

Edition 4, December 1, 2020

# Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



*We wish you were here!*

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## In this edition:

- Content area and department overviews for December
- Hybrid in-person school: What is it like?
- High School next steps
- Yearbook photos announcement
- Asynchronous Mondays reminders
- General Resources / Tech. Tips

## What's happening in...

- English:** In English, we are reading George Orwell's *Animal Farm* with a focus on the power of words in media messages in history and today. We are building our virtual community through small group discussions. For the summative assessment, students will produce their own media messages at the end of the month.
- Pre-Algebra:** Students have just completed Unit 4: Consumer Math. Upon returning from Thanksgiving break we will begin Unit 5: Expressions & Equations. This is a major unit in Pre Algebra that will last through January.
- Algebra:** We are beginning our third unit on Functions. This will take us through the month of December. Our Unit 3 Test will be on 12/15(A) & 12/16(B).
- Intensified Geometry:** Students have begun Unit 3: Parallel Lines. This unit will focus both on finding the measures of missing angles as well as deductive proofs. The Unit test is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th.
- French:** French 2 students are currently wrapping up their unit on shopping in the Francophone world. To demonstrate their knowledge of clothing and French fashion, students completed their first-ever virtual fashion show. It was très chic! We will continue our study of "La Rue Commerçante" and "La Maison" (Housing) until Winter Break, and follow with a study on Paris.
- Spanish:** Spanish students are working in Lección 5 which deals with Travel and Leisure. We are learning too about the grammatical structure of the present progressive, or what is happening right now. We will also work with direct object

pronouns. So eventually students will be able to say, It I have or him/her I see. A little weird for English speakers, but it shows great brain flexibility when they say it that way in Spanish.

- ❑ **Science:** As we move into December, students are continuing to deepen their understanding of light and sound, with a focus on mirrors and lenses. While we continue to offer simulations, it is the hope of the science teachers that students can identify and explain the functions of waves and student interactions with them on a daily basis. Beyond our sound and light unit, we will be moving into electricity and magnetism.
- ❑ **World Geo:** Students ended November by following a resource of their choice through the four categories of economic activity, performing visual analyses of the global classroom and home photos for signs of economic development, and exploring demographic statistics and their implications. Separate skill and content focused assessments end the ongoing Economics and Demographics unit on December 8th and 9th. Our thematic units conclude with a short collaborative project-based unit on political geography in December. Look forward to our regional units starting in the New Year!
- ❑ **Counseling:** Through weekly Social-Emotional Learning lessons, students are learning about gratitude, organization, and managing their time. Students are also learning about their high school options and the application process. The Counseling Department created [videos](#), available in English and Spanish, to help parents as they support virtual learning at home.

## Hybrid in-person school: What is it like?

- ❑ [Check out this video](#) featuring various APS staff (including current and former Swanson Assistant Principals). It details what the hybrid in-person experience will be like for secondary level students as and when they return to school this year.
- ❑ [See this link](#) for additional information and details about making your selection for whether your child will attend virtually or in-person if and when schools re-open.
  - ❑ Selections must be made by December 7!

## Yearbook Photos

- ❑ This year's yearbook staff needs parents' help with getting school portraits of students to include in the yearbook portraits section. Please [go this link](#) for details on the requested format of the photo and to submit a portrait image of your student(s) to the yearbook staff.
  - ❑ You can use a digital camera, smart / cell phone, or student iPad to take the picture.
  - ❑ Submission deadline has been extended to December 18, 2020
  - ❑ Please contact Ms. Williams, the yearbook advisor, at [emily.williams@apsva.us](mailto:emily.williams@apsva.us) if you have any questions.

## 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](#)).
- ❑ All high schools and major optional programs, including Arlington Tech, are hosting their own specific virtual information sessions with question and answer opportunities between December 2nd and 9th. [Click here for more details.](#)
  - ❑ No RSVP is required, but all 8th graders and their families are encouraged to attend the session or sessions relevant to their neighborhood school or optional programs they are considering.
- ❑ [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](http://tinyurl.com/swansontech))
- ❑ [Middle School Technology Tutorials](#)

- ❑ [How to view Feedback & Grades](#) (requires APS account login)