

Edition 1, September, 2021

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



Welcome back!

Welcome to our monthly grade-level newsletter! We are so delighted to have your children back at Swanson. Here is where we will communicate important information and let you know what is happening in your child's classrooms. We welcome your feedback and feel free to email us with questions.

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In this edition:

- Content area and department overviews for the start of September
- General Information & Technology Tips .

What's happening in...

- English:** Sharing information about our personal learning styles, thinking about the books that have influenced our lives, setting quarterly goals for reading and writing.
- PreAlgebra:** Students will be completing Unit 1, The Real Number System.. Students will also be completing the Math Inventory.
- Algebra/Intensified Algebra:** Students will be completing Unit 1, Expressions and Laws of Exponents. Students will also be completing the Math Inventory.
- Geometry:** Our first unit in Geometry is Logic. Students will be studying conjunctions, disjunctions, conditional statements as well as valid arguments. Tentative assessments are:
 - 9/9 Summer Assignment Quiz
 - 9/13 Unit 1 Quiz
 - 9/23 Unit 1 Test
- Science:** Science will start the year with safety to get ourselves back into regular lab work! We will then move onto an exploration of energy in all its forms.
- World Geo:** Introduction to the world through the use of maps and exploration of core geographic themes.
- French II:** Getting to know each other and brushing up on our conversation skills. Students will be able to talk about

celebrations with family and friends, and discuss what they did over the summer.

- ❑ **Counseling:** Welcoming new students, supporting students through the transition to the new year.
- ❑ **Special Education:** How to do everything, who to contact for what, how to prepare for and organize your 1st quarter.
- ❑ **English Learners:** Getting to know students and their backgrounds. How to navigate ipads with Canvas and MS Teams. Making sure students have what they need.
- ❑ **Spanish II:** Students will get to know each other. Students will also be able to talk about their hobbies and places they go to during the week.

General Information

2021-22 Swanson 8th Grade Schedule:

- A Day: Monday/Thursday (odd periods) 1st, 3rd, 5th, STAR, lunch, 7th
- B Day: Tuesday/Friday (even periods plus 5th) 2nd, 4th, 5th, STAR, lunch, 6th.
- Anchor Day (C Days): Wednesday (meet with all periods)

8th grade schedule Block (A & B)

7:50 - 9:19	1st and 2nd Periods
9:24 - 10:50	3rd and 4th Periods
10:50 - 11:25	Lunch
11:29 - 12: 04	STAR
12:08 - 12:53	5th
12:57 - 2:24	6th and 7th Periods

8th grade schedule Anchor Day (C)

7:50 - 8:35	1st Period
8:39 - 9:21	2nd Period
9:25 - 10:07	3rd Period
10:11 - 10:53	4th Period
10:53 - 11:28	Lunch
11:32 - 12: 06	STAR
12:10 - 12:52	5th Period
12:56 - 1:38	6th Period
1:42 - 2:24	7th Period

Supply lists:

Time to find that iPad you may have put aside last year and make sure it's working and fully charged!

If a student would like to bring their own laptop that is allowed, we are just not able to help with any tech issues, and an iPad will be necessary for most testing.

During the first week of school, your child's homeroom (STAR) teacher would really appreciate: wipes, hand sanitizer and tissues. Please consider donating if you can.

Classroom supplies are as follows:

General: pencils, pens, small sharpener with cover, highlighters, colored pencils, erasers, **iPad, iPad charger and earbuds.**

Big change! Your child will be allowed to carry a backpack with them throughout the day. So, no more big binders or trapper keepers needed (unless of course your child wants them:).

Technology Tips

MyAccess:

- APS uses a single sign-in system at myaccess.apsva.us to access Canvas, Synergy StudentVue, Google apps, MackinVia library resources, etc. MS Teams and Newsela, among many other outside sites and apps, also use the APS login.
 - When in doubt about a login, click “Login with Google” and use the APS username and password. NEVER create a private account unless specifically instructed to do so.

Tech Support:

- Students should submit tech help request with their STAR teacher.
- If your child does not have a key pad and would like one, please have them let their STAR teacher know.
- [Middle School Technology Tutorials](#)

ParentVue and StudentVue:

- ParentVue/StudentVue is an online communication tool for viewing grades, attendance, health info, etc.
- Accessible at myaccess.apsva.us
- Check your child’s assignments and grades with them on a regular basis.

- The free apps are available for your phone and/or your child’s phone.
- **Please be sure your email is in the system and correct** in order to receive school-wide and subject-specific messages from school.

Canvas:

- Canvas is APS’ Learning Management System (LMS). Materials, lessons, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and more are all posted here. It is crucial your child looks at Canvas and reviews their calendar, “to dos”, messages, assignments and feedback everyday.
- Parents can become an “observer” of their child’s Canvas courses by.....
- **Please encourage your child to use the Canvas in-box messaging system to communicate with their teachers!** This is the best way to get help and ask questions outside of the classroom.

Microsoft Teams:

- Teams will continue to be used on occasion for conferences and meetings outside of the classroom.

Absences:

- Call 703-228-5506 or email octavia.harris@apsva.us to report attendance issues by 11am
- It is nice if you let teachers know, but you will need to contact attendance directly to excuse absences.
- When a student is absent, they should:
 - a. Check all classes missed on Canvas
 - b. Complete and submit any work assigned for or during the absence
 - c. Communicate with teachers for support as needed (email, Canvas messaging)