A Message From The Principal
by Corey Graves

Dear SMS Parents/Guardians:

And just like that, it’s June. To call this year a rollercoaster is an understatement. Whatever we call this year, it will certainly be one that none of us will ever forget. When I think back on the 2020-21 school year, I’m incredibly proud of our students, our staff, and our families. I’d like everyone to take a step back and reflect for a moment on all the challenges we have overcome. Together we adapted to a hybrid schedule, wearing masks, social distancing, a return to 4 day a week learning and many other challenges throughout the year. We have not only survived but thrived in spite of these obstacles.

We still have a little more than 3 full weeks of school remaining. Learning will still be taking place from bell to bell. Please encourage your child to attend school every day if they are healthy. Every day is another opportunity to learn and prepare for next year.

Chromebook Collection
End of year Chromebook collection for in-person students will take place on June 21st. Please make sure your child brings their Chromebook and charger to school on this day. If your child is 100% virtual learner you will be able to return the device to any building between June 21st and June 30th. As of July 1 any device that has not been returned will be disabled. Any student needing a device for a summer program will have one reissued at the start of the summer program.

Sincerely,
Corey Graves

This month’s Spotlight Students are Gabriella (Bella) Brillante and Gabriel (Baxter) Barns. Get to know them below!

What’s your favorite book?
Gabriella: Waiting For Normal by Leslie Connor
Gabrial: This One Summer by Jillian and Mariko Tamaki

What are you most looking forward to this summer vacation?
Gabriella: Going to my family’s camp and friends’ birthday parties
Gabrial: Spending time with my sister

Who is your role model in life, or someone you look up to?
Gabriella: My sister and friends
Gabrial: My mom

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
Gabriella: Having the ability to stop time
Gabrial: To be invisible

What advice would you give to your younger self if you could?
Gabriella: Be more confident in yourself
Gabrial: Choose your friends wisely

IMPORTANT DATES

CALENDAR

6/7 – Grade 8 NYS Science Written Testing
6/9 – Pre-K Information Night 6PM
6/24 – Last Day for Students

HELPFUL REMINDERS

- Check Google Classroom every day 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 every day!
GRADE LEVEL TEAMS

5th Grade:
Students are wrapping up the school year with some exciting projects! Students worked together in Mrs. Dennison and Mrs. DeStefano’s classes on a character study. They explored each character trait along with completing a poster! In Social Studies, students created an iPad state report. What a fun way to learn about the United States of America! 5th grade scientists made public service announcements to convey the importance of water conservation.

6th Grade:
Math - Continuation of our Algebra with solving one-step equations then finishing the year with the introduction of Statistics and Probability.
- Recognize statistical questions
- Understand that a set of data collected to answer a statistical question has a distribution,
- Measuring the center of data
- Display numerical data in plots on a number line, including dot plots, histograms, & box plots.
Social Studies - We’re continuing our study of Ancient Rome, and have moved from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire. Upcoming highlights include a virtual tour of the Colosseum (including the underground hypogaeum) and mini-research assignments on arches, aqueducts and the extensive system of roads built by the Romans.
Science - We will continue our study of climate change by looking at human activities, such as the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels and other major factors contributing to the current rise in Earth’s average surface temperature (global warming). Students will analyze data from a variety of graphs in order to evaluate US greenhouse gas emissions, sources of greenhouse gas emissions and human population growth rates. Students will calculate and analyze their individual carbon footprints and finally research a leading source of greenhouse gas emissions and design a solution to decrease the carbon footprint associated with this source. “The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for.” - Ernest Hemingway
ELA - Students are finishing the novel, Ghost by Jason Reynolds. Throughout their reading, students have identified and discussed the various internal and external conflicts the main character, Ghost, goes through. They made posters to further explain those conflicts!
Health - We are continuing in the Health unit of Decision Making. In this unit, we will cover topics of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (including Electronic Cigarettes). We are focusing on healthy choices, while learning refusal skills for times that we’re faced with decisions that are less healthy.
7th Grade:
Math - Students will be applying algebra skills to angles and other geometric figures.
Social Studies - Students are working their way through division and eventual Civil War.
Science - Mr. Marshall's classes will be learning about classification. This topic leads to some interesting labs which include, hunting for bacteria in the school, a fungus growing competition and looking at microorganisms in pond water. Ms. Fey's class is growing a variety of bean plants and avocado trees.
ELA - Students are working on final drafts of the narratives. They will also be using their independent reading books and knowledge of symbolism to create Book Bento projects.
Spanish - Spanish students are working on finishing up their stem-changing verb unit and will be moving onto their last unit of review.
Italian - Students will be learning about leisure activities and hobbies in Italian, as well as the irregular verbs "essere" and "avere".
Health - Students are finishing out the year working with Decision Making and Refusal Skills. We will go through the process of decision-making, and how it applies to every area in our lives. We will learn the steps of Refusal Skills through the acronym STOP (Say no, Tell them how you feel, Offer an alternative and Promptly walk away/leave).

