Brian Goranson

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Dear SPCPA Families,

As Dean of Student Achievement, my role is to support your student academically and help them stay on track for graduation. I am in the process of creating individual graduation plans for each student. These will be mailed home during the month of October—please be on the lookout.

Spring registration is just around the corner. Students will be placed in courses this spring based on grade level and individual graduation plans. *There will be no online registration for the spring.*

Please look at the graduation plan mailed home in October and email me at mcquillank@spcpa.org if you have concerns over the Spring 2015 Registration Plan for your student or you want to discuss a course level change. Schedule change requests for spring classes will only be accepted under special circumstances and before February 4th, 2015.

As testing season approaches please be aware that the state legislature has changed the state graduation assessment requirements. Students entering grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year and later, will take the ACT Plus Writing in grade 11 to meet state graduation requirements. At this time, no minimum score has been set by the Legislature.

This assessment will be administered by SPCPA on April 28th, 2015. Please note that only students currently in grade 11 are eligible for the SPCPA administration of the ACT Plus Writing as it is a state mandated assessment. More detailed information will be sent out to families this spring. Students interested in taking the ACT on another date, or who are not in 11th grade will need to register independently through the ACT website.

In addition to the changes for grade 11, the state is also now requiring all grade 10 students to take the ACT PLAN assessment. All grade 10 students will take the ACT PLAN on Wednesday, November 12th at SPCPA. The ACT PLAN results will be used to gauge whether students are making progress towards college readiness and to help prepare them for the ACT Plus Writing assessment taken in grade 11. More information will be sent to 10th grade families as the testing date nears.

As always, email is the best way to contact faculty, staff and administration. Feel free to email me at any time with any questions or concerns at mcquillank@spcpa.org. I look forward to working with you and your student throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Kelly McQuillan

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The school year has gotten off to a great start; we are fortunate to have wonderful students here at SPCPA!

Here are some tips for continued success:

- Be sure to call the attendance hotline with any absence reporting: **(651) 222-3200**. Attendance calls must be made within 24 hours of a student's absence. Attendance reporting cannot be taken via email.

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENT CONDUCT CONTINUED

- Our students have the luxury of having an entire metropolitan area as their lunch room! Please help to remind your student of appropriate behavior and etiquette in the community. One of our biggest challenges is students crossing the streets at crosswalks. Please remind your student that it is safest to cross the street in a crosswalk using the walk signals (don't cross against traffic).
- We have already had three successful emergency drills this year: fire, lockdown yellow, and lockdown red. Our students have been excellent listeners and followers of directions during these critical drills. We will continue to have more drills throughout the year.
- Should your student need to miss school for an ongoing arts performance, vacation, or other extended reason, please contact me to see if your child qualifies for an extended absence contract which allows him/her to miss school with some extra days to complete work.

Please visit SPCPA's student handbook online for this year's information regarding attendance, behavior, and other school rules. It can be found on our website at <http://spcpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Student-Handbook-2014-15.pdf>.

Here's to a successful school year for all of our students!

Sincerely,
Carrie Jarvis

SPCPA ONLINE RESOURCES

SPCPA Website

www.spcpa.org

Our website contains valuable information for both parents and students. In addition to links to SchoolView and Moodle, we post important announcements about school closings due to inclement weather, events on the school calendar, a faculty and staff directory with email addresses for all teachers and administrators, and curriculum for all subjects.

SchoolView

<http://spcpa.org/current-students/grades-attendance-school-view/>

This site allows parents and students to see grades, attendance and standardized test scores, as well as request contact information updates. Each parent/guardian and student has their own separate account. This information was mailed home to adults in early September and handed out to students in English classes the same week. For help with SchoolView, please email Susan Reiling at reilings@spcpa.org.

Moodle

<http://moodle-spcpa.org>

This online classroom is where teachers post syllabi, assignments, handouts and class information. Each student has a unique username and password. Parents may enter as a guest to see content, but will not be able to participate in quizzes or forums. The guest password is "spcpa". Students who need help with Moodle should contact the course teacher.

