

A Message from the Principal

Hello Sea Lion Nation!

It is hard to believe that the first quarter has ended. We have begun our journey this year with some changes that I believe have improved our climate and culture. The work is not yet done, but we are moving in the right direction.

At SWMS, we believe it is important for our students to be connected to school through positive relationships and a strong sense of community. Our school is family oriented and takes a whole child approach to teaching and learning. Our teachers and staff are committed to providing all students with an appropriate and challenging educational experience in a respectful environment that fosters learning and growth.

A crucial part of success for students is attendance. As a parent or guardian, it is essential for you to maintain an attitude that "Every Day Counts" for students to be in school and ready to learn each day. At SWMS, we will assist in helping parents and families understand the importance of instructional time and school attendance. Additionally, at SWMS, we recognize that family and community support are integral to our success.

One of our most important responsibilities to you is that we keep you informed of all that is taking place at the school. One of the ways we do this is regularly updating our school website, Facebook and Instagram. You can find up-to-date events, classroom photographs, and additional information, so I encourage you to visit it as often as possible.

These are exciting times and we look forward to what's to come the next nine weeks.

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

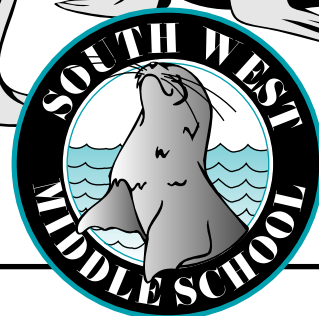
We are committed to providing:

- 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

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the SEA LINE

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL





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

Need to locate resources? Community Connect (<https://communityconnect.ocps.net/>) is an OCPS website created to link families with needed existing local resources such as food, housing, mental health, education programs, and other social services. These programs are provided directly by community based organizations.

Along with Community Connect, another way to obtain counseling services for your child is a referral to our school's Mental Health Services Team. The team consists of the three grade level counselors, the school based social worker, the SAFE Coordinator, the itinerant social worker, the school psychologist and a district mental health counselor. After a referral, the team will collaborate to determine the best services for your child. Services consist of counseling/check-ins with one of the team members, counseling with an outside counseling agency during the school hours (must have Medicaid), or assistance with getting counseling outside of school. If you would like to refer your child to our Mental Health Services team, please contact the SAFE Coordinator, Mr. Singletary, at Peter.Singletary@ocps.net or call him at (407) 370-7200 ext.5254300.

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

As we prepare for the upcoming Fall and Winter months, please consider making jacket, sweater, coat, and/or boots donations for students in need. If you have any additional questions or concerns feel free to contact Mr. Rivers via email/telephone. Otherwise, drop the clothes off at the front office and ask that they radio Ms. Rivers or place the items in room 235. In addition, multiple school breaks are on the way as well so nonperishable food items would also be beneficial.

Digital Media Center



Remind students to charge their laptops nightly!

SSYRA Reading Challenge

The Sunshine State reading challenge has begun! Students who read the SSYRA books can earn prizes throughout the year. For every 5 Sunshine state books read students will receive a prize. At the end of the year if all 15 books are read, they will be invited to an ice cream party. Students can register for the reading challenge on Beanstack located on Launchpad.

Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading program for students in grades 3-12. The purpose is simply to encourage students to read good books and have fun while competing with peers. Every year OCPS puts on a countywide competition with questions from the 15 Sunshine State Books. Teams consist of 6 students: one captain, four teammates, and one alternative. Students who are interested in joining the Battle of the Books team should be willing to read all 15 Sunshine State books. We will meet once a week to discuss the books and quiz each other. Meetings will not start until after Thanksgiving break. This will allow students time to start reading the books. A list of all the books is located in the media center.



Book Fair

There will be a Scholastic book fair December 4th-8th in the Media Center. Volunteer sign-ups will be available closer to the start of the fair.

