

Southwest Middle School Newsletter
News that you can use!
September 25, 2017

Message from the Principal

Good morning parents! We are excited to be back in school after our time out due to Hurricane Irma. Thank you for your participation in our first fundraiser of the year. The profit from this fundraiser will be used for PBIS and for additional student activities and clubs. The pick-up day for the cookie dough and tumblers is September 27, 2017 between 11a.m. and 3:30 p.m.. We need volunteers to help with this delivery. Please call the school if you would like to help.

Students received their PROGRESS REPORTS on Friday, September 22, 2017. Please encourage your student to attend after school tutorial and/or Saturday School for remediation. Our Saturday School dates for the first semester are September 23 & 30, October 14 & 28, November 11 & 18 and December 2 & 9.

SWMS House T-shirts are on sale and may be purchased on the school website. Students may wear them on Fridays with uniform bottoms. <http://internet.savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us/schools/swms/default.aspx>

Title I News:

Rescheduled!! Our Annual Title I Meetings are on Wednesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you are not able to attend the 10:00 a.m. meeting, please join us for the 6:00 p.m. meeting. Come and learn more about SWMS Title I!

Don't forget!

In recognition of Suicide Awareness Month please join us for a workshop on Suicide Awareness on September 29th from 9:00 a.m. - noon. We want you to be AWARE!

Save the Date:

MAP Reading and Math Parent Workshop is on October 24th at 6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. The workshop will be held at the Southwest Public Library!

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. Students are allowed to use their prior year (16-17 SY) status until September 25th. If a new application is not filled out by this date, the free and reduced status will change to full price.

SCCPSS wishes to inform parents that their students will be able to eat lunch for free on school days starting tomorrow, September 22, 2017 and extending through next Friday, September 29th. Parents are not required to do anything for their students to receive the free lunch. It is being provided as part of the FEMA response to the

disaster declaration our state received due to Hurricane Irma. SCCPSS Nutrition Services already provides a free breakfast to all students year round.

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 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.

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 News:

The media center will begin offering a "mobile" media center to students on Thursday, September 28th. 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:

Our next home football game is September 27th at SWMS against Hubert @ 4:30pm. If you are interested in playing volleyball please see Coach Crow!

Go Eagles!!

IB Sound Bites:

(IB Profiles- Thinkers) Have you ever told someone to think before they act? As teachers, parents and guardians, we want our children to exercise initiative in thinking critically, creatively and ethically. To foster these skills at home and abroad, we encourage our IB students to use their imaginations in play, to not be afraid to guess when investigating and to never forget to wonder about the world around us. This week, try to make a concerted effort to pause for a moment and consider the vastness of our planet and universe. Think back on the great inventors and discoverers of the past; picture how our lives could be improved (diseases cured, hunger eradicated, dictatorships toppled)...then...think...dream...and go to work to create a better, more peaceful world!

(IB Profiles- Communicators) Human rights activist Nelson Mandela once said, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language that goes to his heart." As IB communicators, we understand the importance of expressing ourselves with mutual respect and tolerance for the ideas of others. Because communication must have a receiver and a listener to be complete, we encourage you as parents, to open up the lines of communication with your child this week. Take time to listen. Give advice even when it is not graciously received. Put technology aside for a few minutes and take a walk together to really hear the words that are being said. And, at the end of the conversation...don't forget to communicate to your child how much you love them. That is the most important message of all.

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

Our students are encouraged to participate in TybeeMLK Elizabeth Killorin Middle School Scholars 2018 Essay Competition.

Essay Instructions

Read Dr. King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”

After reading the letter, write an essay:

“How did Dr. King define just and unjust laws, and can you name proposed or actual unjust laws in our society today?”

All writers are invited to ride or walk in the Tybee MLK Parade, and the first-place essay winner will read his/her award-winning essay during the parade program 2pm Saturday, January 6, 2018.

Awards:

Middle School students will compete to be named

Elizabeth Killorin Middle School Scholars

1st Place \$100, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$50

Essays should be 500-700 words. Double spaced.

To Apply:

The Educational Committee will receive student essays from October 2, 2017 to November 4, 2017.

No Essays will be accepted before October 2, or after November 4.

Please submit entries to: tybeemlk@gmail.com. or your child’s English Teacher

Please include your name, grade, and school.

Or mail to TybeeMLK Essay Competition, Post Office Box 312, Tybee Island, Georgia 31328.

Only original essays will be considered. No part of the essay should have been published earlier. Any form of plagiarism will result in disqualification of the essay. Submitted essays become the property of TybeeMLK.

Winners will be notified by phone or email. If the student’s family does not have access to a phone/email address, please make sure the home address is included in the entry, so that the judges may notify the winner by post mail.