A Message From The Principal
by Corey Graves

Dear SMS Parents/Guardians:

It FINALLY feels like winter has arrived! I hope everyone has an opportunity to get outside and enjoy playing in the snow, sledding, ice-skating, and all the activities only winter can provide. Please always ensure your child is dressed for the weather.

As the year has moved on, we have been able to add additional afterschool activities for our students. Some of these include various BEST programs, the start of athletics and participation in the annual SMS musical. We are thrilled to have so many opportunities for our students to participate together as we build an even stronger school community.

Second marking period report cards will be available via SchoolTool on Friday, February 5th. Please take the time to sit with your child and discuss their report card with them.

As always, should you have any concerns regarding your child's report card, I encourage you to get in touch with their teacher.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give the school a call!

As always, we thank you for your support and encouragement!

SMS Principal
Mr. Graves

Spotlight
This month, our Spotlight Students are Amelia Martinez-Segui and Zeke Sensenich. Get to know them below!

What is your favorite part of Winter?
Amelia: Pushing my sister Emily into a pile of snow.
Zeke: Playing in the snow with my family.

Do you have plans for winter break?
Amelia: Hang out with my family and visit Skaneateles.
Zeke: Spend more time with my family and hopefully celebrate the Bills’ Super bowl win.

What is your favorite thing to do with your family?
Amelia: Play the game “Clue” and go to NYC on vacation.
Zeke: Go on vacation. My favorite vacation place is Aruba.

What is your favorite book?
Amelia: Hole by Louis Sachar
Zeke: Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

When are you the happiest?
Amelia: Spending time with my family.
Zeke: Spending time with friends and family.

What do you think your future job will be?
Amelia: Working for NASA
Zeke: General manager for the New York Yankees

CALENDAR
2/8 - BOE Meeting - 7PM
2/9 - SMS PTO Meeting - 7PM
2/15 - No School – President’s Day
2/16-19 - No School - Winter Recess

GRADES
Marking Period #3
2/1 – 30 Week Marking Period Begins
2/5 – Report cards available online

One Hour Delay Schedule
Period 1 8:55 – 9:29
Period 2 9:32 – 10:03
Period 3 10:06 – 10:37
Period 4 10:40 – 11:11
Period 5 11:14 – 11:45
Period 6 11:48 – 12:19
Period 7 12:22 – 12:53
Period 8 12:56 – 1:27
Period 9 1:30 – 2:01
Period 10 2:04 – 2:37

Two Hour Delay Schedule
Period 1 9:55 – 10:20
Period 2 10:23 – 10:45
Period 3 10:48 – 11:10
Period 4 11:13 – 11:43
Period 6 11:46 – 12:16
Period 7 12:19 – 12:49
Period 8 12:52 – 1:22
Period 9 1:25 – 1:47
Period 10 1:50 – 2:12
Period 5 2:15 – 2:37
GRADE LEVEL TEAMS

5th Grade:
5th Grade students just finished reading "Tale of Despereaux". At the end they shared their adventure by creating summaries and illustrations of each part of the book.
We also are celebrating Martin Luther King Jr's birthday with some digital learning projects and in-person learning essays.

6th Grade:

Reminders/Announcements:

Please remember to charge Chromebooks every night and to bring them to school on in-person learning days!

Math- Currently, students are studying the unit on operations of fractions. The focus will be on all operations, including working with mixed numbers. Some key vocabulary words for this unit are: proper fractions, improper fractions, mixed fractions, reciprocal

Science- Students just completed their unit on plate tectonics. They now have a better understanding of how continents move and why earthquakes and volcanoes are located where they are around the world. Our next unit will focus on Earth’s spheres and how all those spheres interact with each other in the fragile Earth System.

Reminder: I will be offering virtual extra help 3 days a week from 3:05-4:05 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Google meet link will be found on your weekly agenda. I encourage all to join, it will be worth it.

Social Studies- So far we’ve traveled from the Stone Age through Mesopotamia and into Egypt in 6th grade Social Studies. We’re currently studying the Ancient Egyptian dynasties and the wonders of the Pyramids of Giza.

Health- We are currently learning about Puberty and Reproduction through the Health Skill of Advocacy. Students are learning how to advocate for themselves when changes in their bodies occur. Alternative stress assignments are also being offered.

ELA- Between December and early January, 6th grade ELA students read Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas and completed a mini literary analysis. Students worked on plot diagrams, identified the theme of the story and looked at the Grinch’s character traits. All of their work was put together in a lapbook, which they put together in class.
In our next unit, students will take on the role of video game designers! They will create a video game, develop the game’s storyline, setting, conflict and characters!
GRADE LEVEL TEAMS

7th Grade:
A glance into our 7th grade classrooms!
• Math students are learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide negative numbers.
• ELA students are reading the book *A Long Walk to Water*.
• Social Studies students are working through the Revolutionary War and building the Constitution.
• Science classes will be studying cells and the scientific method.
• Italian students are working in their family and home unit, while Spanish students are working in their community unit and learning how to tell time.

