



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Hawkins, Principal

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12/15/23

Middle School Rebel Families,

On Monday, we will announce the students who are eligible for the 2nd 9-weeks incentive. These students will bring home a permission form to participate in a watch party with a hot chocolate bar and snacks. Criteria announced in October to receive this incentive:

- **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**

The second 9-week grading period ends next week! 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.

This will be the final Friday update for the 1st semester. The next update will be sent out on Friday, January 12, 2024.

Have a great weekend and happy holidays!

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

Lost and Found: The stack of clothes in the lost and found has been overwhelming. We set up a table outside the office this week so items were a little more visible to students. Many students have picked up their stuff so that is great! Any items left after Wednesday will be donated. Please encourage your students to get their things!

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: Please ask your students not to share drinks or take water bottles that do not belong to them. *Students should be respectful of other people’s stuff* and we want to limit them from sharing sickness as much as possible!

Blankets: As a reminder, students should not take blankets to class. If they bring a blanket to school, it should stay in the locker during the school day. It’s not something they need in class. Please help us by speaking with your student about this.

Chromebooks: We continue to see significant damage to student chromebooks, keyboards and screens specifically. Parents can be liable for this damage. Please talk with your students about taking care of their device.

The amount of students showing up to class without their chromebook charged has increased the last few weeks. This leads to students having to leave class to get a charger from their locker. In January, most classrooms will be charging a student with a tardy if their device needs to be charged and they have to get one from their locker.

Chromebooks are used throughout the day so it’s important that students keep them charged and in good working condition.

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. 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.

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!

Student/Staff Dress Up Days: 12/18-12/20

Monday : Grinch Day wear all green

Tuesday: Ugly Tuesday: Wear your ugly Christmas sweater

Wednesday: Holiday Cheer. Wear holiday accessories (Hats, Socks, Headbands, jewelry)

Winter Band Concert: The Beginning and Intermediate band classes completed a successful concert on Wednesday night. Both bands were wonderful and showed off some Holiday tunes they have been working on for the last few months. All students should be very proud of their performance. If you missed the concert, or would like to hear it again you can find the stream on the Southwestern Bands Facebook page.



Christmas Shopping - Community Service: In November, Mr. Canada sponsored a pancake/grilled cheese fundraiser to help buy gifts for a few students/families in need. On Thursday, December 14th, Mr. Canada and a group of Southwestern Middle School students went shopping! They shopped for five individuals, spending roughly \$402. Leftover funds will be used to purchase gift cards. Students spent time today wrapping presents so they can be distributed next week. We love that our students have the opportunity to see this entire process through and ultimately meet the needs of others.



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 12/19

6th Grade Girls vs. Austin at 6pm in Blue Gym

12/24-12/27 - No Events

Wednesday 12/28

MS Boys Game at 6pm in Elementary Gym vs. St. Johns Sauers

12/31-1/1 - No Events

January 2 - Home JV/Var Boys Basketball Game vs. Providence at 6pm