



## **SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Lisa Hawkins, Principal**

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**Hanover, IN 47243**

**Phone: (812) 866-1261; Fax (812) 866-4680**

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**4/19/24**

**Middle School Rebel Families,**

**This week, our students completed ILEARN testing. We were very pleased with how serious students were during testing. The ILEARN effort tickets seemed to spark some excitement each day with winners announced during lunch and an opportunity to select different treats. We appreciate parents encouraging students to do their best and ensuring they showed up to school on time and with chromebooks that were properly charged.**

**6th grade will complete the Science portion of ILEARN on Monday & Tuesday, if needed. Small groups and make-up tests will be completed through May 10th.**

**The students handled the water leak situation very well this week too. They dealt with room changes, were respectful of the boundaries in the hallways, and carried on with their day despite multiple challenges. Learning to be flexible and adapt to different situations is absolutely a life skill learned these last few days!**

**Have a great weekend!**

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

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**Recycle your Eclipse Glasses:** Mrs. Bentley's RAP class is encouraging students to bring their eclipse glasses back to school by Monday, April 29th so they can have them properly recycled.

**Dress Guidelines:** The full dress code can be found on pages 33-34 of the student handbook. Please help us out by being aware of what your students are wearing to school and by talking to them about the dress code.

Dress code violations will be documented in Harmony and parents will receive notification when violations are considered office level. Specific things we want to highlight as the weather starts to change:

- Shorts must be mid thigh in length.
- No hats, hoods, or head coverings are to be worn in the building.

- Shirts must have sleeves.
- All types of tight clothing should be avoided unless another garment is worn over the item.

**After School Tutoring Opportunity:** The National Honor Society has started tutoring sessions again. Sessions will be held on Thursdays after school until 4pm. These are available free of charge to any student that needs extra help with any subject area or if they just need a quiet, focused space to complete homework.

Tutoring sessions will be held in room H213 in the high school upstairs. Students do not need to sign up. They just show up with their work and NHS students will help with whatever is needed.

**8th Grade: End of Year Dance:** Today, 8th grade students were asked to complete a survey about whether they preferred to have the end of year dance during the school day or in the evening. An overwhelming majority requested that the dance be held in the evening so that's what we will plan to do. Traditionally, 8th grade parents have assisted with the planning and preparations for this dance. If you are an 8th grade parent interested in assisting, please send an email to [lhawkins@swjcs.us](mailto:lhawkins@swjcs.us) by Tuesday, April 23rd so we can coordinate a core group of parents.

**Awards Day:** We will hold Awards Day on **Wednesday, May 29th at 9:30am** in the main HS Gym. 8th graders will sit on the floor, 6th and 7th graders will sit on one side of the bleachers, and parents who wish to attend will sit on the opposite side of the bleachers. 6th and 7th graders will be recognized for their awards by standing up. Their awards will then be retrieved in their classrooms. 8th graders will be recognized by coming forward to receive their awards. At the end, all 8th grade names will be read and they will come forward to shake hands with all of their MS teachers. We expect that the event will last approximately 45 minutes.

**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.

**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.

**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:**

\*Please follow the athletics Facebook page for additional updates regarding athletic changes.

Monday

MS Softball at Home - after the varsity game is over

MS Golf at Champions Pointe

MS Track at JCD at 5pm

MS Tennis at Christian Academy

Tuesday

MS Baseball at Home

MS Golf at Vinyard

Wednesday

MS Softball at Home

MS Track at South Ripley at 5pm

MS & HS Cheerleading - open mats 6-8 pm in the cafeteria

Thursday

MS Softball at Shawe

MS Baseball TBA - location will be changed due to addition of JV baseball - will update

MS Golf at Butler Falls

MS Tennis at Home vs. Madison

Friday

MS Golf at Butler Falls - Location Change - moved from away to home

MS Track at Switz. Co Invite