



SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lisa Hawkins, Principal

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2/9/24

Middle School Rebel Families,

We adjusted our lunch times at school this week. This small change allows our lunch A students to transition back to class before our lunch B students are dismissed. It gives us less students in the hallways, restrooms, and with transitions to/from the lunchroom at the same time. Lunch A students were challenged to make it back to their class in three minutes today. Most accomplished that and almost all of the students were back within four minutes so we were very proud of them for that! Lunch B students also did a great job transitioning back quickly.

Please continue to ask your students about classwork/homework. We still have many students with missing assignments. You can quickly see if your student has missing work by checking for any grades populating as an "I" in Harmony. Be sure to contact teachers with any questions.

Have a great weekend!

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

February 19th: School will be in session on Monday, February 19th.

Rebel Regiment: The Rebel Regiment Winter-Guard will be debuting their 2024 show "The Witch of Water." The guard will start their competition season this month with 2 performances this month at Henryville High School on Saturday, February 10, and Martha Layne Collins High Schools on Saturday, February 24. IF you would like to see them perform, please check out the band's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthwesternBandsIN>) for all performance details.

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!

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.

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: 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. 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

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 12

MS Girls Basketball at Switz. Co at 6pm.

Tuesday 13

MS Swimming at Jennings Co - 6pm

MS Wrestling at Home vs. Hazelwood in HS GYM - 6pm

Thursday 15

MS Girls at Immanuel Lutheran at 6pm

MS Wrestling at Jennings Co. at 6pm