FROM THE POST-SECONDARY ADVISOR

The college search is alive and well at SPCPA. Finding good college matches is a process that takes time. Like every other major purchase/commitment, the best decisions come about through a combination of research and individual soul searching. Which colleges and universities have what a student wants and want what a student has in terms of academic, personal and extra-curricular qualities? To help our students begin developing their own personal college wish list, select institutions are invited to arrange a visit date at SPCPA during the school day. Currently, 24 colleges and universities are on our first semester visit schedule.

This list includes major public universities and small liberal arts colleges; institutions that offer BAs and conservatory programs that offer BFAs; schools with big city campuses and schools located in much more rural areas. Next semester, we hope to expand our list to include schools with a two year or career focus. Presently, only six of the colleges and universities visiting are from Minnesota. Because of our school's reputation, SPCPA students have the relatively rare opportunity to hear directly from admissions representatives from New York to LA and Seattle to Birmingham. With half of our visits yet to occur, SPCPA seniors, juniors and sophomores have already experienced over 700 college visit impressions! In every case, the admissions representatives involved in these visits have only had positive things to say about the level of participation and engagement shown by SPCPA students.

As is true of any voluntary activity, some of our students have made better use of this opportunity than others. On the flip side, some of our students may be making too good of a use of this chance to get out of class. Balancing high school and planning for college can be a challenge. As good an opportunity as these visits are to learn about a wide variety of schools, doing well in class is what will ultimately determine the college options our students will have. SPCPA instructors always have the right and the administration's support to deny a student's request to leave class for a college visit. We would also encourage SPCPA families to reinforce the necessity of high academic performance when preparing for college. This emphasis on grades first is the primary reason freshmen may not attend and sophomores must obtain approval prior to attending college visits.

Electronic

Transcript Requests:

Students who complete online college applications that include an electronic transcript request from a specific college or university do not have to complete the SPCPA transcript form. The transcript will automatically be submitted electronically via the link provided in the email and the \$5 fee assessed. Once completed, students will be notified by email that payment in full is required within 7 days.

Students who submit the Common Application will be assessed a single \$5 official transcript fee no matter how many schools are included in this blanket application.

Talking to admissions representatives starts the process of turning vague college dreams into something tangible. In each of these settings, students are told what expectations each institution has in terms of admission procedures and requirements. The admission representatives describe the qualifications of previous applicants who have been admitted. Students learn about majors, course requirements, scholarships, internship, research, financial aid, housing and study abroad opportunities. Depending on the situation, the information provided can help a student establish personal goals in terms of grades and test scores or understand that they may not be a good fit for a school they thought they were interested in. High school students don't automatically understand that college is something we pay for but in the end cannot buy. College acceptance is earned not owed.

Over the next few weeks, families will have the opportunity to attend college related events outside of the school day. Hopefully all students and parents received an email alerting them to the National College Fair held at the Minneapolis Convention Center after school on October 7th and the Performing & Visual Arts College Fair held at Coffman Union on the University of Minnesota campus in the evening on October 14th.

FROM THE POST-SECONDARY ADVISOR CONTINUED

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you or your student did not receive these notices. We want to ensure that our systems adequately reflect your family's contact information. These fairs can provide a wonderful start for families of freshman and sophomores learning about colleges and the admission process. College fairs provide juniors and seniors an opportunity to speak with admission representatives from schools they are interested in but may not be able to visit in the near future. Colleges and universities pay attention to the students that pay attention to them!

In addition to these mass college fair events, Education Minnesota break provides an excellent opportunity for students and parents to visit college campuses near and far. It's rarely too late to make college visit plans. Families schedule visits directly with the colleges and universities their students are most interested in attending by going onto each school's website under the Admissions/Visit tabs. Research has shown that students are much more likely to attend college if they have the opportunity to listen to college presentations at their high school, attend college fairs, and best of all step into this world through scheduled on-campus college visits. We will continue to provide college visit opportunities to SPCPA students and encourage SPCPA families to make their own plans to explore the college universe. Your students have voted with their feet –they are definitely interested in this subject.

