

Edition 6, February 1, 2021

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



Your team leaders can be reached via email at:

kathryn.merlene@apsva.us

leah.mcfarlane@apsva.us

ken.campbell@apsva.us

In this edition:

- Content area overviews for February
- Reading resources: tips and links
- Grading period reminders for the second-half of the school year
- General Resources / Tech. Tips

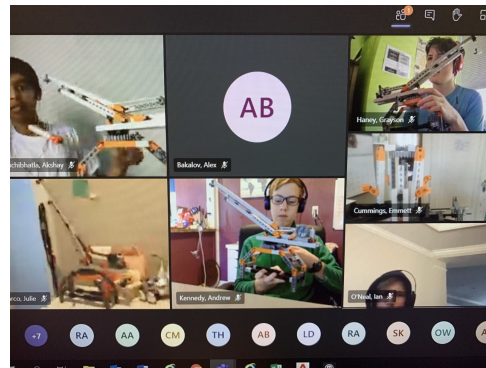
What's happening in...

- World Geo:** Students are wrapping up their second regional unit on Latin America at the end of January and begin our Eastern hemisphere regional units with Europe and Russia in February. Increasing time in February will be devoted to student analytical pre-writing and writing skills, as one element of the recently-announced alternative to the SOL is a persuasive paper in the document-based-question format.
- English:** In English, students are finishing their Writing for Change essays, in which they promote solutions to a problem they see in today's world. For our next unit, Reading Reveals Truths, we will return to the study of fiction, as we explore the use of author's craft to convey a theme.
- Pre-Algebra:** Students continue to work on solving equations. As we progress through the unit the equations get increasingly more difficult. We are putting more of an emphasis on the process, rather than the product when it comes to solving equations.
- Algebra:** Students will be finishing up our unit on graphing and writing linear functions. We will be moving onto solving systems of linear equations in February.
- Science:** We are starting to transition out of the physics portion of our physical science curriculum and gearing toward chemistry with a unit that bridges the two quite nicely, heat transfer. Expect that we will continue working simulations and sharpening our skills of scientific inquiry and investigation.
- Intensified Geometry:** We are currently in the middle of Unit 8. The focus of the unit will be to apply prior knowledge of parallel lines and congruent triangles to prove theorems involving parallelograms.

☐ Languages:

- ☐ **Spanish:** In Spanish for Fluent Speakers, students are learning about the human impact the economy of a region has on its population. Students are almost done reading the book: “Bananas”, which talks about the Bananas plantations of Central America and the problem with pesticides. They will compare and contrast the problems encountered in the Bananas plantations with the water problem in Flint, Michigan.
- ☐ **French:** In French we have begun our study of Paris. Students will take a virtual tour of the famous monuments of Paris and convert temperature to Celcius. We will also learn how to make crepes, virtually. On February 2nd, we honor French tradition and celebrate National Crepe Day.
- ☐ **Latin:** Students are approaching their busiest time in the year, as the National Latin Exam is held in the second week of March, which means brushing up on ancient Roman culture, history, mythology and English derivatives, in addition to our work on developing skills in reading the Latin Language. Next month’s grammar focus will be on verbs. While NLE is a requirement of APS Latin students, some students have opted to take the national Mythology Exam and national Roman Civilization Exam in late February, which gives them the opportunity to delve more deeply into the cultural background of the language.

- ☐ **Tech. Ed.:** Students in Tech. Ed. were given the opportunity to pick up materials for a more hands-on learning experience this virtual year. A variety of projects allow for a more engaging experience to achieve the VA state competencies in CTE courses. Projects include paper roller coasters, gliders, egg-drop vehicles, and mechanisms to name a few. The Tech. of Robotic Design students were each provided an Engino STEM kit. Students build a variety of real-world machines to study the need for mechanisms while they observe speed, torque, direction, and type of movements. Please see the photo.



Check out eBooks and audiobooks for independent reading

- ☐ The Swanson Library Canvas course offers many options for students.
 - ☐ eBooks
 - ☐ Audiobooks Performance-Based
 - ☐ Books to checkout
- ☐ [Here](#) is a collection of popular eBooks and audiobooks that students can check out and read on student iPads today! (requires APS account login)

Important Upcoming Dates

- ❑ **Jan 28** → End of 2nd Qtr.
 - ❑ Deadlines for 2nd Qtr. missing / late work in many courses between Jan. 28 - Feb. 1
- ❑ **Feb 1** → No School, Teacher Grade Prep Day (2nd Qtr.)
- ❑ **Feb 4 & 5** - Asynchronous school days
Teachers are in professional development
- ❑ **Feb 11 & 12** → High School options & course selection introductions in STAR
 - ❑ Core class teachers will discuss course offerings, regular vs. intensified, and provide time for students to ask about recommendations this week
- ❑ **Feb 15** → No School, Presidents Day
- ❑ **Feb 16 - 19** → Students complete high school Course Request Forms (CRFs) digitally with help of counselors
- ❑ **Feb 22** → 3rd Qtr. Progress Report Grades Entered
- ❑ **Feb. 26** → No School, Middle School Conferences Scheduled, Format / Timing TBD
- ❑ **March 8 - April 16** → Joint English - World Geography Performance Based Assessment (alternative to SOL) window, details TBD
 - ❑ **March 8 - 26** → World Geography portion of window
 - ❑ **April 5 - 16** → English portion of window
- ❑ **March 29 - April 2** → No School, Spring Break
- ❑ **April 9** → End of 3rd Qtr.

- ❑ Deadlines for 3rd Qtr. missing / late work in many courses between April 9 - April 12
- ❑ **April 12** → No School, Teacher Grade Prep Day (3rd Qtr.)
- ❑ **May 12** → 4th Qtr. Progress Report Grades Entered
- ❑ **May 31** → No School, Memorial Day
- ❑ **June 1 - 16** → Teachers Finalize 4th Qtr. & End of Year Grades
 - ❑ Deadlines for 4th Qtr. missing / late work in many courses between June 1 - June 16
- ❑ **June 14 - 17** → End of 8th Grade Year Activities, Format / Timing TBD
- ❑ **June 18** → Early Release, Last Day of Middle School

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)