



## **SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Lisa Hawkins, Principal**

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**3/1/24**

**Middle School Rebel Families,**

**This week we had a Connect Four tournament during lunch. There were a ton of students who signed up to participate in this activity. After working their way through the brackets, we'd like to congratulate our final four: Thomas Gammons, Bentley Gaines, Grayson Ayler, and Graham Robinson. Congratulations to our winners, Bentley and Grayson, who will take on some teachers during a quick assembly in the gym on Monday during RAP.**

**Special thanks to our Sources of Strength group and sponsor Ms. Hackney for putting the Connect Four event together. A huge shout-out to Maggie Joseph who did a great job with the organization and announcements in the cafeteria all week! The students really had a great time and we hope to find more quick games that we can use like this during lunch!**

**Have a great weekend!**

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

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**Incomplete Assignments:** Please continue to ask your students about classwork/homework. We still have many students with missing assignments but we have started providing spaces for working lunches and assigning ASD's to give students additional time to finish work, as needed. Classwork is part of each teacher's way to assess learning so it is important that assignments are completed. 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.

**Math Bowl:** We are looking for twelve 6th graders for a math bowl team! Practices will be held after school at the elementary on Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Wednesday, March 6th. The competition is in April. Independent study options are available for those with other ECA conflicts.

**Middle School Softball:** Middle school softball practice will be next week on Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:30 at the softball field.

**Swimming:** Come join us for "one final dip" to celebrate the 50 Great years of swimming at Southwestern High School's current pool and the introduction of the new one. March 9th 12-3 \$5.00 admission fee.

**JCASP (Jefferson County Alternative to Suspension Program):** JCAPS is a collaboration of Southwestern Schools, Madison Consolidated Schools, the Jefferson County Prosecutor's Office, and the Jefferson County Probation Department. This program provides an alternative to out-of-school suspension in which students are required to report to the Brown Gymnasium in Madison to serve suspended days. More specific information about JCAPS will be sent out to Southwestern Middle and High School students/parents next week.

**A Summer of STREAM:** Check out the link to see the opportunities for middle school students at the Southeastern Career Center! Registration opens April 1st!

- Rev It Up: Automotive & Diesel Camp - June 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Gourmet & Glamour: Culinary & Cosmetology Camp - June 18 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Camp Construction Junction - June 17 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- In the Line of Duty: Public Safety Camp - June 18 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Critters & Crops: Veterinary Science & Agriculture Camp - June 19 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Bits & Bytes Digital Discovery Camp - June 19 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Metal Masters Camp - June 20 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Health Heroes Camp - June 20 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Middle School Golf:** 2024 Southwestern Middle School co-ed golf season will be from April 2nd-May 13th. First team meeting will be on Friday, March 8th at 3:30 pm in the high school gym. The second team meeting will be Monday April 1st at 3:30 pm in the high school gym. Practice will begin on Tuesday, April 2nd at Butler Falls Golf Course in Hanover. Players must have a sports physical turned in to the middle school office before the first gold match on April 16th.

**Clearsight Testing:** Middle School students will complete their third round of Clearsight testing March 11-13. All students will need headphones for testing. Headphones are available for purchase from our technology department for \$1.

**Being Prepared for Class:** 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 use their passing period wisely and show up to class with required materials.

**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 15th.*

**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 are being implemented to help us provide additional safety and security for students during unstructured times.

**Horseplay:** We 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:** Please talk with your students about taking care of their devices. 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:** 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:**

Saturday 3/2

MS Girls Basketball ORVC Tournament at Rising Sun

MS Wrestling - SIWC Tournament at Charlestown

Monday 3/4

MS Swimming - Home - Scottsburg - 6pm

Thursday 3/7

MS Swimming at Switz. Co - 6pm