

A Message from the Principal

Dear Sea Lion families,

Happy 2021 Southwest Middle School families! We had around 160 students return to in person instruction on campus for our second semester. That means that a little over half of our 1,400 students are now on campus. I have been impressed with how well they are coping with our COVID-19 protocols. Please continue to talk to your child about keeping his or her mask over the nose, not touching students, and hand sanitizing frequently. We appreciate families keeping students who are not feeling well at home and contacting us regarding exposures to COVID-19. These protocols will continue to help us navigate the pandemic. Our teachers continue to work extremely hard to meet the learning needs of students and we appreciate the wonderful support of our community! Please be sure to read our school's newsletter weekly for important upcoming dates and visit our school's website at Southwestms@ocps.net. Thank you for your continued support of Southwest Middle School, and remember, **GO SEA LIONS!**

Raymond Yockel,
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	5252232
Cafeteria	5252226
Media Center	5252227
Discipline Office	5252243

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

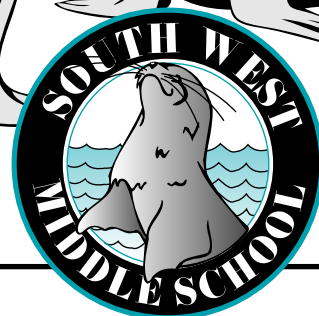
We are committed to providing:

- 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

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the SEA LINE

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL



Guidance

Students, congratulations on the completion of your first semester! If you did not pass one of your core classes (Language Arts, Science, Math, or Social Studies) this semester, it will be essential to communicate with your teacher of the failed courses to come up with strategies on what to do to bring up the failing grade by the end of the school year. Remember, students must have a final passing grade in each of their core classes to avoid summer school.



Student Council

Student Council has still been actively doing projects this year despite the obstacles we have had to face. We created 27 baskets of food for our own students for Thanksgiving. The baskets all had a week of food and everything for the Thanksgiving meal--even a \$10 Publix card for a turkey! For Christmas, we joined the Spaulding for Children's Foster Organization and were able to provide over 120 toys to foster children. Along with Spaulding we also did Toys for Tots and provided over 50 toys to the community. We are currently working on Military Care Packages to send overseas.



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Curriculum News

Social Studies

Sixth Grade World History

Students in 6th Grade World History are traveling through Ancient Greece, whose creations have affected us to this day. Examples are democracy, theatre, Olympics, architecture, aqueducts, roads, concrete, and bound books.



Seventh Grade Civics

Seventh Grade Civics students will be learning all about their state and local governments this quarter and how they affect us as citizens. We will then learn all about the Bill of Rights and several amendments to our Constitution!

Eighth Grade U.S. History

In quarter 3 of U.S. History students are examining the expansion of the United States during the years of the first presidents through Antebellum America. Students will analyze the impact of foreign events on U.S. policy and diplomacy, how new technology paved the way for westward exploration, and how development and progress in the United States impacted cultures and civilizations within the United States. Also, we will be attending Dr. Phillips High School Orientation on January 28th!

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Curriculum News

Language Arts

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade language arts students have been working hard to analyze multiple aspects of informational and literary texts, such as author's point of view, text structure, and word choice. Some of the texts we have analyzed together include, "Jabberwocky" from Lewis Carroll's sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, and the article "Dog's Process Language the Same Way Humans Do." Ask your student what they found most interesting about each of the texts we have read. This quarter, we will begin to focus more heavily on our writing skills to prepare for the FSA Writing Exam in March.

Seventh Grade

In 7th Grade Language Arts students will be working towards writing argumentative essays. First they will practice understanding the author's point of view. Next they will learn to evaluate an author's argument to determine whether or not it contains relevant and sufficient evidence to support a claim. Finally they will begin writing argumentative essays of their own. When we are finished with writing, students will review literary standards from quarter two as they prepare for the upcoming state testing. Encourage students to put forth their best effort into classwork as well as getting assignments turned in on time. Canvas and Skyward will be the best way to keep track of due dates, grades and attendance this school year.

Eighth Grade

During Quarter 2, eighth grade Language Arts students practiced their essay-writing skills by analyzing three informational texts and then writing an explanatory or argumentative essay regarding the topic. In addition to writing, students close-read a variety of texts to: determine author's purpose and point of view; determine connections and distinctions between ideas; and determine the effect of specific word choice on tone and meaning. A mid-year assessment through the iReady platform was administered in December to track students' progress with reading standards. As Quarter 3 begins, students will be refining their essay-writing skills in preparation for the FSA Writing exam. They will also continue to analyze both informational and literary texts to master standards related to the following: word impact, structure, and point of view.



A few spots are left!



We need you!