First 9 weeks library statistics

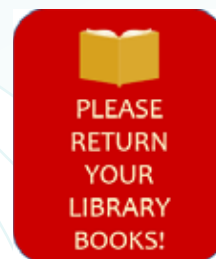
Most checked out books

- *The Baby-Sitters Club: Kristy's Great Idea*
- *Guts*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School*

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

- Total books checked out: 1,844
- Books currently checked out: 648

Reminder: Please, pay any library fines that your child may owe.



Yearbook

Yearbooks are currently being sold online at Jostens.com. Yearbooks are sold through preorder only. Do not wait to order as prices will increase again in December. With so many new happenings on campus, we are looking forward to including more students and activities throughout the yearbook.

Eighth grade parents- Celebrate your child by creating a special ad space in the yearbook for them to remember. All ad sales support the yearbook program and the purchase of cameras and other equipment. Celebration Ads can be purchased and created on Jostens.com.



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

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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

If you are interested in donating to the Sea Lion Pop-Up shop, please drop off the items to Ms. Matzner in the front office. Here is the Amazon Wishlist link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/DP3NEGHEMBZ3Z?ref_=wl_share

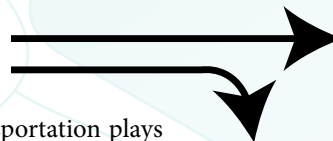


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National School Bus Safety Week

October 16-20 was National School Bus Safety Week. School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation's students, and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. More than 25 million children ride the yellow bus every school day, and National School Bus Safety Week serves as a reminder for students, parents, teachers, and the community to keep school bus safety in the forefront. As such, we would like to remind all motorists to be mindful while in and around school bus locations.



Discipline

We just wrapped up a wonderful 1st nine weeks with our students. 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.

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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School Counselors

The school counselors will continue to meet with students this Fall regarding grades, career and personal development. We will focus on teaching students about the importance of grades and calculating and keeping up their GPAs.

Students, congratulations on the completion of the first quarter. In November, we are celebrating our Honor Roll Students for all of their hard work during the first 9 weeks! Students who earned all A's and B's will be recognized. Invitations for our students who received straight A's during the first marking period will be sent out electronically. Parents, please make sure your emails are updated and on file.

Students, if you did not pass one of your core courses (Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies) this semester, it will be essential to communicate with your teacher of the failed course to come up with strategies on what to do to bring up the failing grade by the end of the semester.

Red Ribbon Week was in October. This year's theme was "Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free." With the help of our Student Government Leaders, activities were implemented throughout campus to educate students about a safe and healthy lifestyle.

The window for 8th grade students to apply for high school magnet programs opened November 1st. The link for information regarding high school programs and the applications is: https://www.ocps.net/departments/school_choice/magnet_programs/magnet_application_process

A message from Mr. Guity, our 8th grade School Counselor:

As the 8th grade counselor, my job is to begin preparing our young people for high school. We discuss things like study skills, developing a good work ethic and learning to advocate for yourself. Using a person-centered approach, I enjoy building relationships with my students and getting to know them better so we can properly develop a solid academic plan during their 8th grade year.

Testing

Students just completed taking their first session of PMA and STAR testing. 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.

December will be a busy month for our students! In addition to the second nine weeks concluding, students will be taking their second set of FAST, PMA and STAR tests in December. Below are the dates for these tests along with who will be taking each.

Tuesday, December 5th: FAST ELA Reading PM2

- All students will test

Thursday, December 7th: FAST Math PM2

- All students will test, except students taking Algebra 1 Honors and Geometry Honors

Tuesday, December 12th: PMA2 / STAR 2

- Only 7th grade Civics, all Science classes, Algebra 1 Honors and Geometry Honors students will test
- Odd Block Day- Students will only attend their 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th periods

Wednesday, December 13th: PMA2 / STAR 2 (continued)

- Only 7th grade Civics, all Science classes, Algebra 1 Honors and Geometry Honors students will test
- Even Block Day- Students will only attend their 2nd, 4th and 6th periods

Thursday, December 14th: Common Final Exams (CFEs)

- Only students taking PE, Learning Strategies, STEM, and 6th grade Student Council test
- Odd Block Day- Students will only attend their 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th periods

Friday, December 15th: Common Final Exams (CFEs) (continued)

- Only students taking PE, Learning Strategies, STEM, and 6th grade Student Council test
- Even Block Day- Students will only attend their 2nd, 4th and 6th 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, December 22nd.



