

Southwest Middle School Newsletter
August 20, 2018
Message from the Principal

Welcome back and good afternoon parents. Thank you for a great school opening. We have completed the first 12 days of school and we have experience an increase in enrollment. We will be able to hire 2 additional teachers which will result in schedule changes. The scheduling team will be working quickly to adjust and balance all classes. The faculty, staff and student body of SWMS would like to thank you for your continuous support.

The first PTSA meeting will take place prior to our Annual State of the School Summit on August 30, 2018 @ 6:15pm. You will have opportunity to nominate and vote for the PTSA secretary during this meeting. The Annual State of the School Summit will start at 6:30pm. We are looking forward to you partnering with us as we prepare our students for productive futures.

Testing Announcements:

We will start MAP Testing this week. Please ensure that your student gets enough sleep and arrives to school on time. Eighth grade and selected 7th grade students test this week. The remaining 7th graders and 6th graders will test next week.

Information from the Nurse's Office:

All students entering **7th grade** must have a certificate of immunization (form 3231) marked complete for 7th grade or higher. If you receive a notice from the school, please follow up; do not ignore these notices. Students who do not have the required immunizations will be withdrawn from school. This is a requirement of the Department of Health.

There will be several screenings. 6th and 8th grade students will participate in scoliosis screenings. A notice will go home approx. 1 week prior to the screening. Only send the form back if you **do not** want the student screened. All 7th grade students will participate in vision and hearing screenings. A notice will go home notifying you if the student needs medical follow up. Please respond as soon as possible.

All students with diabetes, seizures, and asthma or food allergies must have an action plan filled out by a physician. Please let the nurse know if your child has any special medical needs.

Students are not allowed to bring medication to school. This includes prescription and non-prescription meds, creams, ointments, ear eye and nose drops. Medication should be administered at home. If a student must have medication during school hours, the parent must bring the medication and sign the required forms. The medication must be in the container with the prescription label or if it is an over the counter medication, it must be in an unopened container. Students are allowed to carry Epi-pens and inhalers **only if** an action plan is filled out and the able to carry section is completed by a physician.

Please keep students home if they are sick. Students with fevers must remain home until they are naturally (no medication) fever free for 24 hours.

If you have any questions please call Nurse McMillan at 912-395-3540 (dial 1 for the nurse).

Title I News:

Parents join us at our Family Center Open House which will be held on August 31st at 9:00a.m. -11:00 a.m. We will have light refreshments and great resources to share with you! Also, students will bring a copy of the Parent/Family Compact and Family Engagement Policy home today. Please read these documents and return the signature page signed by you and your student. If you are in need of resources please don't hesitate to stop by the Family Center! Ms. Grant is here to assist YOU!!

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 reduced (.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 (17-18 SY) status until **September 13th**. If a new application is not filled out by this date, the free and reduced status will change to full price.

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 new Chromebooks and iPads dedicated for students to use in the media center, a new interactive flat-panel with a touchscreen for student use, as well as updated furniture that better suits our students' evolving needs.

We have started hosting our Media Center Orientation for sixth grade students and will begin distributing permanent student IDs in the next few weeks. 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.

PBIS:

Students may earn Eagle Bucks and Class Dojo points to attend a variety of activities and to purchase items from the PBIS mobile cart. Please sign up for the Class Dojo parent portal in order to see your child's progress. To sign up, your child's teachers will need to invite you to join their class. They can either invite you by text, email, or send home a parent code.

IB Sound Bite

History of IB- Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation offering four highly respected programmes of international education that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. Schools must be authorized, by the IB organization, to offer any of the programmes.

Added to IB in 1994, we offer the Middle Years Programme which has a hard-earned reputation for high standards of teaching, pedagogical leadership and student achievement. We work with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. The opportunity to be a part of this world-wide organization provides our students with a well-planned educational map with which they can navigate to meet the demands of our fast-paced, technologically advanced global marketplace with the skills and confidence to succeed.

Facts and Figures -As an organization with an ambition to create a better world through education, the IB comprises 5,308 programmes being offered worldwide, across 4,162 schools. With a mission to offer an international education across the global spectrum, the IB MYP programme currently serves students from 131 different nationalities in 38 different countries. Southwest Middle School is part of this programme, serving all 800 students in the IB MYP Programme.

Southwest Middle School has been an authorized IB World School since 2010.

REPEATS AND REMINDERS

MobyMax - All students are expected to utilize MobyMax for additional support in the areas of Math and ELA (2 hours weekly).

MAP Targets:

2018 - 2019 MAP Math and Reading RIT Targets				
Grade	Assessment	Basic	Proficient	Advance
6	Math	221	229	242
	Reading	214	221	234
7	Math	226	234	248
	Reading	217	225	239
8	Math	230	240	256
	Reading	221	228	241

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 Resources:

<http://www.gpb.org/education/georgia-studies/digital-textbook>

www.khanacademy.org

www.Readwork.org

www.Readtheory.org