

Edition 5, January 1, 2021

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



2021 here we come!

We hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating winter break and are looking forward to the new year.

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In this edition:

- Content area and department overviews for January
- Asynchronous Mondays reminders
- General Resources / Tech. Tips

What's happening in...

- World Geo:** Students start the new year with our first regional units on Anglo America and Latin America. Look forward to mapping on Mondays and lessons on regional culture, news, environment, history, politics, economics, and demographics the rest of the week!
- English:** In English, we will be reading non-fiction, researching a topic of personal interest and writing persuasively to change our world for the better.
- Pre-Algebra:** Students are in the middle of Unit 5, Equations and Expressions. This unit is critical to success in Algebra 1. For this reason we will be designating the remainder of the quarter to it in order to have students well prepared for Algebra 1.
- Algebra:** Students will be starting/completing Unit 4, Writing and Graphing Linear Equations. The unit will most-likely take up the remainder of Quarter 2.
- Science:** Students are continuing their study of Electricity and Magnetism (Unit 4) with a look at electromagnetism. We will be wrapping up that unit and transitioning into a study of Thermal Energy as our bridge into Chemistry.
- Intensified Geometry:** We are currently in the middle of Unit 4, Congruent Triangles. Students will apply knowledge of parallel lines (Unit 3) to prove triangles congruent. This unit as well as Unit 5 have a strong emphasis on proofs.

- ❑ **Counseling:** Counselors are continuing to support students as they apply to options high schools and programs by January 15. We will begin discussing courses for 9th grade, and beyond. Counselors will help students set goals for the rest of the school year through Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons.

Check out ebooks and audiobooks for independent reading

- ❑ The Swanson Library Canvas course offers many options for students.
 - ❑ Ebooks
 - ❑ Audio books
 - ❑ Books to checkout
- ❑ [Here](#) is a collection of ebooks that are currently available, that your student might enjoy!

High School: Next Steps

- ❑ A virtual high school information night occurred on November 2nd. [Click here for information if you missed the event.](#)
- ❑ All 8th graders participated in a virtual tour of Arlington Tech. programs in STAR the week of November 16th ([virtual tour link](#)).
- ❑ [Watch this video](#) for Swanson's 8th grade counselors' presentation on high school options and programs and the application process for them. Students watched this video in STAR ideally the week of 11/30.

Asynchronous Mondays:

- ❑ Monday **Office Hours** are a great way for your child to get caught up on missing work, ask questions, or just come for the community! Please encourage your child to attend if you think it would be useful.
 - ❑ **Science** 8am - 9am
 - ❑ **Math** 9am - 10am
 - ❑ **English** 10am - 11am
 - ❑ **World Geo** 11am - 12pm
 - ❑ **Electives** 12pm - 1pm
- ❑ **STAR Attendance Check-ins** are mandatory for all students on Mondays. Students must log in to their STAR Canvas course and complete a brief Google Form by 2:43 pm.
- ❑ **Students are expected to spend about 3.5 hours on schoolwork on Mondays.** Teachers are expected to assign about 30 minutes of new or continuing work for each course. Students can expect that work will be posted to Canvas by 7:20am on Mondays.

General Resources:

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

Tech Support:

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