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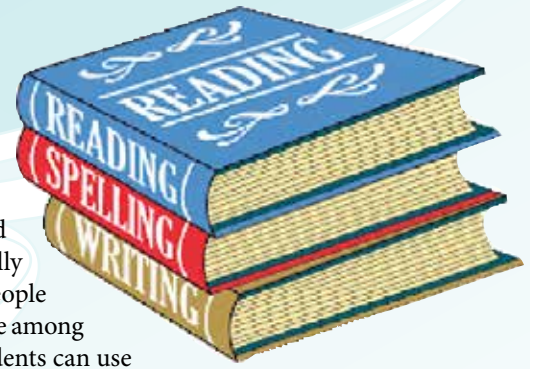
Actual Patients



Language Arts

6th grade

The 6th grade Sea Lions have transitioned into middle school with P.R.I.D.E as they completed their first quarter of 6th grade. First quarter introduced fictional texts in prose and poetry, all with a similar theme of "growing up". A poignant nonfiction text introduced Fair Trade and increased your students' knowledge of sourcing products that are ethically and sustainably produced while giving consumers confidence that the people behind the products they buy get a fair deal for their hard work. This article among others focused on standards such as text structure and features that students can use across curriculums to locate important information in a text including science and social studies textbooks.



During the second quarter students in ELA class will deepen their skills by analyzing how character interactions 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. 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 grade-level content throughout the year.

In December, students will participate in a B.E.S.T. expository essay writing practice during class. Teachers will provide feedback on the content and structure of their essays using the Florida Department of Education's writing rubric. One last note, please encourage your students to read twenty minutes non-stop every night. Nightly reading is the greatest predictor of academic success and please talk with your student about what they are learning while at school.

7th grade

Welcome to Quarter 2, 7th grade Sea Lions! How did your first quarter as a 7th grader go? We have now completed 8 weeks of vocabulary, taken 2 unit tests, and written the beginnings of an essay. Moving into this second quarter, we are diving deeper into poetry, and other literary stories and informational articles. We will also be continuing to develop our essay writing skills to prepare for the FAST Writing Test. Continue to study and interact with your weekly vocab!

8th grade

Students have spent the first quarter analyzing how authors create characters and their individual perspectives. Students have also been on the look out for rhetoric and their appeals in non-fiction writing. Finally, students have reviewed Central Idea and Theme.

Moving into the 2nd quarter students will work on the following standards in their ELA classes:

- Students must be able to understand how character development is linked to the plot to be able to accurately determine a theme or support for the development of a theme.
- Figurative language and different structures and features in poems can be used to convey individual attitudes of different characters.
- Understanding figurative phrases is supported by finding meaning in the context and connotation of vocabulary.
- Understanding and analyzing figurative language can be necessary for understanding the development of themes.
- Students will need a firm understanding of central idea and/or theme to be able to compare and contrast how authors' approach a topic differently.

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Science

6th grade Comprehensive Science

Sixth grade comprehensive scientists will be investigating earth science during the 2nd nine weeks. This will include learning about how energy is transferred around our planet, weather and climate, as well as ocean currents and the atmosphere.

6th grade Advanced Life Science

Life scientists have concluded our unit on cell types and parts. We will be expanding on this by investigating cell processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, mitosis, meiosis and genetics.

7th grade Comprehensive Science

During the 1st quarter, our 7th grade science students have learned topics such as energy transfer, lab safety, heat and temperature, and sound/light energy. We have done various activities including a coin lab, energy stations, and creating energy transfer catapults. In quarter 2, we look forward to covering units about the EM spectrum, geologic time and geologic processes. We have many fun activities planned and can't wait to share more about the activities and labs we do in class!

