

Edition 1, September 10, 2020

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



We wish you were here!

Welcome to our monthly grade-level newsletter! Our purpose is to use this platform as a way to communicate important information to our parents and guardians. We welcome your feedback and feel free to email with questions. Your team leaders can be reached via email at:

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In this edition:

- ❑ Content area and department overviews for the start of September
- ❑ Technology Tips & General Info.

What's happening in...

- ❑ **English:** Sharing information about our personal learning styles, thinking about the books that have influenced our lives, setting quarterly goals for reading and writing.
- ❑ **Math:** Learning how to use Canvas/MS Teams; how to submit assignments and communicate with the teacher.
- ❑ **Science:** Exploring technology: Using poll everywhere, immersive reader on Canvas, Flipgrid and Seesaw activities.
- ❑ **World Geo:** Google Slides collaboration, mental maps, world facts, repeatable checks for understanding on Canvas, using the digital textbook.
- ❑ **Reading:** How to use Teams, making connections, read aloud *For Everyone* by Jason Reynolds.
- ❑ **Counseling:** Welcoming new students, supporting students through the transition to the new year.
- ❑ **Special Education:** How to do everything, who to contact for what, how to prepare for and organize your 1st quarter.
- ❑ **English Learners:** Getting to know students and their backgrounds. How to navigate ipads with Canvas and MS Teams. Making sure students have what they need.

Tips

MyAccess:

- APS uses a single sign-in system at myaccess.apsva.us to access Canvas, Synergy StudentVue, Google apps, MackinVia library resources, etc. MS Teams and Newsela, among many other outside sites and apps, also use the APS login.
 - When in doubt about a login, click “Login with Google” and use the APS username and password. NEVER create a private account unless specifically instructed to do so.

Tech Support:

- Call 703-228-2570, Monday - Thursday, 7am - 9pm and Fridays, 7am - 6pm, for live Tech Support in English & Spanish
- Submit a Swanson Tech. Help form if live tech support can't resolve issue (tinyurl.com/swansontech)
- [Middle School Technology Tutorials](#)

ParentVue and StudentVue:

- ParentVue/StudentVue is an online communication tool for viewing grades, attendance, health info, etc.
- Accessible at myaccess.apsva.us
- Check your child's assignments and grades with them on a regular basis.
- The free apps are available for your phone and/or your child's phone.
- Please be sure your email is in the system and correct in order to receive school-wide and subject-specific messages from school.

Canvas:

- Students should begin each day by logging into the Canvas website (myaccess.apsva.us). They will access their materials and MS Teams links there.
- Canvas is APS' Learning Management System (LMS), for viewing reminders and resources in all classes. It is also used for assessments, discussions, and many other educational activities.
- Parents can view all Canvas resources by logging in with their child's APS account. Record your child's password and login as soon as possible, and consider bookmarking the website.
- Students have a compiled course “To-Do” list on their Canvas home screen, as well as one specific to each class on each class home screen.
 - Students can mark “To-Do” items as done, even if they are NOT done; TRUST, BUT VERIFY.
- All teachers are required to post major assessments and events to the Canvas calendar. Students should use it!
- Grades and feedback may be posted on Canvas, and should be checked by students regularly; however, Parent/StudentVue includes the most accurate overall grade for each course.

Canvas Inbox:

- The Canvas Inbox allows for “emailing” between students and teachers without the use of personal email accounts.
- Students should check their Inbox daily.
- When submitting work after a deadline, students should always send a message to their teacher in Canvas.

Microsoft Teams:

- Teams is the official APS online platform teachers use for synchronous lessons, individual or small group work, and pre-arranged meetings.
- Any 1-on-1 meetings involving a teacher and a student will be recorded for the safety of all involved parties.
- Students should access their synchronous classes on Tuesday through Friday by clicking the provided links in Canvas.

Absences:

- Call 703-228-5506 or email octavia.harris@apsva.us to report attendance issues by 11am
- Students are responsible for work missed. They should:
 - a. Check all classes missed on Canvas
 - b. Complete and submit any work assigned for or during the absence
 - c. Communicate with teachers for support as needed (Inbox, Office Hours)

Teacher Office Hours:

- Mondays, by content area
 - Science 8am - 9am
 - Math 9am - 10am
 - English 10am - 11am
 - World Geography 11am - 12pm
 - PE / Electives / World Languages / Special Education 12pm - 1pm
- Optional and for students only
- Students attend IF & ONLY IF:
 - They have specific questions.
 - They are invited to attend for additional support.

General Resources:

- [APS Parent Guide to Distance Learning](#)
- [2020-21 Swanson Supply List](#)
- [Swanson Counseling Office Resources](#)

2020-21 Swanson 8th Grade Schedule:

- Tuesday/Thursday = A
- Wednesday/Friday = B
- 1st Period (A) / 2nd Period (B)
 - 7:50 - 8:40am synchronous
 - 8:40 - 9:19am asynchronous
- 3rd Period (A) / 4th Period (B)
 - 9:24 - 10:14am synchronous
 - 10:14 - 10:50am asynchronous
- STAR (A & B) 10:54 - 11:29am
- LUNCH (A & B) 11:33 - 12:23pm
- 5th Period (A & B)
 - 12:27 - 12:52pm synchronous
 - 12:52 - 1:12pm asynchronous
- 7th Period (A) / 6th Period (B)
 - 1:16 - 2:06pm synchronous
 - 2:06 - 2:43pm asynchronous

Note synchronous/asynchronous time splits are approximate.

APS Approved apps

This is a list of apps / programs students should install / update on their iPads:

- Desmos Test Mode
- Dreambox
- Flipgrid
- Global Protect
- Google Docs
- Google Drive
- Google Sheets
- Google Slides
- Kahoot!
- Jamboard
- Lexia PowerUp
- Math Inventory
- Microsoft OneNote
- Microsoft Teams
- ParentVue
- Reading Inventory
- Seesaw
- StudentVue