A Message from the Principal

Dear Southwest Middle School families,

I hope that everyone is recovering well from the damage that Hurricane Ian caused. We had many families and staff members whose property suffered severe damage from the storm, and I hope everyone will join me in keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.

Please help me congratulate our teacher of the year, Mr. Guity, and our support person of the year, Dorie Cohn. Mr. Guity is our outstanding 8th-grade guidance counselor who is tireless in his support of our eighthgrade students with their academic and social-emotional needs. Ms. Cohn is our dedicated media center clerk who is always available to assist with our media needs. She is responsible for making us all look good in school videos and on the morning announcements.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we should be well into another season of Sea Lion volleyball! Our Sea Lion Soccer stars had a wonderful season with the boys winning all of their regular season games and the girls losing only one. Unfortunately, both teams lost in the first round of the playoffs. Please help me congratulate them for an outstanding season!

This year Ms. Erikson and her advanced orchestra students took part in the Electrify Your Strings orchestra project. We were among the first middle and high schools in OCPS to participate in the program's inaugural year. This outstanding opportunity gave our orchestra students a chance to practice and perform rock and roll music in an electrified orchestra format!

I would like to remind everyone who needs before and after school support for their children to enroll them in the YMCA Before or After School Zones. The After School Zone is free, and the

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

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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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FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Message From the Principal continues...

Before School Zone is \$25 a week plus a one-time \$12 registration fee. The Before School Zone is 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM and the After School Zone is 4:00 PM – 6 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Latoya Russ at latoya.russ@ocps.net.

Please make sure that you are reading our weekly

digital newsletter for current news and upcoming school events! Thank you for your continued support of Southwest Middle School, and remember, *GO SEA LIONS!*

Raymond "Chuck" Yockel

Principal

Sea Lion Fund

The Southwest Middle School 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 to the Southwest Middle School Fund can be made at any time and will be tax deductible. The 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.





Student Council

The Southwest Middle School student council has had a very busy 1st Quarter. As the current District 3 (D3) President School, we were in charge of hosting a D3 meeting. We had over 1,200 students attend and it was a huge success. The Southwest Middle School jazz band came and did a great job welcoming the schools. We would like to send a huge thank you to the SGA students at Lake Buena Vista High School for all of their help and for allowing us to use their campus.

As we move into Quarter 2, we are excited to be planning for FASC Kickoff. We will have SGA students from all over the state come and attend this conference at our campus. We are looking forward to welcoming other

SOUTHWEST MIDDLE

Florida student council members and hope we can make this a great event for everyone attending.

We do have some exciting new projects coming up such as our beach clean-up day, helping PTSA with the Walk-a-thon, and many, many more. Please keep an eye out for more project information in the SWMS Weekly Digital Newsletter.



AVID is off to a great start this school year! Throughout Quarter 1, students

have learned the importance of organization with planners and binders. Introducing Focused Note-taking has allowed students to understand the "why" of AVID to excel in core classes. During Quarter 2, we will focus on the Tutorial process, Costa's Levels of Thinking & Socratic Seminars.



'Sea Line' • Issue #3 November 2022 Published Four Times Per Year Southwest Middle School Orange County Public Schools P.O. Box 271 Orlando, FL 32802-0271





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Digital Media Center

Tech Help is available every day during 2nd period and 5th period by appointment. Teachers may add a student to the Google doc Tech Help list. The student will be called down when Tech Help is ready so the student does not miss valuable instructional time.

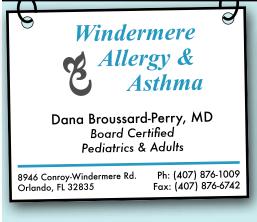
If your child plans to bring their [personal] device to school instead of checking out an OCPS-issued device to complete their classwork, parents must complete an OCPS Device Refusal Form. Check with the Digital Media Center for more information.





Fine Arts

The Fine Arts Department would like to invite you to the annual FINE ARTS SHOWCASE. Students will be sharing their talents from Art, Band, Chorus, Orchestra, and Theatre. This free event will take place on Thursday, October 28th at 7:00 PM in the SWMS gym. Don't miss the opportunity to see our talented students at work! Hope to see you there!





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Two Generations to Service You

Carricalam News

Language Arts

Seventh Grade

During Quarter 1, 7th-grade began the memoir Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang. Students enjoyed learning about the cultural revolution in China during the 1960s through the eyes of a 13-year-old girl. In Quarter 2 students are reading the infamous Broadway show, A Raisin in the Sun, showcasing the struggles of a black family in Chicago during the 1950s. Throughout Quarter 1 and continuing into the second, 7th graders have been working hard to learn vocabulary word parts every week. Remember to complete and study your digital notebook weekly to be prepared for a quiz every Friday!