Advertise in The Sea Line! This is a wonderful way for your company to get community recognition and exposure, and at the same time help support your local schools!

Elizabeth Newbold • elizabeth.newbold@ocps.net
Southwest Middle School



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Math

Sixth Grade Math

For third quarter, sixth grade math students will be studying coordinate planes and solving one-step equations and inequalities.

Seventh Grade Math

In seventh grade math, students are studying two and three dimensional geometry, surface area, and volume.



Eighth Grade Pre-Algebra

In 8th grade Pre-Algebra students have been working hard and will continue to do so. We started our flight of the 2nd semester learning about Integer exponents and roots. We ended that journey and took another flight to the world famous Pythagorean Theorem where we are learning to use our legs to find the hypotenuse. We will then take off again in February with the next stop at transformation. Here we will learn about reflection, translation and rotation.

Honors Algebra I

In Honors Algebra I, students are currently covering Solving and Graphing Quadratics Functions. Next, we will learn about 1 and 2 variable statistics.

Honors Geometry

In Geometry Honors, students have been studying triangles, including congruence, similarity, relationships, and right triangle trigonometry. In the third quarter we will delve into quadrilaterals, perimeter and area, and circle geometry.

The online textbook, which is located through the PearsonEasy Bridge app on the students' launch pad, has a great Student Resources section which includes Homework Video Tutors.



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Curriculum News

Science

Science is always up to something new!

Sixth Grade Life Science

Students in Sixth Grade Life Science have finished scientific classification and are beginning cellular reproduction, including mitosis, meiosis, and cancer. Our biology studies will then continue with heredity and genetics.

Sixth Grade Comprehensive Science

In Sixth Grade Comprehensive Science students are finishing the earth science portion of our curriculum with the water cycle, ocean currents, and severe weather. We will then begin biology, including cells and the human body.

Seventh Grade Comprehensive Science

In Seventh Grade Comprehensive Science students have completed the section on Earth science and will begin learning about Life Science. Throughout the 3rd quarter we will be discussing cell reproduction including mitosis and meiosis, genetics and ecology. We will build upon topics covered in 6th grade through engaging lessons and activities.

Seventh Grade Honors Earth / Space Science

In Seventh Grade Honors Earth/Space Science the students completed the first semester with a focus on space and are now working on the Earth! We are covering the Earth and its interior layers, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. We will be covering the processes that influence the surface of the Earth as well. After that we go back to the past, looking at geologic time.



Eighth Grade Comprehensive Science

Students in Eighth Grade Comprehensive Science are progressing through their introduction to chemistry unit as they prepare for the SSA May 6th. This state assessment will cover three years of content so we have a lot to review!

While this has been a much different year than the past we are all happy to see so much success and hope it continues into our testing season. Stay strong and stay safe Sea lions!

STEM

In 6th Grade STEM students are starting their Medical Detectives Unit in which they learn about the human body, specifically the Nervous System. After acquiring the basic knowledge they will diagnose illness and solve medical mysteries.

In 7th Grade STEM students are starting Flight and Space where they will learn the mechanics of flight and space living.

In 8th Grade STEM the Face to Face students will be using their knowledge of Mechanical Gears and Programming to complete tasks such as creating Traffic Lights, Elevators, Toll Booths and much more. LaunchEd will dive into the realm of Electronics. Starting with what is an atom, how electricity travels, and how circuits are made.

Digital Information Technology

In the very near future 7th grade students will need to have an idea of what they will take for their 8th grade school year of 2021-22. When making selections your student may sign up for the **DIT (Digital Information Technology course #8207310) computer high school course**. The course is designed to give a basic overview of current business computer information systems and trends. The emphasis is placed on developing fundamental *computer skills of Microsoft Office*. Students passing this *prerequisite course* with a passing grade will receive **high school credit**. Please take this opportunity and have your student **sign up for the DIT high school computer course** to get ahead. DIT is rigorous. It is necessary for the student to have basic computer skills, be hardworking, determined and very reliable. Please contact me for further questions at Lisa.Matarrese@ocps.net or 407-370-7200 extension 5252369.



Art

Art 1 and 2 have been steadily creating this year! Art 1 has focused on the ELEMENTS OF ART/ DESIGN; line, texture, value, color, shape, value, and form and well as touching on the PRINCIPLES OF ART/ DESIGN as well. Art 2 has continued to explore these while diving deeper into observational drawing and observing some contemporary artists.

The following is a link to students who chose to share their work from Semester 1:

<https://tinyurl.com/swmsartgallery>

You will need to be logged on with an OCPS account to view it so please ask your student to help you view this.

If any art supplies are needed for LaunchEd learning as the year progresses, please contact Mr. Clay or Ms. Schweickert so we can make some available for pick up in the front office.