7th grade Earth/Space Science Honors

Earth/Space Science Honors students conducted many fun and engaging lab activities during the 1st nine weeks. In a coin lab, students were able to practice identifying variables, using repetition, replication while collecting, graphing and analyzing data. They also created models to show how air movements are caused by temperature differences. Additionally, students used a model to identify areas of high and low pressure in the atmosphere and density differences in the oceans caused by temperature changes. To finish up the 1st nine weeks, students completed multiple activities that allowed them to differentiate between the factors that affect climate of geographic areas, how to predict future weather conditions and understand the conditions that contribute to global climate change.

The 2nd nine weeks will expand student knowledge with an array of activities to help them build upon what they already know while they engage in activities that will inspire them to better understand:

- the layers of the earth and how heat is transferred through earth systems
- earth processes such as analyzing the theory of plate tectonics and
- the diversity of organisms through scientific theory of evolution.

Students will end the quarter with a progress monitoring 2 district exam. We will inform them of the content to review prior to the district exam. It will be a full and fun quarter!

As we end 2023, Mrs. Evans would like to thank the students for their focus and continued hard work and the parents and staff for their support. Happy Holidays to everyone!

8th grade Comprehensive Science

In the second quarter, our 8th grade Comprehensive Science students will explain the impact of objects in space on each other, explore Atomic Theory, differentiate among the four states of matter, explore and describe the densities of various materials, and classify and compare substances.

8th grade Physical Science Honors

In the second quarter, students will study the properties of waves, thermodynamics, introduction to chemistry, and atoms. Students will learn through the use of technology, notes, projects, and labs.



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Mathematics

6th grade Math

Sixth graders were busy in the first quarter practicing operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions and integers. That's right, we are learning to work with negative numbers! We have also learned that when it comes to absolute value, you need to stay positive! We are looking forward to having some fun with the coordinate plane, and practicing and learning about ratios and rates. Stay positive Sea Lions!

7th grade Advanced Math

During the first term, 7th Advanced Math focused on operations with numbers and expressing numbers in different forms. As we move through our final unit of equations and inequalities, the students are developing the skills they will need to work with equations and apply them to different situations. As the second quarter progresses, the students will be able to work with proportional reasoning which includes converting units of measure. At the end of the quarter, we will conclude with two variable linear equations.

8th grade Pre-Algebra

The 1st nine weeks is come and gone, and our test scores are above the district average in 90% of the standards tested and right at the average for the rest of the standards. We are moving into the 2nd nine weeks with great pace. Please encourage your students to continue to work hard and see the great things that the future holds. Thank you for your continued support of our school and the agenda that we have for your children.

Algebra 1 Honors

Algebra 1 Honors has done an incredible amount of work already. Students have been solving for one and two variable equations by isolating a specific variable, become familiar with writing and graphing lines in several different forms (standard, slope-intercept, and point-slope), tackled data problems involving scatter plots, become familiar with function notation, AND solved and graphed linear inequalities.

In quarter two, students will be working with two simultaneous lines (one car traveling at 50 mph and another starts a minute later at 60 mph...), deepening their knowledge of exponents and exponent rules, and manipulating polynomial expressions. We are so proud of all the hard work these students have put in to learn so much so quickly!

Geometry Honors

Students in Geometry Honors recently finished a unit on Rigid Motions and have now moved on to Triangle Congruence. Students recently took the district Progress Monitoring STAR Assessment. Students can see their score in Performance Matters, but I have also entered the score in Canvas so students can determine their performance level (1-5).



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Curriculum News



Social Studies

6th grade World History

Our sixth graders in World History class last quarter learned about how historians study history, use maps, timelines and more. We started our first civilization, Mesopotamia. We can thank them for the wheel, calendar, 60 minute hours, 60 second minutes and much more! Second quarter we are learning about the Ancient Egyptians and will learn more about their neighbors south of them in Africa, Nubia (Kush) and Aksum (Axum). Our last civilization before the end of the second quarter will be India. Did you know that India invented the idea for inoculation against diseases? How about our number system (Arabic numerals)?

7th grade Civics

In 7th grade Civics, 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

8th grade U.S. History students have completed units on settlement and development of the American continents, the French & Indian War, and are currently studying Causes of the American Revolutionary War, exploring what events provoked the American colonists to declare independence from Great Britain. Next, they will be diving into the battles and events of the American Revolutionary War, explaining how perseverance and alliances helped the disadvantaged Americans manage to overtake a world power like Great Britain.

