A Message from the Principal

Dear Sea Lion Nation,

As we approach the end of another beautiful year, I want to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared together. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and countless unforgettable moments. From the first day of school to this very moment, we have come together as a community, supporting and inspiring one another every step of the way.

I would like to take this time to thank all of our parents and community members for the support and partnership during this unforgettable school year. Your constant support and feedback have allowed us to constantly improve and maintain our excellent standards throughout the year. To our teachers and staff of the Sea Lion Nation... I am so proud! Words cannot express my appreciation. Your dedication surpassed expectations and contributed to our remarkable success. Thank you for going above and beyond. I look forward to our continued work together as we challenge ourselves and our students to set the highest standards and achieve our ambitious goals.

To my amazing Sea Lions of Southwest Middle School... Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am so honored to be your principal.

I encourage each and every one of you to embrace the upcoming summer break as a time for rest, relaxation and, rejuvenation. Take the opportunity to explore new interests, spend quality time with loved ones, and create beautiful memories that will last a lifetime. May your summer be filled with joy, laughter, and adventure.

Until next school year!

Gooooo Sea Lions!! Damian Rosado, Principal

Important Telephone

Numbers

Southwest Middle School 6450 Dr. Phillips Blvd. • Orlando, FL 32819 Phone:(407)370-7200 • Fax:(407)370-7210

| Front Desk | 5252221 |
|-------------------|---------|
| Secretary | 5252223 |
| Bookkeeper | 5252225 |
| Clinic | 5252229 |
| Attendance | 5252220 |
| Cafeteria | 5252226 |
| Media Center | 5252227 |
| Discipline Office | 5252244 |
| | |

Vision

A safe place where higher learning, creativity, and an appreciation for diversity lead to achievement.

Mission

To create a safe environment where learning is our priority, diversity is respected, and achievements are celebrated.

Core Values

We are committed to providing:

- · A Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
- · Rigorous Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments
- Supportive Interventions for Academics and Behavior
- A Caring Atmosphere Where Family Involvement is Embraced

VOL 31 | NO. 2 | APRIL 2024

SEALM

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Testing

Students just completed taking their B.E.S.T. Writing state test. Teachers will be using your child's scores to focus on areas of need in order to help advance your child's understanding of course material.

May will be a busy month for our students! In addition to all the end-of-the-school year activities, students will be taking their third set of FAST state tests as well as all the Common Final Exams (CFEs) for their courses. Below are the dates for these tests along with who will be taking each.

Wednesday, May 1st: FAST ELA Reading PM3

All students will test

<u>Tuesday, May 7th:</u> Statewide Science Assessment (8th graders only)

• Civics EOC (7th graders only)

<u>Thursday, May 9th:</u> FAST Math PM3, Algebra 1 Honors EOC and Geometry Honors EOC

• All students will test depending upon their Math course

Monday, May 13th: Common Final Exams in 1st and 2nd periods

<u>Tuesday, May 14th:</u> Common Final Exams in 3rd and 4th periods

Wednesday, May 15th: Common Final Exams in 5th and 6th periods

Thursday, May 16th: Common Final Exams in 7th periods

It is very important that your child be in attendance on these dates. For any reason your child cannot attend, make-ups will take place the week of December 18th-21st. The last day of the second nine weeks is Friday, May 24th.



Remind students to charge their laptops nightlyl

Digital Media Center

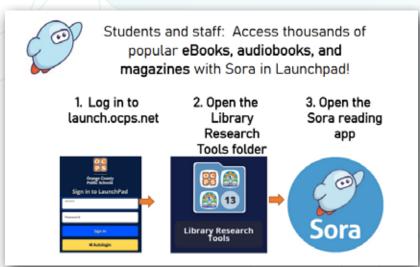
Book Fair

On April 15-19 we will have a Bedford Falls Book Fair. Students can purchase items before school or during their ELA class. The book fair will also be open during the Spring Festival on April 19th after school for families to shop. Parents, if you would like to volunteer, there will be a sign-up form posted on Facebook starting the week before the event.



Sora Information

Sora is an online reading app that gives students access to thousands of popular eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. Students can access Sora through their Launchpad or the app can be downloaded for free on a cell phone or tablet. This year over \$1,000 was spent on purchasing new and popular eBooks and audiobooks for Southwest Middle School students.