Regards,
Alison Green

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher conferences will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 23 and 24, in the Lowry building. Students will be dismissed at 12:05 pm on both days. Conferences are open house-style; appointments are not required. Parents are encouraged to visit as many of their student's teachers as time allows. We request families spend no more than 5 minutes with each teacher, please. Students are welcome and encouraged to attend conferences.

Thursday, October 23: 1:30—4:30 pm & 5:30—7:30 pm

Friday, October 24: 1:00—4:00 pm

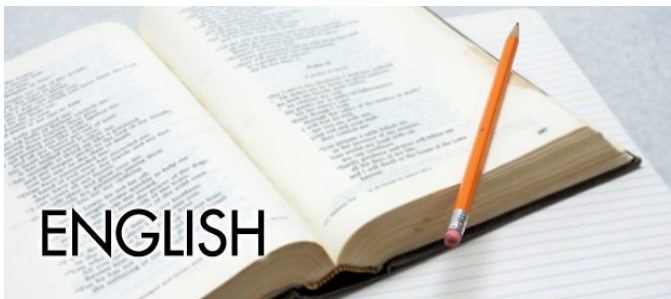
Metered parking is available on the street near the Lowry building, as well as in various ramps downtown. Parking information and directions are posted on our website at <http://spcpa.org/about/campus-map-parking/>.

In addition, school clothing and other gear will be for sale. Please note that at this point, SPCPA can accept **CASH ONLY** for purchases. ATMs are available in banks within a block or two of campus, so please plan accordingly.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE DAYS

Prospective Student Experience days are an opportunity for students and families considering enrollment at SPCPA to hear an information session from our Principals, engage in a question and answer session with current students, and take a tour of our campus. Dates and times are posted on our website calendar. RSVPs are due two business days in advance via email to galatowitschn@spcpa.org - feel free to encourage family and friends to attend!

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS



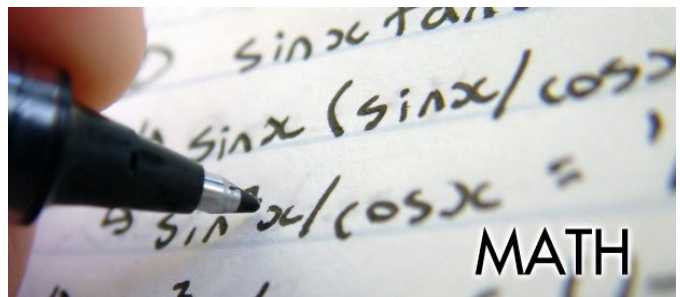
English 9 is currently focusing on the short story. The short story unit focuses on the works of O. Henry, Shirley Jackson, Edgar Allan Poe and D. Wetherell. We are examining literary terms and vocabulary within the short pieces of fiction. Our writing focus has been on personal narratives and creating personal journals. The students will finish out the semester analyzing the play *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

English 10 students have spent most of the first quarter searching for truth! We have not found it, but we are being helped by the ancient philosophers who will eventually get us there. Our writing focus has been on short answer opinion pieces. The writing must always reflect back to the story we have read. We are beginning to focus on longer written pieces and research.

Honors English 10 students are in the middle of their unit on literary theory and analysis, for which they are returning always to two baseline texts—"Roman Fever" by Edith Wharton and speeches or reports by Senator McCarthy and Edward R. Murrow—so that they can see each critical lens can change a reading of the same the text. As a culmination of this unit, students will be analyzing Sondheim's musical *Into the Woods* through a lens of their choosing. We will end the semester by applying what we've learned about close reading and analysis to a wide variety of world literature in an attempt to discover the nature of truth and perspective. Second semester will begin with Shakespeare's *Macbeth* for which students will research history of its performance and work to "stage" their own version of the play.

