

Southwest Middle School Newsletter  
News that you can use!  
September 4, 2017

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon parents! 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. A PTSA representative will be available to accept your membership dues at 5:45pm.
- Thank you to everyone for participating in our dress down day for Hurricane Harvey donations. We raised \$1,756 that will be donated to the America Red Cross!

**Title I News:** The Title I Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Title I Annual Invitation was sent home Tuesday. Please return this form as well as the Title I budget survey to school as soon as possible!

**Parent Access:** Do you have Parent Access Powers? If not please visit the Family Center to receive your student's access Id and username.

**Operation Beacon:** 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 will win an android tablet, and the top three classes will win a pizza party!

### **Testing Announcements: What did your student make on the MAP Math?**

MAP testing for both Reading and Math started on 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](mailto: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.

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: Our first football game is September 6th at SWMS. Go Eagles!!**

**IB Sound Bite:** (Mission)-IB values a history of rigorous standards, intellectual quality and high-caliber instruction. Goals are achieved by partnering students and teachers with community, state, national and international stakeholders. Promoting intercultural understanding and respect is viewed, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century. The IB mission statement captures this goal: The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

(Language)- The International Baccalaureate® (IB) is committed to supporting multilingualism as a fundamental part of increasing intercultural understanding and international-mindedness and is equally committed to extending access to an IB education for students from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. With these aims in mind, Southwest Middle School provides a framework that will ensure that students are exposed to a second IB language during their middle school years. Our IB "working language," the language in which we communicate with our stakeholders and provide services, is English. Our "access languages," languages that has been identified as being of strategic importance to meet the IB goals and objectives to develop a more inclusive and diverse IB community, are Spanish, French and Chinese. We refer to these languages as Language B.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

### **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.gavirtuallearning.org/Resources](http://www.gavirtuallearning.org/Resources). Texts are currently available for middle and high school courses.

Additional Resource:

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

[www.Readwork.org](http://www.Readwork.org)

[www.Readtheory.org](http://www.Readtheory.org)