Book Club

Every month a new book is chosen and students have all month to read the book. We meet once a month after school to discuss the book and do a fun activity or game that relates to the book of the month. Students can find the chosen book of the month on the poster outside of the media center or online as a Canvas announcement. Students can sign up to join book club each month and vote for the next month's book on Canvas.



Second Semester Library Statistics

Top checked out titles:

- Scout Is Not a Band Kid by Jade Armstrong
- *No Brainer* by Jeff Kinney
- Nightbooks by J.A. White
- Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Top grade level with the most checked out books this semester: 8th grade with 833 books

- Total books checked out this year: 5,182
- Books currently checked out: 622
- New books added to the library this year: 540
- Overdue books: 97
- Lost books with fines: 471

Reminder: Please, pay any library fines that your child may owe. All library and tech fines must be paid by the end of the school year. Students must have all their fines paid in order to attend any field trips.



Discipline

As a discipline team, we have been busy working with students to ensure they are getting to their classes on time and maximizing their instructional learning with their teachers.

We always strive for a safe school environment here at Southwest Middle School. We want to ensure all of our students are being treated respectfully and being respectful toward others. If there are ever situations that make your child feel uncomfortable, please have your child report it to their teacher, grade level counselor or grade level dean. We are all here to assist your child.

Some friendly reminders for parents in reference to student dress code. Hats are not allowed to be worn on campus. Shorts must be long enough to reach the longest finger when held by his/her side. Rips in jeans may not expose skin past the knee. Students may not wear pajamas to school. Parents, please help us ensure your child is following our OCPS Student Code of Conduct Dress Code.

Lastly, cell phones are not allowed to be out for any reason between 9:30am-4:04pm (2:54pm on Wednesdays). Cell phones may never be used to film other students for any reason. This is a violation of the OCPS Student Code of Conduct. Discipline can occur if other students are being filmed. Please, speak with your child in regards to this important safety issue.



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Orange County Public Schools
P.O. Box 271
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Food and Clothing Surplus

SGA and NJHS students have been sorting food and clothing donations, but it has been concluded that there is a surplus. Please contact me to schedule a time to pick up food and clothes if your family is in need. I can be reached via email (kayla.rivers@ocps.net) or telephone (407-370-7200 ext. 5252292).



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School Counselors

SAFE

Mr. Peter Singletary, SAFE Coordinator Email: peter.singletary@ocps.net

Below are resources that you can use if your child is ever in need of immediate mental health support or crisis intervention:

Mobile Crisis Services

Call 211 or 407-839-HELP for Mobile Crisis Services. Mobile crisis services are available to anyone ages 0-24 located in Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County at the time of crisis. A master level therapist will respond to homes, schools, or anywhere within the tri-county community, within 60 minutes to provide immediate on-site crisis stabilization. Crisis therapists also connect families with additional long-term services in order to maintain stabilization. Services are free but parental consent is required.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Ms. Kayla Rivers, School Social Worker Email: kayla.rivers@ocps.net

Carricalam News

Language Arts

6th grade



The 6th grade Sea Lions have almost completed their first year of middle school and we are proud of them for continuing with P.R.I.D.E throughout this quarter. Second semester continued with nonfiction text describing ocean travel and discovery with focus on the B.E.S.T. standards of text structure and text features that guided our thoughtful discussions of understanding strong characters whose perseverance through worldly and personal discovery brought change and advancements for mankind.

During the last quarter, students in ELA class will strengthen their skills by analyzing how character interact, whether it be through dialogue, thoughts, actions or feelings contribute to the development of the plot. Students will analyze the theme as well as compare and contrast how authors from different time periods address the same or related topics through prose using excerpts from Hachet and The Devil's Arithmetic. They will continue to apply knowledge of context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials and/or background knowledge to determine the meanings of words and phrases in poetry such as Call Me Maria and Arachne.

We encourage students to end strong on the FAST ELA Reading test to demonstrate their growth and knowledge from this school year. During summer vacation, please keep encouraging your student to read twenty minutes non-stop every night. Studies show during the summer, your child can still learn but without the sense of urgency and pressure associated with school, so the brain is free to relax, to imagine, to wander and to create. This helps to associate happy and positive feelings with learning and may be all your child needs to grasp a previously elusive concept.

