



## SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Lisa Hawkins, Principal**

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12/1/23

**Middle School Rebel Families,**

**The second 9-week period is moving quickly! Please make sure you are checking Harmony frequently to stay up on your student's progress. Grade checks are completed with students weekly during advisory so no one should be shocked about their current grades. Please be sure to reach out to teachers if you have any questions.**

**Our last day of school before winter break is Wednesday, December 20th. Winter Break is December 21-January 3 and students return to school on Thursday, January 4, 2024.**

**Have a great weekend!**

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

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**Lost and Found:** We are starting to lay out clothes from the lost and found in the gym for students to view in the mornings. The stack of clothes in the lost and found has become overwhelming. Please encourage your students to get their items!

**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.*

**"I" in the Gradebook:** When you see an "I" in the gradebook in Harmony, this indicates a missing or incomplete assignment. It will also act as a zero and will affect a student's overall grade. The grade for the class will show as an "I" and will stay that way until the assignment is turned in. This is a quick visual for both parents and students to see that something is missing without searching for a zero within the list of assignments. Once a student turns in the missing or incomplete assignment, the "I" will turn into the earned grade, and the overall class grade will turn into the earned letter grade.

**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!

**Blankets:** Many students have been showing up with blankets and trying to go to class with them. They are not allowed to take blankets to class and as soon as we see them, we ask them to put them in their lockers. It's not something they need in class. Please help us by speaking with your student about this.

**Chromebooks:** Chromebook damage continues to be a huge issue. 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.*

**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. 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.

**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.

**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:**

#### **Monday - Dec. 4**

MS Boys BBALL at South Ripley - big bus - leave at 4:30pm

MS Girls BBall vs. New Washington - Elem. Gym - 6pm

#### **Tuesday - Dec. 5**

MS Girls BBALL at Trimble Co - 2 mini buses - Toler and Simpson

#### **Wednesday - Dec 6**

MS Boys vs. Milan in Elementary Gym - 6pm

MS Girls vs. Carroll Co in Blue Gym - 6pm

#### **Thursday - Dec. 7**

MS Boys BBALL vs. Jennings Co in Elementary Gym - 6pm

#### **Wednesday - Dec 13**

Middle School Band Winter Concert - Gym - 6-7:30pm