

Edition 7, March 1, 2021

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



We look forward to welcoming some of your students back into the building beginning March 16. We know this will be a time of adjustment, and many of you may have questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers at any time.

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In this edition:

- ❑ Content area overviews for March
- ❑ Important dates
- ❑ Return to in-person learning
- ❑ General Resources / Tech. Tips

What's happening in...

- ❑ **World Geo:** Students are preparing for the Performance Based Assessment replacing the SOL this year as the primary method to determine whether students earn high school credit in the course. It is scheduled for March 8 - 26. Our focus is on evidence collection, evaluation, and categorization, as well as the reading comprehension, thesis writing, and analytical skills students will need to prepare and write a DBQ (document - based - question) essay. This practice is and has been set in the context of European and Sub-Saharan African content.
- ❑ **English:** In English, students are delving into dystopian literature during our reading unit, Reading Reveals Truths. We are exploring the use of author's craft to convey a theme, and working in breakout groups to build our communication and collaboration skills. Work on the DBQ essay mentioned above in geography, will begin when we return from Spring Break.
- ❑ **Pre-Algebra:** Students are beginning their unit on Functions. We will build off students prior knowledge of proportional and additive relationships from the 7th grade curriculum to study the slope and y - intercept of lines.
- ❑ **Algebra:** Students will be taking their Unit 5: Systems of Equations on March 5th/ March 6th (Intensified Algebra's Unit 5 Test is on February 23). Unit 6 will cover solving and graphing linear inequalities in one and two variables. This is followed by Unit 7 which is on Radicals.
- ❑ **Science:** Students in science will continue their investigation of chemistry and chemical reactions during the month of March. We will then go smaller and explore atomic models!

- ❑ **Intensified Geometry:** We are starting our unit on similar figures. The focus of this unit will be on using proportional relationships to determine unknown lengths of similar figures. As always there will be a strong emphasis on deductive reasoning as students will be required to prove triangles similar.
- ❑ **Spanish II:** This chapter will start us talking about clothes and negotiating prices in open air markets. We will also be able to talk about what we bought and why. This is our first big jump into the past tense where we describe what happened.
- ❑ **Latin II:** March is the National Latin Exam month (and the Roman Civilization Exam month and the National Mythology Exam month!). Latin students will be busy preparing for these exams in the first two weeks in March. After that, we will continue to learn the last two tenses and learn about our textbook's hero's adventures through the wider Roman Empire.

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

- ❑ **March 16** - return to the building for those students who selected hybrid. Look for guidance from Ms. Harber, however, please consider the following:
 - ❑ Backpacks allowed - no lockers
 - ❑ Students will need a functioning school issued iPad AND a charger
 - ❑ Personal laptops will be allowed if a student would like to bring
 - ❑ Windows will be open in the classrooms, please dress appropriately
- ❑ **March 8 - April 16** → Joint English - World Geography Performance Based Assessment (alternative to SOL)
 - ❑ **March 8 - 26** → World Geography section
 - ❑ **April 5 - 16** → English section
- ❑ **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)