English 11 has been concentrating on the Native American Perspective, specifically assimilation, the Boarding School Movement, and archetypes within the Native American community. To help us further understand the role of Native Americans we have been reading Creation Myths and gaining an understanding of the power of these stories within a community.

English 12 students have just wrapped up our unit on personal narratives and the college essay process, during which students were able to craft two essays that attempted to answer real college prompts with creative, individualized voices. We are now starting our unit on close reading and analysis. Students will work primarily with short stories, but the culminating project will allow students to analyze a "mythic" film—one that relies on traditional archetypes and symbols—and explain how literature speaks to future generations. We will end first semester and continue into second semester with *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, which will allow for discussions on identity, storytelling, and the idea of history as literature.



In **Applied Math** this semester, students are working on problem solving strategies and number theory, including GCF, LCM, and prime numbers. Students will also be looking at Algebra Topics, including equations, inequalities, graphs, functions, and systems of equations.

In **Discrete Math**, a senior level course designed for students at every ability level, students are learning about Set Theory.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS

They are also reviewing probability topics and looking at how it relates to Set Theory and will also be learning about Logic, Graph Theory, and Number Theory.

Geometry began with basic definitions of geometric terms, such as a point, a line, and a plane. We then moved onto geometric reasoning. Next we will be working with parallel and perpendicular lines; triangles & triangle proofs; polygons, circles, and their properties (including areas). We will also be doing a unit on trigonometry and a unit on coordinate geometry. Throughout the year we will take mastery quizzes to check students' understanding on a daily basis and will likely have a project or two.

In **Algebra II and Advanced Algebra II** students just took their chapter two test on linear functions. During the remainder of the semester the students will be learning about systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic functions, and exponential functions and logarithms.

In **Precalculus**, we are exploring many different types of functions, from basic linear and quadratic functions to exponential and logarithmic functions. We are especially focusing on problem solving ability and conceptual knowledge, which will be a course-long battle! Students are finding out that mathematics is a lot more than merely solving an equation.

In **Calculus**, we are discussing limits and derivatives. We are connecting the mechanics of computing a derivative to the concept of rates of change. Students are discovering that calculus is simple and elegant, but the thought processes and algebra that follow from calculus can be quite difficult! Even though this is not an AP class, many of our students have expressed desire in taking the AP test, so it is our intention to also prepare them for it.



Students in all science classrooms have benefitted from our access to models and other resources from the Science Museum of Minnesota which helps make the technical information more understandable in the classroom.

In **Biology**, students have been investigating foods to see what types of organic molecules are within them and learning why these molecules are important for life. In addition, the students have been practicing scientific inquiry and analysis. Students will soon be investigating cells and how they fit into biology as the basic unit of structure and function of life.

Anatomy & Physiology students have completed their study of the digestive system and healthy eating skills. We are excited to begin our exploration of the respiratory system. Our honors students are using a case-study approach to see how the body systems work in real scenarios.

Chemistry students have completed the introductory unit on safety and laboratory skills, and more recently, a unit on atomic structure, ions, isotopes and the periodic table. We are currently working on chemical nomenclature. The Honors chemistry students are working on an "Element Project" which will culminate in a 30 second "commercial" presented to the class.

The **Physics** students are currently learning the mathematics of kinematics and how to think quantitatively about the physical world. Soon they will be moving on to learning about forces.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS



Government, both Honors and on-level, has finished the first unit on the political spectrum and ideologies. Students took multiple surveys in order to discover the political ideology and party they most identified with as well as studied the history of political parties, their functions and the role of third parties in elections. Students were asked to survey four people on political beliefs on various issues and write a reflection on their findings. Currently students are finishing up our second unit: U.S. founding documents and the role of the government.

