



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Hawkins, Principal

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11/17/23

Middle School Rebel Families,

Next week, students will only be in school Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and we wish you luck finding lots of great holiday deals on Black Friday!

The next parent update will be sent on Friday, December 1st.

Have a great weekend!

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

Food Drive: We are extending our food drive until *Wednesday, November 22*. Donations can be dry or canned food, shelf-stable or nonperishable. We do ask that you only donate food that has not reached its sell-by date yet. Some examples of items we are looking for include, but are not limited to: Peanut butter, Canned soup, Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Ramen noodles, Canned beans, Pasta, Rice.

Incentives to keep in mind:

- 1000 items: Mr. Craig will shave his head (at school in the gym during RAP)
- 1500 items: Mr. Canada will get a mohawk (at school in the gym during RAP)
- 2000 items: Mr. Alcorn will dye his hair red and blue (not at school because of time but we'll put him on a timeline!)
- Top RAP class will get cupcakes

Pancakes and Grilled Cheese: 8th Grade will have their pancake and grilled cheese fundraiser on 11-21 and 11-22. Pancakes will be \$1.50 and grilled cheese will be \$2.50.

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.

Spirit Week 11/16-11/22

- Monday, 11/20: PJs
 - Tuesday, 11/21: Country vs. Country Club
 - Wednesday, 11/22: Class Colors: 8th Blue, 7th White, 6th Red
- Reminder: All clothing must follow dress code. No face paint.

Water Bottles/Drinks: We are noticing that many students are sharing drinks and/or taking water bottles from other students. With the changing of seasons, we are also seeing an uptick in illness. Please ask your students not to share drinks, take water bottles that do not belong to them, or drink out of someone else's bottle. Students should be respectful of other people's stuff and we want to limit them from sharing sickness as much as possible!

Chromebooks: Chromebook damage continues to be a huge issue. The amount of damaged chromebooks at the MS is up from this same time last year. In fact, the MS has the most damaged chromebooks in the district: 6th - 18, 7th - 10, 8th - 6. Please talk to your student about taking care of their device. Removing keys or other parts of the keyboard, slamming them closed, shoving them in lockers, etc. all cause damage. These chromebooks are used throughout the day so it's important that students keep them in good working condition. Also, please make sure chromebooks are being charged each night.

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.

Students who attend tutoring must have school work or they will be asked to call a parent to pick them up. Students who attend tutoring should not stay in the building after tutoring to wait on a practice that does not start until later. We do not have proper supervision for them after school hours.

Basic Skills: Students continue to do well with the new Basic Skills intervention rotation for the 2nd 9-weeks. We will continue to utilize 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.

Thanksgiving Break: Southwestern students will not have school on Thursday, November 23-24.

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.

Horseplay: We have continued to address “horseplay” and “hands on” issues with many students at school, especially during transitions between class and to/from the lunchroom. Horseplay often starts out as “play” but can sometimes escalate quickly into anger, leading to someone getting hurt. When we have conversations with students about horseplay, they struggle to see anything wrong with it because they are “friends” with the other person and they were just “joking around.” Overall, we are finding that many of our students are having a hard time respecting each other’s boundaries. There are consequences in the handbook for horseplay including ASD, SMD, and OSS. Please be sure to discuss this with your student. Help us be proactive and keep everyone safe.

Phones/Earbuds: Please be sure to remind your student that phones are not allowed in class. 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. Phones will be confiscated during class and 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.

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

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.

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

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!

Upcoming Events:

Saturday - 11/18

MS Boys Basketball at Switz. Co Tournament

Wednesday 11/22

Turkey Shootout - Varsity Girls at 6pm, Boys at 7:30

Thursday 11/23

Happy Thanksgiving

Monday 11/27

MS Boys Basketball Game vs Scottsburg - Elementary Gym - 6pm

6th Grade Boys and Girls vs. Seymour - Blue Gym - 6pm

Thursday 11/30

6th Grade Girls Basketball to Clarksville - Mini Bus

MS Boys Basketball vs. New Washington - Elementary Gym - 6pm