7th grade

Seventh grade Sea Lions showcased their essay writing skills with the B.E.S.T. Writing test on April 2nd. The final focus of Quarter 4 is preparing for the conclusion of the FAST ELA Reading test for the '23-'24 school year. This is your time to showcase your growing skills in reading as a 7th grade Sea Lion! Also, Book Studies have begun! A few of the books students are diving deeper into include: The Outsiders, Where the Red Fern Grows, The Hobbit, and When Stars Are Scattered. Parents, ask your student what they're reading and join in! Reading becomes more exciting when you have someone to share it with.

8th grade

Students have been working hard on their reading and writing skills. Most recently they have worked on analyzing rhetoric, identifying fallacies and writing persuasive pieces using these skills.

FAST Testing is quickly approaching. Please, make sure your child is independently reading at home. Talk to them about their assignments in ELA and carve out a time in your busy schedule to model good reading habits at home.



Science

6th grade Science

Sixth grade scientists are learning about systems of the human body, with an emphasis on how they work together. Soon we will begin reviewing for our end of the year assessments. We are confident our scholars will do well and we're excited to see them succeed.



7th grade Comprehensive Science

During quarter 4, 7th grade science students will be finishing up the unit of Ecology and moving on to our final chapter of Evolution. We will begin the quarter with a couple of fun projects involving evolution, and then spend the remainder of the year preparing for our final exam! We want to remind everyone that this is a cumulative exam that covers ALL topics that were taught in 7th grade. Although we will spend a lot of class time reviewing, it is always beneficial to take time at home to study. We are looking forward to finishing this year strong!

7th grade Earth/Space Science Honors

Earth/Space Science Honors students have navigated into the space portion of our units. In the coming weeks, we will finish exploring the formation of the universe, star properties, formation of planetary systems, electromagnetic spectrum and space exploration. They will increase their knowledge by taking notes, completing assignments, projects and labs.

Students will begin reviewing for their Common Final Exam which will be 20% of their final grade. We encourage students to finish the year strong.

As we end our 2023-2024 school year, Mrs. Evans would like to thank the students for their dedication to their education. Have a great summer everyone!

8th grade Comprehensive Science

Our Comprehensive Science 3 classes are preparing for the Statewide Science Assessment (SSA). We are going to use a variety of tools and activities to differentiate instruction in the SSA unit. Students will use nearpods, videos, science games, think-pair-share and many other activities to prepare for our SSA. We will have a few small projects during the 4th quarter. We want to wish all our students the best of luck and all the success as they get ready to transition to high school.

8th grade Physical Science Honors

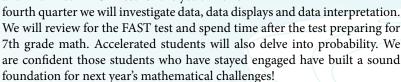
We have reached the 4th quarter! Our Physical Science Honors classes are currently preparing for the Statewide Science Assessment. We will also complete a unit on Electricity. Students will differentiate among conductors, semiconductors and insulators. Students will investigate and explain the relationships among current, voltage, resistance and power. We will also complete our model bridge project this quarter. Students will use math and science to implement engineering concepts in the design and construction of a model bridge. The bridge must carry a maximum load while using as few craft-sticks as possible. I wish all our students the best in high school! 8th graders, may all of your dreams come true!



Mathematics

6th grade Math

Sixth graders are preparing for the third and final Math FAST Test for the year. In this



7th grade Math

Seventh grade Regular Math students are working on the data displays unit and then move forward with their review for the FAST test. Students who are present and prepared for class every day will have the best chance of scoring well on the FAST test.

7th grade Advanced Math

Seventh grade Advanced Math students are working on probability. This is the last unit before we will be reviewing for the final FAST test. During the review we will be focused on writing and solving equations, laws of exponents and graphing linear equations. Students will have a practice test during the review period.

8th grade Pre-Algebra

Our Southwest Pre-Algebra students continue to shine! We are working hard to increase our scores, but are scoring higher than the district average in all areas. Keep up the great work, but practice more of your skills so you can build a better foundation for success. We are seeing improvements across the board.

Algebra 1 Honors

Algebra 1 Honors students are using the last quarter to review concepts learned earlier in the year and make connections between them in preparation for the End of Course exam. Students are comparing key features of the major algebraic functions (linear, quadratic, exponential, absolute value) and applying them to word problems.

