



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Hawkins, Principal

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1/26/24

Middle School Rebel Families,

Students completed their second round of ClearSight testing last week. We appreciate their effort and hard work. The data from this assessment will continue to help inform our instruction and interventions at school.

Our students did a nice job earlier this week adjusting to changes on the 2-hour delay. For future reference, we still provide the opportunity for students to eat breakfast whenever there is a 2-hour delay.

Have a great weekend!

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

7th and 8th Grade - Winter Semi-Formal Dance - February 23rd: We are asking for donations in preparation for this event: Chips, cookies, 2-liters. If you are able to help us out, please send any donations to Mr. Maust by Wednesday, February 21st. Thanks in advance!

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 was shared with 8th grade parents last week. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Stephanie Brawner at the middle school.

NHS Tutoring: Tutoring that has been offered each Thursday afternoon after school is canceled for the rest of this 9 weeks. We will send out information if we are able to offer it during the 4th 9-weeks.

Attendance: Regular attendance is necessary for students to maintain good school standing and achieve high levels of performance. We appreciate parents making student attendance a priority and recently highlighted our 1st semester attendance rate of 95%! We hope to remain in the mid-90's or better throughout the 2nd semester. If you have any questions regarding attendance, please refer to pages 17-20 in the student handbook.

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.*

Changes in Procedures during the School Day: You may hear your student talking about a few changes that have been made at school. These changes are being made around the building during transitions between classes, to/from lunch, and with restrooms. These modifications such as closing classroom doors during passing periods while teachers are on duty, classroom teachers escorting their class to/from lunch, and paper towels in the hallway to dry hands after washing are being implemented to help us provide additional safety and security for students during unstructured times.

Horseplay: We will continue to address “horseplay” and “hands on” issues as they occur. As identified throughout the year, 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 continue to find 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.

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 1/15/24-3/13/24:

- 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

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.

Phones/Earbuds: We have confiscated a bunch of phones during the school day since winter break. Students do not need their phones during the school day. There is a phone at the front office that can be utilized, upon request, if a parent needs to be contacted during school hours. Please be sure to remind your student that phones are not allowed in class, 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 on 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:

Monday 1/29

MS Boys Basketball vs. Madison at 6pm - High School Gym

MS Wrestling vs. Scribner and Corydon at Home at 6pm - Blue Gym

6th Grade Boys Basketball at Austin at 6pm

Wednesday 1/31

MS Boys Basketball to Scribner - Big Bus - Leave at 4:15 from HS Gym

MS Girls Basketball at Home - 6pm - Elementary Gym vs Milan

Thursday 2/1

MS BOYS TO JENNINGS CO - CANCELED

MS Wrestling to Salem - Leave at 4:15 - Big Bus