In addition to the project on politics, **Honors Government** used a reading from Jonathon Haidt's *The Righteous Mind* to give students a perspective on the moral roots of political leanings. Students are currently finishing up our second unit on U.S. founding documents and the role of the government, and are starting their text for the rest of the semester entitled *The Idea of America: How Values Shaped Our Republic and Hold the Key to Our Future* by H. Michael Hartoonian.

Geography has completed world maps for each continent and analyzed migration and population patterns in the U.S. In our first unit students looked at the impact of populations around the world on the environment and societies. Students also studied the political aspects of human and physical geography, as well as current events happening throughout the world that demonstrate cultural clashes. Students will next be engaged in critical analysis of Globalization.

US History has completed the colonial unit and we are currently studying the American Revolution. We have examined primary sources relating to colonial settlement, colonial slavery and the Salem Witch Trials. Next, we will examine Expansion and Reform Movements in the 19th century.

CIS US History has completed their first essay exam and will be turning in their first Common Assessment on Nathaniel Bacon and his rebellion; this first assignment is a historiography where students learn how to analyze and write like a historian.

World History has completed Early Civilizations and taken our first test; we will be studying new patterns of civilization leading into the Medieval period. Students are working on critical skills with primary document analysis. Similarly in Honors World History, Early Man and Early Civilizations has been completed, with depth into belief systems and world religions. Students will be studying Greece and Rome and start the Medieval period by the end of October.



In **Spanish 1**, the goal is to develop a student's confidence in their ability to use the language while learning about the cultures of Spanish speaking countries. Grammar is learned naturally through exposure to authentic readings and listening activities and is practiced through discussions and student writings.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMICS

Spanish 2 students are making connections between Spanish-speaking countries and the United States – Where do we see influences of Spanish-speaking cultures in the U.S.? Students are working on using cognates and context to infer messages.

In **Spanish 3**, students are discussing both visual and performing arts. Most recently we studied the works of Antonio Berni, an Argentinean artist who created a set of collages to portray his beliefs about child labor. Each student will be giving an individual presentation on a Spanish-speaking artist who, like Berni, uses their art to reflect social issues and cultural practices in an effort to create dialogue within communities.

Spanish 4 students are developing the ability to use Spanish for all conversations and classroom interactions. We are currently discussing language and how an individual's way of speaking can vary depending on the region where they live, their age, education, and family context. We are looking at how language shapes an individual's perceptions of society and additionally, how society creates perceptions of individuals based on language use.

French 1 students are exposed to Francophone culture via readings, films, music, art and other activities. They produce the language in writing and speaking on a daily basis while applying new vocabulary and grammar in a natural way.

In **French 2**, students are focusing on elaboration in writing and speaking while expanding their vocabulary. Our main grammar focus is using the past tenses appropriately. Students are producing the language in writing and speaking on a daily basis as well as listening to native speakers and reading authentic materials. In addition to their language skills, students are exposed to Francophone culture and are making comparisons and connections between their own culture and francophone cultures world-wide.

French 3 students are learning the skill of circumlocution to expand their vocabulary in both French and English. Class is conducted in French about 75% of the time to encourage the use of the language and continue developing listening comprehension. Students are reading authentic texts that require a high level of analysis and are discussing cultural themes as well as identifying new grammar structures.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS



SPCPA Dance students had a couple of Master Classes this fall to augment and support what they're learning at SPCPA.

On October 8, University of Minnesota Cowles Artist Maurya Kerr taught an intense master class for Ballet 7.

Coming up on October 23, students will participate in a wellness presentation by physical therapists Megin John and Laurel Keen (for periods 1,2,4, & 5). It is exceedingly important that dancers know how to take care of their bodies to prevent injury. Young dancers must learn how to pace themselves, how to listen to their bodies, and what actions they can take (preventative or responsive) to ensure healthy dancing and healthy living.