Eighth Grade

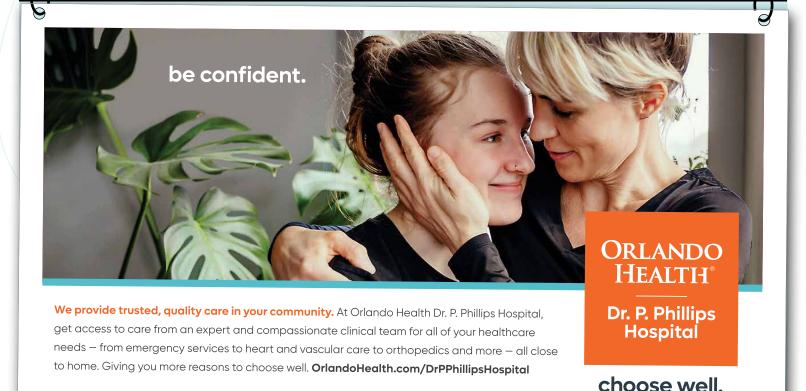
Throughout Quarter 1, 8th-grade students have been working hard as they adjust to our new digital textbook, Amplify. Located in LaunchPad, the Amplify app allows students to read, write, listen, and respond to curriculum aligned to our new B.E.S.T.



standards (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking). They are finishing up their first unit with our new standards. They have been focusing on analyzing narratives and writing narratives. Students are enjoying the creativity that comes along with narrative writing.

As we move forward into Unit 2, students will focus on the writings of both famous and lesser-known Americans who were critically, intellectually, and physically engaged in that debate during the Civil War time period. The lessons allow students to dive into these important texts, with a clear focus on how each writer reflects on this question and give them many opportunities to reflect on, discuss, write about, and debate ideas of equality, opportunity, justice, and freedom.

continues...



Carricalam News continues...



Mathematics

Algebra 1 Honors

Students in Algebra 1 Honors have been working on linear functions. Students recently took the district Progress Monitoring STAR Assessment. Once Performance Bands are set by the district, we will be able to share data with parents and students.

Geometry Honors

Students in Geometry Honors recently finished a unit on Lines and Angles and have now moved on to Rigid Transformations. Students recently took the district Progress Monitoring STAR Assessment. Once Performance Bands are set by the district, we will be able to share data with parents and students.

Science

Sixth Grade

Comprehensive Science

6th-grade Comprehensive Science 1 is moving along extraordinarily this year. We have studied units on Energy, Gravity, and Motion. 6th-grade scientists have examined how scientists observe, infer, and analyze things in the universe. Scientists study data, form conclusions, and produce scientific theories and laws. During the second 9 weeks, we will focus on Earth Science, including weather and climate, erosion, and the Earth's Structure.

Life Science

During the first 9 weeks, our Life Science students explored the nature of science as well. We have also utilized scientific laws and theories to investigate scientific theories. Students are now exploring the Theory of Evolution, fossil evidence, and natural selection. In addition, we are also addressing Ecology, the study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment; it strives to understand the essential connections between plants and animals and the world around them. We are beginning our investigations of cells, which will carry through to the end of the second 9 weeks.

Seventh Grade

Comprehensive Science

In 7th-grade Comprehensive Science 2, we concluded our units on Energy Transfer and Waves. Throughout Quarter 1, students completed various labs, activities, and projects that reinforced their understanding of Physical Science. During Quarter 2, we will focus on Earth Science, which introduces topics such as Geologic Time and Geologic Processes. We look forward to a great second quarter and encourage students to continue monitoring their grades/assignments on Canvas throughout the year!

Eighth Grade

Comprehensive Science

What a first 9 weeks it has been for our 8th-grade scientists! We have explored many light years beyond Earth exploring new galaxies in the universe. The second 9 weeks will be much closer to home, however, as we remain in our Solar System, discussing the key players in space affecting our everyday life. While we stay in space for a large part of the year we will hop into our introduction of chemistry soon before beginning our SSA review, spiraling back to 6th and 7th-grade content.

Physical Science Honors

Physical Science Honors is off to a great start. After applying Isaac Newton's Laws to Motion, Work, and Power in the first quarter we are ready to tackle a very challenging second quarter. Mr. Jn-Baptiste loves using hands-on activities to explore new content with his Honors classes! We will continue to discuss Energy but will also cover Electricity and Thermodynamics before our midterm. In addition to this high school content, we will also continue our spiral review of 6–8th-grade science content to ensure success on the Statewide Science Assessment (SSA) this spring.

Social Studies

Sixth Grade

World History

6th Grade World History students are wrapping up Unit 4: Mesopotamia and beginning to learn about Ancient Egyptians in Unit 5. They'll compare and contrast Egypt with Mesopotamia and learn about how different civilizations have different customs, but typically have a fairly similar structure.

Seventh Grade

Civics

7th Grade Civics students are beginning Unit 5 which analyzes the writing of the United States Constitution and the debates and compromises that went into its conception. They will then analyze the structure and how the founding fathers' included the philosophical belief systems of Montesquieu and John Locke, limiting the government while also giving it enough power to function.