General Reminders:
• Check Google Classroom everyday and complete all assignments.
• Check-in with teachers often and ask for extra help using Google Hangouts or Gmail.
• Charge Chromebooks the night before you come to school!
• Read a little bit everyday!

Students have been enjoying practicing their math skills by playing games in Mr. Thompson’s math classes (and even asking to play during lunch!).

8th Grade:
• Italian: Students will be finishing up their study of time and will be moving towards our unit on travel.
• Math 8: Students are starting to work on Geometry topics, focusing on triangles and polygons.
• Algebra: Students are using their factoring skills that they learned in the first marking period to solve quadratic equations.
• Spanish: Students will continue working with time and will begin conjugating irregular verbs.
• 15:1 Science: Students are learning how to conduct experiments and work through the scientific process.
• The Physical Science students will be starting a new unit on Forces and Motion at the start of Quarter 3.
• The Biology Students will be starting a new unit on Genetics this month.
• English 8: Students have been looking at commonly misused homophones and how to correctly punctuate our sentences.
• Advanced English: Students have been reading and analyzing *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury, including making real world connections and analyzing characters.
• Social Studies 8: Students are studying World War 1-- we will be looking at the causes, learn about and “experience” trench warfare, and discuss the impact on the world.

The 8th grade team would also like to say, have a safe and enjoyable February Break!

Physical Education: We are in the current unit of Basketball. Social distance and proper sanitation practices are used every period to ensure the safety of our students.
BEST PROGRAM

Block 2 afterschool programs - ended January 22
Block 3 afterschool programs - begin February 1 - March 26

Academic Support for students began last week. It will continue through the last week of January throughout Block 3. If you are interested in getting your child extra help, please call or email Mr. Micho or Mr. Brooks Academic Support in person runs afterschool on Tuesdays (3-5 pm) and Fridays (3-4:40 pm). Virtual programs are also running with 4 or more students working with a teacher or teaching assistant. They are offered at various after school times, days, and weekends. Remember, all you have to do is get in contact with the guidance department to sign up your child. Then your child will be placed with help.

BEST programs running for Block 3 are:

Monday
  Braveheart - Workout Room
  Math with Muller - Room 807
  Minecraft - Room 009

Tuesday
  Academic Support
  Auto Racing - Room 013
  Cricut - Library Classroom

Wednesday
  Dungeons and Dragons - Virtual
  GSA - Virtual

Thursday
  Auto Racing - Room 013
  Braveheart - Workout Room
  Cricut - Library Classroom
  Math with Muller - Room 807
  Minecraft - Room 009
  Pen Pal - Virtual

Friday
  Academic Support
COUNSELOR’S CORNER BY MR. BROOKS

Beat The Winter Blues!
Winter is tough, paired with everything else going on, it can be extra hard. Go easy on yourself and give some of these strategies a shot! (@positivelypresent)
1. Ask for help
2. Stick to a schedule
3. Video Conference with family and/or friends
4. Seek out sunlight
5. Make some art
6. Venture outdoors at a social distance
7. Practice yoga

National School Counseling Week 2/1-5, 2021

FINE ARTS

Catie Reichert, 7th Grade
Amelia Ouderkirk, 6th grade
Nicole Bosovyk, 5th Grade
Hearts, Pre-K
Lucas Fernandez, Pre-K
Yeva Korobii, Pre-K

Band: Here are the kids after our first full rehearsal. This is the Cohort B 7/8 Band.
The SMS Musical Department is excited to announce we are beginning rehearsals for this year's spring production of Dear Edwina Online! This is an upbeat, high-energy show centered on Edwina Spoonapple as she gives her neighborhood friends advice through singing in a musical show. This adaptation allows for a fully-virtual performance. Tickets will be sold for access to the online show in March. Please see next month's newsletter for more information!

STUDENT NEWS

A Very Patriotic Student

Nathan Landers is an 8th grade student who has deep appreciation and respect for his country. He shows this by proudly standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of each day when he attends school. In December, he noticed that the flag outside of the middle school was quite tattered and torn, and this bothered him. Instead of keeping this to himself, or just dismissing the issue altogether, Nathan took action. He spoke with his building principal, Mr. Graves, about the situation. He shared his strong feelings that flying a flag in this condition was a disservice to all of the men and women who have served to protect this country. Mr. Graves promised Nathan that he would look into the situation. When a new flag arrived a week later, Nathan was invited to help retire the old flag and raise the new one. He treated both flags with ultimate respect. He then folded the old flag and presented it to Mr. Fisher, SMS Head Custodian, so that it could be sent to the American Legion for proper disposal.

Thank you, Nathan Landers, for your dedication and respect for your country, and taking action on this important situation!