

Southwest Middle School Newsletter
News that you can use!
February 12, 2018

Message from the Principal

Eagle Nation, we are excited to have the following parents serve on our PTSA Board:

Yvette Torres – Co-President

Reyna Williams – Co-President

Ashley Swanson – Vice President

Michelle Gilmore – Treasurer

Rachel Porter – Secretary

Thank you in advance for offering your support to PTSA as we partner together to provide a quality education to our students.

8th Grade Parents

The Southwest Middle School Counselors and 8th grade Teachers invite you to attend 8th grade Parent Night.

Wednesday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Windsor Forest High School.

You will be informed of all the requirements your child will need to make the transition from middle to high school. It is imperative that you attend this meeting so you can know what is needed to ensure your child's success in high school along with keeping them on the right track to graduation.

If you cannot attend one of these meetings, please call the school and make an appointment with a School Counselor as soon as you can.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, March 7th at Windsor Forest High.

School is in session on February 19th and 20th!

Take our Parent Survey! Are we communicating effectively? Are you active at SWMS? Tell us all about it by visiting the following link:

<http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents>

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 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?

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!

Reminder: Our International Baccalaureate Language Arts & Social Studies Fair will be held on February 20th at 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.!! Come and eat dinner with the Principal and enjoy all of the wonderful activities that we have for you! We hope to see you on Wednesday!

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 sign up 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: The EAGLES are in the **PLAYOFFS!!!** Come and support our boy basketball team on February 20th at **West Chatham Middle School as we take on Isle of Hope at 4:30!! Soar Eagles Soar! Our Lady Eagles are taking on Myers Middle School tonight at 5:30pm.**

Fine Arts: Spirit Night! Join us on February 22nd at Texas Roadhouse in the Savannah Mall! Enjoy dinner with your family and show that you care about SWMS! We hope to see you there between 6:00-9:00 p.m.!!

IB Sound Bite: (Global Contexts- **Personal and Cultural Identity**) What is the purpose of self-expression? The middle school years can be like a rollercoaster ride...ups and downs, highs and lows. During these times, children often have a plethora of emotions. Think about talking to your child about these feelings and how we express them appropriately. Let them know that all of them are a natural part of life...joy, sadness, anger and fear. Let your child know that they can always come to you; talk about safe people and places to seek help if you aren’t readily available.

REPEATS AND REMINDERS

MobyMax – All students are expected to utilize **MobyMax and/or USA Testprep** 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
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6 th Grade	214	221
7 th Grade	217	226
8 th 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

www.usatestprep.com

#Soar2newheights