



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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10/27/23

Middle School Rebel Families,

Our first middle school dance of the year is tonight and we are anticipating around 200 students! The student council, sponsored by Mr. Maust, has worked very hard to promote and prepare for tonight's activity. Plus, the staff is excited to engage with the students in a different type of environment and have some fun!

Most winter sports teams have completed try-outs and set their rosters. Parent meetings for athletes will be held to make sure parents, student-athletes and coaches are all aware of team/school rules and behavior expectations. We appreciate your attendance at these meetings and continued support of our extra-curricular programs at Southwestern.

Have a great weekend!

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

Middle School Dance: Our first MS Dance will be held tonight from 6-8pm. Tickets were sold at school and will not be available at the door.

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.

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.

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.

Halloween Dress Up: Many students will want to wear costumes on Tuesday, October 31st. We are allowing costumes on Halloween under the following conditions:

- Outfits **MUST** meet dress code.
 - If the attire is not mid thigh, students should wear leggings or pants under.
- No face paint
- No weapons
- No masks
- Hats must be part of the outfit
- Students must be able to sit in the desks at school like they would on a normal school day

We are sending this out in advance so we do not have to be put in a situation where we have to ask students to change clothes. They need to be comfortable in their outfit and prepared to engage in their school day, as normal. We will announce all of this to students on Monday but please be prepared to help us by monitoring at home so we can make this a fun opportunity for all students!

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

Basic Skills: Students seem to be settling into the new Basic Skills intervention rotation for the 2nd 9-weeks. We are excited about how this targeted time and individualized instruction for ELA and math will help our students grow academically.

This week was spent pinpointing each student's individual level and next week we will begin the targeted instruction. We will be utilizing the following rotation during Basic Skills: Monday - catch-up day for students regarding intervention as well as homework; Tuesday - 20 minutes of Math; Wednesday - 20 minutes of ELA; Thursday - 20 minutes of Math; Friday - 20 minutes of ELA. After the first 20 minutes, students will participate in additional teacher directed activities and/or have daily time to complete homework/receive assistance from the basic skills teacher with any 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.

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.