Drama

The Theatre Department is moving forward with their production of *MIDSUMMER MIDDLE SCHOOL'S DAYDREAM*, our own original version of Shakespeare's classic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Due to the unique circumstances of this school year, the production is going to be a film. The Theatre Department was awarded the Arts in Action Grant from the county in order to help produce the play. We will be offering an opportunity in the spring to view the production either during a special viewing or by sending out a link. More details to come!



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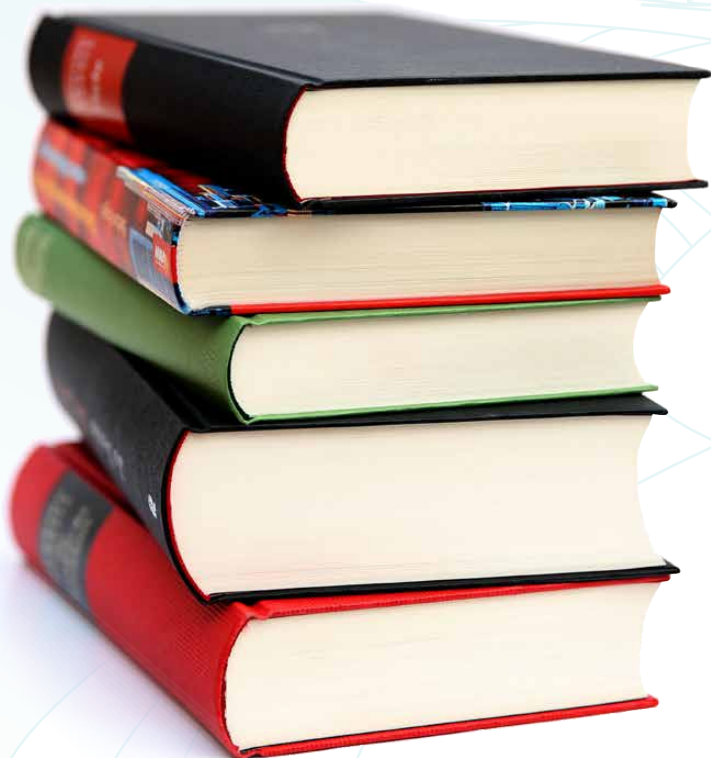
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News from the Media Center

The Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program (SSYRA) will be holding its annual competition from March 8, 2021 to April 16, 2021. Through OCPS, our school will be participating, and students will vote for their favorite book. In order to participate, you have to have read at least three of the SSYRA books! Please make sure that you check the Media Specialist Canvas page as more information will be released in February. We are excited to see how your voice will make an impact.

Lastly, please check out these resources for OCLS Literacy Week 2021! Literacy Week is January 25th through the 29th. This is a great time to ask your child about different books that they have read or are interested in reading.

MAKE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY *Unforgettable*

The tables are set, and the grill is fired up. Return to A Land Remembered for weekend dining starting February 4.

For a Valentine's Day you will never forget, celebrate your love with a romantic night immersing your senses in our four divine courses showcasing our most distinctive cuisine. The experience will create memories to last a lifetime.

Your award-winning AAA Four-Diamond steak house and the Clubhouse Grill welcome you back with new safety measures such as mandatory masks and temperature checks. For complete guidelines, please read Rosen's Total Commitment at rosenshinglecreek.com/rosentotalcommitment.

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2020-21 Yearbooks

The SWMS yearbook students are pleased to announce YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW. The smiles and memories of 2020-21 at SOUTHWEST will be remembered forever in a yearbook. Make sure your student doesn't miss out on this opportunity! To order a yearbook(s) for your student(s), please go online to:

Ybpay.lifetouch.com SCHOOL CODE 3964221 • Price:\$30.

The SWMS yearbook is created BY STUDENTS, for students. Please understand that while we work to be error free, mistakes do happen.

Sales: SOLD ONLINE ONLY/ DEADLINE: April 10, 2021

We feature 8th Grade PDA Ads to celebrate your child's last year in middle school as well as 6th and 7th Grade Parent "Shout Out" ads!

****Do not delay, copies are only ordered based on the online purchases. Extras are not guaranteed to be available.**

All yearbooks will include a year in review Zoom Current Event Insert. We all look forward to a wonderful year—and an equally wonderful yearbook.

Yearbook Portrait Pictures

We are currently working with Lifetouch to set up times for picture day. There will be times available for LaunchEd students to come into school to get their picture taken for the yearbook. More information to come.

Have pictures you would like to be considered for yearbook this year? Please email them to Kristen.Bryant@ocps.net. We are currently looking for pictures of LaunchEd students working and their workspace at home. Please include the student's name and grade level of those pictured. You may also want to include a caption as well.



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