There will be a few dates coming up in December for Dance Department Sharings:

December 12, 17, 16 – Dance Sharing Days during periods 1, 2, 4 & 5.

December 17 @ 4 pm – Jazz and Hip Hop showing in Wilkins.

More details will come as we near these dates. Please keep an eye on our website.



Greetings Instrumental Music Families! We have hit the ground running on the material for the end of semester concert. Please see the following regarding concert details.

SPCPA Instrumental Music Winter Concert
All Orchestra and Jazz Students
Thursday, December 4
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
The Music Room at SPCO Center,
408 Saint Peter Street, Third Floor, St. Paul
Student call time: 6:15 PM
Cost: \$8. Please visit Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com for purchase.

This year's Winter Concert will feature both the Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble! The concert runs roughly 2 hours starting with the Orchestra followed by the Jazz Ensemble.

Please note: Students are expected to stay after the concert to help transport equipment back to the Lowry at the end of the evening. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help haul the percussion and large equipment back to the Lowry. If you are interested in assisting with the percussion transportation, please email Nick Gaudette at gaudetten@spcpa.org.

INSTRUMENT DONATION DRIVE

SPCPA is accepting your used instruments in our efforts to build an inventory of instruments for student use. Your donation is tax deductible and we can ensure that your instrument will be put to good use. SPCPA is currently accepting any string, woodwind, brass, percussion, or electronic amplifiers. Please contact Nick Gaudette at gaudetten@spcpa.org for more information or to discuss your specific instrument.

COMMITSPCPAENGAGESPCPADISCOVERSPCPATRAINSPCPASPCPAEXPERIENCESPCPA**CREATE**SPCPATRANS

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS

At SPCPA, we try to ensure that students are given the opportunity to perform in professional venues. As a result, ticket prices are set at \$8.00 general admission. Please make sure to secure your ticket in advance as seating is limited.

Concert Dress includes the following:

For Orchestra, students are asked to wear concert black. Black button up shirts, black slacks and or long skirts, and black shoes.

For Jazz, students are asked to wear concert black or dress clothes with shirt and tie.
*No sneakers, jeans, or shorts.

All students must adhere to the SPCPA dress code when choosing an outfit.

Instrumental Music students had a field trip to the Ordway Center to attend the Nachito Herrera and his Cuban Orchestra concert. Nachito Herrera is one of the finest pianists of his time. At age 12 he performed the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Havana Symphony Orchestra – age 12! He is currently the pianist, musical director and arranger for the famous Cuban Orquestra Cubanismo.

Concert Dates:

Thursday December 4th:
SPCPA Instrumental Music Winter Concert,
The Music Room at SPCO Center

Thursday, May 7th:
SPCPA Instrumental Music Spring Concert, The
Music Room at SPCO Center



Musical Theatre is delighted to announce our new faculty members: Ian Zahren, Therese Walth and Nathan Bird. These three artists are heading up our singing and music theory classes while Joel Liestman helps lead our advanced musical theater performance classes. Welcome to all!

Musical Theatre students had a rare interactive audience experience in attending Flying Foot Forum's Alice in Wonderland, performed in our very own Lehr Theater. The production featured performances by several of our current students and one of our alumni, Rush Benson.

The MT Musical Scene Study classes will be presenting an evening of musical scenes in three parts on the evening of Tuesday, December 9. More details will follow on the school website.

On Tuesday, December 16, our new MT Actor's Studio class will be presenting Stephen Sondheim's heralded tale of love and fools, *A Little Night Music*. Performances will be in the TekBox at the Cowles Center in downtown Minneapolis. More details will be on the school website.

As we continue to grow and improve upon our classroom and performance spaces, we are seeking to replace several of our department's acoustic pianos. If you know of a high quality piano that needs a new home or if you wish to donate to our fundraising efforts, please contact department chair Joey Clark at clarkj@spcpa.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS



SPCPA is pleased to host Joe Chvala and his company Flying Foot Forum for their performances of *Alice in Wonderland*. Flying Foot Forum previously performed their version of *Alice* as part of the Ordway's Flint Hills International Children's Festival.

