

Edition 8, April 1, 2021

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



Welcome back from Spring Break! Please take a look at what's in store for the month of April. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers at any time.

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In this edition:

- ☐ Content area overviews for April
- ☐ Important dates
- ☐ General Resources / Tech. Tips

What's happening in...

- ☐ **World Geo:** Students spent much of March working on their SOL DBQ. In April, students will complete map practice, mapping labs, and work on synthesizing written and video content to discuss and record responses to open ended questions. Our content foci will be Southwest, South, East, and Southeast Asia. April will end with the final component of this year's SOL, which requires students to use multiple maps to answer analytical questions.
- ☐ **English:** From April 5-16, English classes will be devoted to the DBQ essay that will replace the Writing SOL for Spring 2021. Our next unit will focus on poetry--in both spoken and written forms--along with a study of novels in verse.
- ☐ **Pre-Algebra:** Students are in the middle of the unit on Linear Functions. They are learning how to identify the slope and y - intercept of a line; how to graph linear functions and how to write the equation of linear functions given a table, graph or description.
- ☐ **Algebra:** Non-Intensified Algebra students will be working on their Radicals unit for the majority of April. We will be simplifying and performing operations on square & cube roots of integers. Intensified Algebra students will finish their Radicals unit and begin their Polynomial & Factoring unit.

- ❑ **Science:** Students are continuing to work in the chemistry portion of physical science, moving toward atomic structure, periodic table, chemical equations, bonding, and reactions. Students have begun their review of sixth and seventh grade material as we move closer to the SOL window.
- ❑ **Intensified Geometry:** We are in the middle of the unit on Right Triangles. In addition to studying the Pythagorean Theorem they are learning about right triangle trigonometry.
- ❑ **Spanish II:** Students are working on more control of the past tense. We are currently using just regular verbs, but we will also incorporate irregular past tense. Thank goodness we don't have as many irregular forms as [English](#).
- ❑ **Tech Ed:** Students are observing technology in their world. New semester students define technology and the twelve areas within to analyze positive and negative impacts of technology. These students are introduced to engineering and the design process in preparation for hands on projects, where systems are observed. Students in the full year class, robotics, are learning about the cycle of 'sense, think, act', giving virtual robots behaviors to follow to navigate various challenges within the virtual vex playgrounds.

Check out eBooks and audiobooks for independent reading

- ❑ The Swanson Library Canvas course offers many options for students.
 - ❑ eBooks
 - ❑ AudiobooksPerformance-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

- ❑ **April 5- A synchronous, all virtual, school day (B block)! This is a change.**
- ❑ **April 5 - April 16** → English Performance Based Assessment (alternative to Writing SOL)
- ❑ **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.)
- ❑ **April 20 - 21** → End of year Reading Inventory
- ❑ **May 3 - June 18** → SOL Assessments window. Be on lookout for specific test dates in the coming weeks.
- ❑ **May 12** → 4th Qtr. Progress Report Grades Entered
- ❑ **May 31** → No School, Memorial Day
- ❑ **May 17 - June 5th** - Reading, Math, and Science SOLs.
- ❑ **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, Promotion, 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)