8th Grade:
On Friday June 18th, 8th graders will be celebrated with a special carnival from 2-5:30pm at the high school. There will be inflatables, a dunk tank, carnival games, food and music! All 8th grade students are invited to attend. A permission slip with more info will be coming home soon!
We all give congratulations to our 8th grade students as they cruise into high school! We wish them the best in their high school years and beyond!

STUDENT NEWS

When Tricia Barboni, a 5th grade Special Education Teacher for Solvay Middle School, asked students what they'd like to do for their after-school project, the children suggested becoming Pen Pals with the residents at St. Camillus. They wanted to make a difference in the life of a senior during this difficult time and were keenly aware of the impact the pandemic has had on families. Mrs. Barboni noted “The kids were missing their own grandparents. Reaching out to help others helped them too; it was really beneficial.” This intergenerational project was warmly welcomed by the Recreation Staff at St. Camillus knowing the positive impact it’d have on our seniors. In no time at all the residents received their first batch of letters from Solvay Middle School in the form of Valentine cards which they kept by their bedside or hung on their wall. In return, Recreation Leader Keryn Cordon assisted the residents in creating their very own stationary. They chose a photo of their favorite animal or flower and glued it to the front of a note card before she helped them craft a personal response to their young pen pal.
In March, the students surprised the residents with glittery St. Patrick’s Day cards and a “Get to Know Me” letter all about them! And yes, our seniors had homework too. Cordon created a questionnaire for the residents, packed with fun questions so the kids would soon find out their pen pal’s favorite food, their dream vacation, what pets they’ve owned and if they could meet one person...who would it be? As Cordon helped the seniors with their responses, it was evident they wanted the children to have a little keepsake -- something they could hold onto. The next envelope to Solvay included a laminated card, personalized by each resident to let the kids know just how special they are and how they’re a bright spot in their pen pal’s day!
**BEST PROGRAM**

**Block 4** - Academic Support runs Monday and Tuesdays until June 15 for Grades 5-8. Summer Programs - We are planning for a fun and active summer. All programs will be running at the High School this summer. Parents Square will be used to register students for summer BEST programs. As programs become available, they will be offered to your children.

**Inquiry U** - *Parents... Here is your chance to ask for programs this summer or fall! If you have an idea, please share it with us at mcole@solvayschools.org or cgraves@solvayschools.org*

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**Pre-K Information Night**

**When:** Wednesday June 9th  
6:00pm-7:00pm

**Where:** Solvay Middle School Cafeteria

Come and find out what Solvay’s full day Pre-K program is all about. Ask questions, receive information, and tour the classrooms!

- For children who will turn 4 years old by December 1st, 2021

**Play, Learn and Grow... Together!**
FINE ARTS

SMS VPA SHOWCASE

Music and Visual Arts students will be showcased in a virtual multimedia presentation. This performance will highlight band & choral ensembles as well as artwork created by many Solvay Middle School students in Pre-K and 5th-8th grades. The SMS VPA Showcase will be available to view on the Solvay Middle School website later this month.

Siearra Wilber, Grade 7

Xavier Hardy
“Unyielding Galaxy”
Grade 8 Studio Art

Madison Garcia
Grade 7

Eternity Putzig
“Beyond the Border”
Grade 8 Studio Art

Bryant Stanton, Grade 6

A.J. Morrison, Pre-K

Brayleigh Stanton, Pre-K