The Algebra EOC is on May 9th. Following this, students will explore pre-Geometry for next school year.

Geometry Honors

Students in Geometry Honors are continuing their exploration of Circles and are now transitioning from angle relationships to segment relationships in circles. Including this unit, there are three units remaining before we begin our comprehensive EOC Review. The Geometry EOC is May 9th, and we already began our weekly spiral reviews in February. Remember, the score students earn on the EOC is 30% of their final grade for this high school course.

Social Studies

6th grade World History

Our six graders in World History class have wrapped up Greece last quarter and are moving onto our last civilization; Rome. We will be learning about their geography, social structure, government types like a republic and more. Rome is broken up into two units, the first focuses on The Rise of Rome and its Republic that will conclude on April 12th. The last unit is based on Rome's Empire and decline thereof and concludes on May 3rd.

7th grade Civics

In 7th grade, students just finished learning about the Declaration of Independence and the reasons why the American Colonists wanted to seek independence from Britain. Currently, students are learning about America's first government, the Articles of Confederation, and all the weaknesses involved in that government. Students will also learn how the U.S Constitution resolved those weaknesses and created the government that is currently in use in the United States. Next, students will learn the structure of the three branches of government and how they check and limit each other.

8th grade U.S. History

Eighth grade U.S. History students have completed units on Westward Expansion and the Industrialization of the United States in the early 19th century and are now beginning to focus their attentions on how those drastic societal changes led to sectionalism within the United States and ultimately ideological division between the North, South, and West. Students will now begin examining how that division between those regions of the nation subsequently led to the southern states declaring independence from the Union when the Civil War erupted at the election of Abraham Lincoln. Students will then analyze the events of the bloodiest war in American history and the leaders who impacted its outcome.





Electives

Theatre

Southwest Middle School will be hosting its 13th annual Festival of the Arts, which celebrates the Arts in the Southwest community! Bay Meadows, Millenia and Sand Lake Elementaries, the SWMS Art, Band, Chorus, Color Guard, Orchestra and Theatre programs and the Chorus, Orchestra and Band programs from Dr. Phillips High School and Lake Buena Vista High School will all be performing! The SWMS Student Council will provide games and a variety of food trucks will provide guests with items to eat! The event hosts an auction which supports the SWMS Fine Arts programs. The event is free of charge! You won't want to miss this fantastic event that brings the entire Southwest Community together, where we can celebrate the talents and creativity of the children in our community!



Festival of the Arts & Auction

Friday, April 19th, 2024 5:30 - 8:00 pm SWMS Campus

STEM

Upon starting a series of projects, students in 6th grade STEM classes will engage in developing an effective plan starting with real-world problems for the 4th quarter. By framing the lesson around a real-world problem, students can see the relevance and importance of the concepts they are learning. It also allows for more creativity and critical thinking as students work to find solutions to the problem. Before diving into a STEM project, it's important for students to determine the project criteria and constraints. This includes identifying the project goals and any limitations or restrictions, such as the resources available and time constraints. By breaking down the design process into specific steps, students can develop solutions to problems that at first seem overwhelming. They'll also be able to apply this problem-solving approach to future STEM projects.

Computers and Technology

Over the past months, we have been practicing for our certification exam in DIT. It's been Study, Study, Study for this high stake's exam. We are proud of the terrific study habits and efforts of our DIT students. We are very grateful to have Mr. Sapp as our proctor for the CompTIA IT Fundamentals series of testing.



Southwest Middle School 407-370-7200

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The Sea Line!

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the SAME TIME help support your local schools!

Contact the school today for more information.

Electives

French

Bonjour! Students in Beginning French have learned about classroom objects and courses, nationalities and they have mastered conjugations of the



verbs to be, to have and regular -ER verbs. We are currently learning time that will soon include the 24-hour system. This last quarter will include learning vocabulary (adjectives as well as verbs) revolving around the family unit.

French 1 has rapidly completed many lessons this year that has included question formation and question words, food and café vocabulary and verbs, sport activities and hobbies including *faire expressions*, seasons, months and the date as well as the weather. Quarter 4 will include celebrations, demonstrative adjectives and if there is time the introduction of the past tense *le passé compose*.