Electives



Theatre

In Theatre news, the cast of Annie Jr. have begun rehearsals. This year's performance will be taking place on the Dr. Phillips High School stage! Students interested in participating on TECH CREW can attend a try out on Wednesday November 1st after school. All members of the play must apply for the YMCA After-School Zone.

Theatre students also took a field trip to see Comedy of Errors at The Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. The students had a wonderful time at this funny and engaging play.

Computers and Technology

Many new things are happening in the computer department! First and most importantly, SWMS and the computer department are excited to share about our new ICT 1 teacher, Ms. Henderson. She joined us from the DPHS business department. Ms. Henderson has experience in business and computers, so is a very welcomed part of the computer department for the education of our Sea Lion students. ICT (Internet Communication Technology) students will learn about safety and the internet related to social media.

Ms. Matarrese teaches Digital Information Technology (DIT) which is a high school course for 8th grade students. She has acquired a new lab through all the dedicated hard work of the students passing the industry certifications over the years. To explain how this happens, the DIT student earns the certification and then the state of Florida gives money to our school specifically for our CTE-DIT Computer Program at SWMS for continued learning with the most-up-to date technology.



We have more breaking news! The new computer lab was just installed mid-October! We are very pleased with the new "micro-computer" installation in our lab room for DIT and ICT 2. DIT students are learning how to identify common steps to follow in troubleshooting software problems.

Electives

continued...

French

Students in Beginning French wrapped up the quarter having learned the French alphabet and accents which have become important for their pronunciation. They also learned how to greet others and say goodbye including the gestures utilized with those greetings. They now understand what articles are in English and French and can use them in front of various nouns. Lastly, they learned numbers 0-60 to be able to recite French phone numbers! Currently they are practicing classroom vocabulary and will soon be able to identify people.

French 1 finished practicing professions alongside character traits and emotional states. They analyzed similarities and differences among friendships in the USA vs France. They now know all of the numbers 0-100. They are also able to talk about the location of an object as well as stress pronouns. Currently they are learning the verb "to go" to be able to speak in the near future tense.

French 2 learned how to speak in the past tense which was a huge feat, and they just finished practicing identifying objects in a sentence to be able to replace them with indirect object pronouns. Currently, the class is learning the last group of verbs ending in -RE. Students also wrote their first letter to their pen pals in France introducing themselves. We are excited to receive a response from them soon!



hablas

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Spanish

Hola, Southwest Middle school families!

From September 15th to October 15th, our Spanish classes learned about Hispanic Heritage Month. We learned about when it began and how it has changed over the years. Students learned about different Hispanic people and their contributions to the world. We learned about people from professions ranging from artists to reporters. Beginning Spanish and Spanish 1 had different activities according to their mastery of communication in the target language.

Currently, Beginning Spanish is using numbers and practicing how to tell time in Spanish.

Spanish 1 is practicing the verbs "ser" and "estar" and learning to differentiate between when to use each of those verbs.

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, grammatical structures and culture.

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

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STEM

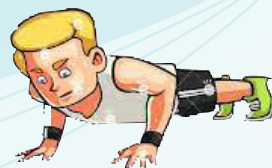
Students in 6th grade STEM class are learning to create positive financial habits and relationships with money through practice of numbers and percentages that will serve them through their lifetimes. Students are learning about the financial aspect of STEM careers through project-based learning while designing and building financial models for fictional businesses, participating in financial simulations, and researching the impacts of new technologies. Financial literacy and STEM go hand-in-hand. When students are learning about money management, they are also utilizing their skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity. These skills are essential for success in various STEM fields.

Law Studies

Law Studies has been a great addition to our social studies department. Students have learned about the foundations of our government, how laws are passed, and are now learning about landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases. Our first quarter concluded with a public policy memo. Students researched a bill that they were interested in becoming a law and wrote a memo to their representative. Students will be participating in moot court and mock trial activities as we focus on courts in the second quarter.