Performances of *Alice* are part of Flying Foot Forum's fall season. This is a version of *Alice* unlike any that's been done before. Set promenade-style, Flying Foot Forum's unique blend of theatre and percussive dance sets *Alice* and its audiences on its feet! SPCPA Theatre students had an opportunity to see special performance of *Alice in Wonderland* during their theatre class.

Theatre and Musical Theatre students will have a field trip to see Park Square Theatre's production of *The House on Mango Street*, November 4 and 6. Based on the book by Chicago writer Sandra Cisneros, this is a beautiful collection of vignettes told by a young girl, Esperanza, growing up in one of Chicago's Latino neighborhood. It is Esperanza's coming-of-age story about the experiences that shape our beliefs and help us discover who we are.

Our students were fortunate to have an opportunity to meet Jake Emmerling, a cast member from the Broadway tour of *The Book of Mormon*. Freshmen theatre students got to work with Jake as well as participate in a short Q&A with him. Thanks to Ian Zahren, one of our new faculty members, for setting this up.

SPCPA 2012 alumnus Lexi Duffy visited our theatre classes to talk about her experiences as a working actor in New York City. She also taught a Master Class for our Musical Theatre students.

Congrats to Lexi on making it in the Big Apple and many thanks to her for giving back to her alma mater.

There are a number of end-of-semester showings coming up in December. Please visit our website for all the details. Underclassmen will perform during school for their peers and upperclassmen will have both daytime showings for their peers as well as evening showings open to families and the public.



We have many new Vocal Arts instructors this year, plus one familiar face returning.

Vocal Arts is pleased to announce Ilah Raleigh is the new department chair. She a classical vocalist and a self-professed opera geek. Ilah is very excited to have the opportunity to share her love for music and performing with the Vocal Arts students. She teaches classes in Opera Literature, Chamber Choir, Theory, Studio, Musicianship, Solo Song Studio, and Vocal Audition College Preparation. We are lucky to have Ilah with us helming the Vocal Arts Department and moving it forward.

Andy Bruhn, Varsity and Concert Choir Director, is as pleasant as he is tall. He shares his St. Olaf-honed conducting skills and excellent musicianship with students through the entire Vocal Arts program. Welcome aboard, Andy.

Jennifer Parker is our new Vocal Jazz instructor. She is both a dynamic performer and teacher, as well as a current professor at McNally Smith. We are lucky to have Jennifer here with us at SPCPA, too.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS AND FACULTY ABOUT TOWN

Dan Ristrom is with us this semester teaching our Getting the Gig class. When he's not busy, well, gigging and touring with Rhythmic Circus, Dan is instructing students from across the school on how to get work as professional musicians as well as following through as a professional. Thanks for joining us, Dan.

Last, but certainly not least, we are so glad to have Steven Stucki back with us. He returns to SPCPA for his fourth year of sharing the secrets of great music-making with his students in Chamber Choir. In addition to teaching, Mr. Stucki accompanies the Varsity and Concert Choirs. We are lucky to have Mr. Stucki with us again this year.

Vocal Arts Concerts:

Thursday, December 11: Winter Vocal Arts Choral Festival, Landmark Cortile, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 16: Final First Semester Vocal Arts Recital, Landmark Cortile, 7:00 pm

Vocal Arts J-Term Offerings: *Riders to the Sea*, an opera by Ralph Vaughan Williams (paired with a men's vocal arts recital); Show Choir; a women's choir for *The Crucible*

FACULTY ABOUT TOWN

Both Dance instructor **Kaleena Miller** and Vocal Arts instructor **Dan Ristrom** have been performing nationally and internationally with Rhythmic Circus. They recently performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and this October head over to perform in Amsterdam!