French 2 has learned about parts of the house and household chores. The main focus of class has been on learning the difference between the two past tenses: *le passé compose* et *l'imparfait*. Students have also responded to their pen pals in France. This time, students did not use their computers as they composed their replies to truly show their pen pals what they could write in French. Students will learn about the new verb *venir* and the construction of the recent past, additional irregular verbs, as well as comparative and superlatives.

As a reminder, all French assignments can be found on VHLCentral via their Canvas course. Students have unlimited attempts on all homework but must turn assignments in by 9:30 am the following day. They also have the Quizlet platform at their disposal to study for their daily quizzes and larger assessments. Please, frequently visit Skyward to stay on top of their grades.

Spanish

Saludos, Southwest Middle School families!

In December, our Spanish classes learned about some traditions related to the winter season and the new year. In February, we studied some notable Hispanics for Black History Month and in March we learned about some famous women for Women's History Month.

Beginning Spanish and Spanish 1 had different activities according to their mastery of communication in the target language.

Beginning Spanish has learned subject pronouns, the verbs ser and gustar and regular -ar verbs. They have learned vocabulary related to school and question words too.

Spanish 1 class has recently learned about stem changing verbs and verbs that are irregular in the yo form. Next, they will learn vocabulary related to traveling and also adjectives that are used with the verb estar.

Students have an online textbook with lots of different activities. On Canvas, there are fun learning games provided for all of our lessons. Going forward, our classes will continue to learn more vocabulary,

Students and parents are encouraged to check Skyward weekly to stay informed of progress.

grammatical structures and culture.



Student Council

The Southwest Middle Student Council was fortunate to attend our last District 3 at Horizon High School. Students were able to network with other students and collaborate on new projects. Our Valentine's Day fundraiser was also successful and we are currently busy planning for the annual Fine Arts Festival. The students are also looking forward to their end-of-the-year banquet on May 15th. We would like to thank everyone for your support of the SWMS SGA program this year.



Performing Arts

Orchestra has had a busy and successful year! Both performing orchestras received Superior ratings at Florida Orchestra Association District Concert MPA. Thank you so much to our wonderful parent chaperones! We have several events in the 4th 9 weeks. There will be 75 students participating in 32 events for Solo and Ensemble MPA on April 13th, held at Maitland MS. String Symphony and the Combined Intermediate Orchestra (periods 1,2,4) will perform at the Festival of the Arts on April 19th here at SWMS. Our Spring Concert will be on May 9th in the SMWS gym and ALL classes will perform. The format will be slightly different this year, with the Beginning Strings having their own concert at 6:30pm, followed by the Intermediate and String Symphony Concert at 7:15pm. Auditions for next year's group placement will take place in the final weeks of the year, including HS orchestra placement.

Parents, a very important note: it is highly recommended that if you are renting an instrument from one of our local music vendors, you continue the rental through the summer into next year so that you do not lose the equity you have built. If you have any questions, please contact the vendor.



Color Guard

Southwest Color Guard will be performing at the Fine Arts Festival on April 19th. All students are required to perform.

Sixth and seventh grade students wishing to take Color Guard next year can email Ms. Bryant for a link to fill out. Her email address is kristen.bryant@ocps.net. Middle school color guard is a class designed to teach the beginning student. Students must purchase personal equipment to practice at home.

Any student attending Dr. Phillips High School next year and would like to audition for Color Guard can email Ms. Bryant for a link to fill out. Her email address is kristen.bryant@ ocps.net. Students in color guard at the high school perform with the band at all high school football games. They also compete against other color guard from January- April. This is a credited elective course that is held after the regular school day. Fees, transportation and a high-level time commitment are required.



Lake Buena Vista Color Guard information will be posted on Canvas once we have information.







Electives

EqualityClub



Welcome to the judgment free zone! Our mission is to prevent and

close the gaps of inequality in our community. Students who would like to join the Southwest Middle School Equality Club will need to sign up for the YMCA After-School Zone. The cost is FREE! And YMCA provides transportation for most students. All you need to do is sign up for the YMCA After-School Zone (get the form from the Front Office if needed). The club will meet every Tuesday from 4:00pm-5:30pm in the Cafeteria. The equality club is a studentrun organization that unites diverse youths to build community and organize around issues impacting them in their schools and communities. If you would like to become a member of the Equality Club, then come join us every Tuesday to show your support for our community! We hope to see you there!