Physical Education (PE)

The first semester of PE we have been focusing on Physical Fitness. We also had the Dr. Phillips High School ROTC program come volunteer for a day and work on Fitness stations with our students.



Student Council

The Southwest Middle School Student Council has had a very busy 1st quarter. Students attended their first District 3 meeting at Windermere High School which was a huge success. In October, three students represented Southwest Middle School at the Southern Association of Student Councils Conference in South Carolina and are excited about implementing some new project ideas here at SWMS. We are very excited to announce this conference will be held at Lake Buena Vista High School next year!

SWMS SGA was also very proud to help with our clothing/hygiene drive for displaced students. Many items were donated and items are still being accepted. We would like to thank you all for your continued support of this project.

As we move into the second quarter, we are excited to be helping out with many events happening on and off campus. Students enjoyed our Red Ribbon Week/Spirit Week and helping Dr. Phillips Elementary School with their Trunk-or-Treat.

We do have some exciting new events coming up such as our holiday candy grams fundraiser, our second District 3 meeting at Lake Buena Vista High School, and our holiday toy drive. Please keep an eye out for more projects and event information in the SWMS monthly digital newsletter.



Performing Arts

The Arts at Southwest are in full swing! The Orchestra hosted the first ever Rockestra event, playing rock and pop music with both LBVHS and DPHS's orchestras!

Tuesday, October 24th was the Fall Fine Arts Showcase hosted in the SWMS Gym. This event featured the talents of our students in Art, Band, Chorus, Orchestra and Theatre. We've had many students that have been selected for All County! Congratulations to our very talented students! Make sure to check out upcoming newsletters, school social media, and school web-site for our Winter Concerts, taking place in December!

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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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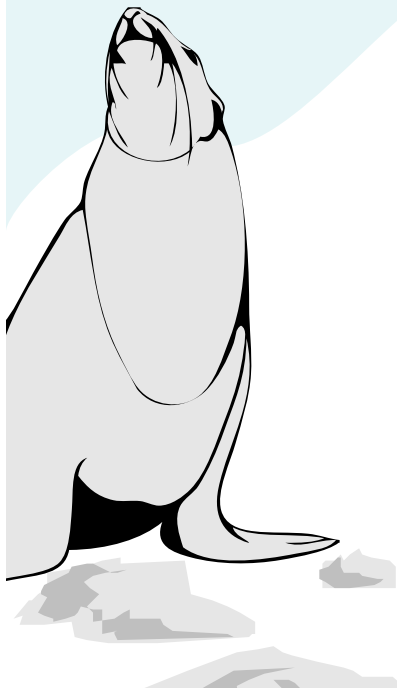
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National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

The National Junior Honor Society is excited to be back in action this school year. We kicked off our community service with a school beautification project. NJHS brought some color and Sea Lion Pride to our campus by painting parking spots at the front of the school. In quarter 2 we will be inducting new 7th and 8th grade members. Students who meet the GPA and discipline requirements will be sent an invitation to apply to the honor society at the beginning of November.



YMCA After-School Zone

Our YMCA After-School Zone is in full swing! Your child is welcome to join the YMCA ASZ here at Southwest Middle School. The registration is on-line and can be found on the Southwest Middle School website (www.southwestms.ocps.net) under the Parent tab. Our YMCA After-School Zone is a FREE program made possible by a grant through Orange County Government in partnership with the Citizens' Commission for Children.

Students must be registered in order to attend the Zone. All programming is done here on campus, not the YMCA family center down the street. We offer a variety of clubs and activities for our students to choose. Students sign in for the Zone after school in the cafeteria.

We offer limited bus transportation. We have two bus routes that service the Tangelo Park/Vineland Rd/Kirkman Rd/Conroy Rd/Sand Lake Rd areas. Students need to be registered for the YMCA After-School Zone before they can ride our bus. They must also be approved by OCPS Transportation and added to the bus list before they are allowed to ride.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the YMCA Site Supervisors: Latoya Russ (lruss@cfymca.org) or Daniel Sapp (dsapp@cfymca.org).