Nick Gaudette, SPCPA's Instrumental Music Department Chair, will be participating in a 10-day tour across the state of Minnesota, presented by the Cedar Cultural Center. Nick will be featuring solo bass works alongside singer Aby Wolf, saxophonist Nathan Hanson, violinist Sara Pajunen, and song writer Kyle Sobczak. The MN express will be traveling to Duluth, Grand Rapids, Austin, Morris, and Northfield.

For more information about the MN express, please visit the Cedar Cultural Center website at <http://www.thecedar.org/events/mn-express>.

Nick Gaudette and **Mike Vasich** from the Instrumental Music Department are excited to announce the Orange Mighty Trio's 4th album release at the Cedar Cultural Center on December 19. This album is a new take on holiday songs arranged in styles never heard before. The Orange Mighty Trio was recently hailed as "Maverick Chamber Music" by the Minneapolis City Pages, tastefully blurring the lines between bluegrass, classical and jazz genres. For more information about the CD release, please visit the Orange Mighty Trio website at <http://www.orangemightytrio.com/>.

Musical Theatre instructor **Nathan Bird** recently had the privilege to sing with the newly formed Apollo Master Chorale. This is a professional SATB chorus under the umbrella of The Apollo Club, the oldest performing arts organization in Minnesota. After recruiting top choral talent from around the nation, director Sean Vogt rehearsed the ensemble and released an 8-song promotional recording. Look for a release on MPR's choral stream later this fall. Additionally, in September Nathan performed in a 5-part male ensemble in the world premiere of a chamber dance opera, written by Jocelyn Hagen and choreographed by Penny Freeh, titled Test Pilot. This work was part of the Women of Substance Series about the birth of flight; the piece involved two dancers playing the Wright brothers with solos by Katherine Wright, their sister. Performances took place at The O'Shaughnessy.

T Metro Transit **CODE OF CONDUCT HIGHLIGHTS**

Our friends at Metro Transit would like to remind SPCPA students of the code of conduct each student signed before receiving their bus pass. Remember: riding the bus is a privilege, not a right.

- Please be courteous and have respect for others
- No eating and no drinking beverages with open tops
- No loud music, shouting, yelling or using profanity
- Do not block open seats with your backpack
- No putting on nail polish; no spraying hair spray or perfume
- Students must be positive representatives of the school at all times



STUDENTS ABOUT TOWN
For SPCPA students participating in outside arts projects

If you would like to announce your involvement in a future SPCPA newsletter and on the school website, please complete the form below and submit it to Ms. Nancy either via email at galatowitschn@spcpa.org or bring it to the Lowry 2nd floor attendance office.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Arts Project: _____

Venue: _____

Performance Date(s): _____

Website for More Information: _____

Details: _____

SPCPA Wish List 2014-15

- Facial Tissue
- Feminine Hygiene Products
(individually wrapped)
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Band Aids
- Copy Paper
(white and colors)
- 1/3 Tab File Folders
- #2 Wood Pencils
- Pens
(ballpoint—black or blue ink)

Please bring donations to the main desk at the 5th Street entrance. Donations are accepted any time the office is open and at any SPCPA event.



Thank you to everyone who has already donated so generously!

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY! Thursday, November 13, 2014

Give to the Max Day is an event organized by GiveMN and is an incredible opportunity for non-profit organizations, including public schools like SPCPA, to have help fundraising. It also provides extra financial incentive through drawings and awards for top-earning organizations.



This year, SPCPA is fundraising to buy eight new pianos. All arts department use pianos during class and all arts departments will benefit immensely from the upgrade. Donations can be scheduled in advance or given the day of the event with a credit card online. The SPCPA community is also welcome to mail in a check payable to SPCPA

with “Give to the Max” or “Piano” in the memo line.

Please note this date in your calendar and consider a donation in any amount. Your help is greatly appreciated!

*IMPORTANT NOTE: We are listed as “**Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists**” on the GiveMN website—no abbreviations or punctuation.*

