

Southwest Middle School Newsletter

News that you can use!

November 3, 2017

Message from the Principal

Good morning parents! I am proud to announce that Southwest Middle School has continued to show consistent academic gains which has resulted in an improved CCRPI score of 63.6 for SY 2017. This could not have happened without your partnership. The Faculty and Staff ask that you continue to encourage your students to study, to spend time on MobyMax, attend tutorials and complete assignments on time. We are committed to providing our students a quality education that will prepare them for the 21st century. Teaching and learning are our daily focus.

Students are encouraged to participate in after-school tutorial and/or Saturday School for remediation. Our upcoming Saturday School dates for the first semester are **November 11 & 18 and December 2 & 9.**

Join PTSA!!

Parents, you are encouraged to join PTSA by returning the YELLOW Membership Form with \$5 to your child's homeroom teacher. The form was sent home on Monday, October 9. 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.

What's happening at SWMS?

The SWMS science fair is quickly approaching. All project boards will be displayed to the public on November 28th, from 4:00-6:30, with a brief awards ceremony from 5:45-6:15. All boards will be displayed in the SWMS cafeteria, please feel free to drop in to view our student's hard work. Remember this project is required by all 6th and 7th grade students and encouraged for 8th grade students. All projects should be turned in by Friday, November 17th to your Science Teacher.

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

Title I News:

Save the Date: Calling all Veterans! SWMS appreciates you for your service to our country! Join us on November 9th at 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m. for a light breakfast with your SWMS Eagle! Testing and study skills material will be available for you to help your eagle soar!

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.

PBIS

PBIS has some exciting news for Quarter 1. The House winner for the first Quarter was house **Brioso**. Congratulations! They were celebrated with tickets to a BMX bike show. Quarter 2 winners will receive tickets to our Annual Winter dance. There will be dance competitions, photo booths and plenty of fun.

House Shirts are on sale for \$14. Shirts will be on sale daily. Students may wear their shirts on Friday's with uniform bottoms.

Students should be thinking of house service projects they want to complete. As well as if they would like to be a house leader. Students who hold these positions should exemplify what it means to be an IB learner as well as a positive student. Let's keep S.O.A.R.ing to excellence!

Upcoming Events

November 1-17 - Salvation Army Can Food Drive (Bring in non-perishable items or can foods)

December 1- House Meeting

December 15- Winter Dance (House winner)

December 15- Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

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?

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:

This week all 6th Grade students are learning about Digital Citizenship in the Media Center. Mrs. Blocker and Mrs. Yarber collaborated on a multimedia lesson that explains a person's digital footprint and the pros and cons of a person's online identity. In addition, the students are learning how to avoid online predators and how to be upstanding when interacting on social media.

Save the Date:

Parents...Be on Alert! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming! The book fair will be held in the media center Dec. 4-8 and literacy night will be held Thursday, Dec. 5. More information will be coming soon on our Web site and on fliers that will come home with your students.

Athletics:

Cheerleading tryouts for basketball will be held on November 6 – 8 at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will also be a parent meeting after tryouts on Wednesday, November 8th at 5:30 p.m.

Let's Go Eagles!!

Join us for Spirit Night at Texas Roadhouse on November 16th!! All proceeds will benefit our Athletics Department!!!

IB Sound Bite: (IB Profiles- Open-Minded) A willingness to learn about and appreciate the values, traditions and cultures of others is embedded in everything we do at Southwest Middle School. More importantly, we use our differences to learn and grow as fellow human beings journeying together to make a better, more peaceful world. Making this mindset a part of our daily lives provides us with a richer, more diverse view of the world. As a family, consider discussing current events which could be dividing in nature and try to "see" the situation from both sides; practice being open-minded...the results will surprise you! As Marcel Proust said, *"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but seeing with new eyes."*

Community Service Update:

Hurricane Harvey Relief Dress-down: \$1758

Susan G. Coleman Breast Cancer Awareness Dress-down: \$900

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Awareness Dress-down: \$900

Coat Drive: November 1 – November 21

SCCPSS Cares – Can Food Drive: Month of November

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

	MAP-Reading Lexile	MAP-RIT Level
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