



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Hawkins, Principal

167 South Main Cross Street

Hanover, IN 47243

Phone: (812) 866-1261; Fax (812) 866-4680

10/20/23

Middle School Rebel Families,

We hope everyone enjoyed their fall break! We've had a great week back to school! Students are settling into their 2nd 9-week rotation classes and all classroom teachers have taken time to review classroom expectations.

We will be having our Rebel Strong Store on Monday, October 23rd during 7th period. Students who have earned Rebel Strong tickets for positive behaviors will be invited to attend and select some treats!

Everyone participated in our 1st 9-week assembly but for the rest of the year, students will have to earn the opportunity to participate in the end of quarter activity by maintaining positive standards related to attendance, behavior, and grades. The window for participation in the 2nd 9-week incentive will run from Monday, October 23-Friday, December 15. More information about the criteria is included below.

1st 9-week report cards have been published in Harmony! Please continue to stay up to date on your students academic progress throughout each 9-week period by visiting Harmony frequently.

Have a great weekend!

**Mrs. Lisa R. Hawkins, Ed.S
Principal**

Halloween Movie Night: Middle School Yearbook is hosting a Halloween Movie Night showing *The House With a Clock in its Walls* on Friday, October 20th from 6-7:45pm in the cafeteria. Cost is \$3. Concessions will be available. All 6-8 graders are invited.

Middle School Dance: Our first MS Dance will be held on Friday, October 27th from 6-8pm. Tickets can be purchased during lunch for \$5. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Southwestern Turkey Shootout T-shirt: All students have the opportunity to submit designs for this year's t-shirt! All designs must be approved and cannot contain profanity, the confederate flag or confederate general. Deadline for submitting designs to Mr. Crank is October 27th. The winner will be recognized at the Turkey Shootout and will receive a free shirt.

Robotics - Grades 6-8: If your student likes to build, design, figure things out, and code, please encourage them to join robotics! Students can see Mrs. DeAtley in the middle school office for an application. These are due Monday 11/6 to Mrs. DeAtley..

Community Service Opportunity: Dawn Smith with North Madison Fire Dept. is looking for high school students interested in community service to help with a Jeep and ATV event at the 4-H fairgrounds this weekend. Contact 812-599-3861 for details.

Phones/Earpods: We are noticing an uptick with students bringing their phones to class. They are sticking them between the case and chromebook (top or bottom) or keeping them in a pants/sweatshirt pocket. Phones should be powered off and kept in lockers during the school day. We are also noticing that some students are using earbuds during class when they are not supposed to. It is very possible that headphones/earbuds may be confiscated if students make the choice to use them inappropriately during instruction. If you receive a notification that your student's device has been confiscated during class, they can be picked up at the middle school office between 8am-3:30pm daily. Please talk to your students about this.

2nd 9-Week School Wide Incentive: Students will have a chance to earn the 2nd 9-week reward incentive by doing the following:

- No overall grades lower than a C
- No unexcused absences (Parent verified absence UP TO FIVE per semester - See page 18 of the student handbook for more information.)
- No behavior referrals from the classroom or office

Academic Super Bowl Team - Informational Meeting: An informational meeting about our academic super bowl team will be on Thursday, October 26 from 3:30-4:00pm. Students may report to Mr. Campbell's room if staying after school. Please contact Mr. Campbell with any questions.

Lost and Found: We have accumulated many items in our lost and found. Pictures of items have been posted on our Facebook page. Please be sure to take a look and have your student pick them up from the office area.

Basic Skills: We will be organizing our basic skills class a little differently for the 2nd 9-weeks. Teachers will stay the same but what we do during class will be school-wide and more intervention based. We are excited about how this targeted time and individualized instruction for ELA and math will help our students grow academically.

Starting next week, targeted instruction based on each student's individual level will occur during Basic Skills (48 minute class) on the following rotation: Tuesday - 20 minutes of Math;

Wednesday - 20 minutes of ELA; Thursday - 20 minutes of Math; Friday - 20 minutes of ELA. Mondays will be used as a catch-up day for students regarding intervention as well as homework. Students will continue to participate in additional activities, as planned by the teacher, and have daily time to complete homework/receive assistance from the basic skills teacher with academic needs.

After School Tutoring Opportunity: The National Honor Society will be holding tutoring sessions on Thursdays after school until 4pm. These are available free of charge to any student that needs extra help with any subject area or if they just need a quiet, focused space to complete homework.

Tutoring sessions will be held in room H213 in the high school upstairs. Students do not need to sign up. They just show up with their work and NHS students will help with whatever is needed.

2nd 9-weeks Grades: Please be sure to stay up to date with 2nd 9-week academic progress and communicate any questions to teachers. The end of the 2nd grading period is Wednesday, December 20th.

Tardies: The majority of Harmony referrals we continue to deal with at the middle school are centered around tardies. Being on time to class with the correct materials is a huge expectation and being tardy more than twice will result in office level consequences. If you notice your student is having issues with tardies, please have them reach out so we can help.

TARDY POLICY: (Pg 20 Student Handbook)

1st and 2nd Tardy – teacher’s discretion

3rd and 4th Tardy – After School Detention for each

5th through 9th Tardy - Saturday Morning Detention for each

Over 9 Tardies - Suspension Pending Expulsion

After School Detention/Saturday Morning Detention: When students receive an ASD (After School Detention) or SMD (Saturday Morning Detention), they will be called to the office to discuss the situation and will receive paperwork with the date of the detention highlighted, which will be similar to what the parent receives via email. We will make parent calls even for ASD’s and SMD’s when possible, but we do want parents to know that information for this level will typically be sent via email. Not attending ASD or SMD will result in additional consequences. Reminder emails are sent to parents from the office prior to the detention to help make sure everyone is aware.

ASD’s are from 3:10-5:10pm and students can be picked up at Circle Drive. SMD’s are from 8am-12pm. Students should be dropped off/picked up promptly at the main HS entrance on Circle Drive.

Southwestern Middle School Facebook Page: Please be sure to “LIKE” our school Facebook page to gain access to important updates throughout the year. We are always looking for

POSITIVE parent ambassadors to help us spread good information about our school to friends, neighbors, and the community. You become a parent ambassador when you “like” and “share” or make positive comments on our posts. Parent ambassadors are ESSENTIAL to the community culture of our school and we appreciate you very much!

Chromebooks: Please be sure your student is taking care of their chromebooks and charging them each night!

Dress Guidelines: The full dress code can be found on pages 33-34 of the student handbook. We still have students wearing shorts to school so it’s important to keep reminding everyone of this information!

- Shorts must be mid thigh in length.
- No hats, hoods, or head coverings are to be worn in the building.
- Shirts must have sleeves.
- All types of tight clothing should be avoided unless another garment is worn over the item.

Dress code violations will be documented in Harmony and parents will receive notification when violations are considered office level. Please help us out with this by talking to your student about the dress code.

Donations: If you are cleaning stuff out at home where your kids have grown, please consider donating slightly used items to our clothes closet. We are in the most need of pants.

Marching Band: This is a picture of our marching band participating in the Bands of America Super Regionals at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis today! Congratulations to Mr. Branstetter and the Southwestern Marching Band!



