

Southwest Middle School Newsletter

News that you can use!

August 8, 2017

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon parents. Welcome Back! I want to thank you for a great opening. We are off to a great start. Please ensure that your student arrives to school dressed appropriately and with the necessary school supplies to be successful. The faculty, staff and student body of SWMS would like to thank you for your continuous support.

The PTSA Election will take place during our Annual State of the School Summit on September 6, 2017 @ 6:00pm.

Nomination forms for School Council will go out next week.

Title I News: The Title I Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Come meet the new Parent Facilitator and learn more about Title I!!

Be on the lookout for the following Title I information: The Parent Policy, The Budget survey and The Parent Compact! There will be an incentive for returning these items to school signed! Don't miss out!!

Cafeteria News:

Breakfast is FREE to ALL enrolled students. We have a variety of choices ready for you to choose from every day. Eating breakfast can improve cognitive performance, test scores and achievement scores in students. Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria from 7:10-7:40 am every day. The full price for lunch is \$2.25. Parents can apply for free and reduce (.40 cents) pricing. Applications are available on www.myschoolapps.com, the SCCPSS website, or on paper. Paper applications are located in the school's cafeteria. Funds can be added to a student's account in the cafeteria or on-line at www.myschoolbucks.com. Students are allowed

to use their prior year (16-17 SY) status until **September 14th**. If a new application is not filled out by this date, the free and reduced status will change to full price.

Million Book Challenge:

Students are invited to donate their new or gently used books for the SCCPSS Literacy Initiative, the "Million Book Challenge." The top six students in the district who bring in the most books by this Friday, August 11th, will win an android tablet, and the top three classes will win a pizza party!

Each teacher is responsible for keeping track of the number of books brought in by each of their students, every day this week. Any books collected last week can be added to today's totals. On Friday, teachers will send an email or paper with their name and the name of their top student to the media center. Winners will be announced on Monday, August 14th.

Testing Announcements:

MAP testing for both Reading and Math will begin August 22ND. Please note there is a 24 hour delay for scores in the MAP program. Students must make a minimum of 214 in Reading and 221 in Math in 6th grade; 217 in Reading and 226 in Math in 7th grade; and 221 in Reading and 230 in Math in 8th grade in order to be considered for promotion to the next grade. Please email Jessica.heilman@sccpss.com or any administrator if you have any questions regarding MAP testing.

Additionally, last year's GMAS EOG scores are in for current 7th and 8th grade students. Those scores will be sent home with the first nine weeks' progress report. Scores for the current 6th grade students have **not** come in yet.

Media Center:

The media center is off to a great start this year and we are excited to see our students. This year we have 30 new Chromebooks dedicated for students to use in the media center, and are also expecting delivery of a new interactive flat-panel with a touchscreen for student use, as well as updated furniture that better suits our students' evolving needs.

We expect to begin media center orientation for sixth grade students and to begin distributing permanent student IDs in the next few weeks. Please remind your student to wear their ID every day and encourage them to keep it in a safe place when they are not at school. Students will be able to check out books once they receive their permanent IDs.

Athletics:

Football Tryouts starts August 10 and the first game is September 6 at SWMS.

Softball Tryouts are going on now. Have your child contact Coach Crow if they are interested in playing softball. The first game is August 21.

Cheerleading Club Tryouts is August 14th – 16th from 3 – 4:30pm for 7th and 8th grade students. Students are to pick up Cheerleading Packets from their homeroom teacher.

IB Sound Bite

History of IB- Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation offering four highly respected programmes of international education that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. Schools must be authorized, by the IB organization, to offer any of the programmes. Southwest Middle School has been an authorized IB World School since 2010. Added to IB in 1994, we offer the Middle Years Programme which has a hard-earned reputation for high standards of teaching, pedagogical leadership and student achievement. We work with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of

international education and rigorous assessment. The opportunity to be a part of this world-wide organization provides our students with a well-planned educational map with which they can navigate to meet the demands of our fast-paced, technologically advanced global marketplace with the skills and confidence to succeed.

Facts and Figures -As an organization with an ambition to create a better world through education, the IB comprises 5,308 programmes being offered worldwide, across 4,162 schools. With a mission to offer an international education across the global spectrum, the IB MYP programme currently serves students from 131 different nationalities in 38 different countries. Southwest Middle School is part of this programme, serving all 790 students in the IB MYP Programme.

REPEATS AND REMINDERS

MobyMax – All students are expected to utilize MobyMax for additional support in the areas of Math and ELA (2 hours weekly).

The following target scores have been set as part of the district’s factors considered for promotion.

	MAP – Reading Lexile	MAP – RIT level
6th Grade	214	221
7th Grade	217	226
8th Grade	221	230

Free Digital Textbooks available through the Georgia Department of Education- Please be aware that you and your child can access free, interactive digital textbooks through the Georgia Department of Education's website. The textbooks can be accessed by visiting www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources. Texts are currently available for middle and high school courses.

Additional Resource:

www.khanacademy.org

www.Readwork.org

www.Readtheory.org