

Southwest Middle School Newsletter
News that you can use!
December 3, 2017

Message from the Principal

Good evening parents! The second 9 week marking period ends on Friday, December 15. Students are encouraged to participate in after-school tutorial and/or Saturday School for remediation. Our upcoming Saturday School date for the first semester is December 9.

MAP Reading and MAP Math testing will start this Monday with sixth graders. Seventh graders will start the MAP assessments on Wednesday. Eighth Graders will start next Monday on December 11. Please ensure that your student arrives to school on time and gets a good night of sleep before the test. Students are encouraged to use the following resources to prepare the MAP and GMAS assessments: MobyMax, Khan Academy, USA TestPrep and the GMAS Study Guides.

Students must make a minimum score 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.

SWMS Scholastic Book Fair is here! The book fair will be held in the media center this week. This book fair gives you and your children the opportunity to buy carefully selected, quality books and products at affordable prices. Join us on December 5th for Literacy Night (6:00 – 7:30pm). You'll enjoy the excitement and atmosphere!

Also, join us on December 7th at 6:30pm for a festive ***Band and Chorus Winter Concert.***

Students can participate in “**REP YOUR COLLEGE**” dress down day on Friday, December 8 for \$1.

Thank you to those who have 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. If you are interested in serving as a PTSA officer 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!

Title I News:

Save the Date: Join us on December 13th at 11:00a.m.-12:15p.m. for a Lunch and Learn Workshop! The Rape Crisis Center will be here to discuss prevention methods and tips to prevent bullying. Also, there will be testing and study skills material available for you to help your eagle soar to new heights! If you don't have PowerSchool access and you don't understand what PowerSchool is then there will be information provided as well! You must R.S.V.P to attend this workshop!

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.

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:

Basketball Tryouts starts this week! First game is December 14th against Oglethorpe Academy. Let's Go Eagles!!

IB Sound Bite: (IB Profiles- Reflective) In the movie The Lion King, the character Rafiki says, "Oh yes, the past can hurt. But you can either run from it or learn from it." By looking back on past decisions and actions made by ourselves and others, we are able to learn and grow with more wisdom and insight. As a parent of a middle school student, consider spending some time talking to your son or daughter about your life as a young adult; talk, walk and have an honest discussion with them about your mistakes, your triumphs, your fears and your times of joy. Enjoy a night of star-gazing or an afternoon of fishing and let the conversation be one to strengthen your relationship at a pivotal time in both of your lives.

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

#Soar2newheights