

Edition 2, October 10, 2020

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



We wish you were here!

We are now into our second month of virtual learning! We will continue 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 month of October
- ❑ Technology Tips & General Info.

What's happening in...

- ❑ **English:** This past week student completed the Reading Inventory. Students are now studying essential elements of narrative writing in the unit "Stories that Connect Us." They are analyzing short texts through class discussions and notebook entries. Next, they will craft their own stories to showcase what they have learned.
- ❑ **Math:** Students have recently completed the Math Inventory and students have been assigned their classes for the 20-21 school year. Parents should reach out directly to their math teacher with questions and concerns.
- ❑ **Intensified Geometry:** Has completed the Int. Alg. 1 topics missed last year and began the Geometry curriculum. We begin with our unit on Logic.
- ❑ **Science:** Wrapping up our intro to energy and moving on to Forces and Motion. Continuing our push to better understand the process of setting up experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions from the data.
- ❑ **World Geo:** Unit 2 on Physical Geography began; students are engaged in learning about climate, physical features, and how they shape and are shaped by human cultures. Lots of map analysis skill development is happening.

- ❑ **Reading:** In our Dreams and Identity unit, we are practicing independent reading rituals, creating notebook pages, and studying characters in conflict (external and internal). We are also completing Lexia Power Up activities in Word Study, Grammar and Comprehension.
- ❑ **Counseling:** Social Emotional Learning programs during STAR, working with students who are still adjusting to virtual learning.

Tips

Parent Canvas Observer Account Access:

1. Before you begin, you need a Student Pairing Code
 - a. Students get this code in their Canvas account - "Settings" - "Pair with Observer"
 - b. Teachers can also generate a student pairing code, but student generation is preferred
2. Go to: apsva.instructure.com/login/canvas
3. Click the "Parent of a Canvas User? Click Here For An Account" link
4. You will fill out a form with:
 - a. Your name
 - b. Your personal email address
Be careful to avoid typos
 - c. Enter & re-enter your chosen password
Record this somewhere!
 - d. Your child's student pairing code
5. From that point forward, you will have your own Canvas observer account and will be able to access many Canvas features in your child's classes

Digital Feedback / Comments

(shared with students in STAR)

- [How to View Feedback and Grades](#)
- [Checking Gradebooks Process Flowchart](#)

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](#)

General Resources:

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