Eighth Grade

U.S. History

8th Grade U.S. History students are finishing Unit 3 on the growth of the colonies. Unit 4 examines how imperialism and mercantilism by European nations led to the French & Indian War and the impact the war had on Native American populations.











Electives

Drama

Congratulations to all the students who made the cast and crew of *Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID*! We are now in regular rehearsals so participants should check their schedules! The play will be presented to audiences Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4, 2023. You won't want to miss it!







STEM

In 6th grade STEM, we have covered topics such as technology, engineering, and chemistry. Students have participated in multiple exciting labs such as creating glue and making ice cream! In Quarter 2, we will be focusing on projects/labs that focus on the introduction of nanotechnology, simple machines, and physics. We are looking forward to an exciting 2nd quarter and want to remind students to monitor their grades/assignments on Canvas every day!



Digital Information Technology

Our high school computer class, DIT, is off to a great start. We started Quarter 1 reviewing hardware and software. We also completed the introduction to programming using HTML. Currently, we are on the fun subject of social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. We have discussed the precautions for protecting our identity online. We look for to a very successful second 9 weeks.



Information & Communication Technology 1

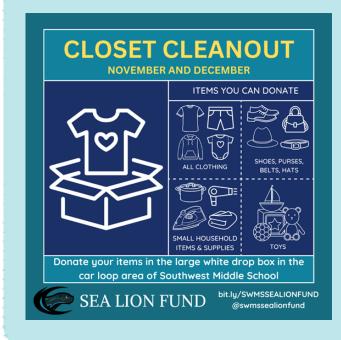
In ICT1, we have covered topics such as Computer Components and Operating Systems. We were able to take apart a computer and put our hands on the equipment that makes it work. After that, we moved on to Internet Security. We had great conversations as a class on the appropriate use of social media platforms. We learned about cyberbullying and what to do if you see it happening or if it happened to you. Finally, we learned about proper netiquette and how to be aware of your digital footprint. We are looking forward to our Internet Research Project on Halloween culminating on October 31st.

Information & Communication Technology 2

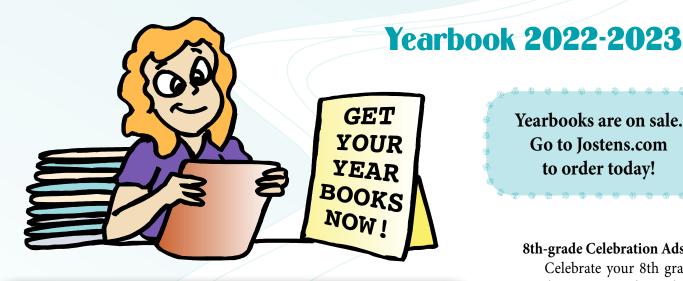
In ICT2, we have enjoyed learning new computer vocabulary and completing labs. We concluded the first nine weeks with digital literacy and keyboarding and moved on to Microsoft Excel at the beginning of the second nine weeks. We will continue to build on the Excel tasks we learn each day to enter information into an Excel spreadsheet. We will apply what we learn and measure how much we know by completing a Challenge Spreadsheet Lab.

Closet Cleanout

Have a closet full of old, gently used clothing, shoes, and/or small household items such as pots & pans (NON-GLASS ITEMS), and want to help raise money for our school? We are having a collection fundraiser! Every pound of clothing collected will raise money for our school and give clothing second life!







Yearbooks are on sale. Go to Jostens.com to order today!

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)

Students who would like to join the Southwest Middle School Gay-Straight Alliance will need to sign up for the YMCA After-School Zone. The cost is FREE! And YMCA provides transportation. All you need to do is sign up by visiting our School Website. The club will meet every Tuesday from 4:00-5:30 PM in the Cafeteria. GSA clubs are student-run organizations that unite LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community and organize around issues impacting them in their schools and communities. If you want to become a member of the Gay-Straight Alliance, join us every Tuesday to show your support for the LGBTQ+ community! We hope to see you there!

> GSA Sponsor: Laurie.Westerfield@ocps.net 407-370-7200 x5252240.

8th-grade Celebration Ads

Celebrate your 8th grader by purchasing a spot in the yearbook just for them. Share a heartfelt message and pictures to commemorate their middle school years. Ads can be created using the Jostens website. All ad sales support the yearbook program and the purchase of cameras and other equipment.







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National School Bus Safety Week

October 17-21 was National School Bus Safety Week. As such, we would like to remind all motorists to be mindful while in and around school bus stop locations.



DO I NEED TO STOP?

The penalty for illegally passing a stopped school bus while displaying a stop signal is \$200. Illegally passing on the side children enter/exit is \$400.

Your license can be suspended for a 2nd violation within a 5-year period.

Your phone must be hands-free in a school zone.











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FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL



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