

Southwest Middle School Newsletter
News that you can use!
January 16, 2018

Message from the Principal

Join us for the *9th Annual Student Success Expo* and STEM Festival on Saturday January 20, 2018 at the Savannah Mall from 10:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m. In addition to college and career information, attendees will enjoy interactive displays and learn about all public school options across the district while gaining valuable information related to program pathways.

On January 17th at 8:00a.m -10:00a.m.and 6:00 p.m.-7:00p.m. we will host our IB Open House! If you are interested or know of someone that is interested in being a Southwest Eagle IB student spread the news! You will not want to miss this wonderful opportunity!

Academic Awards Day will be held on January 18th! Our Eagles are soaring to new heights! Please encourage your SWMS Eagle to do his/her best in school daily! On January 30th at 5:45pm we will host our PTSA Election and our School-Wide Open House. Parents will receive information about promotion requirements and academic resources. Progress reports will be issued as well.

Are you a PTSA member? Help us reach our goal of 100 PTSA members for this school year. This is a perfect opportunity for you to play an active and vital role in your child's education. If you are interested in serving as a PTSA officer or becoming a member please see Mrs. Grant in room 621. We need YOU!!

Student Attendance at Southwest Middle School

Student attendance is a critical and key component to student success in school. At Southwest Middle School, we encourage all of our students to attend school each day. Attendance is consistently monitored by our school staff and our Attendance Committee. Parents we also encourage you to sign up for Parent Connect so that you can help us by monitoring your child's attendance from home. In addition, if in any event that your child needs to be absent, please make sure you submit a doctor's note or handwritten excuse on the day that your child returns to school. Overall, our student's attendance affects the Climate Rating at our school and also our College and Career Readiness Score (CCRPI) score. We thank you for your continued partnership! Attendance Matters!

What's happening at SWMS?

Buzz... Buzz... The SWMS Spelling Bee is quickly approaching! Come out and be a part of history as our students show off their buzzing spelling skills. January 25th is the big day and we hope to see you here!

Do you have Parent Access? If not, please come and visit the SWMS Family Center in room 621 to obtain your child's login information!

Title I News:

Save the Date: Join us on March 22nd at 9:30a.m.-12:00p.m.for a Pre-Employment Lunch and Learn Workshop at Gould Elementary School! The topics that we will discuss include: resume writing, how to search for jobs and interview skills. There will also be a Dressing for Success Fashion Show! You must R.S.V.P to attend this workshop! You don't want to miss this awesome event.

Are you an Engaged Eagle Volunteer? If you are interested in signing up to be an Engaged Eagle through the district's Operation Beacon Program please visit www.sccpss.com and signup under the Operation Beacon link.

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.

Testing Announcements:

What did your student make on the MAP Math and MAP Reading?

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.

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 will win an android tablet, and the top three classes will win a pizza party! Students may turn in donated books to the media center or to their homeroom teacher.

Media Center:

The media center now offers a "mobile" media center to students! The mobile media center will allow students to borrow and return books in the cafeteria during their lunch period every Tuesday and Thursday. This will make it easier for students to read and return books on time. 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.

Athletics: It's Basketball Season! On January 17th Southwest will play Mercer! Come and cheer the Eagles on! Let's Go Eagles!!

IB Sound Bite: (Global Contexts- Orientations in Space and Time) Understanding our interconnectedness as individuals from personal, local and global perspectives allows us to learn from the past, live successfully in the present and plan confidently for the future. As an IB World school, students are encouraged to explore their personal histories, journeys and turning points in

human kind. As a family, consider researching your family genealogy, visiting a cultural event or talking about big events in history during your middle school years. By bridging the gap between your generation and theirs, you will forge a solid foundation with your child that will carry you through space and time. Spending time with them is one of the best ways to show them you love them to the moon and back!

REPEATS AND REMINDERS

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

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