



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Hawkins, Principal

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1/12/24

Middle School Rebel Families,

We hope you all had a great winter break! Students have done a nice job getting back into their routines here at school. They adjusted well to small schedule changes and remembered locker combinations!

Our second round of ClearSight testing will take place next week. We are really focusing on growth and have added this criteria to our 3rd 9-week incentive requirements. Students have been working on IXL's during basic skills and we hope this additional, individualized practice in conjunction with standards based core instruction will be reflected in their results. This assessment is a great time for students to practice test taking skills and show us what they know. Please encourage your student to take their time and give us their very best effort!

As a reminder, Southwestern will not be in session on Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 15th.

Have a great, long weekend!

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

Attendance: Attendance is identified in our district strategic plan and something that we focus on with every incentive. Thank you parents for making attendance at school a priority! We are proud to celebrate the following rates for our 1st semester:

2nd 9-weeks attendance rates: Middle School: 95%

Grade 6: 96%, Grade 7: 94% Grade 8: 94%

1st semester attendance rates: Middle School: 96%

Grade 6: 96%, Grade 7: 95%, Grade 8: 96%

Ivy Tech Meeting with 8th graders: On February 7, 2024, representatives from Ivy Tech will be at Southwestern Middle School to assist 8th grade students with their DualEnroll Application. A memo will be shared with 8th grade parents next week. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Stephanie Brawner at the middle school.

3rd 9-weeks Incentive: January 15 - March 13, 2024

To be eligible to participate in the incentive on March 15th, students must achieve the following things from 1/15-3/13/24:

- 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
- *NEW: 10% or more increase on ClearSight assessments*
 - *Any combination of growth in ELA or Math that equals 10% or more*

The incentive activity on March 15th will be structured and will include snacks plus a variety of activities for students to participate in and enjoy with friends:

- Corn Hole
- Yard Bowling
- Art Table
- Twister
- Table Ping Pong

8th Grade ELA: We would like to welcome Mrs. Buchanan to Southwestern Middle School! Mrs. Buchanan will be with us the entire 2nd semester. She is replacing Mrs. Litchfield who was selected for an English position at Southwestern High School.

2nd 9-weeks Grades: Report cards for the 2nd 9-weeks are now available for parents via Harmony.

3rd 9-weeks Grades: Please be sure to stay up to date with 3rd 9-week academic progress and communicate any questions to teachers. *The end of the 3rd 9-week grading period is Friday, March 14th.*

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

Being Prepared for Class: Since the break, we have continued to have students showing up to class without required materials such as pencils, paper, folders, homework, and chromebooks that are charged. Most classrooms are charging a student with a tardy if they have to return to their lockers to obtain materials or if their device needs to be charged and they have to get a

charger from their locker. Please stress to your student how important it is to show up to class with required materials.

Horseplay: We continue 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.

Tardies: Each student started the 3rd 9-weeks with a clean slate with 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

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 16

MS Boys Basketball to Christian Academy of New Albany - Big Bus - Leave at 4:15pm from HS

Wednesday, January 17

MS Girls at Home vs. Jennings Co - this is a change in date - 6pm in Elementary