Upcoming events for April & May include a pizza party, ice cream social, friendship bracelet making, and inspirational rock painting.

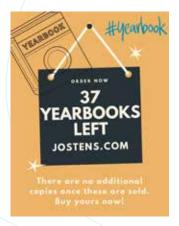


GSA Sponsor: Laurie. Westerfield@ocps.net 407-370-7200 ext. 5252240

Yearbook

Yearbooks are still on sale until April 25th. Order yours today!

Get your's before they're all gone!



YMCA Summer Zone



YMCA of Central Florida Middle School Summer Zone

Sessions at our Middle School Summer Zones offer exciting activities and choice-based specialty tracks that empower youth to follow their own path.

CAMPER ELIGIBILITY

Summer Zone is for incoming 6th grader students through out going 8th grade students. Campers must be a resident of Orange County.

Parents/Guardians must register for each week for Summer Zone and students must attend at least 3 days during that week to be eligible for future encollment.

SESSION DATES & TIMES

June 3 - July 25 (NO CAMP July 1 - 5) Monday - Thursday | 8,00 AM - 5,00PM

SUBMMER ZONE LOCATIONS

Improve Athletic Performance

Reduce Inflammation

- Burn Calories

Improve Sleep

Avalon Middle Bridgewater Middle Discovery Middle Glenridge Middle

Timber Springs Middle Water Spring Middle Westridge Middle

Weekly 2024 The

Week 1: June 03-05 Summer Zone Explorers Week 2: June 10-13 Retro: Battle of the Decades Week 3: June 17-20 Nature Zone Week 4: June 24-27 Summer Zone Olympics Week 5: July 08-11 Wild, Wild, West Lights, Camera, Action Week 6: July 15-18 Week 7: July 22-25 Under the Sea

Additional Program Details

Eampers must be an Orange County resident in order to attend Summer Zone at the available locations. Specialty tracks vary by location. Please contact your school's YMCA Site Supervisor to see what is offered at your school. Breakfast and lunch provided by the school district each day. Campers will receive a free t-shirt. Visit our website to see YMCA Camp Safety Procedures.





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Sea Lion Fund

The Southwest Middle School Sea Lion Fund is a partnership of student families, community members, and alumni (one day soon) who wish to enhance the experience of our Sea Lion students through generous, charitable contributions.

The purpose of the Sea Lion Fund is to support the staff, faculty, and students at Southwest Middle School by providing enhanced facilities, supplemental resources that reinforce student achievement, increased opportunities for faculty and staff to augment their professional development and a universal expansion in student opportunities for success.

Contributions can be made at any time and will be tax deductible. The Sea Lion Fund can receive gifts via cash, check (payable to FOCPS), or credit card, in one payment or multiple installments throughout the school year. Checks should be mailed to the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools at 445 West Amelia Street, Orlando, FL. 32801. In the memo section, please place Southwest Middle School.

The fund maintains a separate account at the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools and can only be used to benefit Southwest Middle School. All gifts are tax-deductible as a contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization with transparency and full disclosure.



The Southwest Middle School Sea Lion Fund's success is a result of those that invest in our student's future and therefore, help ensure a more positive and bright future for generations to come.

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Daniel Sapp • daniel.sapp@ocps.net



#SEALINE DE

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL



Orange County Public Schools Southwest Middle School P.O. Box 271 Orlando, FL 32802-0271 Non Profit Organization US Postage PAID Orlando, FL Permit #2346





Sea Lion Pop-Up Shop

The Sea Lion Pop-Up Shop is open for the 2023-2024 school year! Students can earn P.R.I.D.E. tickets from teachers and staff for showing P.R.I.D.E. This means being positive, respectful, displaying integrity, determination and excellence. The shop offers a multitude of food items and trinkets for students. This includes individually wrapped candy, fruit snacks, rice crispy treats, zebra cakes, variety of chips, ear buds, mini-Rubik's Cubes, mini-fidget toys, basketballs and more! Items range from 10-100 P.R.I.D.E. tickets.

Hours of operation are:

 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-9:20am AND 4:04pm-4:24pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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and more!